



A place for history

Benjamin Franklin House opened to the public for the first time on Franklin's 300th birthday in January 2006. This precious heritage asset – the world's only remaining Franklin residence – has been brought back to its 18th century lustre as a dynamic museum and education facility.

For nearly sixteen years between 1757 and 1775, Dr. Benjamin Franklin – scientist, diplomat, philosopher, inventor, US Founding Father and more – called 36 Craven Street his London home.

During this intense period, his main occupation as Colonial agent was mediating between Britain and America. Though ultimately unsuccessful, he planted seeds of a special relationship that continues to be a source of strength for both nations.

Rescued from dereliction, 36 Craven Street's conserved interiors now prove a graceful backdrop for the House's unique offerings. Built circa 1730, the workaday Georgian building holds a Grade I architectural listing for its extensive original features, including 14 fireplaces, ceilings, panelling, shutters, floors and a central staircase which Franklin claimed to use for daily exercise!

The Historical Experience uses the historic spaces where so much took place as a stage – blending live interpretation, leading-edge sound, lighting, and visual projection – to remove the distance between visitor and history.

“A Grade 1-listed building, beautifully restored.... It's a short, intense experience.... You'll come away with a strong sense of the man and the times in which he lived.” ★★★★★ Time Out



A place for today

The Student Science Centre inspires young people through hands-on experiments from Franklin's London years. Franklin translated scientific inquisitiveness into useful devices like the lightning rod, making positive and lasting contributions in science. Open by appointment.

The Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre is a focal point in Europe for study of Franklin and the myriad subjects with which he is associated, featuring a full set of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin catalogued by Yale University, as well as an active symposia programme. Open by appointment.

Volunteer

Volunteers are essential to the Benjamin Franklin House Historical Experience and other activities. Please be in touch and get involved.

Venue Hire

Book Benjamin Franklin House for exclusive entertaining, lectures, private dining, wedding receptions or for filming and photography. Contact us for further information.

Corporate Sponsorship

Please contact us for more details.

Want to know more about Benjamin Franklin and his London home?

Visit: www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Benjamin Franklin House
36 Craven Street
London WC2N 5NF
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0) 207 839 2006
Fax: +44 (0) 207 930 9124
www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org
info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org



Benjamin Franklin House Historical Experience

Bringing to life the dramatic
story of Franklin in London
in his only remaining home

“I have given...
loose to imagination”
Benjamin Franklin

“When truth and error have fair play,
the former is always an overmatch
for the latter”

The Historical Experience

Benjamin Franklin's last night
in London: 20 March 1775

First Acts

The Seminar Room

Outside the House's original boundaries; today a basement, in
Franklin's time the garden

Featuring original artifacts and the Craven Street bones found
during conservation, remnants of the anatomy school run by
the husband of Polly Hewson, daughter of Franklin's landlady

Scene 1 – The Stage is Set

Benjamin Franklin*

Workmen

Polly Hewson: Franklin's 'second daughter'

William Hewson: Eminent anatomist and Polly's husband

Scene 2 – The Kitchen

Dr Franklin's Passions – Food, Public Health, and Politics

Polly Hewson

Janey and Lucy: Servant girls

Benjamin Franklin

Scene 3 – Margaret Stevenson's Sitting Room

Social Franklin – Music, Friends, Tea and Tipple

Polly Hewson

Margaret Stevenson: Franklin's landlady and Polly's mother

John Stanley: Blind musician who plays Franklin armonica

William Strahan: Franklin's friend and printer

Benjamin Franklin

Scene 4 – The Card Room

Head of His London Household; the Family He Left Behind

Polly Hewson

Billy Hewson: Polly and William's son

Benjamin Franklin

Deborah Franklin: Benjamin Franklin's wife

Scene 5 – Dr. Franklin's Parlour

Leaked Letters and Parliamentary Trials, Taxes and Tea Parties

Polly Hewson

Benjamin Franklin

William Franklin: Benjamin's illegitimate son and

Governor of New Jersey

Alexander Wedderburn: Britain's Solicitor General

Dr Pringle: Franklin friend and King George III's physician

William Pitt: Earl of Chatham, Former Prime Minister

Scene 6 – Franklin's Laboratory

Ultimate Choices, an American, and Departure

Polly Hewson

Benjamin Franklin

Dr Joseph Priestley: Franklin scientist and father of chemistry

Final Acts

Scene 7 – Franklin's Laboratory and Powder Closet

Polly Hewson

Deborah Franklin

William Franklin

Melange of voices

Benjamin Franklin

Voice of Benjamin Franklin

Peter Coyote, Emmy® Award winner

Voice of Margaret Stevenson

Imelda Staunton, Academy Award® nominee

* Franklin words are his own from letters and writings

Script

Pat Lower

Script advisors

Dr. Márcia Balisciano

Lady Joan Reid

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

Architectural design and conservation

Anne Keigher and Patrick Dillon

Designers

Adam Grater, Can Factory, Elbow Productions, Event

Communications, Lutron, Peter Key, Sysco

“The rapid progress true science now makes,
occasions my regretting sometimes that I was
born so soon” Benjamin Franklin

Become a Friend

Benjamin Franklin said “A penny saved is a penny earned”
and your pennies will help ensure the future of Benjamin
Franklin House and its aims.

A donation of £25 (US\$45) and above will enable you to
become a “Friend of Benjamin Franklin House” with benefits
that include the Craven Street Gazette newsletter.

Name

Address

City

Postcode

Country

Telephone

Email

Credit Card Number

Expiration

Donation Amount £

POST: Please make £ cheques payable to: Friends of
Benjamin Franklin House (UK) and return to: Benjamin
Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NF.

US DONORS: Benjamin Franklin House Foundation is a
United States 501 (c)(3) charitable organisation which is
sponsoring a “Friends Campaign” for the Benjamin Franklin
House general fund. Please make checks payable to Benjamin
Franklin House Foundation, and likewise for credit card
donations, complete the form above and return to:

Benjamin Franklin House Foundation
PO Box 16786
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
United States

ONLINE DONATIONS:

Visit www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Gift Aid declaration for UK tax payers

Benjamin Franklin House, UK registered charity no. 276066,
registered company no. 136291 has my permission to reclaim
Gift Aid on all donations I have made until further notice.

(You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax
equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations, currently 28p
for each £1 you give).

Signature

Date

