

# Final chapter beckons for bookstore

## KIRKSTALL

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THE END of an era is approaching for one of the few remaining independent book stores in Leeds, which has announced plans to close later this year.

The Bookshop Kirkstall, which has been around for nearly 30 years, will close on May 4 after sales dropped.

Shop owner, Roy Brooks, 70, first took over the store 25 years ago, when it was then known as Almar Books.

The store specialises in selling second-hand books and antique books, some of which date all the way back to the 1600s. Mr Brooks, who was born and bred in Leeds, currently runs the store with his wife, Pippa.

He said: "The shop has been here for 30 years, I have had it for 25. The reason we are closing down is we have been running at a loss for around four years now, although we still

have a reasonably healthy business online. Until we started our sale, we would get an average of one or two customers per day. However, the sale itself is going well and the shop is busier than it has been for many years.

"In the last week, we will give away anything that is not sold." Although there is a possibility that the bookshop could be saved by a charity who will then sell the books on a pay-as-you-feel basis, at the moment, nothing is certain.

Mr Brooks believes that the decline in book sales is in part due to technological developments and the reluctance that many people have towards reading. While the store itself may be closing, the remaining titles will still be sold online via Amazon.

The former magistrate first started his career in publishing 53 years ago but will instead focus on charity work once the store closes.

**OPINION:** Is there a future for independent book stores?



**CLOSING TIME:** Owner Roy Brooks at The Bookshop Kirkstall, which is set to close its doors in May.

## CLOSURE

Proud history of local shops

THE BOOKSHOP Kirkstall has been operating for 25 years in Leeds.

Before that it was known as Almar Books, which had been trading five years prior to being taken over by Roy Brooks, the current owner. More than 2,000 books are sold in the shop.

Another independent book store owner who has decided to shut up shop is David Ford, who announced recently that he is to close Saltaire Bookshop in the spring after running it for eight-and-a-half years.

The 55-year-old hit the headlines in 2014 it was revealed that he took just £7.50 in a day of trading at his bookshop on Saltaire Road in the West Yorkshire town.

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