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*Since opening last year, thousands of visitors have discovered Franklin in London through the Historic Experience*

#### **APRIL 2007**

Writing from Craven Street in 1758, Benjamin Franklin noted, "Do not squander time for that's the stuff life is made of." Heeding those words, as described below, we have had an exciting and full first quarter of 2007 with much to look forward to this spring.

And with the end of the first quarter comes the close of our first financial year as an open museum and educational facility which brings Franklin's rich London story and timeless values to life through the Historical Experience; inspires young people through the Student Science Centre; and supports researchers through the Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre. In support of our educational mission, we have welcomed over 10,000 visitors. And I'm pleased to say we are now debt free. We had one outstanding loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund of £275,000 that provided cash flow during conservation. With final payment of the Heritage Lottery Fund's 2004 grant, a \$150,000 matching gift from the Pew Foundation, and generous individual contributions, we were able to achieve repayment last week! I am grateful to outgoing Treasurer, Ralph Quartano CBE, for his help in this endeavour as well as for his long years of service and advice.

It is important for us to continue to attract the public, increase private hire of the House, and raise grants and donations in order to meet the cost of our operations in this new financial year. As announced in the last eGazette, we have launched an Endowment Campaign of £4 million in order to secure the long-term future of the House and its aims. US Ambassador to Britain, Robert Tuttle, has graciously agreed to serve as Honorary Chairman of the Endowment Campaign, and stalwart supporter Robert H. Smith has promised to match the first \$300,000 raised toward the Endowment this year. Endowment supporters will receive distinctive benefits. Please be in touch to discover more.

#### **\*BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE 1<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

To celebrate our first birthday we welcomed guests to Benjamin Franklin House for a gathering with our Chairman Sir Bob Reid. Friends raised glasses in toast to a successful opening year in Franklin's Parlour, where Dr. Fatsides, as Franklin dubbed himself, would take his supposed 'air bath' in his birthday suit!

#### **\*STATE DEPARTMENT DINNER**

Benjamin Franklin House was feted in the State Department's Diplomatic Reception Rooms in January. Our host was Kurt Volker, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, with assistance from another State Department senior official, Colleen Graffy. Among special guests were Treasury Undersecretary Robert K. Steel and Lady Catherine Manning, wife of Britain's Ambassador to the US, Sir David Manning. The event helped raise the profile of the Benjamin Franklin House Foundation in the United States and the Endowment Campaign underway. The event, covered by the Washington Times, featured guest speaker Walter Isaacson, head of the Aspen Institute and author of 'Benjamin Franklin: An American Life'. Walter remarked of 36 Craven Street, "It's a simple row house that's very much like Benjamin Franklin - unpretentious and practical."

#### **\*SPECIAL VISITS**

The Wellcome Trust, the University of Chicago, Greenwich Decorative and Fine Arts Society, the Marketors Livery Company, and the Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens Society were among special visitors to the House in the period! We can arrange special evening Historical Experience shows, receptions, lectures, and dinners. Contact [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org) to find out more.

#### **\*EDUCATION**



*The Student Science Centre where children, with a little help from Stan the skeleton, can learn about the House's role in the history of medicine*

Children from all over London, including those from international school TASIS, have begun 2007 with a visit to Benjamin House on our weekly Student Free Day to try their hand at Franklin experiments. They also have a Historical Experience customised for them. Schools also have the privilege of a visit from Ana Doria Buchan, our Education Officer, who takes her Benjamin Franklin Travelling Suitcase illustrating Craven Street science to the classroom. Adults from The University of the Third Age have also enjoyed the Student Science Centre proving, like Franklin, that education should be life-long.

**\*THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE SCIENCE DAY - 27 APRIL 2007**

Our annual Benjamin Franklin House Science Day will be a treat for this year's partner schools. The event at the Royal Society - Britain's premier science body where Franklin was an early member - will feature a variety of activities that demonstrate how Franklin's work arose from a spirit of enquiry which led him to ask questions, seek answers and develop solutions. Scientist Bryson Gore will perform a series of demonstrations that practically and excitingly illustrate Franklin science.

**\*THE ANNUAL BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCIENCE FAIR - 25 JUNE 2007**

The Royal Society of Medicine will be the site of the Annual Benjamin Franklin Science Fair where student teams will display their Franklin-related experiments and findings. Visiting scientists and educationalists will judge their efforts - but there will be prizes for all!

**\*CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES**

Sharon Manitta, textile conservator and journalist continues her conservation lectures at Benjamin Franklin House (£8 per lecture; 6.45pm arrival 7pm start). Sharon has a graduate degree in textile conservation from the Courtauld Institute of Art and has worked for museums in the U.K. and America. Book places by emailing [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org) or call + 44 (0)20 7839 2006.

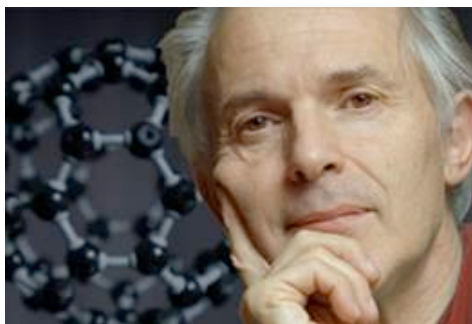
17-April 2007: England Expects - the Textiles of HMS Victory

Nelson's Column, just steps away from Benjamin Franklin House, celebrates the exploits of the great seaman Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758-1805). This talk centres around the fore topsail of HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship during the famous Battle of Trafalgar, one of Britain's largest historic textiles. Learn how the item, which was also used at Nelson's funeral, was authenticated and the stories it tells.

Lecture 4, 15-May: The Future of Historic Textiles

Sharon will review the future of historic textiles in the Internet era with ample opportunities for questions and answers.

**\*NOBEL LAUREATE TO FEATURE AT 2007 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE SYMPOSIUM WITH THE ECCLES CENTRE FOR AMERICAN STUDIES SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND SUSTAINABILITY: AN ADDRESS BY SIR HARRY KROTO**



7 August 2007

British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1

6:30 pm; £10 includes talk and reception; RSVP by emailing [info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org](mailto:info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org)

Mark your diary for the 2007 Benjamin Franklin House Symposium with the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library. This year's exceptional speaker will be Sir Harry Kroto, one of the great minds in science today. His lecture will explore key aspects of 21st century science: what science is, how people, the media, politicians and others perceive science and scientists and some of the problems non-scientists have in understanding science, engineering and technology.

**\*BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE JOINS FORCES WITH SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE**



Benjamin Franklin House is pleased to announce a joint venture with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to celebrate the premiere of Eric Schlosser's 'We The People,' a vivid drama formed from surviving speeches, letters and official documents from the moment Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, George Washington and other founding fathers, came together at a moment of crisis that created the United States. Performances will take place in September and we will have more information in our next eGazette.

In the interim, the Globe is pleased to offer specially priced tickets to friends of Benjamin Franklin House for their spring play, 'In Extremis,' running between 15– 26 May, a tale of how those who challenged the orthodoxies of the medieval age helped usher in the Renaissance. To book call the Globe box office directly on +44 (0)20 7401 9919 and quote '£10 offer.'

**\*BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE POTENTIAL FILM LOCATION**

Location Works has selected Benjamin Franklin House as one of its 'hot' properties. They call 36 Craven Street a "superb Georgian town house...with many original features." Location Works finds locations of all descriptions for the film, television and photographic industries and is the largest and busiest company of its kind in Britain. They have recently organised locations for Jimmy Choo, Marie Claire, Vogue and Sainsbury's among others. Visit

<http://www.locationworks.com/library/pics/11/10989/indexhtml> to see our listing as well as some fantastic images of the interior and exterior of the House.



**\* BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE**

Don't miss April's edition of BBC History Magazine. Benjamin Franklin House is highlighted as a 'must see' for those on the trail of US history in Britain.

Spring is a time of new beginnings - we will continue to follow Franklin's advice to make the most progress we can in the days ahead. Thank you, as always, for your time and consideration.

All good wishes,

Márcia

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If you do not wish to receive these briefings; would like to add someone to the list; have a question; or want to make a contribution: email [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

