

Time called at landmark Weddington pub

By Steve Evans

TIME is being called on a landmark pub which has derved the Weddington community of Nuneaton for generations.

Owners of the Fox & Crane, in Weddington Road, have decided that "last orders" will be called for the final time on Thursday, January 17.

Rumours had been circulating for several weeks in the Weddington area about the future of the grand old pub, which stands back off the busy A444 Nuneaton-Burton road.

Brewers Mitchells & Butlers, who own the pub, have now revealed that they plan to close it down. A spokesman for M&B said: "We review our pub estate on a regular basis and have taken the decision to sell the Fox & Crane.

"The pub will stop trading on January 17. All of our staff have been fully briefed and we will look to offer them redeployment opportunities in our other local business where possible."

It is understood the pub has been sold to developers who are earmarking the site for apartments.

News of the closure is another blow to Nuneaton's diminishing publand. The once-popular Graziers Arms, also in Weddington Road, is boarded up after closing last year. It is being knocked down and replaced with flats.

Across town, the Kingsholme Tavern, formerly the Coach & Horses, in Abbey Street, is also boarded up and earmarked for redevelopment.

The Fox & Crane was previously known as The Grove and the Weddington Hotel. It was opened as a licensed building in the 1930s by a local landowner, Captain Cunliffe Shawe.

Roy Thompson, now aged 70, of Earls Road, Nuneaton, was the landlord of the pub between 1973 and 1983. He ran it with his wife Connie when it was known as the Weddington Hotel, popularly known in the community as 'The Weddy'.

Mr Thompson said: "It's a shame and it's sad that it is closing, but a lot of pubs in Nuneaton have fallen by the wayside over the years. We have lost loads of pubs in the town."

Pubs across the country are suffering from cut-price super-market beers and spirits, and the smoking ban has also hit trade.

Mr Thompson said: "It is sad to see a building like that go. Originally, there was just a farmhouse on the site in the 1800s."

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