

# Lambeth Walk



Lambeth Walk was the site of two wells, the road to which slowly became lined with houses of one sort or another. By the 1840s 'The Walk' had a well established market and by 1861 it was thriving with 164 costermongers' stalls. Unfortunately this is no longer the case and the market seems to be in terminal decline.

## Lambeth Wells

In Elizabethan times, Lambeth consisted of a few houses near St Mary's church and a narrow strip of buildings, bordering the river up to Vauxhall. The fields of Lambeth were a favourite resort for Londoners wishing to have a day out in the country. Some mineral springs were discovered there which flourished as the Lambeth 'Wells' for about 50 years in the 18th century. The waters of Lambeth were widely advertised, and accepted by many people of the time as universal medicine.

*Lambeth Walk jnct Black Prince Road 1936*

Such places usually began by merely supplying the waters, entertainment came afterwards. In the early 18th century, the Large or Great Room was built to provide accommodation for dancing. Booths and raffling shops were set up for players and gamblers. But less than ten years later, in about 1758, the Wells was condemned as a nuisance and a common brothel and a dancing licence refused.

It is certain that this tavern, whatever its name, was demolished and rebuilt in 1829 and was known as 'The Fountain' from that time. No 105 Lambeth Walk finished its last few years as an eel and pie shop, but has since been demolished.

## Doing the Lambeth Walk

Lambeth Walk gave its name to a Cockney dance first made popular in 1937 by Lupino Lane. The song from the 1937 musical "Me and My Girl". The story line is about a Cockney barrow boy who inherits an earldom and almost loses his Lambeth girlfriend.

### The Lambeth Walk



Any time you're Lambeth way,  
Any evening, any day,  
You'll find us all  
Doin' the Lambeth Walk.

Every little Lambeth gal,  
With her little Lambeth pal,  
You'll find 'em all  
Doin' the Lambeth Walk.

Everything free and easy,  
Do as you darn well pleasy,  
Why don't you make your way  
there  
Go there, stay there.

Once you get down Lambeth  
way  
Ev'ry ev'ning, ev'ry day,