**For immediate release**

**Incredibly rare British five-pound note engraved by Graham Short to be auctioned in aid of BBC Children in Need**

*One of the five Graham Short engraved five-pound notes is going to auction to raise money for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.*

On Friday 8 December 2017, one of the five-pound notes engraved by micro-artist Graham Short will go under auction in aid of BBC Children in Need through Morton & Eden auctioneers. Absentee bids for the note are being taken now through Morton & Eden, with all proceeds from the sale of the note going to BBC Children in Need.

The five-note under auction features an engraved portrait of Jane Austen, alongside the quote: ‘*To be fond of dancing was a certain step towards falling in love’* from Austen’s novel, *Pride and Prejudice*.

In 2016, Micro-artist Graham Short engraved four consecutively-numbered examples with five millimetre portraits of Jane Austen surrounded by four different quotations from her novels, making each note unique.  Inspired by the ‘Golden Tickets’ from Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,* and in collaboration with the Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery, Short anonymously released his notes into general circulation in December 2016. A fifth and final note was personally presented by Graham Short to the Jane Austen Centre in Bath to mark the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the author’s death in July, 1817.

Whilst Graham Short’s Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish specimens of the Jane Austen £5 have been discovered in circulation by members of the public, the English example currently remains at large.

The note donated to BBC Children in Need, serial no. AM32 885552, was found by an individual in Northern Ireland who generously returned it to the Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery with an accompanying letter reading *‘...£5 note enclosed, I don’t need it at my time of life.  Please use it to help young people.  Kindest regards...’* to honour her wishes the Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery and Graham Short decided to forward the note to BBC Children in Need.

 BBC Children in Need currently funds 2,600 projects supporting disadvantaged children and young people in communities across the UK.

**~Ends~**

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**Notes to Editors:**

BBC Children in Need’s vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential. The charity will realise this vision by supporting, promoting and publicising work that addresses the challenges that children and young people face and work that builds their skills and resilience.

BBC Children in Need is currently supporting over 2,600 projects in communities across the UK that are helping children and young people facing a range of disadvantages such as living in poverty, being disabled or ill, or experiencing distress, neglect or trauma.

Further information on BBC Children in Need can be found at bbc.co.uk/Pudsey as well as our social media channels.

Absentee bids can be placed on the note here: <https://www.the-saleroom.com/en-gb/auction-catalogues/morton-and-eden-ltd/catalogue-id-srmort10031/lot-ce1a5d1f-2356-45df-a6e0-a82d00d431c9>

The Tony Huggins-Haig Gallery can be contacted via: info@thhgallery.com or Michael@thhgallery.com