

## **Staplehurst Village Centre Trustees' Post-AGM Message**

Thank you to all those who came to the AGM and had a chance to find out the work that the trustees have been doing. Since the previous AGM the trustees have worked hard to improve the overall experience of people hiring the North Hall.

The 100 years of paint were stripped back to reveal the original brick work, the ceilings were repainted and the floors repaired and varnished.

This is already increasing the interest in hall usage. The loss of the curtains has however, increased the acoustic rebound and has presented us with a different task – to improve this without being unsightly, which we are researching into currently.

We have used the consultation information collated previously to inform us of the best way forward with the centre, that is both cost effective and realistic to create a community centre for now and the future. A structural survey organised by SPC revealed that the building is structurally sound, although cosmetic improvements such as pointing and guttering need attention.

We were able to use all this information to invite architects to tender for the redevelopment of the building. Currently we are beginning the process of discussing the proposals with our regular clients that hire the halls to ensure theirs and future clients' needs can be met.

The trustees will be updating you all with our progress to ensure improved communication with the community.