

14 Amazing Facts You Never Knew About Islington



All facts in this report
extracted from Pamela
Shields Islington, the first
2000 years

The Domesday Book gives Islington a population of 27, with 9 more in Tollington. Things have moved on since, here are some other things you probably didn't know about the place:

- Battle Bridge was situated across the River Wells at what is now Kings Cross Station. Some claim Boadicea fought the Romans there.
- Whittington Hospital is built on the site of the old leper colony, built in 1473.
- Sir Walter Raleigh lived on Upper Street at the site of the Pied Bull pub (now the Halifax).
- In 1656 four houses were built on Newington Green, now London's oldest terrace.
- Islington's oldest surviving houses were built in 1708 at 54 and 55 Red Lion Street.
- John Milton wrote *Paradise Lost* at 124 Bunhill Row.



From the National Youth Theatre founded on Holloway Road to the 40 cinemas found in the borough in its heyday to the work of Daniel Defoe, Douglas Adams, Johnny Rotten and Skinnyman, this vibrant borough has always had a creative heart.

- Dick Turpin hunted his prey as they struggled up the hill of what is now Hornsey Road, then the drover's main road North.
- Islington born and bred Jane Taylor writes Twinkle Twinkle Little Star in 1806. Nelson Mandela later sang it to children at his retirement party.
- The number 43 bus route was launched in 1830.
- In 1834 120,000 trade unionists gathered in Copenhagen Fields to support the Tolpuddle Martyrs.
- Mrs Tealby opened Holloway Dogs Home in 1860. It moves to Battersea ten years later. Crufts Dog Show also began in Islington in 1891.
- The Post Office at Mount Pleasant wasn't always a Post Office...until 1886 it was a prison.
- Britain's first non-white MP, Indian professor Dadabhar Naoroji wins Finsbury ward in 1892.
- Dr Marie Stopes opens the UK's first birth control clinic in Holloway in 1921.

I hope you have enjoyed this short collection.

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