

Club's way to celebrate special day

A COUNTRY club in Cornwall, opened by the Prince of Wales 25 years ago, invited the community to help celebrate the occasion.

Families flocked to the Family Fun Day at China Fleet Country Club, set in 180 acres of Cornish countryside, organised to mark the club's 25th anniversary.

People of all ages enjoyed an array of entertainment taking place throughout the day, including spectacular performances from the MoD Dog Show and the Royal Marine Band.

Fairground rides and bouncy castles were busy and children enjoyed being wowed by the magician as well as having their faces painted.

Dean Bennett, general manager of China Fleet Country Club, said: "It's fantastic to see so many people having a great time. With the club having been established now for a quarter of a century we knew we needed to mark the occasion with something special for the local community."

The country club was opened in 1991 by Prince Charles and provides fitness membership, an 18-hole parkland golf course, beauty services, spa, weddings, accommodation and conference facilities.



Lawrence, 5, 'too light' to go to school in wheelchair

A YOUNG boy with a condition so rare it does not have a name has been told he can no longer go to school in his wheelchair – because he is too light.

Five-year-old Lawrence Kowalski is one of 6,000 children born every year with an undiagnosed genetic disorder known as SWAN (syndromes without a name).

He has been travelling to Woodlands Special School in Plymouth from his home in Donderry, South East Cornwall, in a wheelchair-accessible taxi for the past two years.

But due to new safety regulations, transport provider Millbrook Healthcare will no longer allow him to travel in his chair as he weighs less than 22kg.

Cornwall Council, which funds the scheme, says he needs instead to be secured in a specialist car seat, which it will not provide.

His mother, Katherine, aged 37, fears the knock-on effects will lead to her losing her job and the home she shares

by SAM BLACKLEDGE

Chief reporter

with Lawrence, husband Gavin and their seven-year-old daughter Beatrice.

"I don't understand exactly what guidance Millbrook and Cornwall Council are working to for wheelchair transport for children," Katherine said.

"All they have been able to provide me with so far is an e-mail from a sales advisor at [wheelchair safety firm] Unwin, quoting some old standards for wheelchair transport.

"This advice leaves us in an impossible situation. If Lawrence is unable to travel to school in his wheelchair, I can't get him there by any other means, nor could I get Beatrice to school, or get to work. The implications of this are enormous.

"Neither of our children would be in education and I'd be out of work. We'd lose our home as a result of lost income.

"One small policy change, not based on anything concrete, can have enormous ramifications, and neither Mill-

brook nor Cornwall Council appears to recognise this."

Katherine has asked for a wheelchair passport to be provided urgently, but says both Millbrook and Cornwall Council have "gone to ground" and failed to respond.

She was told by Millbrook Healthcare's operations manager that it was "contracted" to act on the council's instructions that "children under the weight limit will need to be in an appropriate safety seat when travelling on their transport".

Cornwall Council said it was working to resolve the issue "as soon as possible".

A spokesman said: "Cornwall Council, who commission the school transport service, and NHS Kernow, who commission the wheelchair provider, are working together to ensure wheelchair users have appropriate seating arrangements in school buses.

"We are working to resolve this issue – which affects a very small number of wheelchair users who weigh under 22kg – as soon as possible."



WHEELCHAIR PROBLEM: Five-year-old Lawrence Kowalski is one of 6,000 children born every year with an undiagnosed genetic disorder known as SWAN

Scent of Titan arum is bottled

THE Eden Project has launched its own fragrance for men, featuring the overpowering scent of the world's biggest, smelliest flower.

Eau de Titan is the essence of the Titan arum, also known as the corpse flower. Its scent – which has been compared to ripe camembert, dead rat and rotting fish – has been extracted and bottled for the first time.

The campaign is designed to draw attention to this fascinating and rare plant, as well as take the world of designer fragrances in "a bold, completely-new direction."

The freshly-bottled scent will be tried out on visitors to see whether its whiff has mass-market appeal.

An Eden spokesman said: "With Eau de Titan we are boldly going where no perfumer has gone before by creating a unique essence from something so pungent.

Clash at meeting to decide future of beauty spot

The Barracks block at maker Heights needs to be restored after being deemed unsafe



CAMPAIGNERS and developers clashed at a tense meeting over the future of under-threat beauty-spot Maker Heights.

Locals have been left outraged by plans to build 30 houses on land overlooking the sea.

But developers behind the controversial plan say it is the only way of making enough money to save crumbling buildings at the much-loved site.

Residents bidding to save Maker Heights from development have since united to form a new community interest company and draw up rival proposals.

The two sides clashed at a packed crisis meeting at Millbrook Village Hall. Many people were unable to get into the building and had to listen on a sound system outside.

The Rame Conservation Trust – which staged the extraordinary

general meeting – was forced to sell some land at Maker in 2014 when it ran into financial difficulties.

That is now under the control of Evolving Places, which wants to add more Nissen huts housing a site office, showers, toilets, laundry and washing facilities for the campsite. They say the development would pay for the restoration of the Napoleonic-era Barrack Building on the land – still owned

by the trust but recently deemed "unsafe" after a survey.

Two representatives from Evolving Places attended the meeting to take questions from worried locals. Concerns included protecting wildlife, preserving the history of Maker and giving the community the chance to put forward alternative plans for restoring the Barrack building, which is at the centre of the site.