

update

The latest news in brief

Unlicensed teen in fatal hit-and-run

A TEENAGER who killed a pensioner in a hit-and-run after driving onto a footpath is facing jail.

Michael Philbert was just 17 and had no driving licence when he ploughed at speed into Brenda Croke in Eynsham Drive, Abbey Wood, on the morning of June 19 last year.

Rather than try to help her, he drove off. Ms Croke, 64, of nearby Grovebury Road, was pronounced dead at the scene by ambulance crews.

A post-mortem examination gave the cause of her death as multiple injuries.

Forensic evidence linked Philbert, of Constable Mews, Bromley, to the black Range Rover which had struck Ms Croke. He was arrested five days later on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Now 18, he admitted causing death by careless driving on Wednesday last week at Woolwich Crown Court. He will be sentenced next month.



New secondary school

A NEW secondary school is to open in Beckenham next September.

The new free school, called the Beckenham Academy, will take 11 to 18-year-olds and will be run by the Education for the 21st Century trust.

It has no permanent premises yet so will open in temporary accommodation at the Ravensbourne School in Hayes Lane.

The school will have 180 places, and parents can apply for a place for their child now.

Burning business fined

A BUSINESSMAN in Bromley has been ordered to pay more than £1,000 for illegally disposing of waste.

Peter Corbey, of Corbey and Keep Construction, was prosecuted for repeatedly burning timber in a garden in Nightingale Lane.

Despite twice being warned by environmental health officers, the business - based in Main Road, Biggin Hill - continued to break the law, with one of the workers telling an officer that "it was cheaper than getting a skip".

Corbey admitted burning controlled waste at Bromley Magistrates' Court.

New restaurant opens

JAPANESE restaurant Wagamama is opening a branch in Bromley.

The restaurant will open in Queens Gardens next spring or summer.



Michael Philbert

Disabled 15-year-old saved from eviction

A DIABETIC man who cares for his severely disabled daughter has been given a six-month stay of execution after Bromley Council tried to evict him for council tax arrears.

Paul Rooney, whose 15-year-old daughter Roisin has several life-limiting health conditions, was to be chucked out of his Beckenham home

– even though he says the arrears arose because his application for council tax benefit was not processed.

Dozens of neighbours, friends and trade unionists gathered outside his home last month to try to stop the repossession. His case was subsequently heard at Croydon County Court.