

# *Friends & Family Barbeque - July 2023*

*by Ormond Smith*

Julius Caesar was supposedly overheard uttering his famous phrase “Veni ...Vidi ...Vici” when he arrived at the Scottish Borders in 55 BC but that was before he encountered the Picts, who, had they been able to comprehend the Roman language, would have also claimed “Veni ... Vidi .... Vici” as they drove Caesar’s army out of Scotland – indeed Scotland holds the distinction of never having been



defeated by the invading armies of Rome. What, you may well ask, has Caesar’s quotes got to do with the Goustein annual Barbeque/Picnic? Not a lot really, but we did come to the Connetable’s garden on Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>, we did see the lighted barbeque and all the seating and we did conquer/overcome what was forecast as “unpredictable weather with intermittent rain showers and the threat of thunder and lightning storms” ..... in fact it was a warm sunny

afternoon!

Numbers were a bit on the low side but with the possible inclement weather, and a myriad of alternative attractions on the same day, not least of which was the Belladrum Tartan Heart Music Festival just up the road near Beaulie, those who opted to attend enjoyed a most convivial afternoon.



Connetable Nicol and Beverley welcomed “the intrepid few” with a glass of “bubbly” prior to firing up the barbeque and let the budding chefs amongst us demonstrate their culinary expertise – who mentioned “char grilled?” With members bringing along their own wines, much comparison took place as the afternoon ticked by which was absolutely in order and permitted since all were utilising taxis for transport!

Thanks are due to both Nicol and Beverley for their hospitality and the use of both the extensive garden, ablaze with multi-coloured flowers, and the vine covered roofed area which would have been essential if it had rained but doubling up as a sunshade from the rather warm sunshine! Another enjoyable BBQ/picnic in the tried and trusted traditions.