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Community rallies round for refurbished hall



A COMMUNITY hall in Colchester has been officially reopened to the public after undergoing eight months of refurbishment.

Myland Parish Halls – formerly the St Michaels Church Hall – was opened again on Saturday exactly 139 years to the day since it was first used as a school in 1871.

The project was funded with £385,000 from the Big Lottery Community Buildings Fund, as well as grants from other organisations including Essex County Council and Essex Community Foundation.

The building was refurbished and redecorated and now has three separate halls for use by community groups.

Residents were invited along to the grand opening on Saturday where they were given a guided tour of the new facilities.

There were also displays from organisations which use the hall including the 1st Myland Scout and Brownie groups.

Scout Samuel Thomas and Brownie Natasha Richardson cut the ribbon at the new hall to officially mark the opening.

Huw Edwards, chairman of the Myland Parish Halls project, said: “The project encompasses true community spirit. It was on time, on budget and we are absolutely delighted with the results.

“The halls are a vital community resource and now completely modernised, they combine a sense of character and history with purposely-designed, outstanding facilities which are modern and flexible.”

READY: From left, The Rev Ray Gibbs, Samuel Thomas, Natasha Richardson and project chairman Huw Edwards open Myland Parish Halls, in Colchester

Photograph:
ANDREW PARTRIDGE