

# Friends & Family BBQ 2018

by Ormond Smith

After what had been weeks of almost unbroken sunshine and enjoyable temperatures, the weather forecast as we approached Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August appeared less than idyllic with showers of rain on the day.....however, an offering of a decent bottle of claret to the weather gods appealed to their



**"Serious business mixing drinks!"**

kinder nature and the threatened rain showers held off until late afternoon! The annual Barbeque was generously hosted by James and Heather Sheerin on the lawn of their home in Inverness and preliminary preparations were put in hand to erect a marquee under which all the tables and chairs were placed.....just in case the weather gods were disappointed with the wine! The



**Socialising as the BBQ heats up**

added bonus of “condensing” the social area was that we were all seated together and conversation flowed, undoubtedly aided and abetted by repeated dosages of good wines!



**The Goustevin BBQ in full swing**

There's never an ideal time of the summer to organise a Goustevin BBQ with many away on holiday, but over 20 opted to brave the threatened dampness and were treated to a welcoming glass of Prosecco (with a choice of tempting mixers!).....a most pleasant introduction to the proceedings. We were soon seated under the marquee and with the barbeque “up to temperature” there was a constant stream of “celebrity chefs” deftly attending to sizzling burgers and steaks of one type or another. Quantities of hors-d'oeuvres were passed

around and before long we were assaulting laden plates of bbq'd meats and accompanying side dishes.....and naturally accompanied by a varied selection of wines as bottles were passed around, contents sampled and critiqued.

By late afternoon, the effects of the claret on the weather gods had seemingly waned slightly and they opted to try and dampen our pleasurable relaxation with persistent light rain which did make the proceedings just slightly less agreeable. Despite the falling moisture, the party continued for another hour or so before departures were initiated. With each participant providing their own culinary and cutlery requirements, there was little needed to be done to “clear up” following which it was time to summon “the carriages” for our homeward journeys. Our sincere thanks are due to James and Heather for hosting the annual informal get-together. Now, if we can only organise a sunny day for next year.....!



**The afternoon was aided and abetted by.....one or two!!!**

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