



We need your support!

“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest” – Benjamin Franklin

It's been a wonderful first five years:
 41,000 visitors, with nearly 30,000 seeing the four star Historical Experience!
 Free educational services for 5600 children in the Student Science Centre, with 6500 benefitting from in-classroom outreach! More than 100 interns from universities across Britain, America, and beyond, and some 200 events through the Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre!

Help us achieve even more:
 In 2011 we aim to reach 50,000 visitors; launch our Sister Schools pilot linking London and American schools; undertake necessary conservation work to our 18th century floors; and offer an interesting array of programmes, including the first Robert H. Smith Lecture in American Democracy and family-friendly activities like our annual July 4th Party and Thanksgiving dinner!

Please give [online](#) or send a cheque to Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, WC2N 5NF. Thank you for your kind consideration at this special time of year.

Fourth Quarter 2010



From left to right: We hosted [London Shh's](#) contribution to the Story of London 2010 – Franklin's Parlour was transformed into the Freudian Cafe where visitors experienced the 'talking cure;' 140 people celebrated Thanksgiving with us at the Butchers' Hall; during a visit to the Student Science Centre, children from London's Cranbrook College played the circulation game, which illuminates the work of William Hewson, son-in-law of Franklin's landlady, who ran an anatomy school from the House

"In Christmas feasting pray take care; Let not your table be a snare; But with the poor God's bounty share. Adieu my friends! till the next Year" – Benjamin Franklin, 1748

Greetings,

A 1730s building, Franklin's only remaining home, derelict for more than 25 years, opened to the public for the first time as a dynamic museum and educational

facility in 2006. On 17 January 2011 we will celebrate our fifth and Franklin's 305th birthday! We have reached important milestones by concentrating on sharing Franklin's legacy of innovation, diplomacy, and civic and personal responsibility with more than 41,000 visitors through the [Historical Experience](#), [Student Science Centre](#), and [Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre](#).

We will be marking our fifth birthday with the return of the House's original 'blue' plaque which has sat in a London warehouse for nearly 100 years. The plaque, made of terracotta and surrounded by a circular wooden frame, measures 710mm (28 inches) in diameter and 70mm (2 3/4 inches) in thickness and is quite heavy. In 1875, the Royal Society of Arts, where Franklin was the first international member, decided to commemorate his residence on Craven Street, but they accidentally cemented it to the wrong building. In 1914 that house was demolished and the plaque was removed – in the meantime, the London County Council erected our current 'blue' plaque, a bronze scroll (and the only one of its kind). The original plaque was donated to the Guildhall Museum, which eventually became part of the Museum of London. It was never on display and remained in a Hackney storehouse until earlier this year when the Museum kindly donated it to the House and it was conserved by [Holden Conservation](#). You will be able to see it on a brick wall en route to our Seminar Room in the New Year!

Over the last quarter, we opened our doors to more than 500 visitors during London Open House weekend; American Ambassador Louis Susman held a reception at his residence for House supporters and friends; we hosted the President and members of the Board of the New-York Historical Society; and held a dinner at the home of our Chairman John Studzinski honouring the memory of the great philanthropist Robert H. Smith, attended by his wife and daughter. Read on for more House news over the period.

Education

*We welcomed groups from seven London area schools to the Student Science Centre, including [Cranbrook College](#), [St James Junior School](#), Trevor-Roberts School and [Marners Primary School](#).

*Our Education Manager, Stephen Wilson, delivered sessions to clients of the [Connection at St. Martin-in-the-Fields](#), a drop-in centre for homeless young people as part of an ongoing programme. Topics included electricity and light and Georgian-era holiday traditions.

*In the quarter we welcomed three school groups from [Risley Avenue Primary School](#) as part of our work with [IntoUniversity](#), a non-profit offering support to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them reach their potential. We also visited our local IntoUniversity centre in Lambeth to deliver a session on Franklin and invention.

*The Constitution was the focus of workshops with secondary school students from [Burntwood School](#), [Southfields Community College](#), and [Saint Cecilia's School](#), which will culminate in our next inter-schools debate tournament in 2011. We helped judge the first debate at Burntwood School, which engaged 40 young people on the motion "Can, and should, democracy be forced upon a country."

*In February we will launch our Sister Schools pilot, with help from the New-York Historical Society, linking a partner London school with an American counterpart.

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

Events *included*

*We hosted an evening of hands-on activities for the [Story of London Festival 2010](#), a celebration of London's past, present and future. Representatives from each of the seven [London Shh...](#) houses presented their former residents' groundbreaking ideas, inventions, works of art and music, which has helped shape the capital. Activities encompassed arts and crafts, experiments, talks by specialists and quizzes.

*On 25 November we held an authentic Thanksgiving dinner for 140 guests with all the trimmings at London's famed Butcher's Hall. Particular thanks to our sponsors including Bloomberg and Whole Foods. Mark your calendar for next year's feast on 24 November!

*We welcomed friends and neighbours to our annual holiday party on 14 December featuring homemade mulled wine and traditional mince pies.

*At our Children's Christmas Party this month young people discovered the magic of Christmas – 18th century style – with traditional carols, crafts and treats.

Upcoming Events *including*

*House 5th and Franklin 305th birthday celebration, Monday 17 January 2011, 7-9pm. The House's original 1875 'blue' plaque will be unveiled for first time. Email us if you would like to attend.

*National Science & Engineering Week, Tuesday 15 March, drop in between 11am-3pm. 'Communication' is our theme, starting with Franklin's idea that light behaves like a wave, the foundation of fibre optic technology and transatlantic communication today. Young and old are invited: explore Franklin's theory by directing a laser beam through a maze and make your own kaleidoscope! Free for all.

*Georgian Sports Days, Tuesday 12 April and Tuesday 19 April, 11am and 2pm. The spring Sports Day, aimed at 6-11 year olds, features 18th century games at the House – Blind Man's Buff, marbles and pass the thimble. Free for all, booking required.

*Full details of the Benjamin Franklin House 2011 events calendar will be emailed in January.

To book for all events call +44 (0) 20 7839 2006 or email Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Support for the House

*In the last quarter, Benjamin Franklin House gratefully received grants from the Eranda Foundation, the Charles Delmar Foundation and The Welton Foundation. Visit <http://www.eventinternet.com/benjaminfranklinhouse/content/donations/index.asp> to support us too!

*A Young Supporters Group has just gotten off the group. Let us know if you would like to learn more: Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

*Alongside the US Benjamin Franklin House Foundation, we launched the World of Possibilities endowment campaign in 2009 with a long-term goal of £4 million endowment to expand our educational mission and to provide the House with a more secure financial future. In August 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.

*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.

*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>!

Benjamin Franklin House in the News

*House Chairman, John Studzinski, discussed philanthropy on Radio 4's [The Today Programme](#)!

*[The Evening Standard](#) featured our Children's Christmas Party as a top thing to do in London in their ES Magazine!

*The House is featured in the [Let's Take the Kids to London](#) e-book!

*The BBC News Channel filmed an interview by Nick Higham with author P. J. Rourke from Franklin's Parlour!

*Listen to Radio 4's [Benjamin Franklin's iPod](#) recorded from the House featuring our very own House historian Lady Joan Reid!

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

*Please consider writing a review for 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 219 out of 803 London attractions and we'd love to be in top 100 and higher!

We are excited about our next five years and appreciate your support on our journey. A special thank you at this festive time of year to our dedicated Board, staff, committees, volunteers and providers of pro bono assistance including Morrison and Foerster, John McAslan + Partners, and DP9.

Sending you our best holiday wishes from Craven Street,

Márcia

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