



## **TWO WEEKS UNTIL FEN EDGE FAMILY FESTIVAL**

### **COTTENHAM GREEN AND OTHER VILLAGE VENUES – 18–21 JUNE 2009**

There is little over two weeks to go until East Anglia's largest family festival, the bi-annual Fen Edge Family Festival returns to Cottenham Village Green and several other Cottenham venues. The four-day event, which boasts something for every age and interest, offers free entry admission to all and is expected to attract several thousand visitors, whatever the weather.

The programme of events for this year is by far the largest and most comprehensive to date, and, despite the Events Guide being published earlier this month, there are still some late events being confirmed including an all-day cycling roadshow featuring around 40 bikes and carts with the Cycle Experience ([www.CycleExperience.com](http://www.CycleExperience.com)) due to take place on Saturday 20 June. Other highlights include a fly-past by The Red Arrows, concerts and family and teenage discos. Around 150 activities are on offer, and with dual themes of 'Africa' and 'Monsters', there are plenty of chances 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. Also following the monster theme will be a major sculpture competition – a hugely popular hit at the 2007 Family Festival, where people of all ages, families and businesses are invited to create monster sculptures and display them for final judging during the Festival.

Around sixty traditional country fair stands have been confirmed and even more are expected to book a pitch nearer to the start of the event. These include artefacts and crafts, hot and cold food and drinks, bric-a-brac, tombolas, jams and marmalades, plants, fruit and vegetables – almost everything under the sun.

**For media enquiries, please contact Brian Whitehead or Tim Eade**

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In addition to Cottenham Village Green, festival venues include Cottenham Sports Centre, Cottenham Community Centre (formerly the Methodist Church), Cottenham Village College and many 'Open Gardens' throughout the village for the 'Open Gardens' event on Sunday 21 June.

The four-day Festival opens on Thursday evening (18 June) with teenage discos on the Village Green for 11–13 and 14–16 year-olds, 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 with two whole days of busking opportunities and other short shows including puppet shows, Ceilidh bands and Irish dance, Open Gardens throughout the village, 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, an introduction to fencing, 'Tatty Bumpkin' yoga (for 2–5 year-olds), 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 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! If the pace of all the sports activity is too fast, then there are a number of organised walking tours of the village by the Cottenham Village Design Group and also a tour of historical houses by the Cottenham Village Society.

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.

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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!

Fen Edge Family Festival will provide the usual range of refreshments including barbecues, pizzas, baked potatoes, 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. There is a full colour Events Guide (electronic pdf format) on the Festival website at [www.fenedgefestival.co.uk](http://www.fenedgefestival.co.uk). So far more than 3,500 Events Guides have been published and hand-delivered to every household in Cottenham with further copies available at shops and community centres in other villages. 10,000 full colour postcards have also been hand-delivered to households and schools in several villages in the Fen Edge area and there are now signposts and banners across a five-mile radius of the Festival, encouraging visitors from far and wide.

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

**ENDS / Thursday 11 June 2009**

more overleaf /

### **Contact details**

A full list of all stands booked to date is attached to this release as an appendix. Press interview arrangements, available digital photographs from previous Fen Edge Family Festivals (high and low

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resolution) and opportunities to film or photograph events at the this year's 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 on the B1049 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. Overnight accommodation is available within Cottenham and surrounding villages as well as Cambridge is for visitors to the Festival. There are fast train links to the nearby main stations of Cambridge and Ely, and Cottenham is easily accessed by road some 4 miles north of the A14 junctions at Dry Drayton / Oakington and at Histon / Impington.

**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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