



Benjamin Franklin House eGazette 2008 – 2nd Quarter



From left, 18th century sounds featured in Franklin's Parlour during a musical soirée in association with the Concordia Foundation; 4th of July decorations seen through the window in Franklin's Parlour; a member of the House team demonstrates the glass armonica in the Student Science Centre during London's Museums and Galleries Month.

“And what are we to gain by...war, by which our trade and manufactures are to be ruined, our strength divided and diminished, our debt increased, and our reputation, as a generous nation, and lovers of liberty, given up and lost? ...Is there not *one* wise and good man to be found in *Britain* who can propose some conciliating measure...? Benjamin Franklin, 1768

Greetings,

Benjamin Franklin, who wrote those words from Craven Street, was such a man. He worked relentlessly for reconciliation between the Crown and her American colonies and last week on the 4th of July, with the help of over 50 guests, we remembered his role as a peacemaker and his dedication to developing the best in both nations. It was a celebration of all that unites us. In this quarter at Benjamin Franklin House there was much to celebrate. Read on for our latest news.

Educational Outreach

Museums and Galleries Month

As part of Museums and Galleries Month we held a Friday late night showing of the Historical Experience, which removes the traditional distance between visitors and the past, illuminating a unique moment in AngloAmerican history through live performance, sound, and visual projection. Visitors also received a lecture on the Craven Street bones found during conservation in the basement (the remnants of the anatomy school run by the son-in-law of Franklin's landlady), and paid a visit to the Student Science Centre.

National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW) 2008

NSEW took place over ten days in March with 2,000 events throughout the UK to highlight the importance of science, engineering and technology. Benjamin Franklin House hosted a free open day exploring three key Franklin demonstrations from his years at Craven Street in the Student Science Centre. Benjamin Franklin House holds the distinction of being a 'Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing' facility from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Science Day and Science Fair



This year's Science Day in May took place at Regent's Hall in London. Children from four of our partner schools - Surrey Square Junior School, Clement Danes School, the Lycée Française and Curwen Primary School - were treated to Franklin-related experiments by our 'own' scientist Dr Bryson Gore, who entertained and educated with fizzles, flashes and bangs. Among other festivities was a game of BENGGO, a Benjamin Franklin House-themed Bingo game. In June, the same schools competed in the Benjamin Franklin House Annual Science Fair with children from Curwen Primary School taking the honours for a design of the fuel-efficient house of the future. "It was amazing" was a sentiment expressed by the young participants!

Sir Bob Reid Prize given to Clement Danes School

To commemorate the guidance and dedication of our former Chairman, Sir Bob Reid, the Sir Bob Reid School Science Fund was established earlier this year to recognise excellence in science teaching. This year's winner was London's Clement Danes School, who do an excellent job blending science and history.

Events

The many events in the quarter included a talk by Franklin expert and Benjamin Franklin House Governor Joan Reid on the fascinating connection between Franklin and medicine; a dynamic art installation in May by former Benjamin Franklin House staffer, Michael De Guzman, and other artists from London's Whitechapel Gallery; and a late spring concert featuring Franklin's favourite music by harpsichordist Bridget Cunningham and soprano Anna Butterworth, young artists from our Craven Street neighbours, the Concordia Foundation, which supports young musicians: www.concordiafoundation.com.

Mark your diaries now for these upcoming events and email info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org (or call +44 207 839 2006) to RSVP:

*15 July 2008, 2:30–6:30pm - National Archaeology Week at Benjamin Franklin House. We will encourage family visitors to become archeological investigators in order to uncover the rich history of the House and its inhabitants; free

* 3 September 2008, 6:30pm - Benjamin Franklin House Annual Symposium featuring Dr. Richard Horton, Editor of the Lancet, the world's number one global medical journal. Dr. Horton is the 2007 winner of the Edinburgh Medal and will speak on Benjamin Franklin and the Globalisation of Science; tickets include receptions; £8; £5 Friends and concessions (at Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library)

* 29 October 2008, 7pm - US Presidential Debate between the Chairs of Republicans Abroad and Democrats Abroad; Sir Robert Worcester, founder of MORI, to moderate; £8; £5 Friends and concessions (at Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library)

Benjamin Franklin House Foundation

Benjamin Franklin House Foundation in the United States is an active and independent organisation which includes as its mission, raising support and awareness in the United States for Benjamin Franklin House. Alison Cooney was brought on board this spring to serve as Administrator and Development Officer; previously she was with Sotheby's and undertook private historical and architecture projects. To find out more email acooney@bfhfoundation.org and visit <http://www.bfhfoundation.org/>.

Endowment Update

The Endowment campaign – A World of Possibilities – is a joint initiative between the House and the US Benjamin Franklin House Foundation to secure the long-term future of the House and its educational aims. The Honorary Co-Chairs are Sir Nigel Sheinwald, British Ambassador to the United States and Robert Tuttle, United States Ambassador to the Court of St James's. Congressional members of the Advisory Group include Congressman Gary Ackerman, New York; Congressman Robert A. Brady, California; Congressman Gene Green, Texas; Congressman Chaka Fattah, Pennsylvania; Senator Chuck Hagel, Nebraska; Senator Johnny Isakson, Georgia; Congressman Donald Manzullo, Illinois; Congressman Gregory Meeks, New York; Congressman Todd R. Platts, Pennsylvania; Congressman Ted Poe, Texas; and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida. To find out more email Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

2008 Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize

The Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize is underway. We are accepting essays of 1000-1500 words on the theme of ethical journalism from professional and young writers. Author of *Brother Gardeners*, Andrea Wulf, long-listed for the 2008 Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction, has joined the judging panel. Deadline for entries is 15 October. Find out more at www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

Other House News

*We were pleased to welcome a new Marketing and Development Manager, Sarah Chaney, in May. Sarah, who joins us from London's Old Operating Theatre, will be working to increase awareness and support for the House.

*In April Benjamin Franklin House was highlighted by The Sunday Times as 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.”

*Award-winning firm, John McAslan Architects, are preparing pro bono designs for creating a new glassed-in courtyard to improve the visitor experience. Watch for more information!



Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Márcia

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Hire Benjamin Franklin House: Located in the heart of London, just steps from Trafalgar Square, Benjamin Franklin House is a unique venue for corporate and private events, including elegant lunches, memorable receptions, lectures, dinners and more in an exquisite 18th century setting. Contact Sarah Chaney on +44 207 839 2008 or email Sarah@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org to discuss or arrange a visit.