

# Post Office's owners 'left in the lurch'

By FRANCES BICKERDIKE

THE stunned owners of a Cleveleys Sub Post Office – suddenly closed after the sub-postmaster was suspended – were shocked to hear their building is not to reopen for business.

Business partners Julie Wolstenholme and Roger Harrison first knew of their fate when The Gazette contacted them yesterday.

### Takeover

Julie, who co-owns the building on Runnymede Avenue with Roger, said: "This is news to us. We were in the process of organising a takeover of the shop and a lease was being drawn up.

"We were hopeful the Post Office was going to re-open with a new owner taking over the lease," said Julie.

Julie and Roger were surprised to hear the Post Office had contacted The Gazette asking for people who would be in-



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terested in running a Sub Post Office in the Cleveleys area. It said: "Applicants, who must be able to provide suitable premises, should contact the agency recruitment section."

The couple say they had a deadline of last Monday morning to submit their takeover plans and they claim they had complied with this.

"We are now left with a build-

ing and no Post Office," she said.

Pensioners have struggled to collect their pension after the Sub Post Office suddenly closed at the end of November after allegations of breach of contract.

At the time the Post Office said they would do everything they could to find a temporary sub-postmaster as soon as possible but so far no-one has been appointed and residents are forced to travel to Post Offices in Rossall Road, North Drive and Fleetwood Road.

Said Julie: "We were hoping this situation could have been resolved quickly but now our building is not going to be used it may take months for a new Sub Post Office to open.

"We have spoken to one pensioner who now has to spend £5 on a taxi to collect her pension."

A spokesman for the Post Office said he was not prepared to discuss the personal details of the case but said: "We want to maintain the counter service and have decided the only way to do that is to look elsewhere."