



Mark Grand Lodge September 2017 Guest Speaker Programme



Paul Barrett, OBE, CMG
Chairman of the Trustees
Chiltern Centre
for the Disabled



Supporting disabled
children & young adults



In 2016 the Chiltern Centre for the Disabled successfully applied for a grant of £14,500 from the Mark Benevolent Fund to fund the cost of a sensory room at their Henley-on-Thames centre.



Mr Paul Barrett, *OBE*, CMG, V.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.J.O. and Keith Manning, Centre Manager

The Centre caters for parents and professionals involved in the care of children with disabilities ranging from cerebral palsy to autistic spectrum disorder.

Widely acknowledged as a centre of excellence, the charity has received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, recognising their outstanding work in this field.

The Sensory Room was officially opened by V.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.J.O., a Trustee of the Mark Benevolent Fund, in June this year and the event was attended by many other patrons of the charity. V.W.Bro. John was delighted to attend and was proud to see how the funds had been spent and experience at first hand the impact that the new Sensory Room was having on the visitors to the centre.



The new room includes a soft play area, a touch pad that emits different smells and an interactive floor projection.



This project once again shows how the Mark Benevolent Fund can make such a huge difference to so many people across all walks of life.

Find out more about the charity by visiting their website at www.chilterncentre.org.uk



About the Mark Benevolent Fund

The Mark Benevolent Fund (M.B.F.) was founded in 1868 by Canon George Raymond Portal. The aim of the charity is to help poor and distressed Mark Master Masons and their immediate family. To date over £7 million has been disbursed in grants to individual petitioners.

The M.B.F. also makes donations to many other charities and worthy causes. These grants have totalled over £20 million since 1868. Examples of grants over recent years are £2.6 million to the Hope for Tomorrow Cancer Charity; £12,937 to the Dogs for Good charity for the training and development of a support dog; £1.4 million to St Bartholomew's Hospital for Cancer Care; £13,150 to the Baldwin Trust for the refurbishment of canal boats specially modified for disabled visitors; £107,628 for St Oswald's Hospice in Northumberland to replace and upgrade their kitchen facilities and a renewed partnership with St John Ambulance pledging over £3 million to help replace their fleet of ambulances, mobile treatment centres and support vehicles.

As the 150th Anniversary of the M.B.F. approaches, it is important to reflect on Canon Portal's drive, enthusiasm and dedication, remembering that to him it was wrong for there to be any delay in providing assistance to those in need. Canon Portal's own Latin tag "Bis dat qui cito dat" – 'He gives twice who gives promptly' or 'A gift given without hesitation is as good as two gifts', became the guiding principle of the M.B.F. We still live by that adage, which is as relevant today as it was when he founded the Fund in 1868.