

NEATISHEAD

Villages celebrate new hall

A cutting edge new village hall opened amid a traditional English setting of brass band music and teas.

The sunny ceremonies at Neatishead near Wroxham marked the end of more than a decade of hard work and fundraising including the cloudy moments of two lottery grant refusals.

But determined organisers battled on and the result was unveiled on Saturday – an eco-friendly building with a sedum room, heat drawn from underground, shredded paper insulation, and flushless urinals.

The New Victory Hall stands just yards away from its old and cramped predecessor, now sold and awaiting conversion to a house, but remains dedicated to the war dead of the communities it serves – Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf.

Local fundraising raised £100,000 towards the £520,000 price tag, with the rest coming from sale proceeds from the old hall and grants including £177,000 from the Big Lottery.

Sixty local volunteers also rolled up their sleeves to build a round



Picture:
JAMES BASS

**COMMUNITY
CONCEPT:**
William
Dorsey
officially
opened the
New Victory
Hall, serving
Neatishead,
Irstead and
Barton Turf.

committee room, made from 120 straw bales.

Management committee chairman Pat Palgrave-Moore hailed it an historic day and praised the efforts of the people involved, which included doubling the local fundraising in just three years.

Landowner Bill Dorsey, who donated the hall site, stressed the importance of providing facilities where people could meet in a “helter-skelter virtual age” where the concept of community was often neglected.

■ Visit www.victoryhall.info