

Annual Summer BBQ/Picnic

16th August 2026

by Ormond Smith

It was in 47BC that, having won the Battle of Zela against King Pharnaces II of Pontus, Roman leader Julius Ceasar wrote to the Senate the famous words "*veni, vidi, vici*". Fast forward over two thousand years and Goustevin members could well have been uttering "*venimus, vidimus, vicimus*"....we came, we saw and we conquered! Not far from reality.....we arrived at the Connetable's house where Nicol and Beverley warmly welcomed us, we saw the set out tables and chairs and the fired up barbecue on the patio and we conquered the occasional drizzle (well, we were sitting in the shelter of the roofed patio).

On arrival we were presented with a glass of refreshing Valdobbiadene Prosecco, a hand harvested



"Now, was it to be rare....or medium rare.....??"

high quality wine from the hills of Valdobbiadene, near Verona in the Prosecco region of Veneto in north-east Italy, with flavours of ripe pear and white peaches and a lively, zesty finish.....a wee drop more please!! Incidentally, this wine is available from Lidl at £7.99 – really good value. Before long, budding Gordon Ramsays were tending to their preferred food

choices on the barbecue, wine corks were being pulled and the afternoon settled into highly pleasurable wining, dining and animated conversation. All too soon it seemed, the afternoon proceedings quietened down as wine glasses were drained, the patio was cleared and confreres said their "*adieu*", with grateful thanks to Nicol and Beverley for their generous hospitality.



A most convivial afternoon!



Conversation flowed.....



food cooked.....



....and a good time was had!