



If Benjamin Franklin, a master of creative thinking, were to design a museum and educational facility, it would be this one. Benjamin Franklin House is about the future. True to Franklin, who said he'd been born too soon, it celebrates innovation and enlightenment.

The world's only remaining Franklin home located just steps from London's Trafalgar Square – which opened to the public for the first time on Franklin's 300th birthday in 2006 – is setting a new standard for cultural heritage. Britain's Sunday Times recently called Benjamin Franklin House one of its “especially dynamic museum[s]” for its “state of the art show” which seamlessly blends drama and technology of which “Franklin, ever the innovator, would have approved.”

Indeed the **Historical Experience** removes the traditional distance between visitors and the past, illuminating a unique moment in AngloAmerican history: the last days when Britain and America were still one. Franklin played a starring role in efforts to keep the two nations together, though during nearly sixteen years at Craven Street between 1757 and 1775, his influence and investigations extended beyond diplomacy to science, invention, philosophy, music, and more. The Historical Experience features the voices of Emmy-award winning actor Peter Coyote as Franklin and Academy Award-nominated actress Imelda Staunton as Margaret Stevenson, Franklin's landlady.

The **Benjamin Franklin House Student Science Centre** inspires children through hands-on experimentation with Franklin's boundless spirit of enquiry from electricity and lightning rods to the Franklin armonica for which Mozart and Beethoven composed. The laughter of children can be heard each Tuesday on our weekly Student Day when we are closed to the public and open free of charge to visiting school groups.

The top floor **Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre** is a focal point in Europe for Franklin and Franklin-related study, featuring a full set of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin, as catalogued by Yale University, an active symposia and events programme, and an annual Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize for professional and young writers.

We reach beyond the compact Georgian spaces at 36 Craven Street to engage the wider community in our activities. We hold an annual Science Day with our partner schools featuring fun and informative sessions that highlight some of Franklin's most important investigations. The annual Benjamin Franklin House Science Fair allows children to produce their own responses to a timely question which Franklin posed before them: How can we get more energy from less fuel? We broaden our outreach through social networking encompassing YouTube, Google Adwords, and Facebook.

*More about Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790):

- Man of letters (printer, publisher, journalist, satirist, revised alphabet)
- Scientist ('father' of electricity, positive/negative charges, hydrodynamics, Gulf Stream, and more)

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UK registered charity number 276066



- Inventor (lightning rod, bifocals, clocks, printing advances)
- Musician (created glass armonica for which Mozart and Bach composed)
- Diplomat (worked to keep Britain and America together – ideas at the heart of the ‘special relationship’)
- Philosopher (on-going consideration of ways to improve himself and his community)
- Founding Father – only one to sign all documents creating United States: Declaration of Independence, Treaty of Paris, Constitution

*More about Benjamin Franklin House:

- Franklin lived and worked there for sixteen years on the eve of the American Revolution between 1757-1790
- First de facto US Embassy - holds a special place in Anglo-American history
- Fascinating history of medicine dimension - Franklin's landlady's son-in-law ran an anatomy school from Craven Street
- Conservation awards from Royal Institute of British Architects and Georgian Society

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