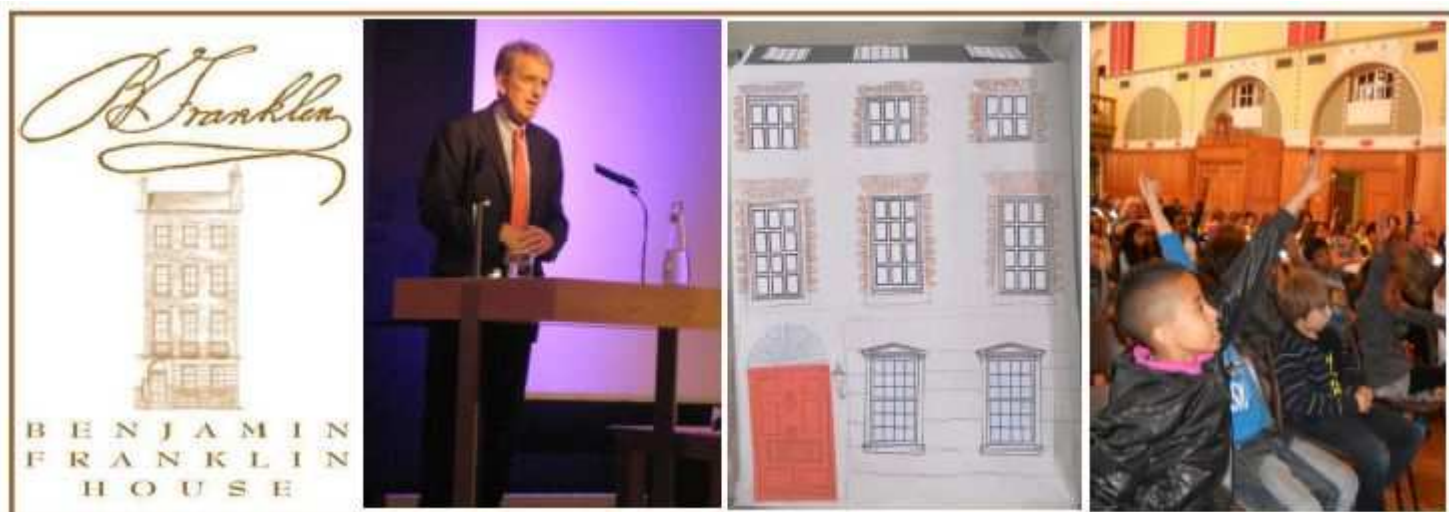


## Benjamin Franklin House eGazette

Second Quarter 2011



From left to right: Sir Christopher Meyer delivered the first annual Robert H. Smith lecture in association with the Eccles Centre for American Studies; families participated in a Georgian houses spring workshop; more than 200 children from five London schools took part in our annual Science Day at Westminster Cathedral Hall.

“Equal liberty...is still the Birthright of all Men,” Benjamin Franklin, 1790

Greetings,

Benjamin Franklin's belief in equal liberty for all was honed at a time of fundamental transition in British and American history – economic, social, and of course, political change. This belief, which informed his actions, is among what makes him great and worth remembering.

Remembrance was a theme in our inaugural Robert H. Smith Lecture in American Democracy in association with the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library. Sir Christopher Meyer, former British Ambassador to the United States, drew on his background as a diplomat, public servant, and author, in discussing *The Lessons of History*. You can listen to his talk [here](#). Robert H. Smith, for whom the Benjamin Franklin House Scholarship Centre is named, was an individual passionate about ensuring opportunities for all.

We value equally the opinions of young voices. We recently launched the 2011 [Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize](#) in association with media partner [The Telegraph](#). Young writers, aged 18-25, are encouraged to interpret the 2011 quote, “Light often arises from a collision of opinions, as fire from flint and steel,” for its significance today. Endowed by House Chairman John Studzinski, there is a first prize of £750 and a second prize of £500.

Though the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a third quarter happening and this eGazette updates you on news in the second, I wanted to share two special things that occurred on the day. First, in 2012, we will hold a portrait exhibition of individuals who represent aspects of Franklin. During President Barack Obama's recent visit to London a photo was taken which will be featured. And on the 4<sup>th</sup>, former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was in London for the unveiling of a new statue of 40<sup>th</sup> US President

Ronald Reagan, sat for a portrait which will be included in the exhibition. Second, we [celebrated Independence Day](#) in fine style, welcoming friends and neighbours for cake and bubbly, kindly donated by [Whole Foods](#).

Read on for more House news over the period.

## Education

\*We welcomed 240 students from eight London schools to the [Student Science Centre](#) in the quarter, including [Feltwell Elementary](#) and [St Peters C of E Primary School](#), and one school from France, [Lycee La Source](#).

\*Our Education Manager, Stephen Wilson, delivered Ben's Traveling Suitcase lessons at a number of London schools, including [Crampton School](#) in Southwark, [Walker School](#) in Enfield, and the Putney Home Educators group.

\*We held 2011 Science Day at Westminster Cathedral in May with 230 school children in attendance; activities included presentations about the nature of electricity and sound by Stephen and Dr. Bryson Gore. Participating schools included [Risley Avenue Primary](#), [Holy Trinity School](#), [Lycee Francais CDG](#), [Churchill Gardens Primary](#) and [St Vincent de Paul School](#).

\*Our Georgian Sports Days took place in April featuring 18<sup>th</sup> century games including quoits, marbles, and pass the thimble.

\*Adult education groups from [U3A Sevenoaks](#) and the [IEEE](#) visited the Student Science Centre and saw the [Historical Experience](#).

\*To find out more about educational visits (each Tuesday the House is closed to the public and open to schools free of charge) email: [Education@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:Education@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

## Events *included*

\*House historian, Lady Joan Reid, discussed Franklin, From Printer to Author in the first lecture of her 2011 series. Franklin's 18<sup>th</sup> century writings are clear and engaging and, she noted, his lasting fame is due in part to the form and substance of his written words.

\*18<sup>th</sup> century music by the Karelia String Quartet beautifully filled Franklin's Parlour at a concert in association with Craven Street neighbour, the [Concordia Foundation](#), which serves young musicians.

\*We celebrated National Family Week with a Georgian homes workshop which saw children and parents building and decorating a street of 3D, model Georgian terraces like 36 Craven Street.

\*In Franklin and the Shipleys, Dr David Allan, historian of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and Honorary President of the William Shipley Group for RSA History, highlighted the friendship between Franklin and RSA Founder William Shipley and his family.

\*Memory was the theme for International Museums Day 2011; to mark the day we asked our visitors 'Do you think museums capture and share memories?' See a [selection](#) of their responses.

\*We participated in 2011 Museums and Galleries at Night with guests experiencing an evening Historical Experience – live interpretation and sound and projection technology revealed the uncertainty and excitement of Franklin's London years in the great man's own words.

## **Upcoming Events** *including*

\*Festival of British Archaeology, Tuesday **26 July**, 11am-2pm. Children will explore the House's fascinating archaeological history, discovering why human bones were found in the House's basement and the story they tell about the history of medicine. £5 per child, free for adults.

\*Children's Summer Fete – Print this!, Tuesday **9, 16 and 23 August**, 11am and 2pm. Benjamin Franklin House hosts the first annual Summer Fete, in collaboration with special guests from the world of heritage. Activities will include Print This! – allowing families to follow in Franklin's footsteps by printing their own messages, pictures, and signs using everyday objects. £5 per child, free for adults.

\*Annual Symposium in association with the Eccles Centre for American Studies: Founding Gardeners by Andrea Wulf, Monday **19 September**, 6.30pm. This beautifully illustrated talk looks at the lives of the American founding fathers and how their attitude to plants, gardens, nature and agriculture shaped the American nation. £8/£5 Friends and concessions.

\*Thanksgiving, Thursday **24 November**, 7.30pm. It's not too early to mark your diaries for our annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Butchers' Hall, 87 Bartholomew Close, London EC1A 7EB. Our traditional American feast will feature roast turkey, stuffing, vegetables and of course pumpkin pie.

\*To book for [all events](#) call +44 (0) 20 7839 2006 or email [Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

## **Support for the House**

\*We need your assistance to continue bringing history to life! Please visit our [support](#) page to help us by making an online donation!

\*Thank you to the following individuals who joined or renewed their Friends Membership at the Inventor Level (£100) since our last eGazette: Dietra Breedon and Nicholas Boileau. Our Friends programme is essential and growing. You can [become a Friend](#) with a gift of £25 and above and receive numerous benefits, including free entry to the House.

\*We have been awarded a Google Ad Words grant – searching on Google for Benjamin Franklin and other key words pulls up a free sponsored ad for Benjamin Franklin House.

\*Guardian Jobs online have granted us free advertising for volunteers on their website. We are seeking to recruit development interns for the remainder of the year; read more [here](#).

\*[Using the House](#) for your events brings us much needed operational support. In the quarter, the National Theatre and BBC Culture Show hired the House.

\*Alongside the US Benjamin Franklin House Foundation, we launched the World of Possibilities endowment campaign in 2009 with a long-term goal of a £4 million endowment to expand our educational mission and to provide the House with a more secure financial future. In August 2010 we received a \$575,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities; to claim it though, we'll need to raise \$1.7 within four years; please consider helping us; email [Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org).

\*You can aid Benjamin Franklin House at no cost when shopping online with over 600 popular retailers, including Amazon, and many more: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/benjaminfranklin>. You can also raise funds for the House when you search the Web with easysearch: <http://benjaminfranklin.easysearch.org.uk>!

## Shop

\*NEW SPECIAL OFFER: Order a Benjamin Franklin Action Figure (£10) and receive a free Craven Street Fridge Magnet (£3). To redeem, order from our [online shop](#) or email [Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org). Expires on 01/10/2011.

## Benjamin Franklin House in the News

\*A photograph of the staircase at Benjamin Franklin House features as the cover of the new [London's Houses](#) guidebook from Metro Publications.

\*The William Shipley Group featured an article about our 'blue' plaque unveiling at the House.

\*Look for regular event postings from the House in the Westminster Arts Circular, [Subject Specialist Network](#) News e-bulletin, the American Women's Club e-newsletter and the [American Hour's](#) online magazine.

\*The Sunday Telegraph's [Home and Garden Club](#) is promoting 2 for 1 tickets for the Historical Experience.

\*Westminster Council is currently featuring the House in their [Did you know?](#) campaign. Look for posters in Westminster libraries.

\*The House's historic spaces feature in [Quintessentially Living Volume 2](#). The book is due to launch this autumn.

\*Follow Benjamin Franklin House on Twitter; [sign up here](#)! Become one of our Facebook friends at [www.facebook.com/benjaminfranklinhouse](http://www.facebook.com/benjaminfranklinhouse) and get daily news on Franklin!

\*Consider writing a review of Benjamin Franklin House on Trip Advisor. If you have visited the House click [here](#) to share your thoughts and upload photos. Benjamin Franklin House is currently 116 out of 728 London attractions and we'd love to be in the top 100!

## What's On – We Recommend

\*[The Patriot Mason – Freemasonry in American Society](#): 4 July until 22 December, Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm. Visit The Library and Museum of Freemasonry to find out about the role of freemasonry in

America from its 18th century origins to the present day. For more information email [libmus@freemasonry.london.museum](mailto:libmus@freemasonry.london.museum) or call +44(0)20 7395 9257.

\*[Freud Museum 25th Anniversary Open Day](#): Thursday 28 July, 12pm to 5pm, at the Freud Museum. Visit our fellow London Shh house to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the museum, with activities for all the family, plus tea and cakes for sale in the garden. For more information email [eventsandmedia@freud.org.uk](mailto:eventsandmedia@freud.org.uk) or call +44 (0)20 7435 2002.

Wishing you a happy summer from Craven Street,

Márcia

Dr. Márcia Balisciano  
Director  
Benjamin Franklin House  
36 Craven Street  
London WC2N 5NF

Telephone +44(0)20 7839 2006  
[Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)  
[www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](http://www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)