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Piece of cake:
Roux Jr, Prasad,
Aussignac,
Mazzei and Tish
with their giant
creation



Chefs cook up 13ft birthday cake for festival

Alistair Foster
Showbusiness Correspondent

FIVE top chefs have made a 13ft cake to celebrate the 10th anniversary of food festival Taste Of London.

Michel Roux Jr, Alfred Prasad, Pascal Aussignac, Francesco Mazzei and Ben Tish cooked a letter each to spell out the festival's "Taste" logo.

Roux Jr, who made a letter T and will appear with his father Albert and daughter Emily at the festival, said: "What better way to launch a food festival than with copious amounts of cake? We each made a letter for the cake, and mine is Guinness and treacle – really quite delicious."

The festival will take place in Regent's Park from June 20-23 and will include stands from London's best restaurants as well as demonstrations by cooking stars.

Tickets are on sale now from www.tastefestivals.com/london

Brain damaged boy's £8.5m will help with 'toughest job in world'

Paul Cheston
Courts Correspondent

THE parents of a seven-year-old boy awarded £8.5 million for severe brain damage caused by hospital blunders said the payout will help them deal with "the toughest job in the world".

Hospital chiefs admitted full responsibility as part of a High Court settlement for cerebral palsy sufferer Alfie Buck announced last week.

Alfie's brain was starved of oxygen during his mother's labour at the Princess Royal hospital in Haywards Heath, the court heard.

Midwives failed to monitor his heart rate for more than 12 hours and refused an emergency Caesarean. Had his birth been brought forward 20 minutes it is likely he would have suffered no brain damage at all.

His parents Samantha and Andrew Buck say they hope lessons have been learned at the hospital.

They have to cope with their son being completely reliant on a wheelchair, communicating only through technology and needing 24-hour support.

Mrs Buck said: "Alfie has a great sense of humour and his brother and sister dote on him. The cerebral palsy



Payout: Alfie with parents Andrew and Samantha outside High Court

affects all his limbs making movement very difficult, but his mind is very bright and he can communicate by using specialist equipment that tracks eye movement.

"He continues to amaze us and his teachers at his specialist school and he truly is an inspiration.

"Having said that, caring for a child with cerebral palsy has to be the toughest job in the world as it is 24/7 and consumes your life.

"Not long after he was born the doctors told us brain scans showed severe abnormalities and it was hard

not to be bitter or angry. It just felt very unfair as Alfie didn't deserve it." She added: "We have tried to give Alfie the best quality of life possible but the older and bigger he gets, the more his care needs increase.

"The settlement gives us peace of mind that he will always have access to the best possible treatment, equipment and services. We were also relieved to hear the trust has learned lessons and hope these will continue to be implemented by midwives.

"Nothing can turn back the clock or improve Alfie's condition, but we can now all look to the future and concentrate on enjoying life as a family knowing we're equipped to deal with whatever the future holds."

Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust has admitted full responsibility and apologised.

The payout will fund a new wheelchair accessible home for the family, from Horsham, West Sussex, with space for live-in carers.

Jane Weakley, a specialist in medical law at solicitors Irwin Mitchell, said: "Alfie's family have shown tremendous devotion and support to help him achieve the best quality of life possible but the fact remains that his brain injury is so severe he needs specialist help from professionals."

What a tonic... Aldi's gin beats big names at drink awards

DISCOUNT supermarket Aldi's own-brand gin has trumped the big names to win a major accolade.

The chain's Oliver Cromwell London Dry Gin, which costs £9.65 for a 70cl bottle, was awarded a silver medal at the International

Spirits Challenge 2013. It saw off stiff competition from the well-established Bombay Sapphire and Hendricks, priced at about £21.70 and £26.39 respectively, which both picked up a bronze.

Oliver Cromwell also held its own

against brands costing more than three times as much, including London No.1 Gin which sells for £35 at Harrods and £55.95 Worship Street Whistling Shop Cream Gin.

Last year Aldi beat Fortnum & Mason in a Christmas pudding test.

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