

Firm turns fire disaster into a triumph

A DRYBROOK builders' merchant marked its triumphant return after a fire in 2009 with the opening of its brand new showroom.

Hale & Co (Drybrook) Ltd invited Baroness Royall of Blaisdon to open its kitchens and bathrooms showroom.

The Baroness praised the firm, saying it was wonderful to see the



INFERNO: Crews tackle blaze.

company not only fighting back, but expanding.

In June 2009 warehouses and the recently finished plumbing and heating centre were destroyed in a huge fire attended by up to 80 firefighters.

The firm, which employs 45 people, opened its new warehouse a year ago and the opening of the new showroom marks its complete recovery.

Managing director Leslie Hale said it felt wonderful to finish the work.

"It's been a long haul. It's taken longer than we thought, but the opening went well."

He said the firm was well placed to fight the recession.

"Like most builders' merchants we seem to do well in a recession.

"Even though new build isn't there, repair and maintenance carries on."



CUTTING THE RIBBON: Baroness Royall, with Jake Hale, left, and Leslie Hale centre watched by staff.