

2007 Craven Street eGazette - 2nd Quarter Review



Above, from left; Dr Bryson Gore educated and entertained over 100 young people at the 2007 Benjamin Franklin House Science Day on 27 April at the Royal Society, Britain's premier science institution, where Franklin was an early member. Right, students from Curwen Primary School in London, with our Education Manager, Ana Doria Buchan, celebrate winning the 2007 Benjamin Franklin House Science Fair with a creative and practical project on insulation.

Benjamin Franklin, 1767 Craven Street letter to landlady Margaret Stevenson (then traveling):

"Every thing goes on smoothly, and the House [is] very quiet; and very clean too, without my saying a Word about it. ...In Truth I find such a Satisfaction in being a little more my own Master, going any where and doing any thing just when and how I please without the Advice or Controul of any body's Wisdom but my own small as it is...I begin to think I should be still happier if Nanny and the Cat would follow their Mistress, and leave me to the Enjoyment of an empty House, in which I should never be disturb'd by Questions of Whether I intend to dine at home, and what I would have for Dinner; [or] by a Mewing Request to be let in or let out. This Happiness however is perhaps too great to be conferr'd on any but Saints and holy Hermits. Sinners like me I might have said US, are condemn'd to live together and tease one another, so concluding you will be sentenc'd to come home tomorrow, I add no more but that I am as ever Your affectionate Friend and humble Servant, B Franklin.

Dear Friends,

The pleasure Benjamin Franklin found at 36 Craven Street is evident in the passage above from a 1767 letter to his landlady, Margaret Stevenson. This pleasure extends to our visitors today who experience Benjamin Franklin House as a dynamic museum and educational facility. And this particular day as well: 4th of July 2007, when we welcomed friends to the House for some Independence Day cake and bubbly.

It has been a positive, eventful quarter. Read on to discover the latest.

Educational Outreach

2007 Benjamin Franklin House Science Day

On 27 April, Benjamin Franklin House held its annual Science Day at the Royal Society featuring three inner city London schools: Streatham and Clapham School, Cayley Primary School, and Kobi Nazrul Primary School. More than 120 pupils took part in the fun and informative sessions which highlighted some of Franklin's most important investigations. Franklin had a deep interest in the practical application of scientific knowledge and special guest, scientist Dr Bryson Gore, captured the children's attention with experiments that popped, illuminated, and crackled, showing how the great man's 18th century explorations have led to some of today's most important technologies. As Benjamin Franklin House Education Manager, Ana Doria Buchan notes, "Franklin liked to ask questions and in his search for potential answers, he broke new ground. This spirit of enquiry, an approach central to the UK National Curriculum, enthused both the children and their teachers alike!"

2007 Benjamin Franklin House Science Fair

Students from schools in the London boroughs of Newham, Southwark and Croydon took part in the annual Benjamin Franklin House Science Fair at the Royal Society of Medicine on 25 June. The children grappled with a timely question which Franklin posed during his years at Craven Street: *How can we get more energy from less fuel?* They applied their ingenuity in developing a 21st century response. All participants on the day were prize winners but the overall winner was Curwen Primary School – the students cleverly investigated what materials make the best insulation – as judged by representatives from the BBC, the City of Westminster energy program, and the Science Museum.

Benjamin Franklin House and Shakespeare's Globe



Shakespeare's Globe will soon recreate the extraordinary Philadelphia convention of 1787 that led to the American Constitution in **We The People**, a play by historian Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*. The vivid drama is forged from surviving speeches, letters and official documents from that historic moment when Benjamin Franklin and others crafted principles for a new nation. **We The People** opens on 2 September and friends of Benjamin Franklin House can purchase tickets at the special rate of £10 by calling the Globe box office on 020 7401 9919, quoting 'Benjamin Franklin £10 offer.' www.shakespeares-globe.org

Benjamin Franklin House Publicity

History Channel Filming at Benjamin Franklin House

Well-known British scientist and television personality, Adam Hart-Davis, ventured to Benjamin Franklin House recently to film a conversation with the Director about Franklin's scientific activities at Craven Street. He also tried his hand at the lightning and glass armonica experiments in the Student Science Centre. The segment will feature in his upcoming autumn program for the History Channel, 'Just Another Day.' The series looks at the science of everyday life and Adam will show the continued relevance of Franklin's many investigations and inventions.

On the Web

[24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk) now feature Benjamin Franklin House at <http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/museum/AM32238.html>. We are also highlighted on Home&Abroad Trip Planner at [http://www.homeandabroad.com/c/16/Site/71702 Benjamin Franklin House visit.html](http://www.homeandabroad.com/c/16/Site/71702_Benjamin_Franklin_House_visit.html)

Collaboration with Local Businesses

Our local Starbucks shops are publicising Benjamin Franklin House on their community notice boards. Venerable bookstore, Blackwell's, nearby to the House on Charing Cross Road, recently featured the House in a display on Franklin and American History.

Endowment Campaign and Operations Challenge Grant

We are putting Benjamin Franklin House on the map, yet there is still much to do. Funding is necessary to ensure we meet our educational aims and annual expenditure. An endowment of approximately £4 million (\$8 million) will help secure the long-term future of the building. Earlier this year we launched the Campaign in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the US State Department. US Ambassador to Britain, Robert Tuttle, serves as Honorary Chairman. Our great supporter, Mr. Robert H. Smith, for whom the Scholarship Centre is named, has pledged \$300,000 if we can raise the same amount this year toward the endowment. To date, we have received a pledge of \$75,000.

To help with our operations this year, Mr. Smith has also pledged \$100,000 if we can raise \$200,000. The Annenberg Foundation has recently pledged \$25,000 to this end. Please lend your support. Contact us at Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org or +44 20 7839 2006.

Upcoming Events

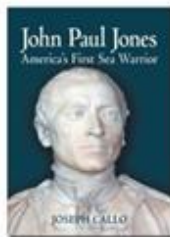
2007 National Archaeology Week – 17 July 2007

Benjamin Franklin House is participating in the UK's National Archaeology Week (NAW). The fit is perfect given the House's architectural significance and archaeological importance (with more than 1000 bones found during basement conservation, remnants of an anatomy school run by the son-in-law of Franklin's landlady). We will open our doors to NAW student participants on Tuesday, 17 July, allowing these young visitors to discover more about the history of 36 Craven Street.

Nobel Laureate Speaking at the Benjamin Franklin House Symposium with the Eccles Centre for American Studies – 7 August 2007

Science, Society and Sustainability: An Address by Sir Harry Kroto, in cooperation with the Eccles Centre for American Studies, will take place on 7 August at the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 at 6.30 pm. One of the great minds in modern science, Sir Harry will explore 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. £10 includes talk and reception. RSVP by emailing info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org

A fresh Perspective on John Paul Jones – 27 September 2007



Retired Rear Admiral Joseph Callo, author of *John Paul Jones: America's First Sea Warrior*, 2006 winner of the prestigious Samuel Eliot Morison Award, will enlighten on this best known and least understood naval hero of the American Revolution on 27 September. A hero in America, a celebrity in Paris and a rogue in London, Jones, Admiral Callo will argue, was much more. He will explore Jones' relationships with Franklin and the other Founding Fathers. £8 includes talk and reception at the House. RSVP to info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org

Private Hire and Showings at Benjamin Franklin House

Groups such as the Ophthalmic Antiques Society and Syracuse University booked private showings of the Historical Experience this spring. The House has also welcomed a number of researchers including Harvard Professor Joyce Chaplin, author of *The First Scientific American*. You can find information necessary to book for the Historical Experience from www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

Your Events at Benjamin Franklin House

Britain's Wellcome Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund have both held recent dinner's in Franklin's Parlour in the quarter. And while the festive season may seem far away, now is the time to reserve space at the House for special and seasonal events. Our unique venue is ideal for corporate evenings, elegant lunches, memorable receptions and exclusive dinners, all in an exquisite 18th century setting. Capacity ranges from seated dinners for 25-40, to receptions and buffets for up to 50. Contact us at info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org to find out more and to receive our hire brochure.

Finally, at this mid-point in 2007, we would like to thank you for your continued interest and support from a busy and pleasant Benjamin Franklin House!

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