



# The Dartmoor Lodge No.4604

South Brent Masonic Hall, Totnes Road, South Brent, Devon. TQ10 9BX



*The following is taken from **DevonLive's** website ([www.devonlive.com](http://www.devonlive.com)).  
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On DevonLive's recent visit to Barnstaple's Loyal Lodge Masonic Hall, reporter Joe Bulmer sat down with Devon's top freemason, Ian Kingsbury, to talk secret handshakes and everyday life as a mason.

The provincial grand master of the Province of Devonshire, Ian Kingsbury, was keen to dispel some of [the myths surrounding the group, its practises and its ceremonies](#).

Ian and his brothers across the UK are attempting to educate the public about freemasonry to counteract negative depictions of the group in popular culture.



Barnstaple's Loyal Lodge

[Joe quizzed the grand master at Barnstaple's lodge](#) with some frequently asked questions.

## **Why would someone join the masons?**

"For many people it's the intrigue and perhaps looking us up on our website, it can even be knowing friends that belong to freemasonry.

"I want to **break** away from the myth of secrets, there are certain secrets within our order but I want to break away from that and tell you that we are more open.

Can you explain the day to day activities of the masons?



"The most important thing is initiating new candidates into our order. He will then progress through certain offices and degrees within our order to eventually reach a chair at the head of his lodge.

"He must also have a belief in god and he must be wanting to be charitable toward other people in life, not just freemasons but everybody in life."



**What do you think of the depiction of freemasonry in popular culture?**

"I don't always think it's a fair representation. Personally, and my wife thinks so too, I think it can be quite sensational. For example masons colluding.

"I can assure you that doesn't happen, there would be strong disciplinary matters which would be taken against that person.

"We have a disciplinary system in place to prevent people wanting to collude or use freemasonry in the outside world."



### Can you explain freemasonry's secret handshakes?

"Within our ceremonies the secrets involved, what we would call tokens, are an exchange of secrets for the new initiate about freemasonry itself and we do it in an allegorical form, a drama or a story.

"Those, as it were, secrets between us are for the story within a lodge room, not to be used or taken outside into the open world or to be exchanged even with a brother from their own lodge.

"They should not be shaking hands and using the masonic handshake, which is representative of relaying a secret to a member, as it would have been done many years ago when they joined a guild of operative mason.

"They would be at a certain stage in their career and they would have to go for a new job and they would have to relay to their prospective employer the standard they had reached but there is no way a modern mason should ever try to do that in open society, especially if we were seeking employment or any other thing in life.



"We should not use our masonic secrets to do that and if I hear of it those people will be disciplined."



**What do you hope to achieve by being more transparent?**

"We want, nationally, to break down the myths on what free masonry is about.

"I want us to be more accepted in open society and seen for what we really are, seen for all the good charitable works we do and the good men who are out there to help the good people in society not just within our own brotherhood."

***DevonLive's website is: <http://www.devonlive.com>***

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