

## Article: The Wall, Ken Church Walk

Many of you will be aware of plans afoot to put a fence up in Kensington Church Walk, where the current low level wall exists. David Tucker of London Walks explains why this wall, "The Fairest Wall of all" should remain.



It's the *Martin's Mice* of walls. If you know the delightful Dick King-Smith children's story you'll understand. If you don't know it, well let me put it this way: Item - The Great Wall of China; Item - The Berlin Wall; Item - Hadrian's; Item - The Wailing. Which is by way of saying, walls are for keeping out; or keeping in; or wailing.

Most walls that is. But not this one - this one's different. It's as people friendly as it is child friendly. Toddler Princes - Wills and Harry - have walked on it. As has every little person who's ever come along Kensington Church Walk. Famous poets - Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath - have sat on it. Lovers have canoodled on it. Locals have passed the time of day on it. Old men have recalled the chimes at midnight on it.

In short, everybody - young and old - local and outsider - everybody delights in it. And it's easy to understand why. It's inviting - it brings people together - it's "the front stoop" of a very special little *soigne* Kensington lane. And, hey, it's even aesthetically pleasing - the way it undulates along.

So here's to the best of walls - the only wall in the world that says "walk on me, sit on me, let's make nice."

Photograph: Tony Annis

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12

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