



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Issued on behalf of Bennett Opie Limited

August 2015

### **Bennett Opie sponsor the NSPCC's Gherkin Challenge**

Fine food producer and distributor Bennett Opie Ltd has announced that they will be a main sponsor for the NSPCC's Gherkin Challenge, which takes place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015. One of Opies' long-standing and most popular lines are Cocktail Gherkins, so it is therefore fitting that Bennett Opie support The Gherkin Challenge. The money raised from the challenge will help support the charity's work protecting children and young people across the UK and preventing abuse.

A team from Bennett Opie will also be limbering up to take part in the challenge, where participants climb 38 floors to the top of iconic London skyscraper, The Gherkin. It takes an average of 11 minutes to reach the top, during which time 26 children will have contacted the NSPCC's ChildLine Service. Once at the top, runners can enjoy the panoramic views of the capital from the exclusive Searcy's bar, whilst sipping on a well-deserved glass of bubbly, and if they wish, a cocktail gherkin!

Managing Director at Bennett Opie Limited, William Opie, said: "We are pleased to support the NSPCC and its fantastic Gherkin Challenge. It is so appropriate for us, given the association between the location of the event and one of our signature lines. As well as sponsoring the challenge, we have a team in training who will be competing against one another to see who reaches the top first, as well as who can raise the most money to help end child cruelty."

NSPCC Head of Participation Events, Victoria Kellaway, said: "We're delighted to have Bennett Opie on board



as our sponsor for The Gherkin challenge – it’s a very fitting link to our much-loved challenge event at 30 St Mary Axe, which we all know as The Gherkin! We’re also thrilled that they will be entering a team to race to the top, helping to raise money to support our services like ChildLine, so that we can be there for more children and young people across the UK, whatever their worry, whenever they need help.”

Last year Opies sold almost 1.1million jars of gherkins, which if stacked end to end, would be 660 times higher than the Gherkin building.

To sponsor the team, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Opies-Gherkin/>. For further information or to register for The Gherkin Challenge as a team or individual, visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/gherkin](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/gherkin). Registrations will be open until 23:59 on Tuesday 1 September.

ENDS

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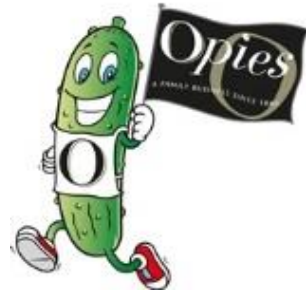
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**Notes for Editors:**

Bennett Opie is a fine food producer based in Kent that produces a wide range of cocktail products, speciality pickles, chutneys, olives, ginger, luxury fruits, sauces and compotes under the Opies brand. Bennett Opie is also the sole distributor for a number of speciality food brands including Monin, Lingham’s Chilli Sauce, Barry Norman Pickled Onions, Ferns Curry Pastes, Delice du Provence and Clément Faugier chestnuts.

**About the NSPCC**

The NSPCC is the only children’s charity fighting to end child abuse in the UK and Channel Islands. Using voluntary donations, which make up more than 90 per cent of our funding, we help children who’ve been abused to rebuild their lives, we protect children at risk, and we find the best ways of preventing child abuse from ever happening. So when a child needs a helping hand, we’ll be there. When parents are finding it tough, we’ll help. When laws need to change, or governments need to do more, we won’t give up until things improve.



Our ChildLine service provides a safe, confidential place for children with no one else to turn to, whatever their worry, whenever they need help. Children can contact ChildLine 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on 0800 1111 or by visiting [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Our free helpline provides adults with a place they can get advice and support, share their concerns about a child or get general information about child protection. Adults can contact the helpline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on 0808 800 5000, by texting 88858 or visiting [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

#### NSPCC helpline

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Text: 88858  
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### About The Gherkin

30 St Mary Axe, widely known as 'The Gherkin' is situated on the former site of The Baltic Exchange. Whilst The Gherkin isn't the tallest structure in the City at 180m (4<sup>th</sup> tallest in the City of London) it stands for significance as an iconic landmark which is synonymous with London and its skyline. The building is only open to its residents, guests and club members but there is an incredible amount to be experienced by the general public at its landscaped pedestrian plaza. From The Sterling Winebar to its residency of KERB street food market for City workers to taste every Thursday – The Gherkin is open for all. The building was officially opened in May 2004 and awarded the RIBA Stirling Prize in October 2004.