

Sad note in piano factory's history

2/2/94
THE deadline was due to pass today for bids to buy machinery mothballed at the old Bentley Pianos factory near Stroud.

Auctioneers Grimleys of Bristol invited offers for the manufacturing equipment left behind at the world famous company at Woodchester.

Grimleys' spokesman Malcolm Ashton said tenders for the machines would be opened today and items disposed of over the next few weeks.

Competitors

Bentley's, which opened at Stroud in 1911, was closed with the loss of all 35 jobs last spring after chairman David Grover sold out to competitors Welmore.

Former bosses, including ex-director Peter Freke, have since tried in vain to put together a financial package to relaunch the firm.

But cash backing for the attempt has not materialised.

Bentley Pianos was struck by several dramatic fires during its history.

In 1938 the main factory was completely destroyed, and again in 1989 a blaze gutted the works.

A £1 million replacement building was then re-opened by Princess Michael of Kent in 1991.

Sad note in piano factory's history

THE deadline was due to pass today for bids to buy machinery mothballed at the old Bentley Pianos factory near Stroud.

Auctioneers Grimleys of Bristol invited offers for the manufacturing equipment left behind at the world famous company at Woodchester.

Grimleys' spokesman Malcolm Ashton said tenders for the machines would be opened today and items disposed of over the next few weeks.

Competitors

Bentley's, which opened at Stroud in 1911, was closed with the loss of all 35 jobs last spring after chairman David Grover sold out to competitors Welmore.

Former bosses, including ex-director Peter Freke, have since tried in vain to put together a financial package to relaunch the firm.

But cash backing for the attempt has not materialised.

Bentley Pianos was struck by several dramatic fires during its history.

In 1938 the main factory was completely destroyed, and again in 1989 a blaze gutted the works.

A £1 million replacement building was then re-opened by Princess Michael of Kent in 1991.