

Orsett Hall Fire ~ 11th May 2007

(Piece that we put in the Essex Chronicle ~ October 2007)

With regards to the fire which totally destroyed the Orsett Hall on 11th May 2007, we would like to express that Orsett Hall staff were fully trained with regards to the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire. The Hotel had all the necessary Fire Certificates and up to date inspections were always carried out. Two of our receptionists successfully evacuated the building of guests and staff, when they were aware of the fire and thankfully, no one was injured. Once the Fire Brigade arrived, the hotel was handed over to them and they did their utmost with regards to trying to save the Hotel. However, due to it being a 400 year old listed building, the fire took hold and the water pressure in the area was not good and tragically the beautiful building burnt to the ground. After speaking to the Fire Service, we found out that although the Fire Service does say that every fire is preventable, the fire at Orsett Hall was not preventable without hindsight... we hope that the tragic events can help to prevent this ever happening elsewhere and that the help and support of the local community have helped us through this terrible time and we thank them so much for their support. It is not only a sad loss for Lynn & Steve Haynes and their Staff, but also to the public who have at one time or another, attended a Wedding, Luncheon or Function at the Orsett Hall, but it is also a sad loss for English Heritage.