

BRAMM

IMPROVING STANDARDS

NEWS

SPRING UPDATE 2021

BRITISH REGISTER OF ACCREDITED MEMORIAL MASONS

BRAMM SPONSORS NEW MEMORIAL DESIGN AWARD

£1,000 PRIZE MONEY!
ENTER TODAY - FOR FREE!



THE MEMORIAL DESIGN AWARD

This is an opportunity for Memorial Masons to enter a **FREE** national competition and showcase their work. This competition will be open to any Memorial already erected in a Cemetery or Churchyard within the last 5 years.

Each company can enter up to three different memorials.

Simply attach photos of your entry memorials - maximum three photos per memorial.

The information required is name, company, email address, name of the cemetery/churchyard and if shortlisted CYA would require to know that the family have given permission.

The memorial must be on a single grave space; it can be lawn, cremation or with kerbs/traditional memorial.

The memorial will be marked on its innovation, personalisation and originality by a team of Memorial Masons from BRAMM who are sponsoring this category.

Shortlisted entries and winners will also receive a "press release" for promotional use.

To enter the competition simply log onto the CYA website at -

WWW.CEMETERYOFTHEYEAR.ORG.UK

Any questions - please contact Phil Potts - bramm@bramm-uk.org

CEMETERY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021

The **FREE** to enter competition will once again run the **31st March** until **31st July 2021** and is open to any Burial Authority (Cemetery or Churchyard) within the UK.



£1,000 PRIZE MONEY

awarded to the Gold Award winning entry in each category.

The categories of Cemeteries are -

Large Burial Grounds above 10,000 graves
Small/Medium Burial Grounds up to 10,000 graves
Parish, Town and Community Councils
Natural Burial Ground Provider



*The competition in 2021 will also include the **NEW** category - **The Memorial Design Award***

The Cemetery application form is simple to complete and allows the applications to be marked objectively. This will allow feedback to be given to each entrant showing not only their overall competition marks but also how they can improve and develop their cemeteries.

The Gold Award Winning Cemetery/Memorial Mason in each category will receive £1,000.00 prize money as well as a 'Cemetery of the Year 2021 framed Gold Certificate' along with a CYA press release that can be used to promote your work and achievements.

Runners up, in each category, will receive a 'Cemetery of the Year 2021 framed SILVER Certificate' and a CYA press release.

The Cemetery of the Year Awards Competition is designed not only to improve standards within Burial Grounds but also to encourage compliance with legislation and encourage best practice with information and support from leading Burial Authority Organisations.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Independent memorial mason
position on the **BRAMM BOARD.**



The position is open to any Mason on the BRAMM register.

Please send in your CV for consideration by the BRAMM Board before the end of April 2021. If you want to find out more information of what is involved please contact Phil Potts at BRAMM - bramm@bramm-uk.org - 01452 346741

There are four independent Mason representatives on the BRAMM Board each serving a four year term, with one position available each year. The BRAMM Board consider Mason candidates at BRAMM AGM which usually takes place in June.

BRAMM REGISTER RISK ASSESSMENTS

The BRAMM register provides details of Risk Assessments. As some of these are quite old, BRAMM is currently investigating ways to improve the information available to Burial Authorities and look at ways to help Masons provide clear and relevant procedures for dealing with risks when fixing memorials.



BRAMM BFL AND AFM COURSES

BRAMM is open and taking bookings for the BRAMM Fixer Licence (BFL) and the Advanced Fixer Licence (AFM) courses. The rates are retained at the same level as last year. BRAMM is able to run the BFL assessments in a Covid friendly way. Please don't hesitate to contact Phil Potts at BRAMM to arrange.



bramm@bramm-uk.org

ANNUAL FEES - SEPTEMBER RENEWAL

Annual Renewal Fees will be emailed this September and paid by BACS - if this is not possible then cheques can be accepted. *The fees will revert to £125 per annum*, following last years Covid discount of £50. This method of invoice and payment keeps the fees at the same level.



THE FUTURE - IMPROVING STANDARDS



BRAMM is currently having meetings to discuss future development to assist both masons and cemeteries to **IMPROVE STANDARDS**.

Some areas being discussed are a best practice document, an ethical register and future CPD. *If you have any suggestions, please get in touch.*

SAFER BURIAL GROUNDS VIDEO

BRAMM have produced a short film to explain why the BRAMM Scheme was set up in 2004 specifically to help Burial Authorities manage their responsibilities to the British Standard 8415, with the aim of establishing a network of nationally accredited businesses and registered fixers that will ultimately replace individual Registration Schemes.

The short film covers the history and requirements of BS8415 which underpins all construction work relating to the installation and refurbishment of Memorials in your Cemeteries. The British Standard has also been used in Legal Cases concerning issues relating to Memorialisation, and used as a reference point for technical details and standards of workmanship. The Standard is ever evolving and it was reviewed in 2008, 2012 and again in 2018 which looked at the various types of soil conditions found in Cemeteries and the impact on the types of ground anchors that are used.

The short film also focuses on the legal and ethical requirements of Burial Authorities and how this legislation is mandatory and failure to comply could prove very costly for the Burial Authority or the Management Team. As a result, some Burial Authorities have their own Registration Schemes which are time consuming and costly to administer also policing and addressing discipline is a very real challenge. Understanding the technical requirements and keeping track with regular updates of BS8415 is very time consuming and also essential if standards are to be maintained and staff and contractors informed.

BRAMM has a **FREE REGISTRATION** scheme for burial authorities. Following suggestions from Burial Authorities; BRAMM have now simplified the criteria required for BRAMM Burial Authority Registration.

To watch the video please visit the BRAMM YouTube channel. This film is also available on the ICCM and BRAMM websites.



PRE-LAID THIRD PARTY MEMORIAL FOUNDATIONS

In the last issue of your BRAMM Newsletter a serious problem was flagged by a BRAMM registered Mason concerning non BS8415 compliant memorial foundations which had been laid by a third party. Well, coincidence being what it is, we've had a similar issue reported to us which makes us wonder if we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg?

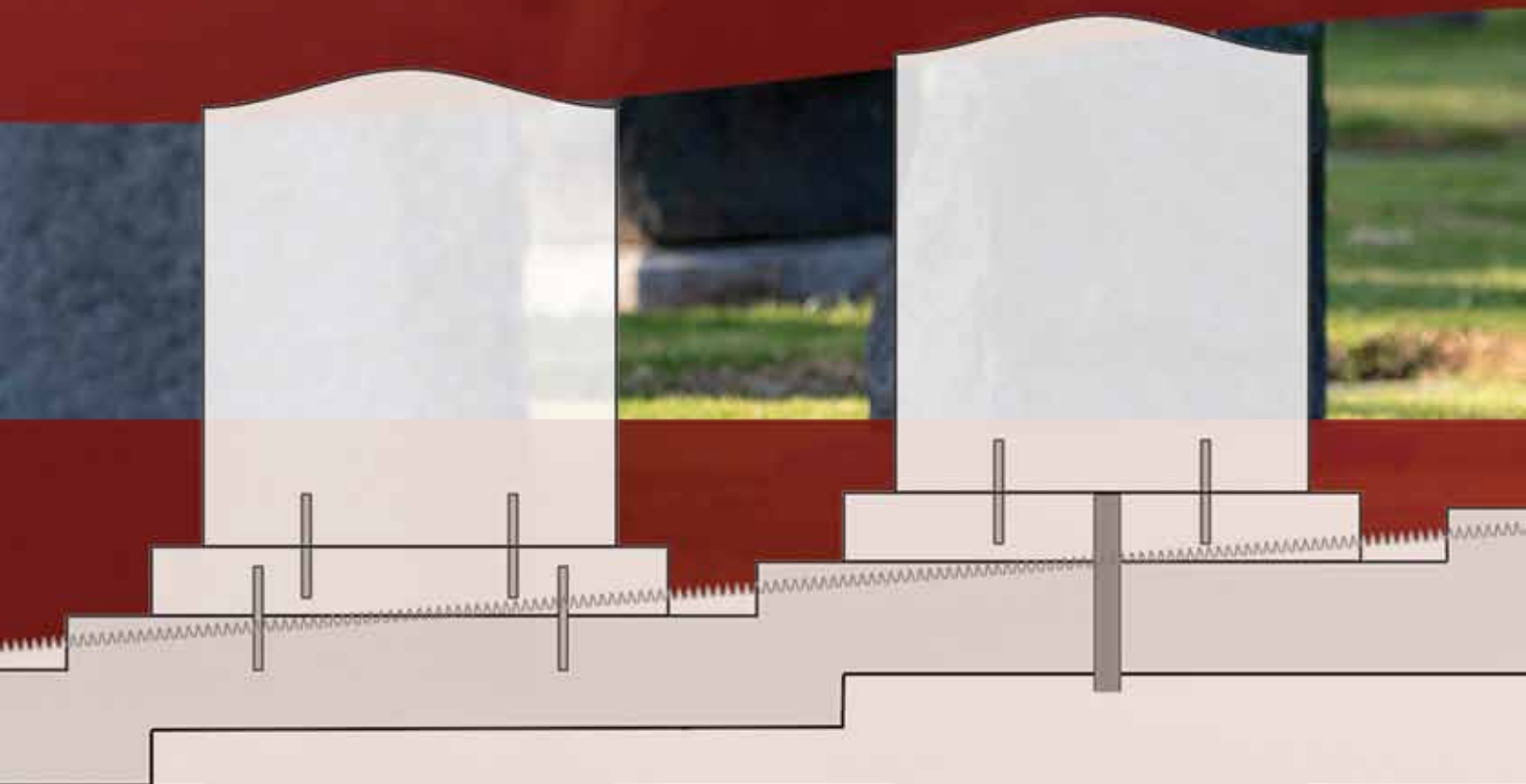
The second issue concerned a lady who, sadly, died in 1985 and was laid to rest in a designated full 'Traditional Kerb Set Section' within her local Cemetery. After a period of time, the Burial Authority laid a full concrete foundation covering the whole single width plot to a thickness of about 5". After waiting a suitable time for the concrete to cure and fully set, a Memorial Mason erected a single width Headstone, Kerb & Post Set on the third party pre-laid foundation and all was well.

However, fast forward nearly 35 years when, again sadly, the lady's widower passed away and was buried in the plot he had previously purchased adjacent to his late wife's and the Burial Authority laid a similar full concrete foundation covering his plot. Again, after the concrete had cured and fully set, and on the family's instructions, a local BRAMM registered Mason dismantled and disposed of the existing single width Memorial and erected a new replacement double width granite Memorial Headstone, Kerb & Post Set spanning both plots and all was well again.

That is to say it was, until a member of the family happened to notice several nearby memorials leaning due to ground subsidence. This, understandably, caused alarm bells to begin to ring over the possible long term stability of the newly erected double width granite Memorial.

The family were most concerned that the Cemetery staff had lain what in effect was just an extension of the existing foundation without any reinforcing or any proper jointing with the original. The resulting foundation was obviously not compliant with the current BS8415.

BRAMM feel it would be a worthwhile exercise if both Memorial Masons and local Burial Authorities could discuss and agree upon a mutually acceptable resolution to this really important issue through their representatives on the BRAMM Board. To start the process, could we please ask both our registered Masons and Burial Authorities to take a little time to think about this unacceptable situation, especially if any Burial Authorities are considering opening any new Memorial sections, and email their feedback to bramm@bramm-uk.org together with any suggestions and possible solutions to avoid the above problems.



BRAMM IS GROWING

MORE BURIAL AUTHORITIES ARE RESPONDING TO THE BRAMM VIDEOS AND JOINING!

The more Burial Authorities and Masons we attract to join BRAMM, means we can all work together **IMPROVING STANDARDS**. BRAMM is the only Registration Scheme that is recommended by all of the leading Burial Authority Associations. 19 New Burial Authorities have joined so far in 2021 making a total of 234 BRAMM Registered Authorities in the UK.

Acle Parish Council, Norwich
Bursledon Parish Council, Bursledon
Cheddleton Parish Council, Leek
Gaydon Parish Council, Warwick
Hemsby Parish Council, Great Yarmouth
Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council, Needingworth
Kirton in Lindsey Town Council, Kirton in Lindsey
The Ivers Parish Council, Iver
Old Bolsover Town Council, Bolsover
Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council, Radcliffe
Harling Parish Council, East Harling
Whitchurch Town Council, Whitchurch
Skirlaugh and Ellerby Joint Burial Committee, Beverley
Claybrooke Joint Burial Board, Lutterworth
Deeping St James Parish Council, Deeping St James
Glynneath Town Council, Glynneath
Holme Parish Council, Peterborough
Wokingham Borough Council, Wokingham
Clipstone Parish Council, Mansfield

...Plus more pending at time of printing!



Working alongside ICCM, FBCA, SLCC and representatives from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Church of England BRAMM is able to advise on legislation, promote Best Practice and Improve Standards within the Industry. For more information go to the BRAMM website - www.bramm-uk.org

BRAMM REGISTERED FIXERS

BRAMM Companies must have a Registered Fixer recorded and listed with each company on the BRAMM website Database.

This is not optional, but mandatory!

The Fixer can work for more than one Company and can be employed or self-employed. However, up to date information to identify who is registered and qualified to erect a Memorial for a Company must always be available on the BRAMM website. This allows any Burial Authority to check current BRAMM registered Masons - while a Memorial is being erected.



REGISTER INFORMATION

We are currently updating our Register Records to help with communication, can you therefore please help by going onto the BRAMMM website and see if your information is correct and up to date. We particularly need you to check your email address and ensure that your Fixers are all listed.

NEWSLETTERS

BRAMM will be sending out newsletters and the annual fees renewal form from September and needs up to date email addresses. Please could you click on the BRAMM website to check your information is correct, especially the email address and your registered fixers. Please email BRAMM with any corrections.

IMPROVING STANDARDS

ASSESSORS WANTED

We recently asked for applications for anyone who would like to be considered as a BRAMM Assessor and we have received interest from 4 candidates - thank you to those who have applied.

For further information please get in touch by email or phone. We would be delighted to hear from you!

CPD

Continuing Professional Development

BRAMM CPD is currently required every 3 years for all Fixers.

This is to ensure that all BRAMM Registered Fixers are up to date with any changes in Legislation or Industry Best Practice.

It is free - online - and usually takes 10 - 15 minutes.

QUESTION TIME: *From Bramm Mason*

A BRAMM Mason contacted us about not being allowed to work in Cemetery that they don't regularly attend. Phil Potts wrote to the Burial Authority and received this edited reply:

Thank you for your letter dated 25 February 2021.

Bereavement Services stipulate all Memorials must be fixed to the BS8415:2018, which is the standard supplied by both Namm and Bramm.

I do not recall rejecting a Memorial permit submitted to us on the basis that a Mason had stated they are a Bramm member, rather than Namm.

There was one occasion many months ago where a new Mason, wanting to register with ourselves, enquired about being registered with Bramm, rather than Namm, and at the time I was initially advised incorrectly they would need to be both. However, I am since informed that said Mason was acceptable further to the fact of which is stated above, re: the BS standard.

Therefore I would welcome the opportunity to speak to the Mason concerned.

Problem sorted - BRAMM will always help Masons and Burial Authorities!

BRAMM

IMPROVING STANDARDS

STONEGUARD
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THE BRAMM NEWSLETTER

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Tel: 01452 346741 Email: bramm@bramm-uk.org Web: www.bramm-uk.org

Office Open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday between 9:30am and 3.15pm

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

Summarised and Abbreviated

Enquiry to BRAMM: Do you have or can you recommend someone to inspect the stones in our Burial Ground in Wales?

BRAMM put them in touch with Darrell Williams (ex NAMM President) of Ivor Phillips Memorials, Aberdare. He is going to, initially, give advice and will then quote for a memorial inspection.

Enquiry to BRAMM: If we have hand tested a lawn memorial (fitted around 1976) and found it to be secure can this be cleaned & the letters repainted without re-fixing or would we have to re-fix as a matter of course as it can be assumed there is no anchor?

In my opinion the headstone was fixed to the standard of the day and, as it is secure, then it can be cleaned and letters painted. If, as a result of cleaning, the headstone becomes loose then it will need to be re-fixed as per BS8415. I would explain the advantages of re-fixing to the current BS8415 which would pretty well make the fixing future proof. I know extra cost would be involved but it would be worth it after all the memorial has been out in the cemetery for the past 46 years.



StoneGUARD
Memorial Insurance

The UK's favourite memorial insurance specialist is proud to sponsor the BRAMM newsletter

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 Investor in Customers
Gold 2018



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