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Trainee decorators give a helping hand to band hall

A GROUP of trainee painters and decorators have spruced up a Benfleet community hall.

Students from Basildon's Prospects College have spent the past three weeks stripping and painting Richmond Hall so it can be used by Thundersley Brass Band as a practice venue.

The former council hall, in High Road, Benfleet, has not seen a lick of paint in 20 years, and a group of trainees used the opportunity to gain experience for their apprenticeship.

Sean Thrower, the painting and decorating team leader, said: "It is a great opportunity to get our students involved in such a worthwhile project.

"The students gain valuable experience, which will count towards their qualifications, so everyone's a winner."

Thundersley Brass Band bought the hall from the council for an undisclosed fee, using part of a £50,000 grant from the Veolia ES Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust. They aim to turn it into a music academy, and plan to spend the rest of the money on refurbishing the hall.



Decorators - Prospects students