

# Goustevin "Friends & Family" Summer BBQ 2017

by Ormond Smith

Despite threatening weather with heavy downpours forecast, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August turned out to be slightly overcast with an "edge" to the thermal zephyrs, pleasantly punctuated by degrees of most agreeable warmth as the sun broke through, as Goustevin Scotland arrived to enjoy the annual



**The Ben Wyvis massif in the background - what a great view!**

Friends & Family BBQ, held in the spacious garden of John Robins and Sarah Farquhar at their splendid abode at Wester Lovat looking out across the Beauly Firth to the Ben Wyvis massif, a truly inspiring view!

Since our last visit there, John had built a quite stunning roofed but open sided multi functional edifice in the ample garden, housing a decked area, seating, a bar and barbeque. hi-fi and a television

which could be enjoyed as one lounged in the hot tub! Well, we'll take John's word for the latter as it

was a Sunday and a sense of decorum was felt prudent.....after all, we are the Goustevin for heaven's sake! On arrival by minibuses (a wise choice of transport given that a modicum of vino would probably pass our lips), John welcomed everyone with a glass of "sparkly" which was both well received and regularly topped up! Not



**Quintin on the barbe....."eat your heart out Gordon Ramsay!"**

bothering with public roads to reach the venue, Quintin and



Michelle Stevens and family did it style.....arriving from their nearby home by quads across the field! Well, if you are going to make an entrance....you might as well do it in style!!

With the group mingling, the barbeque was fired up and before long, burgers, steaks, chicken legs and whatever else were being "cooked to perfection" (or passably close to Michelin star quality!) and supplemented by delicious kebabs prepared for us by Sarah (mmmh.....very tasty indeed). It's fair to say

that the group dined well and wined well, a myriad of different wines being produced, sampled and shared.....aah, the essence of an enjoyable afternoon.



**"Now, who's for strawberries?"**

However, John still had a treat in store as he placed some very "moreish" cheeses on the bar counter along with "a sufficiency of Port", needless to say, very well received by everyone.

All too soon (at least for some) the taxis arrived to transport us back to "Sneckie" and a lucky few stayed on to savour the views, the ambience and may I suggest, perhaps another wee glass? For all who attended, a mighty and hearty "thank you" to both

John and Sarah for what was quite simply outstanding hospitality in most convivial surroundings. Without doubt everyone enjoyed the afternoon and not only the adults...the younger attendees (perhaps future Goustevin members in time??) had a whale of a time with footballs and the various playthings in the garden. The annual summer BBQ never fails to be a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.....even the weather was agreeable!

-o0o-