

## About the Portrait Bench

The Portrait Bench is a new and unique national collection of local portraits. The figures are inspired and chosen for their individual contribution to the life of the community.

Creating portraits is an old custom - honouring individuals for their philanthropy, political prowess or acts of heroism, and most commonly for the love of family members. All major public spaces are graced by statues or portraits of eminent individuals and family photos are treasured across the world.

Each Portrait Bench is a collection of three distinctive, life-size local figures cut from sheet steel and installed by a simple bench, inviting you to sit or step up into the space and become a part of the portrait group.

The features of each character have been simplified while retaining their essential characteristics. The characters reflect those things that are important to the community; each is inspired by the local heritage, culture and aspirations of the area; some we'll know and some we won't...together they will represent around 230 characters chosen by thousands of people from across the UK.



## Choosing the Islington portraits

All of the characters were chosen by local people who were invited to vote for who they wanted to see represented at the Islington portrait bench.

The portrait bench has been installed by Finsbury Park station.

## New walking and cycling networks

Sustrans is bringing the award winning National Cycle Network deep into the heart of communities across the UK to enable many more people to get about on foot and by bike. Find out more about walking and cycling routes in Islington and how to find this portrait bench at [www.sustrans.org.uk/c2/islington](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/c2/islington)

# Portrait Bench Islington



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## Jazzie B (Trevor Beresford Romeo) OBE



Jazzie B was born and brought up in the Finsbury Park area. He founded Soul II Soul with his school friend when they were just 16.

At 18 he got a job working for Tommy Steele as a tape operator and it was there that Jazzie B was inspired to develop the sound and environment of Soul II Soul. Soon, they were signed by Virgin and huge international success followed.

Jazzie now runs an independent label and invests much of his time educating the next generation. He has been recognised for his wonderful work with an Ivor Novello award in 2008 and an OBE for services to music.

## Florence Keen 1868-1942



Florence Keen founded the North Islington Infant Welfare Centre and School for Mothers in Holloway in 1913.

At that time, around 10% of children in Islington died before their fifth birthday. Keen and her colleagues worked to educate mothers about preventing disease and death among their families.

By 1920, the clinic had received over 12,000 visitors and its services had expanded to include dentistry, massage and artificial sunlight treatment. The organisation, now known as the Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, continues to provide community healthcare in Islington.

## Edith Garrud 1872-1971



Edith Garrud was an Islington resident, a Suffragette and a teacher of ju jitsu. She was one of the first professional martial arts instructors in the western world and, with her husband William Garrud, she ran a ju jitsu school on Seven Sisters Road, Hackney.

Garrud trained the Suffragettes' defence unit, 'The Bodyguard', which protected its members from the police and arrest. She was depicted in a cartoon in 'Punch' magazine in July 1910, tackling a group of policemen single-handed.