



Shutting up shop: Derrick Draffan behind the counter for the last time

End of era for family business

A TRADITIONAL family business has closed blaming competition from big supermarkets – the latest in a line of small firms to suffer the same fate.

Derrick Draffan worked his last day at Draffans in Prestwood on Saturday, ending 45 years of family business.

The shop has now been sold to the Rusts chain from Swindon.

Customers dropped by and sent cards in to say goodbye.

Mr Draffan, 59, said he would be sad to go, but added: "I remember the good days when you were actually serving people and you used to deliver."

He said that pressure from the big supermarkets has meant Draffans had to cut such services, though the shop had continued to deliver to some elderly people.

"We can't compete with the likes of Sainsbury's and Tesco's. The opening of

Tesco's in Amersham knocked our turnover completely," he said.

Mr Draffan moved to Prestwood from County Durham in 1948 when he was 14. His parents set up the shop which has grown gradually over the years.

In the early days, the family lived behind the store. Mr Draffan remembers when Prestwood was full of family butchers and grocers.

He started work in the shop in 1954 and took over in 1970, but will not be passing it on to his son or daughter.

"Family businesses aren't carrying on. There is no future in it."

He says he is looking forward to retirement at his home in Little Kimble. The former Wycombe Wanderers player plans to watch team games, play some golf and spend more time with his two grandchildren.

Director of Rusts, Derek Marchant, said the shop would continue much as it is for the time being.