

THE ANNUAL general meeting of the National Trust Orpington and Chislehurst Centre takes place on Thursday, April 28 at the Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, at 7.30pm. Afterwards a talk on 'Life in the Nursery and School Room' by Heather Woodward will explore the experiences of children over the centuries, especially in 'great houses'.

A BROMLEY primary school has revealed a new logo and tagline designed by pupils to celebrate its 45th birthday. Children at Scotts Park Primary in Orchard Road, from reception to year six, entered, and Hannah Podersoo was announced as the winner. The logo represents the heritage of the school and the new tagline is 'learning together for a brighter future'.

A NEW support group has been set up for parents dealing with pre and post natal depression. Bromley PANDAS support group is affiliated with the UK charity PANDAS foundation. The support group meet each month at Bromley Parish Church, in Church Road, and children are welcome. For more information visit facebook.com/Pandassupportgroupbromley or contact 07804622314 or pandasbromley@gmail.com.

Colonel Barker can add a new honour to his collection of 12 war medals WW2 hero awarded highest recognition by the French

REPORTER

JESSICA BELL

jessica.bell@london.newsquest.co.uk

A D-DAY Navy veteran from Bromley has been awarded the highest honour in France for his brave service during the Second World War in Normandy.

At just 15 years of age, Keith Barker dropped out of school and joined the Royal Navy in 1942, despite being well under the legal age of enrolment.

The Navy man survived bullets and bombings during his service, and now aged 88, he is the proud owner of the Chevalier Legion of Honour – the highest form of recognition from the French government.

Colonel Barker, of Durham Avenue, found out about the medal late last year, before it was officially awarded at the Defence College of Policing and Guarding at Southwick Park in Hampshire.

He told News Shopper: "We knew that the French president had promised all D-Day veterans would receive it. Then all of a sudden it arrived in November through the door."

But the service wasn't just a special occasion for Col Barker, as he had his own surprise gift to award.

Also visiting for the ceremony was the daughter of retired French nurse Madam Gondree, who treated Mr Barker and his comrades from her cafe just outside Normandy.



Keith Barker

After meeting her daughter Arlette Gondree-Pritchett in 1944 when she was a five-year-old, they have stayed in

touch over the years and Col Barker now had a specially made bronze trophy to award her.

Col Barker said the whole ceremony was a proud day, as he adds the new honour to his collection of 12 war medals.

This year marks 70 years since D-Day, which is also Col Barker's birthday.

Looking back, Col Barker said he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father, who fought in the First World War.

He said: "I didn't want to carry on at school, like all young men we wanted to get into the fight."

"Our country was being bombed to hell by Germans. I wanted to get into the fight, and I did."

Beware of scam artists in the area

BROMLEY Council is warning residents to be vigilant after reports of a scam operating in the borough.

Scam artists are offering residents a reduction in their council tax banding which they claim will trigger a refund.

Pretending to work for Bromley Council, they demand an upfront payment of £65.

Head of Trading Standards Rob Vale said: "The company is unlikely to challenge your band and may also misrepresent your rights and obligations."

"Bromley is not working with any company in respect of council tax banding and you can have your tax band checked free by contacting your local valuation office on 0300 050 1501. Under no circumstances should anyone be giving out bank details to these callers."



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INTERESTED? Join us for tea/coffee and biscuits at our information event so we can answer any questions you may have or alternatively please call us on the number below.

Tel: 01689 822700

INFORMATION EVENT

28th April 2016 17.30-19.30

Holiday Inn Bexley

Southfold Road, DA5 1ND

FREE PARKING



www.safehouses.org

Email: fostering@safehouses.org

A NEW American online craze, in which aerosol cans are transformed into flame-throwers, could be heading to the UK.

To combat the worrying new 'fire spray challenge' from the United States, firefighters want parents to speak to their children about fire safety.

With more than 4,000 posts on Instagram using the hashtag 'firespraychallenge' and more than 14,000 people following @firechallenge on Twitter, some videos have clocked up 100,000 views, and there are fears it could be about to become the latest fashion from across the pond.

London Fire Brigade has issued some key points for parents to follow in their own home.

Burn holes in carpets, bedding or clothing; charred paper or melted objects in bins or sinks; matches or lighters hidden in a child's room or under the bed and in their school bag; and unexplained fires in the home are all big indicators that your children may have an unhealthy interest in fire, the brigade has warned. In Lincolnshire an 11-year-old boy sustained serious burns around his torso after taking part in the reckless challenge over Christmas.

The London Fire Brigade's group manager for community

Warning on dangerous 'fire spray challenge'



Stupid and certainly not cool

safety, Mark Hazelton, said: "A number of young people in the States think it's clever and funny to set fire to aerosol cans and post videos of the experiment on social media, but I can assure you it's not, it's really stupid and extremely dangerous."

"It concerns me that these crazes sometimes spread across the Atlantic. So, I'd encourage parents over here to talk to their children about how dangerous it is to set fire to anything, let alone the highly flammable contents of an aerosol can."

Harris denies eight more sex attack charges

SYDENHAM children's entertainer Rolf Harris has denied eight more sex attacks – including one on a disabled woman.

The Australian-born artist, 86, pleaded not guilty to seven charges of indecent assault and one of sexual assault.

He entered the pleas at London's Southwark Crown Court last Thursday.

He faces seven charges of indecent assault on girls and women spanning four decades and dating back to the early 1970s.

Some of the offences were al-

legedly committed at the BBC Television Centre in Wood Lane in west London.

Harris will face trial at the same court on January 9, next year. He is currently serving a six-year sentence at Stafford Prison for previous sex offences.

News Shopper

Stats & Contacts

Paper: Bromley series: **64,150**

EDITORIAL
Editor: Patrick Grafton-Green
patrickgg@london.newsquest.co.uk
Tel: 020 87226348

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Newspaper deliveries
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Tel: 023 8042 4448

Jicreg independently audited circulation,
January to December 2014. 99.5% free.

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