

Synopsis of paper

Bro. Dr. Oscar Alleyne

Sgt. John Batt: Mercenary, Opportunist and Hero

The paper explores the enigmatic personality of Sgt. John Batt, a member of military Lodge No. 441 under the Irish Constitution, who is attributed with the creation of African Lodge No. 1. His initiation of Prince Hall and fourteen men of color enabled what is known today as Prince Hall Freemasonry. A comprehensive view of the facts surrounding John Batt and military Lodge No. 441, embedded within the 38th Regiment of Foot, will be examined from the perspective of Batt's actions as a mercenary, an opportunist and a 'hero'. The research underlying this paper suggests that the currently accepted start date of African Lodge No. 1 – and thus Prince Hall Freemasonry – is incorrect. Dr Alleyne will provide evidence that will demonstrate that it was 6 March 1778, and not 1775, that was the trigger date. The paper is based on new research combined with a detailed examination of the early Prince Hall archives.

The Speaker

Dr Oscar Alleyne is a senior epidemiologist, shaping health innovations and building strategic partnerships for governmental health solutions, based in New York. He played a pivotal role in US national support during the Covid pandemic and is a published author and scientific presenter in public health. Masonically, Oscar is a member of Wappingers Lodge No. 671 (GLNY) and has published in several widely-distributed Masonic journals, participated as a keynote speaker in research and educational conferences on Freemasonry, and received multiple awards for his distinguished service to the Craft. He served as the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of New York from 2018-2021, is a past President and Fellow of the Masonic Society, and a Fellow and incoming President of the Philalethes Society.

The meetings of the Lodge are held on the Second Thursday in November (Installation), Third Thursday in February, Second Thursday in May and September, and the Fourth Thursday in June.

Next meeting: Thursday 14 May 2026

at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2 5AZ

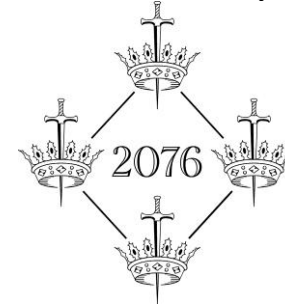
The Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge are on the second Wednesday in March, June, September and December

Should any member's contact details change, please inform the Secretary.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE NO. 2076

The Premier Lodge of Masonic Research

Consecrated 12 January 1886



Master

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December 2025

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are desired to attend the duties of the Lodge at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ on **Thursday, 19 February 2026, at 4.00pm.**

By Command of the Master,

Yours sincerely and fraternally

W.Bro. R.D. Soames
Secretary

Dark suit - Undress Regalia – No gloves

This is a Closed Meeting for Freemasons only.

MASONIC LODGE BUSINESS

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2025-2026

Bro. Richard L. Gan, JP, PAGDC	Master
Bro. Adam Kendall	Senior Warden
Bro. Dr Paul Calderwood, PGSwdB	Junior Warden
Bro. Dr Rob Hammond.....	Chaplain
Bro. Gerald Reilly.....	Treasurer
Bro. Rob Soames, PAGDC	Secretary
Bro. Dr John Wade, PJGD , PM.....	Director of Ceremonies
Bro. David Peck, PM	Almoner
Bro. Roger Pemberton, PPrGM	Charity Steward
Bro. Clive Moore, PAGStdB	Senior Deacon
Bro. Dr David Harrison	Junior Deacon
Bro. Brian Price, <i>OBE</i> , PAGDC , PM.....	Assistant Director of Ceremonies
Bro. Martin Faulks, AGPurs	Assistant Secretary
Bro. Dr Felipe Real De Camargo	Inner Guard
Bro. Andrew Farleigh	Steward
Bro. Mike James	Tyler

Immediate Past Master: Bro. Trevor McKeown, PM

MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

Prof.Em. Aubrey Newman, **OSM**, **PJGD**; Dr Brent Morris, **PJGD**, PM; Dr Trevor Stewart, PM; David Peabody, **PGStB**, PM; Robert Cooper, PM; Antony Baker, **PJGD**, PM; Prof. Em. Roger Burt; Prof. James Campbell, **DepGSuptWks**, PM; Dr.Ric Berman **PGSwdB**, PM; Prof. Andreas Önnersfors, PM; Arturo De Hoyos; Mark Tabbert; Hugh O'Neill PM, Dr Mike Kearsley **PAGDC**; Dr Paul Calderwood, **PGSwdB**; Mike Karn **PJGD**; Kent Henderson; Fabio Venzi*Dr John Reuther **PSGD**; Christopher Powell, PM; Adam Kendall; Helge Horrisland; Iain McIntosh; Dr Oscar Alleyne; V. Rev. Leif Grutle; Dr Timothy Blakemore; Prof. Remzi Sanver^; Brendan Kyne.

* **GM**, RGLItaly ^**GM**, GLTurkiye

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

The Most. Hon. the Marquess of Northampton, *DL*, **PProGM**;
Dr James Daniel, **OSM**, **PSGW**, PM; Yasha Beresiner, **PGStB**, PM,
Yoshio Washizu, **PGM**, GLJapan

1. To open the Lodge.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 13 November 2025.
3. To welcome visitors to the Lodge, particularly members of the Correspondence Circle and especially Brethren from overseas.
4. To receive and approve the audited Accounts for the year 2024-2025.
5. To receive a report from the Almoner.
6. To receive a paper by Bro. Dr Oscar Alleyne entitled:
Sgt. John Batt: Mercenary, Opportunist and Hero
7. To receive Propositions.
8. To close the Lodge.

THE NORMAN B. SPENCER PRIZE ESSAY

Non-members of the Lodge are reminded that they are eligible to enter the competition whether they live in the United Kingdom or abroad. It was instituted to encourage brethren to take an interest in Masonic research and those who have not previously undertaken study of this kind will find that it is a remarkably interesting and satisfying activity. Further details are provided on our website:

<https://www.quatuorcoronati.com/research/spencer-prize/>

We look forward to welcoming members of Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle (QCCC) to the meeting, which will be followed by a Drinks Reception, with wine and nibbles. All visitors are encouraged to stay and discuss the paper with the author and other members of the Lodge. Please book your place at

www.quatuorcoronati.com/meetings/festive-board/