

New home is found for city centre post office

A CITY centre post office will be moved to a WH Smith store in a bid to save money.

The agreement between Post Offices Limited and the high street shop means the counter in Ship Street, Brighton, will be moved to WH Smith in Churchill Square before autumn next year.

Post Offices Ltd is moving 76 of its post office branches to WH Smith stores as part of a cost-saving exercise. The Ship Street building will eventually be sold.

The branch employs 22 people who will either be able to apply for a position at the post office in WH Smith, move to another job within the Royal Mail group or take voluntary redundancy.

A spokeswoman for Royal Mail said: "We are offering customers the opportunity to give us feedback on the levels of service and the service they would like to receive."

"We want to try to maintain the level of service we have in the branch at the moment but it may be that the customers want it to change."

"The post office network is not sustainable as it is which is why we are moving inside retail outlets."

A spokeswoman for WH Smith said the post office would be run separately and a new team would be employed to run the post office counter.

Brighton Pavilion MP David Lepper said he would write to Alan Cook, managing director of Post Offices Limited, to voice his concern over possible job losses.

PICTURE:KATE ELLIOTT



WINNING SINGERS: Emily Manthorpe, left, and Sally Davidson will compete in the final next month

Sally and Emily head for Idol final

TWO young singers have been catapulted one step nearer to stardom after winning a talent show.

Sally Davidson, 23, from Heathfield, was joint winner of the over-17s title in the Brighton semi-final of Live and Unsigned South Coast Idol.

She could now quit her job with BT if she wins the grand final being held in front of an audience likely to including a host of record label bosses.

The 23-year-old, who was entered into

the competition by a friend, sung a self-penned song called Rays Of Gold to woo the judges at Concorde2 on Friday night.

She told The Argus: "I'm absolutely over the moon, I don't think it's quite sunk in yet. I did a song I'd written myself and I think that helped me because the judges were saying they were getting a bit bored with all the covers."

"I wasn't nervous. The pressure was off a little bit and I just thought 'Oh well, I've got this far so if I go out now it

doesn't matter'. I think it was probably the best I had ever sung, to be honest."

Sally is not going to give up her job just yet but will do if she wins the grand final, being held on May 26 in Portsmouth.

She joked: "My boss said he was going to sack me anyway if I didn't win."

Emily Manthorpe, from Brighton, also won a place in the grand final by securing the second berth in the over-17s category.

Is it a good idea to move post offices into WH Smith stores? Have your say at theargus.co.uk

Sex attack suspects go on the run

FROM FRONT PAGE

making statements and getting cases to court and sometimes bail seems a little flimsy.

"I think in certain situations victims can have anxiety about their own safety in that interim period."

"Police would do well to look carefully at that interim period."

She said alleged sex offenders should either be remanded or be monitored more closely while on bail.

"Depending on the circumstances I think it would be good to use both options more frequently, and make it victim-led rather than alleged-perpetrator led."

Superintendent Graham Bartlett, of the Brighton and Hove division of Sussex Police, said there are many reasons why an offender might not report back to police bail.

"All the people who fail to answer bail are brought to the attention of duty command in 24 hours and specific action is taken for them to be arrested," he said.

He said a warrant enforcement bureau had recently been set up in Worthing, and had been successful in apprehending suspects who failed to appear at court.

Superintendent Bartlett said: "This has improved things dramatically."

For more information about Life Centre contact info@life-centre.co.uk or telephone 01293 786349.

louise.acford@theargus.co.uk

Should serious offenders be given bail? Have your say at theargus.co.uk

Large blast rocks depot

CREWS from six fire engines were battling a large blaze which spread through a lorry depot late last night.

Residents in Bexhill reported hearing a series of explosions in Wainwright Road in the Beeching Road industrial estate as the fire took hold at 10.30pm.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service said it expected the blaze to take some to bring under control.

Sussex Police had officers at the scene to control traffic but said it was too early to give any indication of what had happened.

Cyclist hurt in crash

A CYCLIST was left in a critical condition after a collision with a van.

The accident happened just after midday on Saturday on the A281 between Henfield and Cowfold. Police said the cyclist was airlifted to hospital with serious injuries.

Officers closed the road for more than two hours to carry out investigations into the circumstances.

Witnesses are asked to call Sussex Police on 0845 6070999.

Treatment for man given two weeks to live

Hospital hope for 40st Chris

by ANDY CHILES

A MAN who weighs 40st has been put on a strict diet in hospital and is showing signs of recovery just days after he was told he had only two weeks to live.

Chris Leppard, 25, believed he was going to die after doctors warned him he faced the worst when he fell at his home and needed eight firefighters to help him up.

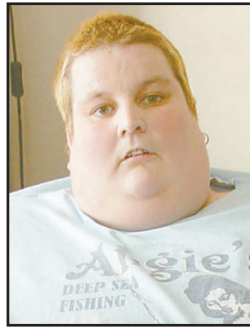
Now his mother has been given a new home which will make it easier for him to get around and Chris is receiving intensive medical support.

His mother Anne Leppard said: "Things are suddenly looking up for Chris."

"I have been given a council home which will be on the ground floor and enable Chris to have easier access outdoors."

"And yesterday they came to collect him and he's been taken to hospital in Hastings."

"They have him on a drip to treat the



STRICT DIET: Chris Leppard's condition means he never feels full

infections in his legs and help his diabetes, have him on a strict diet and have a physiotherapist that will be working with him constantly."

Wannabe chef Chris, from Hastings, suffers from Prader Willi syndrome which means he never feels full. He tipped the scales at 13st when he was 13 and was diagnosed with the condition which affects one in 15,000 people.

Last week he moved from the armchair where he had lived for six months to a makeshift bed in his front room. He

said he had "given up on life." But now he has been given renewed hope.

Mrs Leppard said: "I can't describe the relief I feel. It's been a long road so far and while I'm angry that they didn't take this action 10 years ago when we so desperately asked for help, it seems they have come through in what was Chris's final hour."

"I was heartbroken when I thought he was going to die but now I have a little ray of hope."

Chris was sectioned under the Mental Health Act in 2005, when he reached 23st, in an attempt to help him control his problem.

A spokesman for the Sussex Partnership Trust said: "Chris was sectioned a couple of years ago to determine whether he had the capacity to make decisions for himself about his health, which we decided he did."

"We have been and continue to work with him and his family to try to offer him packages of support and treatment which is best for him. His weight is giving us cause for concern."

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