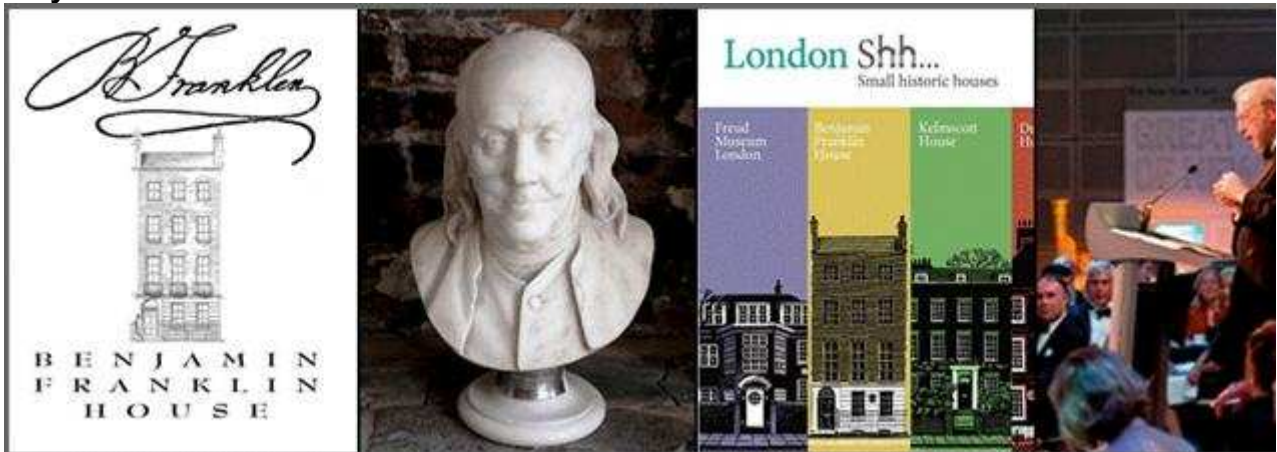


Benjamin Franklin House

From: Benjamin Franklin House [info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org]
Sent: 06 July 2009 18:50
To: 'Benjamin Franklin House'
Subject: Benjamin Franklin House eGazette 2009 - 2nd Quarter

July 2009



From left, 18th century bust of Benjamin Franklin returns to 36 Craven Street along with other artefacts; London Shh (Small Historic Houses) group has launched; Sir David Frost regales at Washington, DC Benjamin Franklin House gala, launching the World of Possibilities endowment campaign

"Sally Franklin presents her duty. Mrs. Stephenson desires to be affectionately remember'd." Benjamin Franklin to his sister Jane Mecom, London, January 1772

Greetings,

The quote above comes from a wonderful letter now on permanent display at Benjamin Franklin House. In it, Franklin recounts a journey across Britain that contributed to the "establishment of [his] health; the best use of reading glasses; a visit to England by his son-in-law, Richard Bache; accounts of Richard and his daughter Sally's "uncommonly fine boy," Benjamin Franklin Bache, which brought to mind his son Franky, who had died in infancy some 36 years earlier; and the search for a heraldic crest relating to his mother's Folger family ancestry. He also declares he will write to a cousin who has a seven year debt outstanding, declaring, "It seems as if the debtor was like a whimsical man in Pennsylvania, of whom it was said that it being against his principle to pay interest, and against his interest to pay the principal, he paid neither one nor t'other." Read the transcript [here](#).

The letter is among several other items recently returned to 36 Craven Street, including an 18th century Franklin bust, a medallion of Franklin in a fur hat attributed to the 18th century Italian artist Nini, and a wallet inscribed, B Franklin, Craven Street. The items had been given to the British Society for International Understanding, which was located in the House after the Second World War, and which our founding governor, Lady Bessborough, had kept in safekeeping.

It has indeed been a successful quarter, as detailed below, with highlights that include the launch of our World of Possibilities endowment campaign at Washington's [Newseum](#), hosted by House supporter, Robert H. Smith, and featuring campaign leader, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, British Ambassador to the United States, and the incomparable journalist, Sir David Frost. We also have now surpassed 25,000 visitors to the House since opening in 2006, including nearly 4500 school children free of charge, many from London's poorest boroughs. Read on for news of our progress, including more about the approximately 40 events and outreach activities taking place this year, most recently our annual 4th of July reception!

Education

*The education programme at Benjamin Franklin House was awarded the [Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge](#)

*The Annual Benjamin Franklin House Science Day was held on 28 April with students from London's St. Gabriel's Primary and the Lycee Francaise; favourite House scientist Dr. Bryson Gore illustrated what became of Franklin science with potions and explosive experiments, while Angela Malynn, an architect with international firm Arup, made the case for sustainable buildings

*The Annual Benjamin Franklin Science Fair took place on 23 June to address Franklin's question he explored at Craven Street, how can we get more energy using fewer resources? An expert panel of judges, including a member of The Royal Society, to which Franklin was elected in 1756, reviewed the projects and chose eco-friendly houses designed by 10 year old Mala Bhuiya and Gloria Feudjo Tepie from London's St. Clement's Dane School as top prize winners. Franklin would surely have been pleased with their proposed use of sustainable wood, recycled grey water for landscaping, and use of hydro, solar, and wind power.

*In the quarter, Benjamin Franklin House has provided [outreach](#) to 459 children and adults from across five London boroughs; from lectures for seniors on Georgian London to in-school visits by our Education Manager with Ben's Traveling Suitcase!

*Each Tuesday in August (11am and 2pm) children will be able to participate in an Audience With Polly Hewson, daughter of Franklin's landlady, who became a second daughter to Franklin. They will be able to ask her any question they can think of to understand more about life in Georgian London. Tickets: £5 per child, free for accompanying adults; To RSVP email Rob@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

Events

Among other events in the quarter:

*We hosted Dr. George Boudreau, Penn State professor and Project Director of "A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans," who discussed Benjamin Franklin's Junto and 18th century clubs

*The House was a key destination during May's Museums & Galleries at Night with guests taking part in an evening performance of the Historical Experience, with a special talk on the Craven Street bones

*Franklin historian Joan Reid explored Franklin's London friendships, which take place where he had many, at the Royal Society of Arts (RSA); attendees also received a private tour of the RSA archives

*To celebrate June's Story of London weekend, House volunteer Matt Caro took guests on a walking tour of Franklin's favourite London spots; [listen to the tour here](#)

*Also in June, the House hosted [Rivers Baghdad](#), the first part of an exhibition on water which will be projected live in the city of Baghdad and globally streamed using mobile phone technology and the Internet
[Read more about past events](#)

Upcoming Events

Among other forthcoming:

*Comedy night on 22 July, 6.30; tickets £8/£5; some of Britain's funniest will test their Franklinesque wit

*From Uneasy Dreams, an Exhibition of Sculpture by Sebastian Dale; August 6-12, 6-9 pm; free

*Benjamin Franklin House Annual Symposium in Association with the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library; 9 September 2009, 6.30pm; tickets £8/£5; in recognition of the friendship between Benjamin Franklin and Kew Gardens founder Joseph Banks, we are celebrating [Kew's 250th Anniversary](#) with a lecture by Paul Smith, Director of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, who will show what's become of their botanical passions

*Herbs, Horticulture and Health: Franklin's Botanical Pursuits; 14 September, 6:30pm; £5/£3.50 Friends and concessions; House Franklin Scholar Lady Joan Reid will argue that although Franklin was not a keen gardener, he advanced botany on both sides of the Atlantic

*The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession; 22 September, 7.00pm; Andrea Wulf will tell the tale of a small group of 18th century naturalists that made England a nation of gardeners; The Brother Gardeners was longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2008.

To book for all events call 020 7839 2006 or email info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org; see a [full list](#) of upcoming events

Benjamin Franklin House Foundation in the United States

*The Foundation supported Andrea Wulf's book launch of [The Brother Gardeners](#) at the [Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies](#) at Monticello on 13 May. Andrea's book details the 18th century rise of the British passion for gardening. She is a member of the Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize review panel and held her UK book launch at the House last spring.

*Plans for a new Sister Schools initiative in collaboration with the US [Benjamin Franklin House Foundation](#) are taking shape. We hope to launch the pilot later this year, connecting students from our London partner schools with their counterparts in America to share information about themselves, their cultures, and studies. The programme will be a testament to Franklin's belief in international understanding and engagement.

Support for the House

*Our World of Possibilities endowment campaign was launched in great Franklin style – with fun, wit, and substance – on 3 June 2009. The day began with a breakfast for over 40 hosted by British Ambassador, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, Chairman of the World of Possibilities campaign, at his elegant residence in Washington. In his welcome, the Ambassador called Benjamin Franklin House a jewel in the British American crown; celebrated British architect, John McAslan, described his pro bono designs for a new, glass visitors centre in what today is the House's open air courtyard; and Sir David Frost charmed all with his perspective on US-UK differences. The Newseum, which stands like Franklin for free speech and a free press, was the perfect venue for the evening festivities, sponsored by KPMG, and attended by nearly 200. As Franklin noted in 1776, "freedom of the press ought not to be restrained." Mr. Robert H. Smith, a Newseum founding partner, and a key supporter of Benjamin Franklin House, for whom our Scholarship Centre is named, opened the dinner, noting the House's unique role in promoting Franklin's legacy of humanity, honesty, and tenacity so relevant today.

The \$8 million endowment campaign will bring a World of Possibilities to Benjamin Franklin House – new ways to expand our educational mission, and a more secure financial future for this essential Anglo-American heritage treasure.

A World of Possibilities will;

- create new versions of the Historical Experience presenting new characters, such as Franklin's black servant Peter addressing themes of justice, equality and freedom;
- allow upgrades to our systems, to ensure we stay abreast of changing technologies for cutting edge presentations that interest diverse audiences;
- establish a visiting scholars program at the Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre to further study of how Franklin's sojourn in London shaped his contributions to American democracy;
- develop a US traveling exhibition and corresponding lecture series focused on the House, to improve knowledge and awareness of Franklin in London.

To get involved, email Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

* Because the endowment is a long-term effort, we need ongoing support to maintain the House's exciting offerings. Our [Friends programme](#) is therefore essential –and growing! You can become a Friend of Benjamin Franklin House with a gift of £25 and above and receive numerous benefits, including free entry to the House.

*In the last quarter, Benjamin Franklin House gratefully received grants from the Beneficia Foundation; the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council; and the John Lyons Trust.

*You can support 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!>

2009 Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize

Word is spreading about the 2009 Literary Prize, which asks for interpretations of the Franklin quote: "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." Submission details can be found [here](#).

London SHH

London Shh... want to let you in on a secret! Benjamin Franklin House joined with five other Small Historic Houses to launch this new group in June. London Shh... exists to improve access to London's special historic houses in order to diversify and increase their audiences, and to share skills, knowledge and resources amongst group members. Discover the lives and legacies of famous London residents through their homes across the capital. From Franklin to Freud! Find out more at www.LondonShh.org.uk.

Benjamin Franklin House in the News

*The House served as a backdrop for the UK BBC Culture Show interview with the Director Guillermo del Toro!

*4th of July at Benjamin Franklin House was recommended in the [press](#)!

*Benjamin Franklin House is listed in the Time Out's guide '1000 things to do in London...!'

*We received pro bono photography support from [Julia Bernstein](#)!

*The House featured in an article in [The American](#) magazine!

* National Portrait Gallery Director featured Benjamin Franklin House in his [blog](#), after speaking at a breakfast on Arts in a challenging climate at the House!

*Secrets of the Founding Fathers, a two-hour special, highlights Benjamin Franklin House in June and July on The History Channel!

*In keeping with Franklin's passion for technology, Benjamin Franklin House is now on Twitter; [sign up](#) and follow us! We can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/benjaminfranklinhouse!

Thank you as always for your continued interest and support.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Márcia

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