

ST NICHOLAS LODGE NO 2586 SURPRISES THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

St Nicholas Lodge, with a new Master Peter Stephenson, was pleased to receive the Provincial Grand Master and his team to the first meeting of the New Year on 4th January 2006.

The PGM just does not visit without a purpose and on this occasion the Lodge also had as a guest W.Bro. Ken Petrie of the Helvetica Lodge 4894, which meets in London, and he was in attendance for a very special reason, he carried with him a cheque from Helvetica Lodge to be credited to our Festival 2006, but why at St Nicholas Lodge? The Almoner of St Nicholas Maurice Johnson is also a member of Helvetica and close friend of Ken's, hence the choice.

W.Bro Petrie was invited to make the presentation in open Lodge and in doing so gave a brief history of the Helvetica Lodge. As the name suggests it is a Swiss Lodge and was originally comprised of Swiss freemasons over a period of time and change it was opened to brethren working for Swiss companies and both Ken and Maurice worked for a Swiss company.

The Helvetica Lodge benefited from legacies of members and due to wise investment is now in a position that it can contribute significantly and annually to all four Masonic Charities.

With this explanation Ken presented a cheque to the PGM made payable to The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys "Festival 2006".

This was received gratefully and would be faithfully applied, but you will note an omission, Ken had not disclosed the value of the cheque, this was a privilege left to the PGM, he stood in awe at the generosity and declared that the amount was for £15,000. The Provincial Grand Master in thanking W.Bro. Petrie described RMTGB as the jewel of Masonic charity for the care, which it gives to those who come into its protection. He also asked that the appreciation of our Masonic Province would be conveyed to the Helvetica Lodge.

Both had now resumed their seats and the Charity Steward had announced a collection of £218.60p at the Installation meeting. When the Worshipful Master called for the attention of the PGM and presented him with a cheque for that collection he was delighted. Peter Stephenson knew he had the PGM's attention and quickly added another cheque from the St Nicholas Lodge for £2000, all for Festival 2006.

The Provincial Grand Master Richard Anderson Loves Surprises

The photograph shows Ken Petrie presenting the cheque to the PGM, W.Bro. Peter Stephenson, APM John Trout, W.Bro John Buffoni Festival representative and W.Bro Terry Burt Festival secretary

