



**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

18 July 2017

## **The new £10 note unveiled**

Today, on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jane Austen's death, Governor Mark Carney unveiled the design of the new £10 note featuring the world-renowned author. The note is printed on polymer and is the first Bank of England banknote with a tactile feature to help blind and partially sighted users.

As it is made of polymer, the new £10 note is cleaner, safer and stronger. It joins the Churchill £5 in the first family of polymer Bank of England banknotes and a new £20 note featuring J.M.W Turner will follow in 2020. The £10 note contains sophisticated security features which make it very difficult to counterfeit. It is expected to last at least 2.5 times longer than the current paper £10 notes – around 5 years in total – and stay in better condition during day to day use.

The new tactile feature on this note is a series of raised dots in the top left-hand corner and has been developed in conjunction with the RNIB. This is in addition to the elements already incorporated in Bank of England banknotes for vision impaired people; the tiered sizing, bold numerals, raised print and differing colour palettes.

The new £10 note will be issued on 14 September 2017 and the public will begin to see them in the following days and weeks as the notes leave cash centres around the country and enter general circulation. The public can continue to spend paper £10 notes as usual and these will be gradually withdrawn as they are banked by retailers and the public. Legal tender status of the paper £10 featuring Charles Darwin will be withdrawn in Spring 2018 with the exact date being announced at least three months in advance.

Speaking at Winchester Cathedral, the resting place of Jane Austen, the Governor said: "Our banknotes serve as repositories of the country's collective memory, promoting awareness of the United Kingdom's glorious history and highlighting the contributions of its greatest citizens. The new £10 note celebrates Jane Austen's work. Austen's novels have a universal appeal and speak as powerfully today as they did when they were first published. The new £10 will be printed on polymer, making it safer, stronger and cleaner. The note will also include a new tactile feature on the £10 to help the visually impaired, ensuring the nation's money is as inclusive as possible."

Security features on the new £10 note include:

- A see-through window featuring the Queen's portrait.
- Winchester Cathedral shown in gold foil on the front of the note and silver on the back.
- A quill at the side of the window which changes from purple to orange.
- A hologram which contains the word 'Ten' and changes to 'Pounds' when the note is tilted.
- A hologram of the coronation crown which appears 3D and multi-coloured when the note is tilted.
- A book-shaped copper foil patch which contains the letter JA.
- Micro-lettering beneath the Queen's portrait with tiny letters and numbers that are visible under a microscope.
- The words 'Bank of England' printed in intaglio (raised ink) along the top of the note.

Victoria Cleland, the Bank's Chief Cashier, said: "The new £10 note marks the next exciting step in our introduction of cleaner, safer, stronger polymer banknotes, and I am grateful to the cash industry for their work towards a smooth transition. I am delighted that the Jane Austen £10 note incorporates an innovative tactile feature, which I hope will greatly benefit blind and partially sighted users."

As announced in July 2013, the note will celebrate the achievements of Jane Austen. The design includes:

- The quote – "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!" from *Pride and Prejudice* (Miss Bingley, Chapter XI).
- Portrait of Jane Austen. An engraving by William Home Lizars that was commissioned by her family and based upon an original sketch of Jane Austen drawn by her sister, Cassandra Austen.
- An illustration of Miss Elizabeth Bennet undertaking "The examination of all the letters which Jane had written to her" – from a drawing by Isabel Bishop (1902-1988).
- The image of Godmersham Park. Godmersham was home of Edward Austen Knight, Jane Austen's brother. Jane Austen visited the house often and it is believed that it was the inspiration for a number of her novels.
- Jane Austen's writing table – the central design in the background is inspired by the 12 sided writing table, and writing quills, used by Jane Austen at Chawton Cottage.

Further details about The New £10 Note can be found on [www.thenewten.co.uk](http://www.thenewten.co.uk)

ENDS

## Footnotes

1. Images of the new £10 note can be found on the Bank's Flickr [site](#)
2. The educational film which explains the security features of the new £10 note is available on the Bank's Youtube [channel](#)
3. The event at Winchester Cathedral including the Governor's remarks will be webcast live on the Bank's Youtube [channel](#)
4. For copies of the educational film, or B-roll footage of the £10 note being printed, please contact the Bank's Press Office on [press@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:press@bankofengland.co.uk)
5. Victoria Cleland, the Bank's Chief Cashier, is available for interview on the new note. To request an interview, please contact the Bank's Press Office on [press@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:press@bankofengland.co.uk)
6. The new £10 note design includes:
  - a. Portrait of Jane Austen. Commissioned by James Edward Austen Leigh (Jane Austen's nephew) in 1870. James wrote the first biography of Jane Austen, 'A Memoir', published in 1870, and her family authorised the creation of an engraving by William Home Lizars as the frontispiece. It was based on the original sketch of Jane Austen which was drawn by her sister, Cassandra Austen, now in the National Portrait Gallery collection (NPG 3630). Image courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London.
  - b. The quote – "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!" from Pride and Prejudice (Miss Bingley, Chapter XI).
  - c. An illustration of Miss Elizabeth Bennet undertaking "The examination of all the letters which Jane had written to her" – from a drawing by Isabel Bishop (1902-1988), who illustrated E. P. Dutton & Company's 1976 edition of Pride and Prejudice. Copyright DC Moore Gallery, New York, representing the Estate of Isabel Bishop.
  - d. The image of Godmersham Park. Godmersham was home of Edward Austen Knight, Jane Austen's brother. Jane Austen visited the house often and it is believed that it was the inspiration for a number of her novels. Image courtesy of Jane Austen's House Museum, Jane Austen Memorial Trust.
  - e. Jane Austen's writing table – the central design in the background is inspired by the 12 sided writing table, and writing quills, used by Jane Austen at Chawton Cottage. The table belongs to Jane Austen's House Museum.
7. The KINEGRAM COLOURS® foil stripe on the new £10 note encompassing Winchester Cathedral, the coronation crown and the hologram which changes from 'Ten' to 'Pounds' is supplied by KURZ Group.
8. The Bank consulted with the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) over the introduction of the tactile feature and ran focus groups with blind and partially sighted people to understand whether a tactile feature would be useful and what design would work best. The new £20 note will also have a tactile feature and the current £5 note is distinguishable by the absence of a tactile feature.
9. Biographical details of Jane Austen follow at the end of this release.
10. In July 2013, the Bank [announced](#) that Jane Austen would appear on the next £10 note.

11. The Royal Mint released their Jane Austen £2 coin into circulation on 18 July 2017. For more details on UK coins, see [www.royalmint.com](http://www.royalmint.com)

12. Following a three-year research programme and public consultation, the Bank [announced](#) in December 2013 that the next £5 and £10 banknotes would be printed on polymer.

13. The Bank [announced](#) in March 2014 that it had entered into a contract with Innovia Security (now CCL Secure) to supply the polymer material for the next £5 and £10 banknotes.

14. The Bank [announced](#) in October 2014 that it had entered into a 10 year contract with De La Rue to print its banknotes at the Bank's facility in Debden, Essex.

15. In July 2015, the Bank [announced](#) that all future Bank of England banknotes would include symbols representing all four of the home nations. The imagery is taken from the Royal Coat of Arms and the Royal Badge of Wales.

16. The Bank [announced](#) in September 2015 that the next £20 note would be printed on polymer. The Bank is currently running a competitive tender for the supply of this polymer and expects to announce the outcome later this year.

17. £5 and £10 polymer banknotes have been awarded the Carbon Trust's Footprint Label for carbon footprint reduction. The label demonstrates that the Bank has accurately measured the carbon footprint of these denominations, and that over their full life cycle they will deliver carbon reduction benefits

18. Following the discovery in late 2016 that animal-derived additives were used in the manufacture of the polymer for the new £5 note, the Bank issued a [statement](#) acknowledging the concerns raised and began looking into the issue. In February 2017, the Bank took the [decision](#) that this £10 note would be manufactured on the same polymer material. At the point the decision was taken, the Bank had already printed 275 million £10 notes at a cost of £24 million.

19. The February statement also announced that the Bank would run a public consultation on the composition of the £20 note and future print runs of the £5 and £10. That [consultation](#) ran from 30 March to 12 May and the responses were used by the Bank alongside evidence from extensive technical trials, outreach meetings, commercial discussions and independent environmental research.

### **Jane Austen (1775 – 1817): a brief background**

Jane Austen was an English novelist who, using wit and social observation, provided astute insights into 19th century life, often praising the virtues of reason and intelligence and highlighting some of the barriers that society erected against the independence of women. Many academics and the public alike consider her to be one of the greatest writers in English history. In a BBC poll in 2002, the British public voted her as one of the "100 Most Famous Britons of All Time". *Pride and Prejudice* was voted the nation's second favourite novel in the Big Read in 2004, with a total of three of her works making it into the top 40 (*Emma* and *Persuasion* are the other two). In 1875, the Encyclopaedia Britannica lauded her as "one of the most distinguished modern British novelists".

Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775 in the parsonage at Steventon, Hampshire, one of eight siblings. After a brief period of formal education, she was home-schooled by her father, the Reverend

George Austen, who was rector of the parish. She read widely from a very early age, and wrote her own comic short stories from the age of eleven onwards, which she would then read aloud for the amusement of her family. Her brother Edward was adopted in his teens by rich cousins of the Austens – the Knights of Godmersham in Kent he later inherited. Visits to Godmersham, and holidays in Bath and the West Country, gave Jane ideas and local colour for the composition of her novels as she grew older.

It took time, however, for her novels to be accepted by a publisher and her first works were published anonymously. The first, *Sense and Sensibility*, was published in 1811, swiftly followed by *Pride and Prejudice* (1813, originally titled *First Impressions*), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1816). *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* were published posthumously in 1818. While her work gave her little personal fame and only a few positive reviews in her lifetime, her novels have never since been out of print.

Around the start of the twentieth century, Jane Austen's novels began to appear on university reading lists, and are today an integral part of English Literature courses at secondary and tertiary levels. The influential scholar, Frank Raymond ("F.R.") Leavis, referred to her as the mother of the great tradition of the English novel. Towards the end of the 20th Century, Austen's popular appeal increased with adaptations of her novels being developed for television. Books and films which used her novels as the underlying story also began to appear, demonstrating the timeless qualities of the themes of her writing.

Jane Austen died on 18 July 1817 and is buried at Winchester Cathedral. In a private journal written in 1826, Sir Walter Scott described Austen: "That young lady had a talent for describing the involvement and feelings and characters of ordinary life which is to me the most wonderful I ever met with...What a pity such a gifted creature died so early."