



FEN EDGE FAMILY FESTIVAL – COTTENHAM – 18–21 JUNE 2009

East Anglia's largest family festival, the bi-annual Fen Edge Family Festival returns in June to Cottenham Village Green and a variety of other Cottenham venues including Cottenham Sports Centre, Cottenham Community Centre (formerly the Methodist Church), Cottenham Village College and many 'Open Gardens' throughout the village. This year's Festival is the third since it began in 2005, and runs from Thursday 18 to Sunday 21 June. The many highlights include an extensive range of activities and events for families, including a fly-past by The Red Arrows, concerts and family and teenage discos. There are around 150 activities on offer, and with dual themes of 'Africa' and 'Monsters', there are plenty of opportunities for visitors to let their hair down: everything from 'monster' fancy dress competitions to African dance, drumming and story-telling workshops, and performances by the acclaimed World Muzik Makers.

The four-day Festival opens on Thursday evening (18 June) with a teenage disco on the Village Green, and ends on Sunday evening (21 June) with a concert by the Children of the Kingdom Gospel Singers. Other events include a performance by the 20-piece jazz Galaxy Big Band, a junior band competition, a buskers' tent, Open Gardens throughout the village, a 'monster' sculpture competition, archaeology digs, stone circle displays with exhibits dating back to 3500 BC, traditional wool-spinning, farm machinery, and a competition being run by the Cottenham Village Design Group. There's also a laser shooting range and a laser tag game in an inflatable arena, a 100-foot, 4-lane Scalextric racing track and a variety of team and individual sports including roller-hockey, target tennis, fencing, scuba-diving, yoga, trampolining, table tennis, crazy Bart golf, gatt gun, Speedminton® (badminton played super-fast), Tae Kwon-Do as well as fun events such as a chance

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to 'Bowl the Stumps' and 'Beat the Goalie'. There are light-hearted sports too including games for 'Festival Superstars' including competitive carrot-flinging, and the slowest bike race in the world!

For teenagers, aside from the disco on Thursday evening, there's a rare opportunity to get behind the wheel of a car and take a test drive, but this is restricted to 13-16 year-olds.

Younger children and especially those with a love of animals will enjoy the petting zoo with around 100 animals as well as face-painting, bouncy castles and children's play activities and puppet shows. In the safari tent there are creepy crawlies including cockroaches, tarantulas, millipedes, scorpions as well as reptiles and small exotic animals. There's also a chance for youngsters to audition as a fireman and hose a house!

And then for those who prefer a traditional country fayre, there are over 100 fete and farmer's market stalls serving produce of every different description, including Cottenham Festival Marmalade, books, plants, arts and crafts, gifts, clothes, accessories and jewellery. There's even a stand showing off the unique and historic recipe 'Cottenham Cheese'.

Fen Edge Family Festival will host the usual range of refreshments including barbecues, pizzas, snacks, ice cream, hot and cold drinks throughout the weekend. Attendance is free and plenty of parking is available on Histon Road and at several of the venues around the village.

Up-to-date details of all confirmed activities and information on booking a market stall space, or to becoming a Festival volunteer is available from Tim Eade (festival@fenedge.co.uk) or by visiting the website at www.fenedgefestival.co.uk

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Contact details

Press interview arrangements, available digital photographs and opportunities to film events at the Festival can be made by contacting Brian Whitehead (press@fenedge.co.uk) or mobile (07545 262494).

Editors notes:

Cottenham is a village situated on the edge of the Fens, six miles north of Cambridge and has been designated a Rural Growth Settlement. Its population has more than doubled over the past 30 years, now standing at more than 6,000, but despite this rapid modern growth the village retains a distinctive character. Its landscape, settlement patterns and buildings show the marks of more than 1,000 years of history. Along the length of the High Street, its chapels, church and many substantial farmhouses are signs of an independent and democratic community.

Fen Edge Family Festival is an event promoted by Fen Edge Community Association (FECA), a registered charity number 29392020. FECA was originally set up in 1985 and continues to promote events in Cottenham and across the surrounding villages of Waterbeach, Willingham, Rampton and Landbeach. This year's Festival will be the third, and is the biggest to date with events for all age-groups and family situations, across the four days.

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