

# Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

**Free Magazine**

By Maidstone & Mid-Kent  
CAMRA

incorporating Gravesend &  
Darent Valley, Bexley &  
West Kent Branches

Autumn 2022

No. 202

Website: [www.mmk.camra.org.uk](http://www.mmk.camra.org.uk)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mmkcamra](https://www.twitter.com/mmkcamra)

## We Are Back...

## Looking forward to seeing you there!

## East Malling Beer and Cider Festival

### 3rd September 2022



# DRAUGHT COPY

Draught Copy is the magazine of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, also incorporating news from Bexley, Gravesend & Darent Valley and West Kent branches of CAMRA. It is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December and has a circulation of 3,500 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials.

If you find a pub selling short measure, allowing smoking in the premises, or other illegal things in pubs, please have a quiet word with the landlord in the first instance. However, if you need to complain about a licensed premises in your area, report the problem to Trading Standards by contacting Citizens Advice, who will pass the details to your local Trading Standards service: Call the Citizens Advice consumer service helpline on 03454 04 05 06 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm). We should demand the very highest standards of service in our pubs.

**Advertising rates:** £85 / £50 / £30 for a full / half / quarter page respectively

**Editor and Correspondence:** *DraughtCopy.Editor@mmk.camra.org.uk*

**Advertising:** *DraughtCopy.Advertising@mmk.camra.org.uk*

The copy date for the next issue is 21st October 2022.

For further information about all pubs mentioned in this publication (or indeed anywhere in the UK), please refer to CAMRA's national pub database: *www.whatpub.com*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our social diary changes faster than we can print it, so to keep up-to-date we suggest you use the below QR codes to access the branch meetings on our websites.



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**Gravesend and  
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**Maidstone  
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**West Kent**



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## GREEN HOP BEER—IT'S NOT GREEN!!

Brewers throughout Kent are getting ready to brew their famous seasonal green hop beers, whilst licensees are preparing to answer the perennial question “is it green then?”

Of course the answer is NO, unless deliberately coloured, green hop beer



is not green. However, most beers can be termed as green hop, if indeed green hops are used in the brewing process. Some of my brewing colleagues in Kent produce some really excellent porter, mild, IPA, golden, pale, etc., beers of all colours that

use local hops, fresh from the hop garden – they are all green hop beers. A natural preservative, hops are used for bittering and giving wonderful aromas to your favourite pint. But as opposed to hops that are dried, processed and packed ready for future use, green hop beers are made from hops usually collected in their natural state by the brewer, directly from the hop garden. Once the cones are stripped from the hop bines, brewers hurry back to the brewery and brew with huge quantities of fresh, green hops – the aroma in the back of the van is really something to savour! Here at Musket Brewery we use Fuggles hops collected from our friend Josh Berry at Gushmere Court Farm, for our award-winning green hop beer, FLASH in the PAN. Green hop beers really support local hop growers, local brewers and pubs, so try a pint of green hop beer and enjoy the Garden of England in a glass. Cheers. **Tony Williams** – Founder, Musket Brewery.



Contact: Rob Archer: [branch.contact@bexley.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch.contact@bexley.camra.org.uk) / 07881 316125  
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In March 2020, when Covid19 was rife, making the decision to cancel the 15th Bexley festival, scheduled for May 2020, was quite a blow after spending several months planning it. Two years later we were back. As you may have noticed the glasses were the 2020 ones, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE day as they had already been printed. It was decided to use these and still festoon the t-shirts with the same logo, having the final zero crossed out and replaced with a two.

This was the eighth festival held at Dartfordians Community Sports Club in Bexley. Lasting two and a half days and with 96 different cask conditioned beers, an extra 3 racked bright beers added on Saturday, 27 ciders and 3 perrys available for the customers to consume. We had an excellent attendance of good natured drinkers who, when we closed at 8pm on the Saturday, had drunk all the beer. A total of 99 firkins and most of the cider/perry. Thanks for all your kind comments as we do try to run a festival with a relaxed atmosphere. Attendance was slightly down on 2019, 1472 against 1733 (-261).

Beer of the festival, by customer vote, was Bexley's Cherry Brandy Stout the clear winner with Beerblefish Brewery's Viking Ale in second place and Ainsty Brewery's Cool Citra and Hive Mind's (Wye Valley Meadery) Honey IPA joint third. The cider/perry winner was a tie between Turners Apple Pie Cider and Perry Cider's Barn Owl, followed by another tie between Gwatkin Squeal Pig and Seacider White Peach. Thank you to all who voted. The first casks to run out in order were Ainsty Cool Citra, Bexley Cherry Brandy Stout, Mutineer's Filibuster, and The Broken Drum's Errol The Dragon. The first cider/perry to run out was Turners Apple Pie, luckily we had a second to keep everyone happy. Our dark beer selection had 8 Milds, 8 Porters and 9 Stouts.

Our chosen charity this year was Cancer Research UK, in memory of Helen Wright who passed away in July 2019. Helen was a well known face in CAMRA circles, spending many years with Gravesend and Darent Valley Branch in a variety of roles, before crossing the border into Bexley and being a really active member, most notably as



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Membership Secretary. Always doing an excellent job in whichever role she took on, she was also a stalwart at the Gravesend, the Bexley and the Great British Beer Festival. The customers were extremely generous with their donations, topped up by the volunteers to raise £1000. We thank Ian for the photo that appeared in the programme and on posters around the site.

Thanks to Kieran, for allowing the festival to trial a Real Ale Finder App, available via both website and app. All beers were listed on the app, with the number of the beer, a picture of the pump clip, plus a few details about each beer taken from the programme. When a beer sold out, it could be deleted. This was particularly useful on Saturday, when the programmes ran out, as customers could just scan the code at the bar .

This festival was organized and staffed by CAMRA volunteers from Bexley and beyond, who give up their free time to make it such an enjoyable event, without whom the festival would not exist. Good to see some more newcomers helping out for long sessions, well done to Keith, Brian, and Jonathon. Special thanks has to go to our Door/Glasses/Tokens Manager, Alan Bartlett who also sorted out all the advance staffing issues. Compliments to our new Staffing Officer at the festival, Brian, and our Site Manager Pat, fifteen years and counting. Thanks to Martin our Treasurer for his second Festival (and his P.A., Sandy in an oversized t-shirt, again), Joe and Rob who did the cooling, Paul Turner who commanded the cider/perry bar using his vast knowledge and experience to assist consumers in their quest to learn more about other ways to enjoy the apple and the pear. Thanks to everyone who helped during set-up, worked during opening hours or take down, whatever your role in making the Bexley Beer Festival a success we appreciate and applaud you. And so to Andy Wheeler proprietor of the Broken Drum micro pub and Broken Drum Brewery, who is the Organiser of the event and spends hours slaving away in front of a computer to complete the essential paperwork necessary to bring the festival to life.

Glad you all enjoyed it do come again.

Next year, subject to confirmation, 5th - 7th May.

Contact: Adrian Moss (01474 363102) / Peter Cook (01322 270589 / 07913 500414)  
 email: [gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk) [www.gdv.camra.org.uk](http://www.gdv.camra.org.uk)

Pub beer festivals started happening as the summer got going. At the **Compass Alehouse** in Gravesend a range of interesting brews were on offer over the long jubilee weekend in June. The range included two specials from *Compass Brewclub*. 52/22 was a dry hopped mild at 3.4% ABV and *Roy's Not Bitter* a late-hopped session bitter at 3.6% ABV. *Tonbridge Easy Street* ran out by the first evening. The **Villager** at Vigo was reported to have had ten real ales on sale over the same weekend.

The **Windmill Tavern** in Gravesend in early July made full use of its large garden with music and a barbecue to accompany the drinks. The eight additional real ales included some established classics less often seen locally these days, such as *Theakston Best Bitter* and *Woodforde's Wherry*.

By the time the previous edition appeared the **Black Horse** at Stansted had had a change of management and no major changes were apparent. The **Plough** at

Basted now looks a bit different as a small porch has been built at the entrance. On a visit to Wrotham in July the one real ale at the **Bull** was *Kent Golding Bitter*, though *Old Dairy* or *Dark Star* beers may appear instead. The **George and Dragon** had *Wadsworth Horizon*, again from a varying list of breweries. At the **Rose and Crown** a range of *Shepherd Neame* beers included *Master Brew*, *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale*, *Spitfire* and *Summer Storm*, their latest Cask Club beer.



A recent branch visit to pubs in Shorne was dogged by bad luck. At the **See Ho** the *Otter Bitter* had just run out, the alternative being *Sharp's Doom Bar*. The pub was reasonably busy, mainly with diners, and the garden was pleasant on a summer evening. Down the road at the **Rose &**

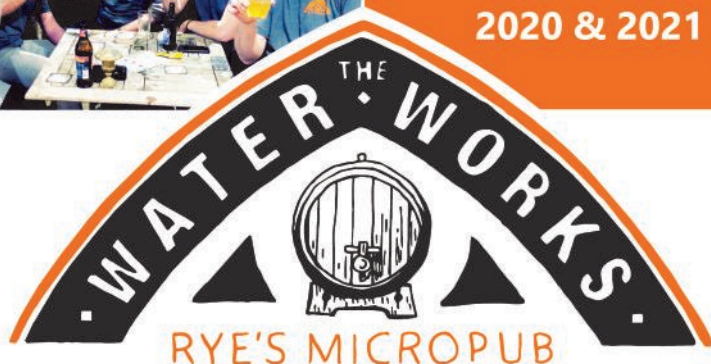
**Crown** it was *Iron Pier Golden Ale* which had run out too soon with their next *Joined at the Hop* brew not yet ready, so we settled for the *Fuller's London Pride*. The pub is planning a special event of some kind with barbecue etc. in about September and fuller details will be available from them.



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We're now seeing reports of pubs struggling with rent increases, as if they didn't have enough problems already. Travellers on the road from Dartford towards Farningham would be well advised to take advantage of the *Iron Pier* and *Bexley* beers regularly available at the **Cressy Arms** at Wilmington. The nearby **Orange Tree** was closed in mid-July. There are rumours around the fate of the **Papermakers Arms** at Hawley but they don't tend to feature use as a pub. It was reported that the **Ship** at Sutton at Hone would close in early August though a sign outside was advertising for a new licensee. If this goes there is no pub along the road between Wilmington and Farningham. In addition the **Bridges** at South Darenth closed suddenly and is reported as for sale. This pub has had a rather bumpy ride this year but seemed to be doing all right before the end.

On the other hand there was plenty of pub life on a recent visit to Farningham. The **Pied Bull** was reasonably lively and selling *Greene King IPA*, *St Austell Tribute* and *Courage Directors*. There was *Sharp's Doom Bar* at the **Lion Hotel** with a busy riverside garden. At the **Chequers** we found *Harvey's Best Bitter*



and *Beartown Polar*, with a *Larkins* beer due to come on. This pub features local art work for sale and also has other interesting pictures and artefacts, including the life-size ancient waiter.



Elsewhere, the **Fulwich Hotel** in Dartford is reported as no longer a pub, with no further details, and the **Welsh Tavern** at Stone as closed. The latter leaves a yawning gap between the edge of Dartford town centre and the **Bull** at Horns Cross.

The situation at the **Green Man** at Hodsoll Street has become a little clearer. Stonegate Inns has decided to dispose of the site so the locals can now consider an attempt to buy it and rebuild.

The saga of the **Amazon & Tiger** at Harvel continues to develop. Two planning applications had been submitted to Gravesham Council, though at the time of writing they were being validated and yet to appear on the council's website. One would seek to obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for the residential occupation of the pub. This would legitimise continued residential occupation of the building without the pub being open. The other is for the provision of B&B accommodation only rather than as ancillary to the business of the pub as permitted at present. The effect of the two together would appear to be to change the use of the building without a specific application to do so. The local campaign group is considering its options but objections to both applications seem imperative.

Contact: John Mills 01732 840603 or email [pubs.officer@mmk.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubs.officer@mmk.camra.org.uk)

For more information on these pubs, see CAMRA's online pub database [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com)

**Chequers, Aylesford** – Temporarily closed due to a serious fire at end of May. A considerable amount of building work is required to restore this architecture Grade II\* listed pub.

**Vine, Goudhurst** – As well as the main menu there is a Pizza and a Pint offer. *Cellar Head Session Pale* is a popular permanent beer and on one occasion *Courage Directors* was seen.

F:The-Vine-Goudhurst-108869568285367

E:info@vinegoudhurst.com <https://www.vinegoudhurst.com>

**Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne** – The restaurant is now on the right hand side again with the bar on the left. Seem to have *Purity Mad Goose* on regularly and *Timothy Taylor Landlord*.

**Monk's Head, Larkfield** – Found closed in June. A great pity as it is just the weather for this pub with its pleasant garden at the rear. A lot of work has gone into making this a good venue so I hope someone can take it on soon.



**Old Rectory, Leybourne** – Here I was pleased to find *Belhaven 80/-* and *Hardys & Hansons Olde Trip*, both from the Greene King listing and the usual *Greene King Abbot* and *IPA*. Sports bar on the left and eating facilities mainly on the right. Note that vehicle numbers must be registered with the pub.



**Muggleton, Maidstone** – This has been having a phased rejuvenation so as to reduce the length of a complete shutdown. Prices remain at £2.10 for a wide choice of good ales whilst many now charge well more than double that.

**Stag, Maidstone** – Has had the exterior repainted. *Rocking Robin Reliant Robin* is the single choice here.

**West Borough Club** – Is open to all and is now selling draught *Musket Ball Puller*.





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**Monk's Head, Snodland** – Closed in May with a new lessee being sought.

**Black Horse, Thurnham** – Seem to have been putting on several different beers in recent months. *Cellar Head Session Pale Ale*, *Hop Fuzz Martello* and a couple of brews from Moot Brew, who are building a brewery in Upper Halling. The brews have been presented to provide feedback as one of the brewery partners lives in Maidstone.



**Plough, Trottiscliffe** – A selection of six beers from Kent Brewery were stillaged for drinkers, adding to the permanent *Kent Session Pale* and *Adnams Southwold Bitter*.

**Joiners Arms, West Malling** – Has given up serving real ale and now concentrating on other drinks and the letting rooms.

If some of the pubs mentioned are not known to you then just look them up on WhatPub.com. We cannot be aware of all changes as they happen and if something is now different we will be grateful for an update via the link near the bottom of the entry.



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# BEER FESTIVAL COMPETITION ANSWERS

In the last edition, we gave you the opportunity to win complimentary entrance tickets to the East Malling Beer & Cider Festival on Saturday 3rd September at East Malling Research. We had a good response to the competition. Those who got all of the correct answers went into a draw, and the two lucky winners will receive their free admission tickets before the festival.

The correct answers were:

Offer it around, then give up	F	o	r	f	e	i	t
Titled lady is mad about One Direction	D	a	m	e			
Sharing around a bit of salad	G	a	r	n	i	s	h
Has nodded off - please sort it out	A	s	l	e	e	p	
Pity Carla; drunk, very drunk	P	a	r	a	l	y	t
Got there somehow – a driver	A	r	r	i	v	e	d
Got there somehow – not alone	T	o	g	e	t	h	e
Ice-house logo I redesigned	I	g	l	o	o		
A scab, sir, can be made into a cauliflower!	B	r	a	s	s	i	c
It's grim at the back	S	t	e	r	n		
Partly replace Boris with something ineffective	P	l	a	c	e	b	o
It relates to businesses	C	o	n	c	e	r	n
Fame is not random – it's what's planned	M	a	n	i	f	e	s
Later, hop about a lot	P	l	e	t	h	o	r
Bizarrely, is able to jump off tall buildings	A	b	s	e	i	l	
A minor highway in foreign climes	A	b	r	o	a	d	
The cost of accommodation is about half a pint	R	e	n	t			
Get hold of some singers, by the sound of it	A	c	q	u	i	r	e
Soft furnishings suggest imminent death	C	u	r	t	a	i	n
Topless mum is not this one	O	t	h	e	r		
I ordered oldies to worship	I	d	o	l	i	s	e
Method of payment from Eastern Europe, we hear	C	h	e	q	u	e	
A meal made from some spare pastry	R	e	p	a	s	t	
Gawping at a celebrity with gin cocktail	S	t	a	r	i	n	g

The six hidden animals were:

Cat, Bear, Bull, Goat, Toad, Horse

Keep an eye out in edition 205 for the same opportunity next year.



## **West Kent CAMRA Bus Trip on 21 January 2022 to the Man of Kent, Little Mill, East Peckham, the Bell, Golden Green and The Carpenters Arms, Tonbridge.**

This was our first bus trip of the year. We had originally planned it for late Autumn but had to postpone because there were no buses due to the fuel shortages. For this trip we took advantage of the Service 208 which runs between Pembury and East Peckham via Tonbridge.

Nine people came on the trip, most, if not all were CAMRA members. We caught the bus that runs through Tonbridge just before midday

aiming to get to our first port of call, the **Man of Kent**, about 12.15. Some people intended to eat and had reserved a table and others were there just to sample the beer.

On arrival there were one or two people in the pub and a few more drifted in after we arrived. There were four

operational hand pumps with the following beers available – *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Gun Scaramanga Extra Pale*, *Timothy Taylor Landlord* and *Tonbridge Coppernob*. All beers were tried by members of the party and they were all in good condition. We had until 13.30 at the pub as we had to catch the 13.37 bus back for the short hop to the **Bell** at Golden Green.

We had an hour at the **Bell** before (we needed to catch the next bus at 14.39). *St Austell Tribute* was the beer currently available and when finished would be changed to a different beer. This could either be

another national brand or a local beer depending on their ordering and



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rotation. They would like to have more real ale available but the current trade only warrants the one beer and ensures there is a fairly quick turnover.

After the **Bell** it was out to the bus stop for the short hop up the road to the **Carpenters Arms**. A very kind bus driver allowed us to get off at the pub rather than taking us to the official stop in Hadlow Road. There were three real ales available at the **Carpenters Arms**.

*Harveys Sussex Best, Greene King Yardbird and Ruddles Best Bitter.* Personally, I was disappointed with the selection, especially the national brands. On previous visits I have seen them championing local breweries.



Being close to Hadlow Road meant that we now had the option of catching the Service 7 from Maidstone to Tunbridge Wells. As some of the party wanted to catch a train on arrival in Tonbridge, a few of the party departed after a swift pint. Those who were catching a train went on to Tonbridge Station,



whilst the remainder alighted at Bordyke for the short walk down the High Street to **Fuggles Beer Cafe**. The remainder of the party joined us later to enjoy **Fuggles** extensive list of both cask and craft beers.



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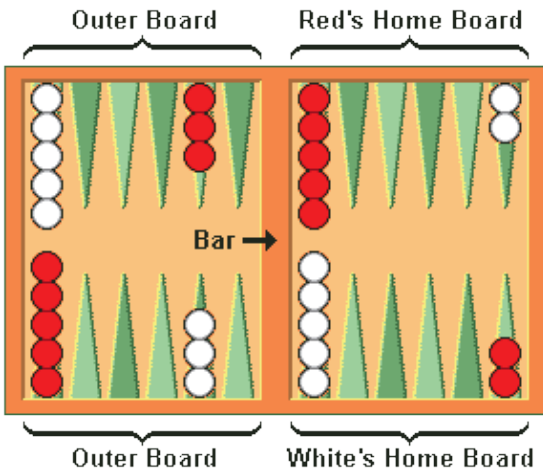


# PUB GAMES

## Backgammon- The History of the Game

## Senet

Gaming boards of  $3 \times 10$  squares have been found extensively in ancient Egyptian archaeological sites. The game was known to the ancient Egyptians as the Game of Thirty Squares or Senet (sometimes Senat). The exact rules are not known. Similar boards have also been found consisting of  $3 \times 12$  squares,  $3 \times 6$  squares and other patterns - it's not clear if these are different games or mere variants. A number of boards have been found which feature Senet on one side and another popular Egyptian game on the other.



## Tabula and Ludus Duodecim Scriptorum

Backgammon-type games have been played for thousands of years in all parts of the world and certainly during the Egyptian, Greek and Roman eras. The Romans left a great deal of evidence of a game they called Ludus Duodecim Scriptorum, the game of the twelve lines. The game is possibly derived from the Egyptian Senat having a topological set of  $3 \times 12$  points and being played with  $3 \times 6$  sided dice but, again, the rules have never been fully ascertained. In the first century AD, Ludus Duodecim Scriptorum seems to have been replaced by a variant with only 2 rows of 12 points, a game which by the 6th century was called 'Alea'. Both these games and others were also referred to as 'Tabula', which was a generic game for 'board game' and in early mediaeval times was usually used to mean the most popular board game, Ducodecim Scriptorum/Alea/Backgammon, in the same way that the generic term 'football' normally means 'soccer' in England today.

## Nard

In Asia, the game of Nard appeared sometime prior to 800 AD, in South West Asia or in Persia depending upon which version of history one believes, and variants are played today throughout the continent. Chinese history gives that t'shu-p'u, the Chinese name for Nard, was invented in Western India, arrived in China during the Wei dynasty (220 - 265 AD) and became popular from 479 to 1000AD. In Japan the game was called Sugoroko and was declared illegal during



the reign of Empress Jito (690 - 697AD). Nard, in turn, seems to have been introduced into Europe via Italy or Spain following the Arab occupation of Sicily (902 AD).

The first mention of the game in English print was in The Codex Exoniensis published in 1025: "These two shall sit at Tables...". Tables was probably brought to England by men returning from the Crusades. Nard or Tables was played throughout Europe during the middle ages and became very popular in English Taverns, although Chess overtook it as the more popular game in the fifteenth century. By the end of the sixteenth century, Tables had, for some reason, become a generic term for any game played on a flat surface or table. Like many games played for money, it became unpopular with the authorities in England and, until the reign of Elizabeth I, laws prohibiting the playing of Tables in licensed establishments were in force.

### **Modern Backgammon**

In the early seventeenth century, however, following some modifications to the rules, the game underwent a revival and it swept across Europe again under a variety of different names which have mostly stayed the same until today:

- England – Backgammon;
- Scotland – Gammon;
- France - Tric-Trac;
- Germany – Puff;
- Italy - Tavole Reale;
- Spain - Tablas Reales;
- Czech – Vrhcáby;
- Israel and Arabic - Shesh Besh;

It is a subject of debate as to whether the term Backgammon is derived from the Welsh 'back' (little) and 'gammon' (battle) or from the Saxon 'bac' (back) 'gamen' (game).

Backgammon underwent another revival before the First World War but waned during the middle of the twentieth century only to recover again in the 1970s to become the popular game it is today. It is still widely played in the Middle East as Tric-trac.

There are a whole family of variants: Chouette (3 or 4 player version), Partnership backgammon, Sixey-Acey, Dutch Backgammon, Turkish Backgammon (Moultezim), Greek Backgammon (Plakato), Gioul (from the Middle East), Acey Deucey (US Forces version of Dutch Backgammon), European Acey Deucey, Russian Backgammon, Tabard Backgammon and Icelandic Backgammon (Kotra).

*Next Edition: The rules of Backgammon.*

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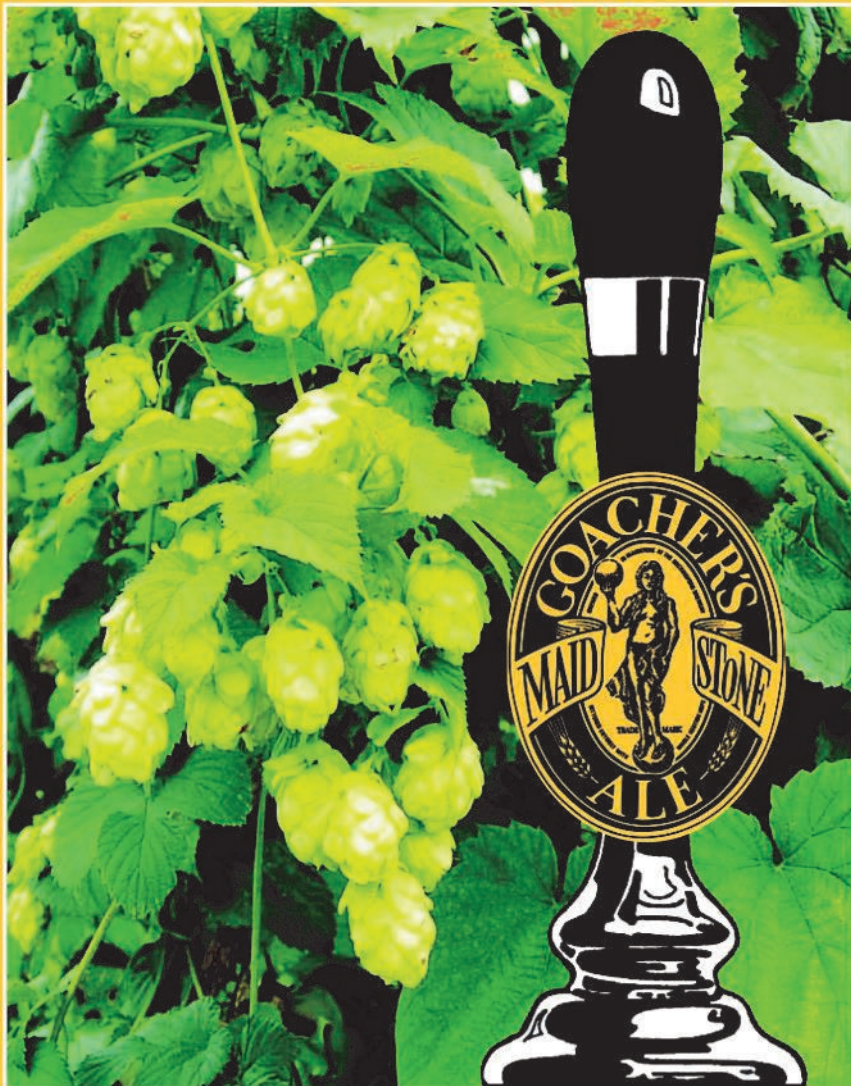
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