

NORTH STARS: LONDON PUBS GROUP EVENING CRAWL OF BELSIZE PARK AND KENTISH TOWN ON WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018

For pictures of the pubs on this crawl go to the London Pubs Group website www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

- 1) 7.00 pm Washington, 50 Englands Lane, Belsize Park, NW3 4UE. This pub is not only a grade II listed building but it is also on the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) National Inventory of Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest and the description is as follows: "The Washington effortlessly combines a relaxed modern atmosphere for eating and drinking with historic surroundings and has varied real ales. It is a prominent corner-site pub built in about 1865 for a developer, Daniel Tidey. The dominant feature outside is the bold first-floor windows with their alternating segmented and triangular heads. The interior, although much pulled around in modern times, still retains a great deal of interesting Victorian work, probably from a refitting in around 1890. The building was a pub-cum-hotel and the lobby off Belsize Park Gardens has a floor mosaic proclaiming 'Washington Hotel' with the added temptation of 'Billiards' (ornamental door glass advertises 'hotel lounge' and 'hotel bar'). The first American president's bust appears in tiling above in a curious juxtaposition with some languid classical ladies. The name 'W Holman' here no doubt identifies the proprietor who redeveloped the place. There are lots of remnants of screenwork including three bays of a full-height timber and glass partition. At the back are a series of the kind of back-painted mirrors depicting flora and fauna (two large mirrors on left feature herons, followed by a square mirror depicting general flora, then five to the right featuring songbirds and flora of different types) which seem to have been popular with late-Victorian pub owners. But the most extraordinary thing at the Washington is the high screen set above and forward from one side of the servery which is placed in the middle of the pub, in the centre of which is what would undoubtedly have been a waiter's position and is now an opening for staff. It has glazing in its top parts and parts of the arcading survive. *History in the area:* The area of Belsize Park is named after the former manor house and parkland developed in the 17th century for the Countess of Chesterfield. The present Belsize Park estate succumbed to bricks and mortar between 1852 and 1878."

The listing description is as follows: "Public house on a corner site. c1865. Built by developer Daniel Tidey. Stucco, the ground floor channelled to appear as ashlar. 3 storeys and cellars. 3 windows to Englands Lane, canted corner with entrance and 5 windows to Belsize Park Gardens (2 in slightly projecting bay). Entrance has Corinthian columns supporting an entablature; part glazed double doors. Ground floor windows with vermiculated surrounds, most flanked by Corinthian columns supporting entablatures, the cornice of which continues above those without. 1st floor architraved sashes with keystones, console bracketed segmental pediments alternating with triangular pediments, and bracketed sills. 2nd floor sashes architraved with keystones. Projecting cornice and blocking course. Above the entrance, a painted portrait of George Washington in a pedimented aedicule. INTERIOR: c1890 with tiles, etched glass and mahogany fittings."

Sharps Doom Bar; St Austell Proper Job; Thornbridge Brock and Jaipur; and Woodforde Wherry are usually served here. Turn left out of the pub and walk up Englands Lane to bus stop U (called England's Lane). Catch a C11 bus to stop M (called Cressy Road) then catch a 24 or 46 bus to stop KU (called Grafton Terrace). Alight from the bus, cross over Malden Road to Grafton Terrace and walk up Grafton Terrace to

- 2) 7.50 pm Lord Southampton, 2 Southampton Road, Belsize Park, NW5 4HX. Although this pub is not a listed building it is on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest and the description is as follows: "A prominent corner-site community local, this was given a major refit between the wars, as indicated outside by the buff and mottled dark blue faïence facing. Although the dividing walls were progressively cut through between about 1973 and 1986, you can still gain a good sense of how the pub was laid out half a century or more ago. There were three rooms, each with its own external doorway and also an off-sales area entered from Grafton Terrace which remained in use until the late 1970s. There are plenty of inter-war features, including extensive wall panelling, exposed timbers in the ceilings (to create an 'olde worlde' effect) and the bar counter and back fitting. The most intact part of the Lord Southampton is the left-hand rear area, which forms an intimate panelled space with its own glazed hatch to the servery. It's here that the door to the gents' leads off and into something unusual – a steel bridge spanning a small, enclosed yard below. *History across the road:* St Dominic's Priory just to the north is one of the largest Roman Catholic churches in London, 299ft long and built in 1874-83 to designs by architect CA

Buckler. South of the church the convent buildings, dating from the 1860s, have been converted into housing.”

The listing description of St Dominic’s Priory (grade II) is as follows: “Dominican priory. c1863-83. By Gilbert Blount, WK Broder and Charles A Buckler; built by J Langdon. Multi-colour stock brick with stone dressings. Slated mansard roof with dormers to west range; slated gabled roof to south range. 2 irregular ranges forming a 3-sided courtyard with the south aisle of the Roman Catholic Priory Church of St Dominic (qv). West range with central pointed arch entrance having gabled slated porch; ground floor 2-light traceried windows; 1st floor with single light casements. To right, 2 gabled bays with similar windows. South range buttressed with asymmetrically attached campanile having a spire and lancets articulating stairs. 2-light traceried ground floor windows, 1st floor 2-light plate tracery gables. INTERIOR: not inspected but noted to retain a refectory, common rooms and chapter house opening off the cloister ambulatory with plate tracery windows; dormitory cubicles over.”

Sharps Doom Bar is usually served here. Leave the pub via the Southampton Road entrance, turn right and walk up Southampton Road to the junction with Malden Road. Continue along Southampton Road to the junction with Fleet Road. Cross over Fleet Road, turn right and cross over Agincourt Road. Turn left and walk up Agincourt Road to bus stop GA (called Mansfield Road). Catch a C11 bus to stop GE (called Glenhurst Avenue/Lissenden Gardens). Alight from the bus, turn left into Highgate Road and walk down Highgate Road to the junction with Gordon House Road. Cross over Gordon House Road and continue along Highgate Road to

- 3) 8.50 pm Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Road, Kentish Town, NW5 1LE. Although this pub is not a listed building, it is a famous alehouse which has been decorated in a fairly traditional style with brewery mirrors from Bass and Lacons. There are apparently two pub cats who mostly live upstairs but who occasionally visit the pub downstairs.

18 handpumps dispense 10 real ales and eight real ciders. On leaving the pub, turn left and walk along Highgate Road to the junction with Gordon House Road. Cross over Highgate Road, turn left and then right into Chetwynd Road. Walk along Chetwynd Road to the junction with York Rise. Cross over Chetwynd Road and walk along York Rise to

- 4) 9.30 pm Dartmouth Arms, 35 York Rise, Kentish Town, NW5 1SP. Like the Southampton Arms, this pub is not a listed building but it has recently reopened after many years of closure and is a welcome addition to the choice of quality pubs in this area.

Four real ales from London microbreweries are usually served here. Turn right out of the pub and continue along York Rise to the junction with Chetwynd Road. Cross over Chetwynd Road and continue along York Rise, following the road as it bends to the left. Turn right and walk down an alley leading to a footbridge over the railway. Cross over the railway via the footbridge then walk along Ingestre Road to the junction with Burghley Road. Turn right down Burghley Road to the junction with Lady Somerset Road and cross over Lady Somerset Road. Turn left, walk to the junction with Fortess Road and walk into

- 5) 10.10 pm Junction Tavern, 101 Fortess Road, Kentish Town, NW5 1AG. Although this pub is not a listed building, it has an interior recognised by CAMRA as being of some regional importance and the description is as follows: “Built 1885. Although it now operates as a gastro pub, some original Victorian splendour has been retained in the rear fully panelled bar. It has a fine bar counter with decorative brackets, a row of fielded panelling along the top and foot rail around the bottom. Within the panelling are large plain mirrors and an impressive carved mahogany fireplace with a bowed mantelpiece featuring a carved head but a modern hearth. A carved wooden pillar holds up a three sectioned decorative plasterwork ceiling and there is a deep frieze and cornice. It does have a modern bar back fitting and a small piece of modern bar counter at the rear. The front bar has all modern fittings and the pub has been extended to the rear.”

Adnams Bitter; Purity Pure UBU; Timothy Taylor Landlord; Trumans Zephyr; and Wye Valley IPA are usually served here.

If time allows, visit also the nearby Pineapple, 51 Leverton Street, Kentish Town, NW5 2NX which is a grade II listed building and is on CAMRA’s London Regional Inventory.