

Dear Friends,

When typing "Benjamin Franklin" into the ubiquitous Google search engine this month I got a message back saying there were 2 million results! The first item in a search for "Benjamin Franklin House," however, is a link to our new website: www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org <<http://www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org>> .

We'll be updating it regularly - watch for a Kid's Corner section this autumn developed by our new education officer Ana Buchan. See more information about Ana below.

If we have your address you would have received our invitation to the Benjamin Franklin House Opening Gala on 17 January 2006 at London's Banqueting House, one of Britain's Royal Palaces. This will be a grand celebration of the opening of 36 Craven Street to the public for the first time. The House will feature: the Historical Experience (where each room, through innovative sound and lighting technology and live interpretation - an actress as Franklin's second 'daughter,' Polly Hewson, child of his landlady - will tell the multi-layered story of Franklin's nearly 16 years on Craven Street); as well as the Student Science Centre (hands-on experimentation that inspires young people through Franklin's London science from music to electricity); and the Scholarship Centre (with a full set of Yale University's bound Papers of Benjamin Franklin). We have asked for RSVPs by the close of September as there are but 350 places for this memorable evening. If you didn't receive an invitation just let us know and we'll send one forthwith: BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com <<mailto:BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com>> . We are still seeking sponsorship and are offering a full package of benefits including a VIP complimentary table for 10 on the night.

More immediately, on **Thursday, 27 October we will be holding our annual Benjamin Franklin House Symposium**, Benjamin Franklin: Design and Innovation at the Royal Society of Arts (RSA). The programme, beginning at 6 pm (registration from 5:30 pm; presentations in the Great Room followed by a buffet dinner in the RSA's Benjamin Franklin Room) will use Franklin as a point of departure to explore the leading edge in science, architecture, and heritage.

Franklin's life stands in elegant counterpoint: during his London years he explored the Gulf Stream; perfected bifocal lenses; furthered botanical research; investigated hydrodynamics, oxygen and steam engines; championed inoculation and a cure for the common cold; and, among many other things, tested his ideas for the anti-pollution, fuel-efficient Franklin Stove! Among our distinguished speakers will be Dr. Page Talbott of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary. Page is Curator of Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, the major touring exhibition that will open at the new US Constitution Center in Philadelphia in December. Page will discuss the Tercentenary's 21st century approach to presenting the history of Franklin and his versatile life. The cost is £45/£25 concessions. To book, email BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com <<mailto:BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com>> .

*** People in the Project: Spotlight on The Project Management Team**

Project Management Team Chair, Anne Keigher, is one of our longest serving members of the Board. She is indefatigable in her dedication to the project! An architect with her own design practice, Keigher Interiors, we are fortunate to have Anne's pro bono expertise, which has also been formally recognised by the Heritage Lottery Fund. As a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) she served as Chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee and has held senior roles with the American Institute of Interior Designers. She knows every cranny of Benjamin Franklin House. She successfully guided the conservation work of Phase I overseeing a team of fifteen in the timely and on-budget (£814,000) exterior stabilisation of the building. And if all that were not impressive enough, she is also Board Treasurer!

Anne works closely with other members of the Project Management Team including our Quantity Surveyor, Mike Burke of Burke Hunter Adams who has been with us since the beginning of the project. Mike is the founding and senior partner of Burke Hunter Adams which provides a range of cost consultancy, facilities and project management services to private and public sector clients.

Principal projects have including fitting out the offices of McKinsey UK headquarters, various banking facilities of the Bank of New York and the refurbishment of a major Grade II building into apartments.

Our talented young architect is Patrick Dillon. Patrick's small practice is dedicated to providing a high quality service in the conservation of listed buildings, providing specialist interior design and fitting services, and designing buildings for public use. Among his many interesting projects he has led the ongoing conservation and remodelling of a large 18th century building called Bourdon House in the heart of London's Mayfair which has included restoring facades, roof conservation and the incorporation of modern services.

Finally, Bob Sweeting serves as a key project management consultant. Since 2001, Bob, who holds a honours degree in architecture, has been with ISGC, one of the UK's leading interiors firms. He sees projects through from conception to completion and is experienced in analysing and development client briefs. His architectural know-how ensures design, procurement, and quality is maintained for us on all construction matters.

Latest Conservation News

August may have found many Britons away on their summer holidays but it was full steam ahead for Wallis' craftsmen at Benjamin Franklin House. Where previously there were just open rafters, there are now ceilings with plaster prepared in the 18th style with lime and hair! At the top of the House a small wall section of original lathing will be left un-plastered covered by a perspex panel in order to show the original construction. Joinery carpenters have been reassembling 18th century wall panels for the top floors which had laid assunder

for many years, piecing them back together like a Georgian jigsaw puzzle.

Wiring, the foundation of the House's modern infrastructure, and necessary for all uses of the House has been installed and our paint expert, Patrick Baty, has been advising on the colours of the upper floors as well as the glazing we believe Franklin applied to his first floor parlour to increase the light in a space where he most likely did much of his writing.

Meet Our New Education Officer: Ana Buchan

Ana has come on board thanks to a grant from energy leader National Grid Transco and has experience that is perfect for the Benjamin Franklin Student Science Centre and our educational outreach activities. She most recently served as Education Officer at the Petrie Museum of Egyptology and as an English Heritage case worker; among other positions she has worked as an arts editor for a major UK daily and as an events coordinator at the Royal Academy of Art.

In the spring she completed a post-diploma in museum studies from University College London and holds a Masters in forensic archaeology from the same institution, working with Dr. Simon Hillson who has been cataloging the Craven Street bones, found when we were doing structural repair to the basement (part of Phase I) in 1999. (The bones are the remnants of an anatomy school run by Franklin's landlady's son-in-law, William Hewson. Franklin helped Dr. Hewson get elected to the pre-eminent Royal Society - still today Britain's most respected science body - for his pioneering anatomy studies. Hewson won the Royal Society's Copley Medal for his work on the human lymphatic system by injecting turtles with mercury. In the place where the bones were found we discovered mercury in the soil and turtle bone!) Ana has recently completed a book on the history of early surgery. In addition to her practical experience and many credentials she also speaks five languages!

US Challenge Continues

We are getting closer to meeting our goal with approximately \$35,000 left to go to claim \$100,000 from our prominent US donor for raising an equivalent amount from US sources. If you can help by making a contribution to the Benjamin Franklin House Foundation, our US 501 (c) (3) affiliate, please email BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com <<mailto:BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com>> .

With all best wishes,

Márcia