



Post Office to move this month

The battle to save East Finchley Post Office in its current premises has been lost. All services will be relocated to Universal Office Equipment on the opposite side of the High Road from Thursday 22 May.

Campaigners wanted to keep the Crown Post Office where it is and 2,350 people signed a petition supporting that aim. They raised concerns about loss of staff expertise and worries about space and access in UOE.

But the Post Office announced on 8 April that the new franchise arrangement will go ahead. Staff will be redeployed or take voluntary redundancy and the existing premises in Viceroy Parade will be put on the market.

Campaigners' responses

Campaigner Gerard Sagar said it was disappointing news but that they would continue searching for other ways of challenging the move.

Huw Davies, a CWU union representative for Crown Office counter staff in the Greater London area, said: "It's deeply disappointing that further franchising is being considered when there are so many negative connotations linked with this model. Staff and customers alike will be concerned at this news."

Those fighting the transfer hoped their campaign had been given a second chance when the Post Office extended its public consultation in February. Its original publicity failed to mention that many services would be located at the rear of the UOE shop up a small set of steps, meaning a lift would be needed for disabled customers and parents with buggies.

One thousand extra petition signatures were collected in the extended consultation period but they made no difference to the final outcome.

The Post Office has said that a serving point will be available towards the middle of UOE on the lower level for those unable to negotiate the steps or lift.

Of the Viceroy Parade premises, a spokesman told THE ARCHER: "The Post Office has given notice to the landlord that it will be terminating the lease on its current site. It will be up to the freeholder to decide how it wishes to deal with the property."

Headteacher who led a transformation

By Toni Morgan

At the end of the Easter term Bishop Douglass RC School bade farewell to head teacher Angela Murphy. When she was appointed 11 years ago, the school in Hamilton Road was in special measures but she has led its transformation, culminating in a fantastic Ofsted report in 2013.

Miss Murphy is currently recognised as a 'National Leader' in education for the Pupil Premium programme and works to support other schools.

A thanksgiving mass for her services to education was held at the school on 2 April, attended by representatives from the local diocese, Barnet Local Authority and many colleagues, staff and friends.

The evening began with addresses given by the school's head boy and head girl, followed by a welcome from the Chair of Governors and messages from staff and students. During the mass a homily was given by Fr Michael O'Boy, a former pupil and head boy of Bishop Douglass.

Long service

Angela Murphy retires after 38 years of service to education which included 24 years as a head teacher. She took up her first teaching post at Bishop Challoner School, after which she joined the Archdiocese of Westminster's Education Directorate as a Youth Officer with Cardinal Hume before becoming Head of Learning Support at St Richard of Chichester.

Senior leadership roles followed: deputy head teacher at Crusoe House School, head teacher at Stormont House School and then secondment to Kingsland School as head teacher.



Angela Murphy is presented with flowers. Photo Toni Morgan

The world of education will not be losing Angela's experience, knowledge and skills for she will be taking on a consultancy role. She carries with her all the good wishes of her colleagues, staff and pupils for a full and happy retirement.

For mothers everywhere

Mothering Sunday was celebrated at All Saints' Church in Durham Road with the traditional distribution of flowers to every member of the congregation. During the service some of the children presented a drama they had written on the importance of the church in their own lives.

Afterwards the Mothers' Union held a market stall to raise funds for their projects in London. These include supporting parents of patients in Great Ormond Street Hospital, encouraging young female prisoners in Holloway and Bronzefield prisons, and Away From It All, a scheme providing holidays and respite breaks for families with difficulties.



Shelley Cameron (on the left), Jenny Daybell and Naomi Cameron distribute daffodils at the Mothering Sunday celebrations at All Saint's Church.

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