

# 'Vultures' swooped after fire

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THE chairman and managing director of the fire-ravaged Bentley Piano Company has hit out at the "vultures" who swooped on the business in the aftermath of the blaze.

In a letter to The Citizen, Mr. David Grover criticises the methods of the unscrupulous traders who sought to use last month's disaster for their own ends.

They pounced within hours of the £1 million blaze which devastated large areas of the Woodchester factory.

The main culprits were loss assessors who trade on a percentage of the work they get and who plagued management immediately after the fire.

Mr. Grover says: "They swooped within hours of the fire, intent only on pressing their wares, some resorting to deliberate

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by Mike Fowler

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deception and without regard for the pressures on management."

On the morning of the fire one such assessor told The Citizen he had travelled to Woodchester from Manchester setting off at 5am after hearing of the blaze.

Company secretary Mr. Peter Freke said: "We did rather take exception to those people who would not go away."

But despite these setbacks the company has been heartened by the good samaritans both locally and in the piano trade in general who offered their assistance.

"All of us at Bentley Pianos have been overwhelmed by their concern and to them I express heart-felt gratitude," adds Mr. Grover.

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