

■ Party celebrates moves that saved fire-hit office



CHEERS: left to right, John Hamilton, MD of the agency, and firefighters Steve Halfacre, Dave James, and Richard Boast

Thanks to firemen who beat firm blaze

FIREFIGHTERS who saved a Marlow business from being gutted by fire were invited back for a drinks party as a thank you.

Richard Boast, Dave James and Steve Halfacre, from Marlow fire station, were part of a five-man team that tackled a blaze that threatened to engulf the offices of the Berks and Bucks Recruitment agency in March.

Out of gratitude, the company asked the trio to join them for champagne and canapes last Thursday afternoon.

Carole Wilks, branch manager of the recruitment company, said: "It was really nice - they were so pleased to be

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there.

"They said they don't often get invited back to places as a thank you."

Also on the guestlist was Janet Viveash, who works in Boots below the recruitment company's West Street offices.

Because the fire was on a Saturday, the office of the company was deserted. Miss Viveash heard the fire alarm, climbed onto the roof of Boots, looked through a window and spotted the fire.

Fraser Pearson, communications manager for Bucks Fire and Rescue, was also at the event.

He said: "It had the potential to be quite a devastating fire.

"Thanks in part to the prompt action of the lady from Boots, it was prevented from being very serious."

Fire crews from High Wycombe fire station also helped to extinguish the fire.

Next month, Richard Boast, watch manager of Marlow fire station, will celebrate his 24th anniversary of joining the fire service.