

**Synopsis of paper**  
**Freemasonry and the Railways**

The year 2025 has been celebrated as 'Railway 200', the commemoration of two hundred years of commercial railways in Britain. As part of that, and slightly by coincidence, this paper has been written to examine the inter-relationship between Freemasonry and the development of the railway network in Britain in the second half of the nineteenth century. What started as a simple research question, looking at the presumed link between the opening of railways and the then lodges in this period, typically morphed into a wider project. It exposed other questions, including the inter-play between the Freemasons who ran the private railway companies, the opening of London hotels with spectacular masonic temples, Provincial Grand Masters with their own railway stations; lodges opened for railway workers, and private trains laid on for Masonic meetings. The lecture is for all who have an interest in economic history, the importance of railways, and their effect on the Craft.

**The Speaker**

W. Bro. Dr. Rob Hammond is a North Wales Freemason and member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. After university he had a career as an Army officer serving in various theatres overseas, as well as in the UK. After leaving the military he has worked as a lecturer for the Open University to the present day, as well as having a life as a part-time sheep farmer. His research interests are in North Wales and West Africa, which are not as dissimilar as may first appear.

*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**

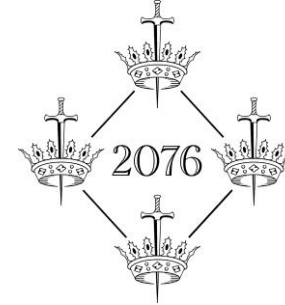
at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2 5AZ

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**

**W. Bro. Richard L. Gan, JP, PAGDC**

Cedarwood, West Street  
Childrey, WANTAGE  
Oxfordshire  
OX12 9UL

Telephone: 01235 751297

Email: [secretary@quatuorcoronati.com](mailto:secretary@quatuorcoronati.com)

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.

## OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2025-2026

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

## MASONIC LODGE BUSINESS

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. Rob Hammond entitled:  
**Freemasonry and the Railways**
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/](http://www.quatuorcoronati.com/meetings/festive-board/)