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STRIDES AUCTIONEER 'KNOCKED DOWN' BY A CHINESE BUYER

An 18th century Chinese bronze seated Buddha has been sold by Strides Auctioneers for £1,050 almost 20 times higher than the guide price! And the good news is that the successful buyer's bid has helped boost funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice.

The Buddha, along with other donated item thought to be of high value, was put to one side at the Hospice's Donation Centre in Summersdale awaiting a visit from Mark Hewitt, Director and Auctioneer at Strides in Chichester and Patron of St Wilfrid's.

For Mark knows that some collector's items raise far more money sold as lots at auction than they do on the shelves in the Hospice charity shops. He says, "I didn't know if the Buddha was any good or not and if it hadn't have had a Chinese inscription on the base I would have been less enthusiastic!

"However the present market for Chinese artefacts is booming, the Chinese economy is booming and they are buying a lot of gold and silver from this country and around the world. The Chinese are keen to buy back their heritage."

Although having seen a photo of the Buddha in Strides online auction catalogue, the absentee bidder will see his purchase for the first time when it arrives by ship in Hong Kong!

This is not the first time that an item sold at auction rather than in a Hospice shop has raised more than Mark first thought. One of the earliest items he viewed was a lidless Fry's chocolate tin in the shape of a lorry. Mark thought it might raise £50 however, surprisingly, it made over £1,000! A gilt mesh bag which turned out to be gold raised £700 and a window seat priced at £20 sold for £120!

As well as viewing items in the Hospice shops, Mark is also called in to take items from houses to send to auction. However, if there is anything he can't take he always tells the owner to take them to the Hospice shop.

If you have anything you don't want and you think it might be to the Hospice's advantage please call the Summersdale Donation Centre on 01243 775352.

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