



IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO WORK! TAKE ACTION TO MAINTAIN ACCESS



At this time of the year, what could be better than having the sun on your back, blossom in the trees, birds singing above the whirr of distant lawnmowers and the smell of freshly cut grass filling your senses. Burial grounds are intended to be beautiful and peaceful places, which (on a good day) also makes them a wonderful work environment – a real delight to be savoured by the privileged few who get to work there.

As you will be well aware, access to work in a BRAMM registered burial ground requires memorial mason fixers to hold a valid BRAMM Fixer Licence which must be renewed every 5 years. Renewal is subject to the memorial mason business performing its obligations in accordance with its BRAMM accredited status. This includes the provision of *On-going Training* for fixers at least once during each five year period. Given this, when did you last check the renewal date of your (or your employees') licence(s)? Is renewal due soon? Has the licence already expired?! And has the necessary On-going Training been carried out since the licence was last issued?

Failure to meet this simple criteria will result in the loss of the BRAMM Fixer Licence, which means the gates to BRAMM registered burial grounds will be closed to you!

We don't want to see this happen. It serves no-one to experience delays, unable to work, whilst the necessary training is organised.

Help us to prevent this happening by simply checking and responding to your emails. We do of course send reminders prior to renewal, but it is up to you to take action!

So, take a moment now ... check the renewal date on all fixers' licence cards, and then check that the individual has participated in On-going Training since its issue. If not, take action immediately!

ONGOING TRAINING

Check our website for future dates and locations of BRAMM organised training – free for registered masons.

bramm-uk.org

Go to: CPD Training Days 2017

**FREE
FOR BRAMM
REGISTERED
MASONS**



IN-HOUSE TRAINING

On-going Training or what's often called CPD (Continuous Personal Development) is required to keep masons/fixers up-to-date with the latest technologies and techniques within our industry and create a culture of engagement. If you're running a sizable business with many masons/fixers, then one convenient and cost-effective way of achieving CPD for all your employees is to provide in-house training, so everyone can do it together without the need for travel etc. There's a wide range of options that are appropriate for in-house training including:

- **First Aid (Appointed Person)**
- **First Aid (appointed person) Manual Handling**
- **Health & Safety – A Construction Skills Certification Scheme**
- **Kerb Fixing**
- **Plaque Fixing**
- **Cleaning Lawn Headstone Granite/Stone**
- **Cleaning Kerbset Granite/Stone**
- **Re-Fix Lawn Headstone**
- **Re-Fix Kerbset**
- **Fix Monolith**
- **Fix Bookset**
- **Height Work**
- **Inspection & Testing of Memorials**
- **Working Below Ground and in Confined Spaces**

TAKE THE BLUE BOOK WITH YOU

Remember that the BRAMM Blue Book is available as a digital download on the BRAMM website, providing the necessary reference of how to work in compliance with BS8415. Download it, print it, take it with you when fixing!



**FREE
FOR BRAMM
REGISTERED
MASONS & BURIAL
AUTHORITIES**

It is important to ensure that whoever does provide the training is an agreed BRAMM Approved Provider. A company would need to send the BRAMM Board an outline of the training they intend to carry out, together with the name, qualifications and relevant experience of the trainer.

Other training subjects may be approved by BRAMM. If you wish to gain or offer training in another suitable subject, please submit this to the BRAMM Board for approval. For more information, questions or queries, contact the BRAMM office.

LATEST STATS

APPROVED
REGISTERED
BUSINESSES

775

LICENSED
FIXERS

842

REGISTERED
BURIAL
AUTHORITIES

172



Feb 2017

HAVE WE GOT YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

The ability to communicate with you is paramount. Have you recently changed your email address(es)? Would you like emails sent to other staff members? Would you like this newsletter to be sent to other staff members?



Help us to ensure our communications are reaching the people that matter. Contact the office if any updates are required.

BRAMM OFFICE

We're here to help! Call the BRAMM office Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

01452 346741

bramm@bramm-uk.org



MONDAY
WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY

9-5

HSE ARE VISITING MORE STONE WORK BUSINESSES

Last year we reported on the visits of HSE (Health and Safety Executive) to stone work businesses and their findings of serious breaches in health and safety in over half of the premises inspected.

As a result further visits to more businesses are being made to help improve standards and ensure business owners are taking the health and safety risk posed to their employees seriously.

Whilst this may be considered an interference to some, the visits conducted so far have proved to be extremely helpful for the companies concerned ... gaining clear direction on how to resolve complex scenarios and bringing proactive energy into the business. So far there have been no prosecutions.

We encourage masons to treat a visit from HSE in a beneficial light, a positive opportunity to make your business the best version of itself, for you and all who interact with it. And of course, you don't need to wait until they come knocking ... now is the time to review your health and safety processes and ensure you are conforming with the law.

Industry specific health and safety guidance is available at www.hse.gov.uk/stonemasonry



WORKING WITH YOUR LOCAL CEMETERY

We've now heard from several cemeteries who have highlighted situations where masons/fixers fail to properly follow the authority's process before entering and working in the burial grounds.

The benefit of the BRAMM register is that it streamlines the application process, seriously reducing the amount of admin necessary. However, just because a mason is BRAMM registered doesn't mean they have free access to BRAMM cemeteries as and when they choose. Of course there is still a need to communicate with the burial authority and follow their more streamlined process. For a start, the status of the mason/fixer with BRAMM will need to be checked as things are constantly changing – renewals become due and there are cases where masons are removed from the register.

To avoid conflict, please ensure you have gone through the necessary application process and have the appropriate approvals before entering and working in a cemetery. Burial authorities have warned that failure to do this, especially for repeat offenders, will lead to companies being banned from the burial grounds.

Certa
Specialist Training
Cemeteries & Burial
Authorities Authority

BRAMM

**INSTALLATION OF
LAWN MEMORIALS
LEVEL 2**

A two day training course designed to enable fixer-masons to work in compliance with British Standard 8415

£295 + VAT
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NOT-FOR-PROFIT
BASIS

For more info
call BRAMM on
01452 346741

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information on **01452 346741**

**BE THE
CHANGE**

JOIN
BRAMM

Join BRAMM and help us build an industry to be proud of. Focused on professionalism and education, and creating a culture of craftsmanship and goodwill BRAMM brings many benefits for memorial masons.

Informative and supportive, join a community of people who care about the work they do and what they bring into the world through their knowledge, skill, energy and creativity.

For more information visit
www.bramm-uk.org

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEREST



CHECK THE REGISTER!

For every memorial application received by a burial authority, it is essential to check the BRAMM Online Register to ensure that the mason business is listed and the fixer(s) licensed. This needs to be done EVERYTIME, even if, only yesterday, you checked the same details for a different application.

If burial authorities become complacent, failing to check EVERYTIME, their actions leave open an opportunity for suspended masons, or those whose licence has expired, to try their luck and see if you'll grant them access.

In such an event, the burial authority is left exposed ... who will take responsibility if problems arise?

It's worth remembering that suspensions are temporary and once an issue is satisfactorily resolved the online status will be updated ... hence the need for continual checks. We recommend making this a part of your application process, so you know it's being done!



CAN YOU POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

Often, members of the public will approach burial authorities in relation to a plot to ascertain details about appropriate memorial stone options etc. This is the perfect time to direct them to the BRAMM website, where they will be able to type in their location and gain information of all BRAMM registered masons within an allocated radius.

This is an easy way to direct the public, assert your BRAMM registered status and fairly promote BRAMM masons in your locality ... and ensure the minimum of fuss when it comes to installation.

You may wish to highlight this online facility and link to the BRAMM website in any literature you produce.

www.bramm-uk.org

