

# Family printers leave Cowbridge after a century

**LONG established Cowbridge printers D.Brown & Sons Ltd announced this week that they would be closing the shop after 102 years of trading in the town.**

D.Brown and Sons Ltd, is now trading as Gemini Digital Colour from a Bridgend HQ. Managing director Bob Whitaker said, "It is with regret that we are closing the Cowbridge outlet because our roots are here.

"In the 1970's and 1980's we were a leading book printer and publishers. We had 350 titles in English and Welsh in print. We printed enough books ourselves to enable

us to run a shop to sell them. Economic changes in the late 1980's made us move into commercial colour printing.

"By 1995 there were too many colour printers so I began looking for a niche market, I found digital colour printing which caters for short-run, high quality, very fast turnaround printing. We believe that the long term future of commercial printing lies in this rapidly growing sector and that to stay ahead of the competition we need to devote all our energies to it."

D.Brown and Sons Ltd based at Bridgend Industrial Estate are only the second firm on the British mainland to adopt the dig-

ital process.

As well as establishing a number of blue chip customers last year they were selected UK Digital Printer of the Year.

The closure of the Cowbridge shop and the rationalisation of the business to solely digital colour printing at Bridgend has resulted in the firm making 22 redundancies.

"This is the main down-side of the whole operation. Several of those made redundant have already been placed and we are making strenuous efforts to identify local vacancies for the remainder," explained Mr Whitaker.

It is the beginning of a

new era for the family firm which now spans four generations, but the current managing director insists that despite his regret at leaving Cowbridge the company must "move with the times."