

Summer Barbeque - August 2025

by Ormond Smith

It was an overcast but nevertheless warm and pleasant afternoon when the local Goustevin "cognoscenti" gathered at the home of Connetable Nicol and wife Beverley for the annual and traditional Summer Picnic/BBQ event. This is always an informal afternoon where the emphasis is on enjoyment and good company and even if the weather is less than "co-operative", there is adequate roofed shelter with some three vines stretching over the roof area, with their bunches of grapes slowly ripening (but sadly, the northern Scottish climate dictates that they will never be suitable for making wine!) But they do create a most appropriate ambience.



**"Chateau Manson 2025"
... optimistic?**

A welcoming glass of Ackermann Sekt from our Mosel winemaker friend Harold Junglen (10 years old, still fresh and fruity and drinking well – that's the wine!) got everyone off to what would be a most enjoyable afternoon as confrères mingled and socialised. The tried and tested format is simple – the host supplies the barbeque and seating and the attendees everything else – food choices, wines, cutlery, crockery and wine glasses, the end result being very little clearing up being required. With the barbeques fired up and wines shared and critiqued (well, not too seriously – it was a social event after all!), budding "masterchefs" cooked their repasts to varying degrees of perfection and soon the assembled party were dining to satisfaction, ably assisted with their selected/shared wine choices.

With the wine flowing as freely as the conversations, the afternoon passed extraordinarily quickly (or so it seemed) and before long carriages were summoned. Thanks are due to Nicol and Beverley for hosting a most enjoyable event.



"Good food.....lovely wines and decent weather.....what more could we ask for!"