



Long Corner Cottage, Hempstead, as it was left after the fire in August.

## To rise from the ashes...

**LIKE THE legendary phoenix a new cottage is to rise from the ashes of the old one devastated by fire at Hempstead four months ago.**

More than £20,000 will be spent on rebuilding Long Corner Cottage to as near the original design as it was before the fateful blaze in mid-August when Mr David

Orwell and his wife Gina escaped with their lives in the middle of the night.

Many owners would have written off the gutted remains but company director Mr Orwell has successfully applied to Uttlesford planners for rebuilding consent.

And work is due to start after Christmas — but with one difference. This time the roof will be tiled, not thatched.

Mr Roger Lynn, the Saf-ron Walden design agent,

said: "The roof is being changed for obvious reasons, but otherwise the cottage will be as near an exact replica as we can make it, with certain extensions, including a new balcony.

"Parts of the existing shell that are stables will be used. We shall use the same doors and windows layout. It should take about four months."

Mr and Mrs Orwell, who are at present living with

parents at Woodford Green, were on the point of completing the sale of the cottage when fire struck, but according to Mr Lynn they will now be returning to live there.

The scheme will please Hempstead Village Society who were concerned the cottage would be demolished and replaced by a modern house that would not be so much in keeping with the character of the village.