

POOR'S ESTATE
in THE ANCIENT PARISH OF ETON
CHARITY N^o 200640

To: All Members of the Charteris House Centre

The Charteris House Centre comes under the remit of the Poor's Estate and it is funded and administered by this charity. For some time now the Trustees have been considering how best to utilise this facility as we go forward, especially as numbers have fallen dramatically over the last few years. When we first opened we had 96 members and today that number has dropped below 45, with approximately 25-30 using it on a weekly basis. This is, of course, due to a number of factors and perhaps reflects the change in population within Eton.

The actual Charteris House building now presents a number of difficulties but due to the fact that it is a Listed Building there are constraints to what can be done. Space is at a premium inside the building and with an ageing membership, it does not lend itself to ease of movement. Parking in Eton Square has increased considerably over the past few years with almost every resident owning a car and there are not enough parking places, thus making access and egress even more difficult because vehicles park on double yellow lines and the pavements.

This poses the question "How best can we serve the senior citizens of the community and provide an oasis where they can meet and enjoy the fellowship which has been such a key part of life over the past 20 years?"

Considerable thought and careful thinking has been given to this matter and the Trustees have agreed that the way forward would be to relocate the Centre. At the moment, almost two-thirds of the members come from Eton Wick and are brought in by the mini-bus at a cost of several thousand pounds per year. This money could be used to provide additional services to benefit everyone. It has therefore been agreed that the Centre will move to the Eton Wick Village Hall with effect from September 2017. The Hall offers very light and spacious accommodation with modern facilities including the provision of a lift, disabled toilets and a large car park.

We realise that this will come as a disappointment to some but in looking forward, we feel that this could be the start of something new and exciting for you all. The Centre is not going to close and you will not be abandoned. We want to reassure you that we have your welfare at heart and are very keen to provide you with what we hope will be an even better service. Transport will be provided for those members who live in Eton and others who come into Eton from surrounding areas (eg Windsor). Bekynton will continue to provide lunches and it is envisaged that a new and exciting calendar of events will be on offer. We are delighted that the current Acting Manager, Jackie Murnan, with whom we have consulted at length, has decided that she will move to Eton Wick but in her former role as Assistant Manager. We are very pleased that Jackie has agreed to move because this will offer continuity for the members as we

settle into a new phase in the life of the Charteris House Centre. Jackie has done an incredible job over the past eight months and we are indebted to her for her willingness to step into the role and for keeping the Centre running. It is the intention to appoint a new Manager as soon as practicable and together they will work as a team to continue the success of the Centre.

You will have questions and it is our intention to answer them as fully and fairly as possible. What we ask is that you bear with us, understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and come with us as we embark on what could prove to be an exciting time ahead as we effect the change.

Thank you

Philip Highy – Trustee
Christine Boyd – Clerk to the Trustees
May 2017