

The Rectory September 2008

I imagine that many of you, like me, have been enjoying reading about and watching the success of our Olympic Athletes. It hardly seems credible that Great Britain, which won one medal at Atlanta, should be doing so well this time. Many of the stories have been moving tales about hard work and single-minded determination. But we also are aware that behind the scenes there has been great motivation, planning, and acquisition of the right resources of money and skills behind the scene as well as personal commitment— and this applies to all works of life.

One of our own community success stories has been the St Kyneburgha Summer Festival. This was started ten years ago to raise money for the building of the Cedar Centre Through sheer hard work and the personal generosity of people and families in the village we were able to build the Cedar Centre and pay for it by the time it was completed. There is no doubt that we have the best church hall of any parish in the diocese (and indeed a better resource than most large town parishes too). For this thanks be to God and thanks too for so many people who worked so hard. Since then the St Kyneburgha Festival has been kept going in order to raise money for the upkeep of Castor Church, our stunning and important historic building and its work) and in recent years to raise money for CASPRA and other village charities such as the Village Hall.

The festival was a success, not just as a fund-raising occasion, but also as a community event which provided enjoyment for so many and helped maintain our sense of community. This success is due behind the scenes to really hard work by many people; but above all due to those who had the vision and planned the festival and worked hard to bring it about. Few villages our size would lay on such large and ambitious occasions. We are very grateful especially to Julie Taylor who master-mined the whole concept of the festival and was the Festival President for the last ten years, and grateful to for the assistance of so many people but in particular Ian Sheldon for his technical skill and hard work. Without those two none of this would have happened.

But now the time has come to review the festival. Julie after ten years is standing down. We are so grateful to her and the team she built up and to Ian. It has been decided that the Saturday Afternoon Fête will continue as usual, but we are now reflecting on what form other activities

around the St Kyneburgha Festival should take. New ideas are welcome as are new helpers and planners. Meanwhile thank you to the Ten Year Team. Thank you for your skill and dedication and thanks be to God for the results of their work – a lovely church hall, funds for village charities and an enhanced sense of our community and some really great fun too!

William