

The World of Personal Number Plates

Regtransfers

Volume 3, Issue 1

.co.uk

A very special
birthday present for
Linda Lusardi

Also in this issue
**Birthday Plates
on Loan**
**Sharp Shooter
Noel Woodall**
- Autonomerologist
**Mind How
You Go!**



Scooby Doo!



The best purchase I ever made was my **S200 BEY** personal number plate. It turns heads, and puts a smile on people's faces. Just received your new magazine within two days of placing order, and very impressed.

JOHN CRAZE Gloucestershire

Letters & emails

Write to:
The Editor
Regtransfers.co.uk
139 High Street South
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3SS

or email:
editorial@regtransfers.co.uk

PLENTY OF TIME

Just to say a big thank you for dealing with the transfer of **H12 SJM**. It was a present for my partner's birthday and the plates arrived in plenty of time and the documents arrived a day later. He is very pleased!

Many thanks again

JILL FARLOW
by email

*PS: I contacted another dealer at the same time as yourselves and I'm still waiting for them to let me know if an **SJM** plate is available!!!*

KEEPING PROMISES

Your service has been excellent. I was particularly impressed by your efforts to get my transfer of **ENZ 9143** expedited. The delay was solely due to laxity on the part of the Ferrari dealer, the postal service and the Northern Ireland Office.

Emma Jane Clark (RT Admin) has been excellent in keeping promises to ring me back and keeping me informed of the progress of my application.

Thank you very much.

S RAO FRCP, FRCPG
Berkshire

THANKS A MILLION

Just thought I would let you know that I have received my car tax and transfer papers. I hope to put my new number plate **B4 EMH** on my car this Tuesday.

Thanks a million for all your help over the past few months.

ELAINE HAYES
by email

WILL CARES

I just wish to pass on my thanks and appreciation to one of your salespeople, Will. I have spoken to him on a number of occasions over the past week, and he has found **R555 LOL** for me. I had ordered a number from another company over the internet which was a disaster because they did not confirm my purchase.

I deal with people over the telephone every day, and it was nice to speak to someone who was understanding and willing to take the time to help. He was courteous, friendly and obviously cares about customer satisfaction.

I hope you will note this and pass on my appreciation.

LAWRENCE PARRY
by email

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

Hey, thanks for the good service on both plates. I bought **D4 WBE** for me and **P14 YJO** for my girlfriend. She is a music teacher and would have no hesitation in recommending you.

PAUL DAWBER
by email

FIRST CLASS

I recently purchased **H9 TBH** from you. Just like to let you know, I found your service first class. From speaking to your operator to receiving the documents I could not believe how fast it was. Your staff were courteous, efficient and totally professional in the way I was dealt with.

The plates are now fitted to my Jaguar S-Type and they look fantastic. Once again thanks for everything.

TONY HEPPLER
by email



IMPRESSED

Sorry for the delay in replying, but just had to say how impressed I am in the service you supply. As you will see from the photo I am the proud owner of **L16 EML**. Many thanks. I will have no hesitation in recommending your company to my friends.

E M LENNOL
London

Canadian Double

Prize Winner!



Earlier this year we asked a nationwide sample of our customers to give their personal rating of the level of satisfaction they experienced from various aspects of our customer service.

All contributors' names were entered in a Personal Registration prize draw and the lucky winner was **Russell Jones** from Deeside who has chosen the registration **J16 CDN** as his prize.

Russell informs us that our congratulatory email had arrived, coincidentally, on his birthday. "The registration plate prize made a nice birthday present," he added.

Russell, who hails from Canada, has lived in the UK for ten years and had never been able to remember any of his previous registrations until he decided to buy **J15 CDN** from Regtransfers.co.uk earlier this

year. He explains that the 'J' stands for his surname, '15' is his house number, and 'CDN' represents his country of birth.

Russell's success in our Personal Registration Prize Draw meant that he was able to choose **J16 CDN** as his prize, to enable him to have consecutive number plates on his pair of Rovers (pictured above).

"Now that I have two sets of personal plates, it looks like I will have no problem remembering them in future," Russell tells us.

No excuse now for losing your car in Tesco's car park, Russell!



The maple leaf is shown for the purposes of the article only.



In our last issue we featured Mike Allen of the **Dunstable Fast Fit Station** who kindly performed the prize draw for us.

Mike told us of a very interesting advance in tyre maintenance that the **Fast Fit Station** is pioneering - Uniflate Nitrogen.

Under inflated tyres increase tread wear, fuel costs and the risk of punctures and also have a significant effect on a car's performance.

In order to prolong tyre life you should perform fortnightly checks and, of course, drive sensibly. However, there is now a more radical solution to the problem - *fill your tyres with nitrogen!*

Compressed air contains about 80% nitrogen anyway but the other 20% includes potential harmful

quantities of oxygen and water. Removing these will reduce oxidation of both the rubber and the wheel. Furthermore its molecular structure is less likely to permeate rubber, so your tyres stay inflated much longer.

Dunstable's FastFit Station is one of the first in the country to provide nitrogen inflation. For more information and details of your nearest nitrogen inflation service, call Uniflate on 01527 559561 or visit:

www.uniflate.com



FastFit Station
162-170 High St South • Dunstable
Bedfordshire LU6 3HS
Tel: 01582 476699

What do YOU think?

Have you any comments or news on this or any similar motoring innovations?
If so, please send an email to: editorial@regtransfers.co.uk



Birthday Plates on Loan

Todd Loan had only just had his 13th birthday, when his dad, Nick, saw **V12 TOD** for sale on the Regtransfers website.

He knew instantly that it would make the perfect present for his young son, whom he affectionately describes as a 'petrol head'.

His only dilemma was how he could register the plates for a 13-year-old. The friendly staff at **Regtransfers.co.uk** came up with some alternatives. Nick's choice was to put the plates on his car and was pleased to see young Todd's delighted reaction. "It is simply the best birthday present ever", said Todd.

10 pence

Dad, Nick, wasn't too unhappy about the number plates either. "It's given my four-year-old Jaguar a new lease of life", he said

delightedly. "Overall, a great success!" In fact he has also worked out that the cost of Todd's ownership of **V12 TOD** works out at "no more than 10 pence per week" for the duration of his driving life.

He is now on the look out for a replacement for the day when Todd takes his plates and puts them on his first car.

Todd's brother and sister are also into their own personal number plates. Brother Mitch is taking delivery of a VW Golf and will be putting his **V6 MWL (Mitchell Ward Loan)** plates on it. Sister Melissa is taking delivery of a Mini about the same time and she can't wait to

put **V16 MJL (Melissa Jay Loan)** on it either.

To complete the family interest, Nick's wife Julie, is also the proud owner of her own personal number plate, **X5 JLO**, which is currently on her BMW X5. Julie hasn't got a middle name, hence the initials JLO (short for Julie Loan) on her plate. But perhaps to be known as 'J-Lo' isn't such a bad thing anyway.

It's obvious that the Loan family are well and truly into personal number plates and dad Nick concluded by saying: "Thanks to Regtransfers for all the above plates".



Mad about plates?

Do you have a story about number plates?
If so, please send an email to:
editorial@regtransfers.co.uk

Historic Dunstable Priory

Down Our Way

*Article and photograph:
Stan Thompson*

Did you know that Henry VIII visited Regtransfers' hometown of Dunstable at least six times during the period 1537 - 1543?

He was on friendly terms with Gervase Markham, the last Prior of Dunstable and because Dunstable had several large inns, he always stayed-over when travelling on the Holyhead Road (A5). On Henry's last visit he stayed at the White Horse Inn near to the crossroads in High Street North.

For centuries Dunstable has welcomed visitors to its town.

Successive Norman Kings found its unique location at the junction of Watling Street and the prehistoric Icknield Way an ideal place to meet.

They maintained a royal hunting lodge and established an Augustinian Priory.

The Priory was founded by Henry I and in 1131 he granted the Priors authority to regulate markets which have been held continuously near the town's prehistoric crossroads ever since.

In 1533 Cranmer rode into Dunstable to meet the Bishops of

London, Winchester and Bath. Together with Prior Markham and various advisors they sat in the Priory's Lady Chapel for nearly two weeks, discussing not only the legality of Henry VIII's first marriage to Catherine of Aragon, but also the advisability of standing out against the wishes of the Pope.

Their decision that Henry's second marriage to Anne Boleyn was legal set into motion the break with Rome and the establishment of the Church of England.



HEN 12Y and **TUD 10R** are currently available exclusively from Regtransfers.co.uk at £24,995 and £5995 respectively



Namesake

Anthony Heyes was reading our magazine and thought we might like to see the picture of his car shown recently at RAF Shawbury with his personalised plate **H6 YES**.

"I think the plate really sets the car off" says Anthony, "and I have an interesting story to go with it."

"Some years ago I was travelling north on the M6 motorway heading towards junction 21a that leads off to Liverpool. I was plodding along at the unheard of speed of 40mph - to this day I can't think why I was at that speed."

flashing blue lights

"However, as I majestically swept off the M6 to join the M62 westbound, I was woken out of my daydream by the usual flashing blue lights and for a second or two wasn't sure if it was me they required to stop. The truth dawning, I signalled and stopped on the hard shoulder waiting for the officer to approach."

"The officer in question asked me to leave the vehicle and step to their Range Rover. He proceeded

to enquire why I was driving at such a slow speed. Having discussed this and pointed out that the minimum speed limit was apparently 30mph.

"He then announced that he liked the look of my number plate **H6 YES** and wished that he had it. I replied that it would only be of use to anyone with the name HEYES, to which he replied 'that's okay because my name is Heyes . . . Tony Heyes', and sure enough he produced his warrant card."

"I bet there are not too many

people who get stopped for going too slow on the motorway by a policeman with exactly the same name whilst in a car with the same name, albeit **H6 YES** on the number plate."

Mad about plates?

Do you have a story about number plates?

If so, please send an email to: editorial@regtransfers.co.uk



Eee, By Gum, What a Pair!



Renaud Spencer has two superb plates available on retention certificates.

"I've been actively looking to sell them both as a pair, perhaps to a Northerner with more cash than sense (yes, there are a few!)" says Renaud.

"I have been looking for £20,000 for the pair. But though I got a lot of interest, mainly from Yorkshire Life magazine, as yet, no firm bites."

"Your salesman, Mr Tuck, pointed out that they might sell more easily with a photo in your magazine."





Linda Lusardi's very special birthday present

*Interview: Angela Banh, Rick Cadger
Photography: Stan Thompson*

Linda Lusardi and **Sam Kane** are one of the UK's best-known celebrity couples. They must also be amongst the busiest. As is often the case, each of them is probably best known for a particular moment in their working lives - even though both careers have moved onwards and upwards since their respective moments of initial fame. For Linda that point was a spectacularly successful career as one of the country's top models, while for Sam it was a role in a popular television soap opera.

These days, in addition to frequent television appearances, Linda is kept busy promoting her own range of beauty products, and Sam has only recently found time to take a break from the stage work that has kept him busy since his last TV role. Any rest, however, will necessarily be brief as the couple have to prepare for the hectic pantomime season, which will keep them fully occupied at the end of the year.

Regtransfers visited Sam and Linda at their home in Hertfordshire to deliver the personalised number plates that Sam had bought Linda for her birthday in September. What we expected to be a short visit turned out to be a very enjoyable day that kept our interviewer and photographer so 'busy' that they didn't make it back to the office at all that afternoon...

LU54 RDY is Linda's first personal car registration, although several years ago at a photo shoot she was offered a chance to buy **L1 NDA**.

"Oh it was perfect, absolutely perfect," she says. "They said I could buy it if I wanted to before they sold it at an auction. Ah, but they only gave me one evening to

decide because it was going to auction the next day." Sadly, Linda couldn't talk her husband at the time into agreeing to the purchase, so the registration was sold at auction. "Every time I think about that I kick myself that I didn't buy it!"

Although that one might have got away, Linda is delighted with **LU54 RDY**. Sam decided some time ago that it would be a great birthday present, and he arranged for Regtransfers to secure the registration on his behalf as soon as it became available.

make up your own

"It was something I thought about when they first started issuing the new number plates," he says. "When was that? 2000 wasn't it, when the '00' ones first came out? Well, I was just looking for new registration numbers on the website and I saw that thing that lets you make up your own number plate and see if it's available. I had hours of fun playing with that!"

"I worked out that when the '54' registrations came out, by seeing the numbers as letters, **LU54 RDY** would work. The only variation is the last letter, which is a 'Y'. Linda's name actually ends in 'I', but they don't issue that letter on registration plates."

Although the idea for Linda's gift had occurred to him two years earlier, Sam didn't forget and when the release date for '54' registrations drew nearer, he contacted a friend who put him in touch with Regtransfers. When RT called Sam a few months later to say that the number had been secured on his behalf he was delighted.

"I can't thank you guys enough. I'm thrilled to bits."

Sam has a couple of personal registrations too.



"When you just run out of gift ideas for people it's nice if you can find something like this."

"I have **V24 SAM** and **K5 KNE**. The **KNE** one was a bargain. I don't know if I'll get any more, but I think they're really nice to have," he says.

Linda adds: "And I think when you just run out of gift ideas for people it's nice if you can find something like this."

"Actually," says Sam. "I've just organised one for my brother as well. He's a mad Evertonian, so I've got **S222 EFC** for him. You might know that Everton's theme tune is the music from *Z Cars*, so to him the 2s will be Zs. He's chuffed to bits... In fact, he's putting them on his car today."

The mention of Everton strikes a mischievous chord with Regtransfers' photographer, who just can't resist asking a question that has obviously occurred to Sam and Linda before. When Sam is in *Carousel* how does he reconcile singing 'You'll Never Walk Alone' with his Evertonian loyalties?

"Well, the good thing is I never have to sing it, I'm dead. Billy Bigalo is the lead character in *Carousel* and he's dead by the time that's sung."

Linda points out: "Although you do have to lie on stage dead, listening to it every night!"

"Yeah, I do have to listen to it," Sam admits. "But I wear my Everton shorts under my trousers while I'm onstage."

For the moment Sam is resting from his stage work, but at Christmas he and Linda are appearing in pantomime in Woking. "We direct as well," he

says. "So it's a really big gig for us this year."

With all this theatrical commitment, Sam must love acting and singing.

"It's a ruthless business, it really is. It's full of so many people who want to get in your place, overtake you. I think it's really important just to keep your feet on the floor, and just to treat it as a job - which is what it is, you know. It's a very nice job, it's got lots of trappings, and how many jobs can you do that you wanted to do all your life? But at the end of the day it's still a job and it puts the bread on the table.

"But don't get me wrong: we love it. It's something I've always wanted to do; and Linda's been acting now for seventeen years... which is a lot longer than I've been doing it, so she's got more experience than me, but you know I've just had a few lucky breaks."

One of those breaks seems to have been the demand for Sam's man's-man aura.

"I think there's a shortage of leading men who look like leading men, you know?" he says. "Blokes who look like blokes on stage. But I think it's just important now, I think it's going back to the way it used to be where men looked like men and acted like men. When you're up there doing your role and performing your piece, you've got to look like the part you're playing."

pantomime

The next project for both of them is the pantomime of *Snow White* in December.

"If it weren't for pantomimes, theatres would close," Sam says. "They give the theatres six or seven weeks, guaranteed full bookings."

So what kind of production will *Snow White* be?

"Oh it's fantastic," Linda smiles. "None of your cardboard cut-out horses in this one. It's certainly not your old amateur dramatics type thing. This is a big, lavish, West End style production."

Sam nods. "It's beautiful to look at. It's beautifully lit and the sound is fantastic. Linda plays the wicked queen, she's just sensational."

"And the effects are great," says Linda. "We have a big flying

butterfly this time. Flying rigs are really massive in theatres, and a massive cost too. Then there are all sorts of magical illusions that come in for the transformation from me to the hag.

"Then there's the mirror! I did *Snow White* for seven years as Snow White, and then I've played the wicked queen for five years. In that time there's been so many different mirrors! We've tried every effect: television screens; boxes on stands with people inside and lights shining on them; people pushing their face through gauze. Sometimes things have gone terribly wrong. For example, when we've had voices on tape, you asked it a question and it didn't answer or the wrong answer came! Oh, but the magic mirror this time is just... Well you know the mirror in *Shrek*? The way it's kind of holographic. We've got exactly the same kind of effect. It talks and the mouth moves and everything."

It's a busy time for the couple, but surely they get plenty of time to prepare for such a complex production?

"No, we only have 10 days rehearsal," says Linda. "And it really is a busy schedule. We usually get Christmas Day and New Year's Day off, but I think we're working Boxing Day."

"That's right," Sam agrees. "Two shows every day, it is a busy schedule, it's exhausting."

All the more exhausting because they have an hour's journey home at the end of each day.

"Well we have to," says Linda. "Because the kids are at school."

The logistics may be a challenge, but Linda and Sam are veterans, having done seven or eight pantos together. Working together provides a welcome opportunity for them to see more of each other. The nature of both careers has meant more time apart than they would like.

Brookside

"Sam was in *Brookside* for three years. He lived in Liverpool until he met me and moved to London. Then he got the *Brookside* job which was back in Liverpool, and he had to commute from London for the three years."

And where did they meet?

"In a panto, of course! I was Snow White and Sam was the Prince."

Linda has done her share of acting outside of pantomime too. Her first role was in the stage play *Funny Peculiar* which gave her a taste for acting.

"I also did *Pygmalion* with Philip Madoc. Philip played Higgins and I





was Eliza.” Linda hesitates for a moment. “I’m not sure I should really tell this...”

“But Philip already told it on your *This is Your Life*,” says Sam.

“Oh, yes. I suppose that’s all right then.

“Well, Philip had just come from doing some really heavy Shakespearean play, and at the first day of rehearsal for *Pygmalion* he knew every single line. I was worried, and I said to the director, ‘But I don’t know it yet’. He told me that was all right, and that I shouldn’t know it because he wanted to work through it with me. He told me not to worry, but I sat at home really concerned that Philip knew it and I didn’t.

“I found out later that most people don’t know their full part at the first day of rehearsal. They have an idea of it, but they mostly learn as

they work through the two weeks of rehearsal.

“Anyway, we opened, and I was sure that the press were coming along to rip me to pieces as it was the first time I’d done any serious acting. Well, in the second half there’s a scene after Eliza has run away from the ball. Higgins goes to his mother to tell her that Eliza bolted, and she tells him that she’s not surprised considering how he spoke to Eliza.

waiting in the wings

“Well, I was waiting in the wings watching, even though I wasn’t due back on for a few minutes. Anyway, when Philip said that Eliza had bolted, his mother delivered the line about not being surprised and then he just stood there. He saw me and rushed over to the wing saying, ‘What’s my next line?’, so I told him. He went back

on and said the line, then she said her next line - and then Philip ran over again and said ‘What’s my next line?’. I told him what I thought it was, and he said, ‘That’s not right. That’s not this play. Get my script’. So I ran to the dressing room and got his script, and when I got back he was standing at the side of the stage. The lady playing his mother was sitting at the writing desk on the stage waiting and the director was calling to her, asking if she was all right, and she was saying, ‘I’m perfectly all right, just carry on’. Well, I gave Philip his script and then he was going, ‘My glasses, my glasses!’” Linda laughs. “I went and got his glasses, and for a while it was as if he’d never seen the play before in his life. He read the rest of the play from the script with his glasses on.

“My next scene was a big dialogue that goes on for twenty minutes and at the end of it he ends up



going for my throat. Not at all like *My Fair Lady*, it's much heavier, and the funny thing was that Philip did the whole scene with the script in his hand. I was so new to the business that I just had to keep telling myself to pretend I was still in the rehearsal room, and just carry on.

"I got wonderful reviews and they just slated poor Philip for stumbling over the lines. It had never happened to him before, and fortunately it's never happened since."

Sam recalls Philip's contribution to Linda's *This is Your Life*. "They were telling me what incidents had happened, and I thought that Philip would never turn up in a million years, but he was fantastic. He went on last - top of the bill at the end of the show - and he told that story. I thought it was wonderful."

This is your life

"It was the Christmas *This is Your Life*," says Linda. "They surprised me on stage where I was playing the wicked queen. They kept the audience and everything. Lionel Blair was talking to the audience, as he always did, and then he said that we had a special guest. That was when Michael Aspel came on. I knew it was somebody's *This is Your Life*. I looked at Lionel and thought it couldn't be him because he'd just introduced Michael... and he was looking at me! Sam had

tears running from his eyes and I thought, Oh... it is me! Then I just burst into tears, thinking it doesn't happen to people like me. Then I thought that I hoped they hadn't got the kids out of bed, because Jack was only a baby and it was about ten o'clock by then."

Both have had work commitments that have taken them away from home: Sam's long run with musical theatre and Linda's appearance on Channel 4's *The Games*.

The Games was a big hit with the children, who were avid viewers.

"Yes, they did watch it. One of the stipulations that I had was that I would be able to phone home at least once a day... I wasn't going to do it otherwise. I used to phone home about 8' o'clock in the morning and the kids would say: 'Oh mummy you tried really hard!' and I'd say I was sorry I didn't win. They always said: 'Oh it doesn't matter - at least you tried'. So they loved it. I think it was half term week actually, so they sat down and watched it every night. They had their popcorn ready to cheer on Mummy."

So had Linda been enthusiastic about the offer to join *The Games*?

"Actually, no. I kind of wondered who else was in it. And they all turned out to be so much younger than me... But then Sam told me not to be ridiculous. He said I couldn't pass up a chance to train with Colin Jackson and be

pampered and looked after all the way through with sports massages!"

The massages were certainly needed, as the show made serious physical demands on the participants.

"At first, you know, I was just walking wounded. I could barely get out of bed to get to the car; but a couple of weeks later you kind of get through that. Your muscles are just so much stronger. By the end of it I was a completely different person. It was fantastic and I didn't realise that at my age you could improve your body as much as I did. For example, the first time I tried to do the 100 metres, I struggled to finish and I thought I was going to have a heart attack at the end of it. But later on I had a photo finish with Isabella Harvey, who is 22 and runs 6 miles a day. That's how much I improved!"

Since *The Games* Linda has been busy with another project.

"I've launched my own skincare range, so I've been doing Ideal World on television, which is sort of like QVC. I've been doing that once a month."

There are seven products in the range which is called Linda Lusardi's L7. The cleansers, anti-wrinkle creams and skin firming tonics in the range are made from natural ingredients, the most exotic of which is probably the alpine edelweiss that provides the common element running through the range.

Edelweiss

"Edelweiss lives up in the Alps, and because of the strong sunlight at altitude it's had to create its own sort of sun screen," says Linda. "The scientists in Switzerland have found that extracts from the edelweiss can actually repair skin cells that have been damaged by the sun."

At the moment the Lusardi L7 products are only available from the <http://www.l7-studio.com/> website, and from Ideal World on the days when Linda appears. The main reason for keeping distribution controlled at the moment is that Linda doesn't want to generate more demand than they can currently supply. Judging by the interest already evident, supplying major retail outlets at this stage would be quite a challenge. The vital edelweiss is

an endangered plant, so it has to be farmed specially. As Linda points out, now interest is established they can increase the scale of the farming. It is obvious that Linda is taking the project forward one step at a time according to a well-formulated plan, and that plan includes expansion.

enthusiasm

Her enthusiasm is obvious. "The properties are unbelievable. It really is fantastic. I've been using it for a year and I've seen a big improvement in the lines around my eyes. We were looking at photographs I had taken about 12 months ago and, compared to how my skin is now, I looked old!"

Home for Linda and Sam is in the Hertfordshire village where they have lived for about eight years.

"It's not been all plain sailing," says Linda. "When we moved in I was just about to give birth to Lucy, who's 7 now.

When they built this house they cut a lot of the trees down, and the trees take the moisture out of the soil. Without the trees the earth swells up where the moisture is not being taken. Anyway, they built the house and they didn't build it properly: they didn't put the right protection round the piles. I think the house was about six years old when we bought it, and about three years after we moved in we started noticing some cracks. We got the insurance company round and they said that because the crack was wider at the top than it was at the bottom it meant the house was being pushed up by the pressure under the earth... It was pushing the house up and cracking it in half.

"Anyway, I had to move out for a year. Sam was away and I had a brand new baby. I had to move away, they were in here a year and they had to dig all underneath. They had everything out: kitchen out, bathrooms out, everything out. The whole house was gutted."

Drastic though all that sounds, it still hasn't completely solved the house's problems

"They sunk new piles down a long way," says Linda. "A bomb could go off now and it wouldn't move, but when they did the concrete floors they put metal trunking in for the pipes to go

in. Unfortunately they didn't solder the pipes before they filled in the floor! This was about 3 years ago, then about a year ago we started to get patches of water coming up through the carpet."

All this meant that they had to move out for another two weeks while further repairs were done to half of the house.

Linda continues. "Then about a month after that it started to smell under the stairs, so it's obviously running from that half of the house now, so the kitchen's got to come out. We've had nothing but nightmares since we've moved in."

Sam laughs at this. "But we do love it here. That's why we're still here!"

"I love it," says Linda. "We're not overlooked and we have great neighbours. This is our bit of peace and quiet."

Our reporting team concur with Linda's sentiment and are reluctant to leave the tranquility of the couple's delightful home.



Health & Beauty Products by
Linda Lusardi
 The Sinner's Sexy Woman's Choice

Details of the Lusardi L7 range can be found at:

<http://www.L7-studio.com>



READERS' GALLERY

Send your photos to: editorial@regtransfers.co.uk



ROB EVANS Canvey
Island, Essex



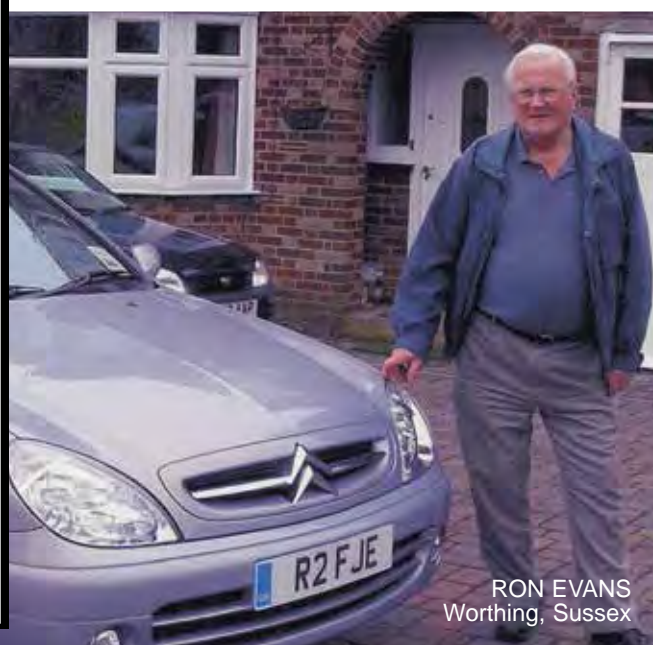
NIGEL ROSENDALE by email



STEPHEN SHAW
by email



M PEVY Bucks



RON EVANS
Worthing, Sussex

Sharp Shooter

Andy Sharples, from Wolverhampton, purchased his first private plate, **B9 NDY**, nine years ago. After using the plate for two years Regtransfers sold it for me for a nice little profit. At that time his 'Dream-Plate', **S114 RPS** (his nick-name is SHARPS) had not been registered as the "S" plates had not been released.

Over the last few years he has searched for **S114 RPS** many times wondering if it was available to purchase. To his surprise, a year ago, he found it on the Regtransfers.co.uk website and in their monthly magazine.

Recruitment

At that time he hadn't long started up his own recruitment agency in Birmingham, **Driven Recruitment Ltd** but the price of the registration mark was definitely 'a dream' as all his money was tied up in the business.



He considered buying **A511 ARP**, which was available from Regtransfers.co.uk and more affordably priced, but was not *the* plate he really wanted, so he held back on any purchase.

my girlfriend **Claire Morgans**," said Andy, and concluded by adding, "Regtransfers have definitely given us our 'dream plates'".

Mad about plates?

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If so, please send an email to:
editorial@regtransfers.co.uk



Over the following months business picked up and he put a few offers in for **S114 RPS**. The deal was finally concluded a few months later.

"As I am in my third successful year of trading, and Regtransfers gave me such a quality, friendly service, I purchased the registration mark **C141 REM** for



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Noel Woodall

The Father of Autonumerology



Interview and colour
photographs: Len Stout

RAF's *Air Mail* magazine asking fellow members for information about mayoral and distinctive number plates. It worked and he received so much information that he decided to compile and publish it in a small book entitled *Car Number Galaxy - Celebrities*. It cost him £250, which was 6 months' wages to Noel in those days.

homework

It contained a fascinating list of registrations, the cars they were on, and who owned them at the time. Noel did his homework and included in the book's forward a brief history of car registrations from 1903 on, plus a whole page on the history of **A 1**. The book also contained an index of registration letters and where the cars bearing them were first registered in the UK. The MP, Gerald Nabarro was featured heavily in this first issue as he owned **NAB 1** through to **NAB 5** (he eventually owned **NAB 6** through to 10 as well). Other well-known registrations and their celebrity owners featured were, Arthur Askey (**AA 10**), Norman Wisdom (**NW 4**), George Formby (**GF 1** and **GF 2**) and Harry Secombe (**HS 92**). A great many of the 'number one' registrations listed were on mayoral cars owned by local councils, eg: **BK 1** (Portsmouth), **FV 1** (Blackpool) and **TR 1** (Southampton).

Noel followed this with other small

Noel Woodall coined the phrase *Autonumerology* in 1964 to put a name to his new found interest in car registrations, thus making him the world's first Autonumerologist. In the 40 years since, he has remained fascinated by personal number plates and probably knows more about them than anyone else. And on meeting him it is obvious that he also accumulated a myriad of amusing stories to illustrate the subject.

Noel was born (and named accordingly) on Christmas Day, 1930 in Oldhill, Staffordshire. His father was a photo-framer and his mother dealt in Art Deco objects and mirrors amongst other things. Noel recalls: "Our house was more like a shop in those days, perhaps that's why, from the age of seven, I became involved in buying and selling."

At the age of 17, Noel volunteered to join the RAF as an Air Crew Navigator and completed three years of happy service. When he left the RAF he worked for an early radio and TV retailers before forming his own company, *Electraders*, who specialised in erecting aerials. He continued running the business until his move to Blackpool in 1961 where he worked for Currys, a company that is still around today.

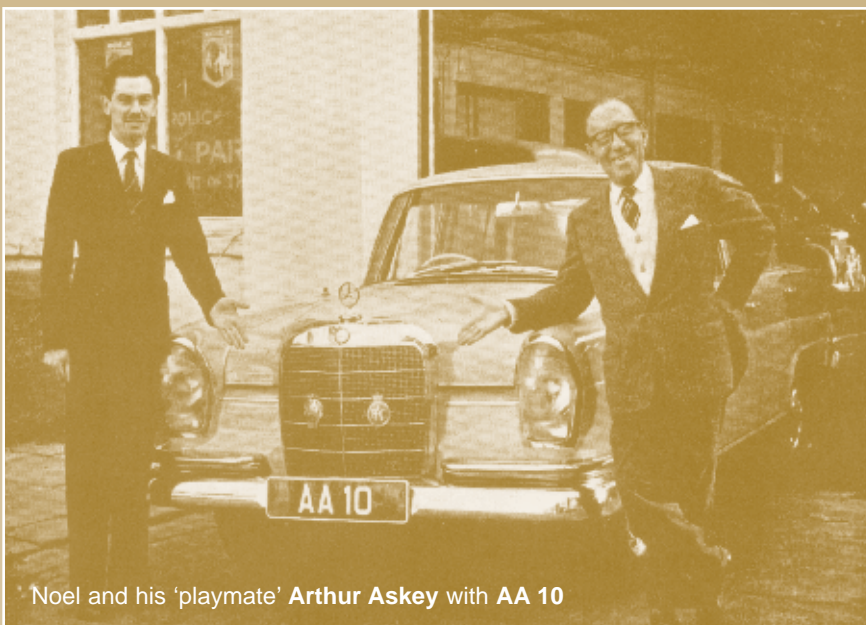
Noel's interest in number plates began in 1962, not long after moving to Blackpool. He was driving back to his home in the

world-famous seaside resort one evening, when he saw a car with the registration **BB 4**. It captured Noel's imagination and he immediately thought, "That's an interesting number plate, I wonder who owns the car?" He started asking around and his tenacity paid off when he discovered that a local bookmaker owned it. This was to be the beginning of Noel's fascination with personal number plates. Interestingly, **BB 4** eventually came into the possession of Regtransfers but, as with most quality registrations, was soon sold to a new proud owner from Kidderminster in 2004.

Noel went to the local library to see if there were any books on the subject but found to his dismay that there were none. Undeterred, he decided to put an advert in the



It 'turned out nice again' for George Formby with **GF 1** & **GF 2**



Noel and his 'playmate' Arthur Askey with AA 10

Noel followed this with other small books entitled *Veterans*, 'More Celebrities' and the now very rare *Cartoons* edition illustrated by his good friend, Mr Fred Fawbert. All these books were printed by Weaver & Youles Ltd, of St Annes-on-Sea, and the proceeds going to The Trueloves School for Seriously Crippled Boys' in Essex. Since then he has compiled a total of 24 books on the subject of number plates, several of which were edited by his friend and colleague Brian Heaton. The most recent was published in 2000, entitled *Car Numbers*, and was the 11th edition to bear that name, the first being issued in 1969.

backgammon

In 1962 many newspaper articles were written about number plates as a result of Noel's books, the first recorded was *Seeking Their Status by Car Numbers*, by Rex North of the *Daily Mirror* on Friday, March 16th of that year. Noel's fame and expertise were even employed by the MP, Gerald Nabarro for a while in the 1970s, who wanted him to arrange the transfer of car registrations. He eventually went back to buying and selling and opened his own shop offering high quality chess, mahjong and backgammon sets.

He finally gave it up to become secretary of the Hotel and Apartments Social Club in Blackpool. Noel is still there to this day and seems to be thoroughly enjoying it. The club is very successful, which isn't surprising as it is one of the few clubs in Blackpool that don't charge extra on celebrity cabaret nights – Tom O'Connor and Peter Kay being two recent acts.

Noel's first purchase was of **W 3**.

"These single-letter, single-digit plates are what I consider to be the best", he exclaimed. His first ever sale was **CDM 1** (denoting Cadburys Dairy Milk) and was for an undisclosed sum. One strange fact that came to light whilst talking to Noel was that he admitted that he "never actually did a number plate transfer himself", he just arranged it and took a commission. Mind you, he has owned a few over the years, the most fitting being **XMA 5**, the day he was born, which he eventually sold for £4,000.

Looking to the future, Noel doesn't think he will compile any more

books on his own and when asked for his opinion of the Regtransfers book, *Fanatical about Number Plates*, he replied, "It's fantastic, beautiful and it must be carried on".

Thanks for that, Noel. We will do our best.

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What do YOU know?

Do you know of any famous celebrity plates?
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Noel Woodall welcomes Regtransfers' MD, Tony Brown to Blackpool



RT Team Spotlight

Ian Clayton, *IT Manager*

This is the second in a series of articles that we hope will enable our readers to get to know **Regtransfers.co.uk** a little better. We will feature a different member of our team each time and gradually you'll become able to put faces to the voices you hear when you call us. Many of our managers and sales advisors have been with us for more years than they care to admit. They are generally a modest and retiring group of people (they asked us to say), but after much persuasion they have agreed to appear here.

In this issue, IT Manager **Ian Clayton** courageously fielded the probing questions of our investigative interviewer, **Angela Banh**.

First of all, what does 'IT' stand for?

Information Technology. That is, the systems we use to manipulate the vast amount of data we hold on our computers.

How long have you been at Regtransfers?

Six years.

What constitutes a typical day for you?

That's a difficult one! There tends to be a different project every day. Essentially, my responsibility is to ensure all our systems continue to run smoothly. We are constantly looking at ways in which we can improve our efficiency.

How have things changed since you have been here?

Enormously. When I started I was the IT department! Now I have five full-time staff. The company used a tiny database - an old DOS system called 'Cardbox'. This has now been replaced by a massive state-of-the-art system specially designed in-house to cope efficiently with the vast scale of our customer-serving tasks.

Tell me about your team members.

We have a Database Administrator, a System Support Engineer, both Senior and Junior Systems Developers and a Web Designer.

What is your role as IT manager?

I need to make sure everyone does what they are supposed to. Also to ensure back-up and



recovery systems are in place and that customer confidentiality remains secure.

How would you describe Regtransfers as a place to work.

Wonderful! It is a challenging and demanding role but very rewarding.

Do you own a personal number plate yourself?

Well, I currently have the number **1 CC** on my company Smart car. It represents my full initials. (No, I'm not going to tell you my middle name. Oh, OK then, I suppose it's not too embarrassing. It's Christopher.)

I'll have to come clean, however, and tell you that I don't actually

own it. We use some of our stock numbers to draw attention to our business and advertise what we do. So it's actually for sale, although I rather hope no-one buys it!



1 CC is available exclusively from Regtransfers.co.uk at £150,000

Book of the Century



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