



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

Press Office

Threadneedle Street

London EC2R 8AH

T 020 7601 4411

F 020 7601 5460

press@bankofengland.co.uk

www.bankofengland.co.uk

14 September 2012

Bank of England charity banknote auction

A charity auction of Bank of England banknotes with low serial numbers will be held on Wednesday 26 September 2012. The auction will be conducted by Spink Auctioneers.

The proceeds of the auction will go towards two charities chosen by Bank of England staff: the British Association for Adoption & Fostering and the Kids Company. Both charities are focused on providing care and support for children in the UK and offering them a better start on which to build their future.

The auction will include both single notes and sets. All the single notes are the new £50 note issued on 2 November 2011 which depict the entrepreneur Matthew Boulton and the engineer James Watt. The sets are made up from the current £5, £10, £20, old £50 and new £50 all bearing matching serial numbers. Other notes that will be included are a selection of the first printed £5, £10 and £20 bearing the signature of Chris Salmon, Chief Cashier and Executive Director for Banking Services which were issued into circulation on 12 September 2012¹.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The auction will take place from 5.30pm at Spink's auction house on 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET.
2. Full details of the sale, including how to bid on line, are available on Spink's website (www.spink.com) or by contacting Spink direct on 020 7563 4000.
3. Media enquiries should be made to the Bank's Press Office on 020 7601 4411.
4. Each year, Bank of England staff are invited to nominate a charity to benefit from fund-raising throughout the following year. Staff then vote to select the Charity of the Year. Two charities were chosen for 2011/12.

(Cont'd)

¹ The current £5, £10 and £20 notes bearing the signature of Andrew Bailey or Merlyn Lowther remain in circulation and can be used normally.

5. The *British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF)* helps to find families for some of the most vulnerable children in the country. There are nearly 90,000 children in care in the UK who need the security of a permanent family: the *BAAF* seeks to provide this by finding appropriate family pairings.
6. *The Kids Company* seeks to provide practical, emotional and educational support to vulnerable children living in inner-city London. It focuses on helping to empower children who have dealt with very insecure home environments, and seeks to provide them with support to grow in confidence and have more fulfilling lives.
7. This is the third auction of low numbered Bank of England banknotes. Previous auctions were held in 2003 and 2007. In 2003 £20,335 was donated to the *Commonwealth Education Fund*. And in 2007 £25,105 was shared equally by the charities *Chance to Shine* and *Reading is Fundamental UK*.