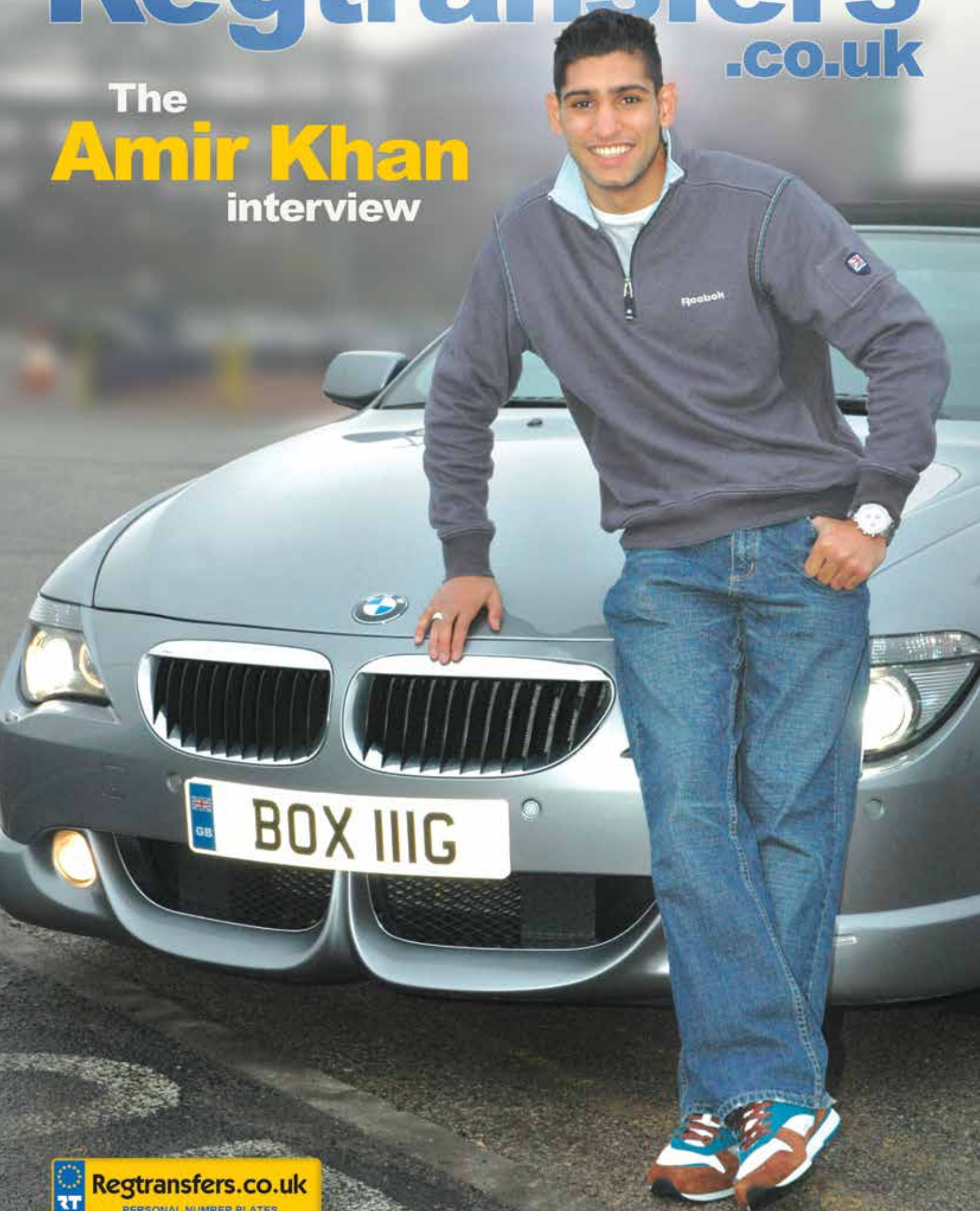


The World of Personal Number Plates Summer 2007 

# Regtransfers

.co.uk

The  
**Amir Khan**  
interview







## Plate Oddity

Like most men I've always been interested in cars. I'd never bought a personalised number plate before seeing **BOW 11E**, not that I hadn't been interested, but I'd never come across a plate that particularly interested me.

I've been a fan of David Bowie for as long as I can remember. When my wife and I were discussing names for our first son I suggested the name Bowie, which was swiftly greeted with a rather loud NO!

After some discussion we finally



that if our son was born on 8th January (the same birthday as David Bowie) then we would call him Bowie. Lo and behold he was born on 8th January, so Bowie it was! That was just over five years ago now.

More recently, while looking through the Regtransfers.co.uk website, I found the **BOW 11E** number plate and just had to have it and immediately made an offer online. A young lady called Lianne called me back the same day and we agreed a price. I must say, the service was both efficient and professional and the certificate came through in just a couple of weeks.

Having bought the **BOW 11E** plate, we were compelled to get one for our other son - his name is Enzo. We decided to look through the Regtransfers website once again the same evening and came across **ENZ 30**. So we bought that one too! It was another young lady called Tracy who dealt with this sale and again the service was efficient and professional; both of which qualities I appreciate and ensure are practiced at my company.

I am the Managing Director of Hemel Hempstead based **SJD Accountancy**, which is currently the fastest growing accountancy firm in the UK and this year looks set to enter the list of top 50 accountancy firms. I started the firm on my own, way back in 1992, from the spare room in my house. Now, after 15 years of continual growth, we employ around 80 staff in 8 offices throughout the UK, and this year, projected turnover is £9m.

My family, friends and business colleagues all think the plates are great - especially **BOW 11E**. We are constantly having our photo taken when driving through London and invariably get lots of anticipated looks. The only trouble is people tend to be slightly disappointed when they see it isn't David Bowie stepping out of the car.

**Simon Dolan**  
Managing Director  
SJD Accountancy



**S J D Accountancy**  
Chartered Tax Advisers and Accountants

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The  
Marc  
Jebb  
David  
Dolly  
Brian  
Mick  
Annie  
Bob

**B347 LES**

**BOL 4N**

**I3 ECK**

**CRO 58Y**

**PAR 70N**

**F3 RRY**

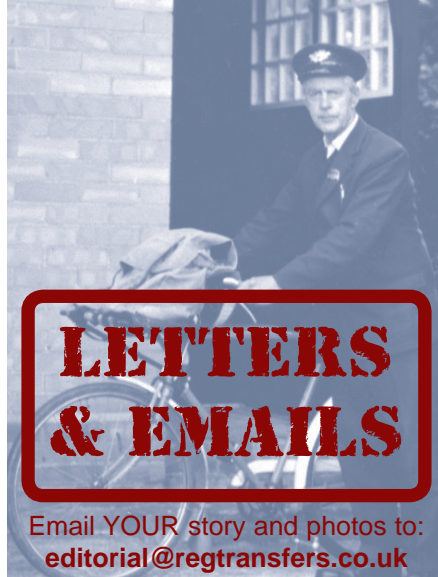
**J46 GER**

**LEN IIOX**

**M4I2 LEY**

All available exclusively from Regtransfers.co.uk





## Tut, tut

As you can see, I am delighted with my plates as I am mad on Tutankhamun and Egypt.

**Malcolm G Simmonds**  
Chesterfield

## Fantastic

Having always been a fan of private plates, my decision on a number plate for my new car was causing problems. Previously all my numbers had been related to my business but the Aston Martin ownership, dreamed about and lusted after for most of my adult life, demanded something special.

I wanted a plate that would be specific to the car and that would do justice to the moment, without breaking the bank. All the obvious routes of AML (Aston Martin Lagonda), AM or DB numbers were either taken or prohibitively expensive. A tough one.

So, I decided to talk to Shane at Regtransfers. After a few weeks, the plate was on the car: 3 and 4 makes 7,



## Excellent

Just a quick note to once again say thank you for all your help with the purchase of **154 ARF**, which has been placed on my Volkswagen Golf.

I have been looking for a personalised number plate for about a year, I wanted something close to my name, Arif. I searched most sites without success, I then found Regtransfer.co.uk where I found a dateless plate, **154 ARF**, at a reasonable price. I quickly purchased it, not wanting to lose it. One

of my main reasons for buying the plate is because I think it's a great investment and unique to have a personal plate on a vehicle.

Yours sales advisor was excellent. He fully explained the procedure involved and the online tracking kept me updated with progress.

It took me about three weeks from order to getting the registration on my vehicle.

**Arif Saddique**  
by email

for the DB7 (and everyone's lucky number), and VTG makes Vantage for the full picture. Aston Martin DB7 Vantage. Fantastic!

Living in Cornwall with an open top Aston is as good as life gets and you see the smiles when people quickly work out the number plate for themselves. I reckon it's added five grand to the value of the car already. It's certainly enhanced the pride of ownership factor, but I still have to work out how to keep the silly grin in check!

Thanks again for all the hard work in sorting this out. As you can see, I'm a happy customer.

**Chris Ogborne**  
Wadebridge, Cornwall







## B16 MAB comes to the rescue

It was a beautiful crisp, sunny day in April when I went to see Steve Mabbutt. He had kindly set aside time from his holiday preparations to talk to me about his latest and proudest number plate acquisition, **M488 UTT**. Early the following day he was due to fly out to Barbados to watch the Cricket World Cup Final between Australia and Sri Lanka, which we now know was won by Australia.

We met up at the car park of the Jetski Lake at Billing Aquadrome near Northampton. Steve, a good-looking, suntanned figure of a man, is one of seven children who spent a lot of their early years at the lakes. His family had regularly visited them over a period of 20 years and loved it so much that five years ago they finally bought their own homes there. Steve's mum Susan, who came along on the day, recalls Billing being a great place for the children

because it is a beautifully quiet location where they had the freedom to play safely. She even recalled how her husband Ron used to relax by fishing off the chalet verandah whilst watching television. Now that's relaxing!

At the tender age of 16 Steve joined the navy. He said, of his seven years service, "I loved every minute of it, although I was a little disappointed I never got to visit America". To rectify that omission he has just arranged a holiday in Las Vegas later this year.

Steve's interest in personal number plates started back in 1997 when he purchased **B16 MAB** and put it on a red Mazda MX3. It has since been transferred to his company car, a Vauxhall Frontera Sport. That early interest in number plates came from his late father, Ron, who has since passed away, who had always wanted a personal number plate but never got

round to it. Steve thought it would be a good idea to get one for Susan when his father died. He told her he had got her something special but teased her a little before finally telling her that he had bought **MR55 MAB** (Mrs Mab). Susan remembered the occasion and how one of her other sons commented that it was "as much use as a chocolate teapot". He was obviously not a big number plate fan. However, Sue was extremely pleased, especially as Steve told her that she had to have a new car to go with it. She is now very proud to be seen out and about sporting the registration on her new Hyundai Trajet. "I feels it's a little of Ron with me", she says, "and a great comfort".

*What's the story?*  
Do you have a story about  
number plates?  
Send **YOUR** photos to:  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)



One of his brothers, Zeke, used to own **X2 EKE** (X Zeke), which he got for his 21st birthday. But although he really loved it, he reluctantly had to let it go when he needed extra money for his wedding.

Steve's interest in number plates continued and he eventually found his ultimate registration **M488 UTT** for sale at Regtransfers. Initially he just couldn't justify buying it but made a point of keeping his eye on it over the next two years. Once his business became a success he was able to purchase the registration. "The transfer was quick and straightforward and the back up service was great", he said. Mind you there was a time when he nearly bought **5 MAB** but the seller pulled out at the last minute - which was a bit of a blessing as it turned out. He regularly receives updates of suitable number plates from

Regtransfers and has been tempted on many an occasion to expand his number plate portfolio.

Buying the **M488 UTT** registration was possible because of the success of his year-old company, **Repossession Rescue** which helps people in danger of losing their homes due to financial difficulty. **Repossession Rescue** offers advice and services such as organising a sales and rent back solution through responsible local landlords. When circumstances improve customers can then buy the property back.

This timely intervention has meant that Steve's company have saved the homes of 75 families (including 104 children) thus avoiding the trauma of having to move and start again from scratch. He is now so well respected that he has three mortgage lenders recommending his services.

Steve and his mum are popular figures around Billing Aquadrome and their number plates have prompted many a comment, some of which were mickey-



taking but, in the main, they have been complimentary. One thing I noticed whilst there was the number of cars going by that had personal registrations. It looks like he and his family have really started something in this Northamptonshire lake district.

Len Stout

**Repossession Rescue**  
[www.repossessionrescue.org](http://www.repossessionrescue.org)







## Stunning

At last, I have my certification through from the DVLA and my Volvo dealer changed the plates over last week. As you can see, the cherished plate looks stunning on my brand new Volvo V70.

I have been a loyal Volvo fan for the past 15 years and would never consider driving anything else. This special plate has endorsed my loyalty to the Volvo brand for evermore.

The plate caused a huge amount of interest at the Volvo dealership and I think they wished they had seen it before I did.

Thank you for all your help during the purchase of V6 LVO.

**Stephen Terrett**  
Torpoint, Cornwall

## What's the story?

Do you have a story about number plates?

Send **YOUR** photos to:  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)



## A Secure Investment

Mark Wincell PM Security Ltd

## Not bad, eh?

Just thought I would share with you a photo I took recently whilst on holiday in New Zealand.

In the picture are my two brothers Neil (center) and Peter (right) along with their mate and their cars. They all work and live in Auckland, New Zealand and they are all originally from Leeds in Yorkshire. The plates are 100% genuine

New Zealand registrations.

My brother's boss has the plate **EVERTON**. When I was there I saw all kinds of unusual plates and I now wish I had taken a few more photos. The plates are not as expensive as they are in the UK. My brother Peter paid \$375 NZ Dollars for his plate about 6 years ago which roughly converts to £138. Not bad eh? I wonder how much the plate

**L33 DSU** would cost?

**Martyn Baxter**  
by email





# Amir Khan - Boxing Clever

Boxing has produced some of Britain's best-loved sportsmen over the years. Despite the harsh, unavoidably violent nature of the sport, many of its top exponents have exhibited qualities and characteristics seemingly at odds with such a brutal profession. Champions such as Henry Cooper and Frank Bruno set an example, showing that boxers were often cheerful, friendly, and accessible. Regtransfers.co.uk's reporting team was delighted to discover that this tradition continues with Amir Khan, the UK's most exciting young talent.

We meet at a Bolton hotel for our interview, and Amir is immediately surrounded by fans, all eager to tell him how much they like watching him box. They tell his father, who is accompanying Amir, how they are sure he must be proud. Shajaad Khan assures them that he is very proud indeed. This is Amir's home territory, and the affection and support from local people is very evident.

Since his silver medal success at the 2004 Athens Olympics, when he was just 17 years old, Amir has turned professional. Boxing is no longer just a hobby, or even an obsession. It is his work. With even more riding on success than before, it is reassuring to note that he has emerged victorious from his first dozen professional matches. At the time of writing, he is preparing for a fight against Scotland's Willie Limond on July 14<sup>th</sup>, where the two will contest the Commonwealth Lightweight title currently held by Limond.

One of the main reasons for the Regtransfers team's visit to Bolton, aside from the interview itself, is to deliver Amir's great new personal number plates. A self-confessed personal registrations fan, Amir's BMW now sports **BOX IIIIG**, the ultimate boxing plate for Britain's ultimate rising star. But it is not the first he has acquired.

"I have **V60 XER** and **A180 XER**, and I had one given to me by a sponsorship the other day, **R6 KKO**, so I have a few."



Has Amir seen any others that he would like?

"Oh, the list would be too long! I'd really like my name, 'Amir' or 'Khan' or 'A Khan'. My dad has his name on his."

"Well I've got 'Shah' really. It's **S111 AHK**. K for Khan," says Shajaad. "And my brother, Taz, has got **TAZ 786**."

Amir sees a good number plate as being the finishing touch for a great car. "When you're driving it's just one of those things, isn't it? When you see a nice car you always have a look at the number plate. The one I had before was just a normal number, and it just wasn't the same. Now I have plates that say "A1 BOXER" or "BOXING" like on the one I'm getting from you... Well, people look at it and think, 'Yeah!'"

"It just finishes it off. Having a nice plate on your car instead of a normal one, makes a big difference. It gives a different look to *any* car. I think it's like a fashion thing as well, having your own plate on your car. I have a little collection now, one on the Range Rover and one on the BMW. I'm hoping to get another car very soon."

Is that part of Amir's plan, to get a new car every time he gets a new personal registration?

"Yeah, totally," he laughs.

Amir's enthusiasm for cars is obvious, and his success is making it possible for him to enjoy his hobby. A just return for the hard work he has put in from a very early age.

"I was eight when I started boxing. I was hyperactive when I was younger and I used to run around the house all the time, fighting with my cousins – always just full of energy. My dad took me to a boxing club, just to see if it would burn up some of that energy. So I'd be knackered at night time, and I would go to bed."

"But more than that, it gave me discipline and kept me out of trouble. Out of trouble with the police and everything, and kept me off the street. It got me this far, because I think that if I wasn't a boxer that's really where I could be. I have a lot of friends who are still just chilling on the streets with no jobs. And nowadays there are a lot of drugs about, and a lot of youngsters drink on street corners and stuff. Thanks to my boxing I've missed all that out."

"You know, a lot of people say to me that I've missed my teenage years, but I don't think so. I know a lot of people who would want to be in my position. I've been there, on the street. I might not have been there for long but at least I've experienced it a bit."

And that is not a situation Amir Khan wants to be in.

"Exactly. It's just not a place you want to be, man."

But Amir has good memories of his days "chilling" with his mates. That is where his love of cars began.

"Cars were always the big thing. People used to drive nice cars and we use to read the number plates and think, 'yeah, that one's a boxer' or 'that one's a footballer'! I've always been interested in cars, big-time. *Always* been into my cars!"

would like to get another car soon. I've never had a Mercedes, so I might just go for a Mercedes. Something not too fast, fuel's just too expensive."

With such an enthusiasm for cars, we expect Amir drives himself to the venues for his fights.

"Actually, not really. I get my dad to drive. I just chill in the back and fall asleep."

That small comment, as much as anything else he says during our time together, illustrates Amir Khan's confidence and composure. Not arrogance, or cockiness, but confidence. For a young man to be able to relax, even *sleep*, in a car on the way to have someone try to beat him unconscious is really quite extraordinary.

That confidence is, no doubt, buoyed by the spectacular support he receives from family, friends and the wider local community.

"Oh yeah. My whole family and more," Amir grins. "I have all of Bolton there, you know. I tell you, it's mad. I walk out of the changing rooms, I see my family and no one else, and I think, what's going on here? Has my family bought all the tickets? As well as close family and friends who we know are coming, there are often more who just make their own way there. I recognise loads of faces, even when I box in London. It's good."

Although Amir's family share his confidence, and believe in him firmly, they are not able to stay quite as calm as he does.

"It's like they feel more nervous watching it than I feel about doing it. It's the same for me when my brother [*amateur boxer, Haroon Khan*] fights, because he boxes as well."





He has represented England and won the Four Nations championship. I feel more nervous when he's fighting than I feel when I fight myself. It's because you just can't do anything. It's just one of those things, but it makes me know how they feel when I fight. But for us, as soon as you step inside the ring, all your nerves are just gone."

At the time of the interview, Amir had recently beaten Rachid Drilzane of France by a unanimous points decision (99-91 in ten rounds) for the IBF inter-continental light welterweight title. For a boxer who is more used to stopping opponents in early rounds, how did he cope? Has his confidence emerged from that test as strong as it was before?

"It was the toughest fight so far, because it was a long one. I had to test my stamina, test my strength and see if I could still be strong at the end of the fight. A lot of people were thinking that I'm quick at the first couple of rounds, but that I don't have the stamina to go those last rounds. But I proved a lot of people wrong that day! Actually, I think I could have gone another two rounds if it had come to it. It's good, you know. It shows the training I'm doing is working.

"I train every day. It's part of my job now. I get up and go to the gym in the morning, then go out for a jog at night time. Or maybe go to the health club. I use the Virgin gym or I use the Bolton Wanderers one. I'm allowed to use that for conditioning. I can go over there and use their massage or physio and



*Amir proudly displays his IBF Intercontinental Light-Welterweight title belt*

everything, and the team helps me out. I'm lucky."

What does Amir have in mind for the future?

"I want to go to America in the next 12 months, that's what I'm aiming for. I'm aiming for a title fight. 2007 will be a big year for me."

And Amir has that core of firm support that will be with him through it all.

"As well as my dad, I have Taz, my uncle, who works in my management team with our friend Asif and my sister Tabinda. I have another friend, Sajeed, a close friend, who sorts out all the fan

## THROUGH THE VIEW FINDER

*Reminiscences from Regtransfers' Roving Photographer*

When I was asked to accompany RT's reporting team to photograph boxing sensation, Amir Khan last December, I wasn't expecting to set out at five o'clock on one of the darkest and dankest mornings of the winter. Nor was I prepared for the imminent onset of a nasty chest infection that was to rob me of my voice later that day and leave me incapacitated all over Christmas!

But, despite my failing health, the excruciating early start and frustrating speed restrictions on the M6 imposed by a weeklong blanket of fog, I was filled with excitement at the prospect of meeting up with the new 'Lord of the Ring' at the De Vere Whites Hotel, which adjoins the magnificent Reebok Stadium at Amir's home town of Bolton.

A few weeks earlier, Amir had approached Regtransfers to help find him a very special registration to grace his new BMW convertible. Amir knew that Regtransfers was the first choice for a growing number of film, TV and sports personalities looking for quality registrations. And he was knocked out that Regtransfers could supply the ultimate number plate befitting an intrepid, young pugilist: **BOX 111G.**

And I, too, was knocked out when I finally got to shake hands with this personable, young sportsman. Indeed, it seemed like Christmas had arrived a week early! As you will read in the main article, Amir impressed us considerably with his modesty and humility; he is, undeniably, an exemplary youth role model whose meteoric success in the square ring is the inspiration for a growing number of young people looking to better their fortunes in life. It was so uplifting to meet a young man whose determination to improve his lot, at a time when peer pressure could have so easily sent him down a different path in life, has led him to become an outstanding ambassador for both his sport and his faith.

**Stan Thompson**





mail. I go down once or twice a week and I sign things. And then I've got mum cooking for me and stuff. I've got everything. Family is very close to me.

"And the fans are really cool. I can go anywhere in the country and I don't think I'll have trouble with anyone. I think it would be different if I was arrogant or cocky, but I just see myself the same as everyone else. That's the best way to be, and people seem to respect me.

"The other day I went to a school to see some kids that had a new unit that they wanted me to open. The school asked which celebrity or sports star they wanted to open the new extension, and they said they wanted Amir Khan to open it!"

He is clearly  
delighted  
and

flattered.

"And this was... well, it was mad. It was just after the first title I won, and they all wanted to see the belt. I've never seen a school that full. There were more parents there than the kids! The parents came just to see me as well."

Like many other famous young people, Amir Khan is regularly featured in newspapers and on television. Unlike many others, the publicity surrounding him is overwhelmingly positive. In addition to opening new wings of local schools, he assists with campaigns that promote the wellbeing of young people, by lending his image and

fundraising clout to causes such as the NSPCC, and Network Rail's 'No Messin' railway safety campaign.

In a *Guardian* article of 2004, a representative of Bolton's Council of Mosques, said: "Our lads sometimes seem to be underachieving. Having an example like Amir Khan is going to give a huge boost to the youth of the Pakistani community."

But we hope the British Asian community will be happy to share their hero. British youth in general, regardless of ethnic or cultural background, is in need of positive role models, and Amir Khan is setting a fine example for all of his young fans to follow.

Rick Cadger

Photography: Stan Thompson



[www.amirkhan-boxing.com](http://www.amirkhan-boxing.com)





# Magic Bus

Regtransfers.co.uk, the UK's largest supplier of private number plates, has donated a personalised number plate to help with a new Alzheimer's Society project.

The Society approached Regtransfers with the intention of purchasing **AS07 BUS** for their new "Wellbeing Bus". The bus, operated by the Cardiff & The Vale branch of Alzheimer's Society, offers a cosy space for carers of those with dementia-related illnesses to access a wide range of information on useful services, such as benefits, help lines, legal issues, support groups, respite care, statutory and voluntary agencies in the area.

A unique aspect of this bus is the separate space where carers can receive holistic therapies such as reflexology or Indian head massage to help relieve the stress of caring. It is widely accepted that improved support for carers results in better care and a better quality of life for the carers' loved ones.

The Wellbeing bus is visiting various Cardiff communities and, with the kind permission of Cardiff County Council, has been taking up position in the car parks of local leisure and community centres. The new bus, named

"Primrose", will offer valuable support to carers, and will also serve to publicise the Society's work.

The number of carers in Cardiff of someone with a dementia therefore could be said to be close to 8,000 particularly if the person with dementia has a living partner and children. The national specialist journal of dementia and mental health care for older people, *Signpost*, highlights the importance of the role of the carer not only as a primary source of care but also as a key factor in the improvement of the quality of life of the person with dementia.

Retired GP Dr Bob Fay, himself suffering from fronto-temporal dementia, says, "The carer's quality of life and coping ability directly affects the quality of life of the sufferer. Therefore, if the carer's going under, the sufferer goes with them. If the carer is supported and can tackle the situation creatively, the quality of life of the person with dementia is obviously improved."

(Source: Signpost Volume 8 Number 3 February 2004)

"In view of the above, the Society is doubly pleased to be able to provide help to carers of people with dementia in what could be deemed a truly holistic way," says Branch Manager Dawn John whose idea it was to offer this unique and innovative service.

The bus will be visiting different

communities of Cardiff from Radyr to St Mellons, Splott to Thornhill, parking in the majority of leisure and community centres' car parks thanks to the help of Cardiff Council Culture, Leisure and Parks. It is hoped that support groups can be set up in the future to promote healthy living and wellbeing with carers taking advantage of the many social groups, exercise and wellbeing programmes available to the Cardiff Community.

Finally, Alzheimer's Society director for Wales, Ian Thomas says, "This is a brand new and original project and we are really hoping that this will serve as an excellent example for other areas of the country to benefit from, particularly the more rural areas where access to services and support is more limited.

"Our towns and cities however have the added advantage of benefiting from the proposed creation and development of local peer support groups where a whole wealth of information, emotional support, and experience can be shared."

When staff brought the purchase of



**AS07 BUS** to the attention of Regtransfers.co.uk's managing director he instructed them to refund the full cost of the registration and number plates.

A spokesman for the company said, "We think promoting a good cause and a great facility like the Alzheimer's Society's new bus is a terrific, constructive use for a personalised registration."

As a charity, the Alzheimer's Society depends on the generosity of the public to help it care, research and campaign for people with dementia. You can donate now by calling 02920 521872. Additional information about Alzheimer's and the Alzheimer's Society is available online at [www.alzheimers-society.org](http://www.alzheimers-society.org).

The address of the Society's Cardiff office is:  
Heol Don Resource Centre, Heol Don,  
Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2XG



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# Tommy Walsh

Tommy Walsh will need no introduction to anyone who has watched a home or garden make-over programme on television in recent years. He is particularly well known as part of the BBC's *Ground Force* team. Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and Tommy created the ultimate facelift show for gardens. A programme which took them to far parts of the globe, and into television history. It was a phenomenal success, and must take a good deal of the credit for a corresponding resurgence in the popularity of gardening in recent years.

His famous **MRD 1Y** ("MR DIY") on the *Ground Force* truck was an instantly recognisable trademark of the show.

"I've always been interested in number plates - especially the quirky ones," Tommy told us when we visited him for a chat.

"I really like that plate, but I wouldn't want people to think I was being stuck up and calling myself Mr DIY. It's all tongue in cheek. It is supposed to be seen and taken just in fun. That's all it is."

Tommy's time with *Ground Force* began purely by chance. He had been doing some work for a television producer who asked his advice about some DIY and gardening pilot shows she was working on. He made such an impression that the producer invited him to screen test for a show. Tommy, however, was a little reluctant, and took some persuading to do the programme.

Tommy has used his fame to good effect and has lent his support to a number of good causes over the last few years. Through the government's 'Get On' campaign, he joined other celebrities in encouraging people with literacy and numeracy issues to seek help and advice. This was part of a wider incentive known as the 'Skills for Life' strategy.

More recently, Tommy teamed up with the Health and Safety Executive to launch the 'Height Aware' campaign. This addressed a much overlooked problem, and encouraged people not to underestimate the potential hazards of working even at modest heights - such as below head height on ladders. Amongst the issues it highlighted were

the dangers of leaning from ladders to answer phones and to reach for objects. Surprisingly, several people every year die in accidents at work that involve falls from below head height.

The sharp-eyed amongst you may also have spotted some of Tommy's 'art' which he contributed to Epilepsy Action's 'National Doodle Day' in February this year. Da Vinci he is not, but his humorous sketches, nevertheless, made very welcome additions to the gallery.

Tommy is not just a television personality, he is a real-life, hard working, skilled builder and landscaper with many years experience. Since *Ground Force* reached the end of its allotted span, he has appeared in other shows, including *Challenge Tommy Walsh* series and *Tommy Walsh Makes It Big*. He has written a number of successful books on DIY. Additionally, Tommy's own production company has made *The Ultimate Workshop*, a series which has aired on UK television.

Despite his protests to the contrary, we cannot think of anyone more deserving of the title Mr DIY.





# 4 VON Calling!

**W**hen Rebekah Testar started working as an Avon representative in October 2002, she saw it as a chance to earn a little extra money in the time left before Christmas. It also provided a constructive diversion to occupy her mind. She needed both at the time, as her husband, Tony, was ill and had to give up his job.

Rebekah was on her way to her children's playgroup when she encountered an Avon recruiter who persuaded her to try selling the famous range of cosmetics and beauty products. She applied herself to the new venture enthusiastically, and was soon hand delivering hundreds of brochures every other day. It became evident that with enough customers, the part-time business could provide a good living.

Rebekah says, "At that time, my aim was to get 500 customers. We just worked our way around the village gradually getting more and more customers."

Early the following year, a new development made things even more interesting. Sales leadership was introduced in Rebekah's area.

"They changed the rules and it became possible to recruit from anywhere. They said we could go wherever we wanted while recruiting, and we could get people in our team recruiting too."

She quickly saw the potential benefits of recruiting more agents herself. By August 2004 she had achieved Senior Executive level and had a growing team to lead.

With approximately 1200 representatives working with her, Rebekah has been the company's top Senior Executive Sales Leader for three years running.

Success does not come without determination, good judgement and initiative. Rebekah's record so far illustrates her determination. As far as Regtransfers is concerned, her purchase of a great private registration is evidence that Rebekah also has great reserves of the other two qualities as well. What better marketing tool for a successful Avon businesswoman than the number **4 VON** on a smart car.

Tony had displayed his own personal registration on his Mercedes for some time. "I loved it," he says. "And I've always been fascinated by number plates. Sometimes we'd play games with





the children in the car. You know, see a plate and guess what it stands for."

"We thought we'd look to see if there was anything with 'Avon' in it," says Rebekah. "There were quite a few, but this one was just great. Perhaps we should have bought up the others too!"

Tony adds, "With the sales leadership opportunity there are going to be some massive incomes about in the next few years, so I think that if we did ever want to sell it there would be a lot of people prepared to pay a premium price for it."

Regular readers and visitors to the [www.regtransfers.co.uk](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk) website will be aware that we are constantly surprised and impressed by the terrific plates our customers find to promote their businesses. Over the past few years, this commercial application of private registrations has become increasingly popular, with cars, vans and sometimes entire fleets of vehicles being equipped with carefully chosen number plates in order to set them apart from the competition. We have seen some great plates used in this way and Rebekah's splendid registration ranks with the very best of them.

As you will see from the photograph, the combination of **4 VON** and a nice Mercedes is a thing of beauty. The perfect Avon promotion package. Who could fail to be impressed?

Rick Cadger

Photography: Stan Thompson

Tel: 0800 107 3220

[www.lipstickpower.com](http://www.lipstickpower.com)





## LETTERS & EMAILS EXTRA

Email YOUR story and photos to:  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)

### What's the story?

Do you have a story about  
number plates?

Send YOUR photos to:  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)



### An ideal investment

I am absolutely delighted to be the proud owner of **1 ABU**. I have always wanted an exclusive, dateless 'Number 1' plate and was looking for **1 ABU** for quite some time.

I had put a deposit down on a new Audi TT over 6 months ago and, to my surprise, Regtransfers called me with

this number on the day my car was delivered. I just couldn't believe my luck. It's an ideal investment.

I would like to thank Ali at Regtransfers for finding my perfect number. It looks stunning on my car.

**Abul Mohsin**  
Luton

### A Terrific Trio



**Gary Graham**  
Lingsley, Cheshire



My son bought me **B1 NES** for the Bentley, but I was told of **J13 NES** at Regtransfers. Again, it spelt out my name. That is for the L200 Mitsubishi. What luck to have two good plates.

**John A Bines**  
Romford, Essex



# Clive constructs a great plate

**C**live Lee Herbert is a great fan of personal number plates. He not only has two perfect 'initial' CLH plates: **J8 CLH** and **235 CLH** but also a clever 'name' plate - **C11 UEH** (CLIVE H). Clive's enthusiasm for the fun of number plates has spread to his son, Clive Valentine Herbert, who also has his own plate, **B5 CVH**.

Clive junior's middle name was inherited from his great grandfather. Clive senior is a director of his father's company, PIC Construction, and has used his great personal registrations to adorn the company's vehicles.

PIC Construction is a family run business based in Worcestershire, covering Gloucestershire and as far as the South of Birmingham and the North of Bristol. They have over 20 years experience specialising in groundworks, contract maintenance work and plant hire. PIC is divided into sectors, a small works department which includes carpenters, plumbers, electricians and bricklayers (who take care of general maintenance at House of Fraser, Morrisons, Argos, Countrywide Stores, and many more), and a light civil

construction team with groundworkers experienced in commercial and residential properties up to DPC, steel reinforcement and shuttering, concrete floor bases, drainage, car park preparation, tarmacadam and road marking.

PIC also install security and prevention systems for car parks and storage areas, such as telescopic bollards, vehicle access controls, traffic control plates and safety and parking barriers. They also have their own plant ranging

from 0.5 tonne mini diggers through to JCB 3CXs, 360-degree excavators and dumpers with or without operatives. Building equipment is also available with discounts on long term hire.

**PIC**  
*construction*  
LIMITED

GROUNDWORKS & PLANT HIRE CONTRACTORS

[www.picconstruction.co.uk](http://www.picconstruction.co.uk)



## On the ball



Thornhill Lower School FC, sponsored by Regtransfers.

Photo by RT employee Tamzin Martin, whose son George is pictured 3rd left



# All's Well That Ends Well

**Thomas Holmes Bryce** always wanted the registration **1 THB**, not only because they are his initials, but they are also those of his father and grandfather.

In 1997, Tom received notification that **1 THB** was for sale at a number plate auction to be held in Chester. On the day, Tom and his wife flew all the way from Aberdeen to Manchester then on to Chester, only to be outbid by someone with more available cash.

So, for the last ten years, he has been keeping an eye on all the car magazines in the hope that **1 THB** would come back on the market.

Late last year, Tom eventually spotted it in one of Regtransfers advertisements and was determined to get it. He immediately phoned in and, after a bit of negotiation, reached an agreed price.

The paperwork arrived on Christmas Eve 2006 and by 11am the number plate was put on his pride and joy, a Bentley Continental GT.

He and his wife then decided to drive a few miles and put some Christmas wreaths on her grandparents' graves.

Just ten minutes into the journey, they were involved in an accident when an oncoming driver missed a bend and ploughed straight into their car, knocking them down a banking and into a field.

Fortunately no one was injured, but the Bentley was declared a write-off when damage was estimated at £65k. So having waited ten years for his number, it was on his car for less than two hours.

However, all's well that ends well and, with the insurance write-off money, he purchased a new Bentley Continental GT on 1st March 2007, which, as you can see, now proudly displays the **1 THB** registration.

Tom is a director of Scopus Engineering Ltd, in Scotland, a specialist accuracy control, electronic survey and measurement company, which was incorporated in the late 1980s, primarily to provide this service to the offshore oil and gas industry.

Len Stout



com

[www.scopuseng.com](http://www.scopuseng.com)

*What's the story?*

Do you have a story about number plates?

Send **YOUR** photos to:  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)







**N**eil Herron is a man used to taking on a big fight . . . and winning. The former market trader was thrust into the political arena when Trading Standards Officers threatened to seize his non-metric scales. He assisted his colleague, greengrocer Steve Thoburn, who was convicted of the criminal offence of selling bananas by the pound. The 'Metric Martyrs', as they were dubbed by the press, were crowned European Campaigners of the Year in 2001 for their David against Goliath stand. Now, some seven years later, the European Commission and the Government have abandoned the enforced metrication programme. Recent press headlines announced that the pint, the pound, the mile and the yard had been saved.

Neil also led the 'No' campaign in the north-east against Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's plans for a North East Assembly. The 78% 'No' vote was the biggest ever referendum defeat for any British Government.

His involvement in parking issues came about due to a constitutional challenge. Under the scheme known as 'Decriminalised Parking Enforcement' parking has ceased to be a criminal matter in more and more local authority areas. Neil considers that councils are jumping on a money-spinning bandwagon. He claims that the issuing of civil parking tickets now means that they can keep the revenue raised. Disputes cease to be dealt with by a Court of Law, and are instead dealt with by the 'independent' tribunals PATAS (The Parking and Traffic Appeals Service) and NPAS (The National Parking Adjudication Service), the former working in London and the latter dealing with cases outside the capital. Neil claims that these bodies receive a cut from every ticket issued and that the Councils appoint the adjudicators and assist with the administration. This, he says, conflicts with the English Bill of Rights, which states that you can only be fined by a court (not a local authority) and the European Convention on Human Rights, which states that any tribunal must be independent and impartial.

Believing that Decriminalised Parking Enforcement was nothing more than a 'cash-cow' for all those involved Neil began investigating and exposing what he saw as the illegality of many local authorities

operations. Two Trevor McDonald Tonight programmes, and an undercover expose of illegality in Sunderland City Councils DPE operation, led to many parking tickets being written off or refunded.

The campaign has now expanded into a commercial operation and Neil has launched a website [www.parkingappeals.co.uk](http://www.parkingappeals.co.uk) to pass on all the secrets to the motoring public. The site (under construction at the time of writing) will show how to appeal against invalid parking penalties and how to get tickets cancelled. Soon, Neil says, he will also reveal how most local authorities' tickets were not legal before 2006 and that some are still not legal. He also plans to provide guidance on how to go about claiming refunds for tickets that have been paid in the last six years.

To help publicise the website and the company a vehicle and a registration plate seemed essential. A simple image to help the press and media to immediately grasp what the company was about. The registration **F1 NED** was sourced through Regtransfers.co.uk, and the transfer quickly completed.

Neil says that the combination of plate and vehicle is a 'head-turner' wherever it goes and the website as a result is catching the business.

Statistically, it is likely that 1 in 4 motorists will be charged a parking fine in the next 12 months. **[www.parkingappeals.co.uk](http://www.parkingappeals.co.uk)** aims to give you the information you need to stop you being **F1 NED** illegally.







Antony Byrne and Hattie Ladbury

# Some things are better in the open



Photo: Alastair Muir

Often referred to as London's best-kept secret, the **Open Air Theatre** in Regent's Park is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Make no mistake though, we are not talking deck-chairs and amateur dramatics here. This extraordinary theatre offers all the professional standards and facilities of the West End except for one thing - a roof!

'What if it rains?' you say. Well, since 1932, a mere 7% of performances have been abandoned. But, fear not. If the worst happens, your ticket can be exchanged for any other performance of the current or future seasons.

This year's productions include *Macbeth* directed by **Edward Kemp**, with a cast including **Antony Byrne** in the title role and former *Blue Peter* presenter **Peter Duncan** as Macduff. Peter also stars in this year's children's production, Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox*.

The perennial favourite *A Midsummer Night's Dream* returns in a brand new production by **Christopher Luscombe**, featuring the theatre's artistic director **Ian Talbot** as Bottom - a role he first performed there in 1971. Ian will also be directing no less than two musicals: George Gershwin's *Lady Be Good* and Sandy Wilson's *The Boy Friend*.

There is a full programme of Sunday comedy shows and concerts, together with a series of late-night productions in the theatre studio.

Evening performances start at 8pm - there are also weekday and Saturday matinees - but the bar (one of the longest in Theatreland!), buffet and barbecue are all open 90 minutes beforehand. Alternatively, you can bring your own refreshments and enjoy them on the theatre's own picnic lawn.

Situated on the Inner Circle, you are just outside the Congestion Zone and parking is free after 6.30pm.

Barry Monks

After a short walk from the hustle and bustle of Baker Street, you can enjoy a glass of chilled wine, tuck into a buffet, barbecue or picnic and relax with the very best of London theatre. As dusk deepens and the fairy lights twinkle, the Open Air Theatre is transformed into the most magical of venues.

Established in 1932, it is the oldest fully professional, permanent outdoor theatre in Britain, with one of the largest theatre auditoriums in London.

Producing under the name of the New Shakespeare Company Ltd since 1962, the theatre is most famous for its Shakespeare productions, with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* remaining a signature piece.

From May to September each year, in addition to two Shakespeare plays, they produce a musical and a children's play. Past productions have received more than 20 Olivier nominations in the last ten years, including two for the 2003 production of *High Society* and the

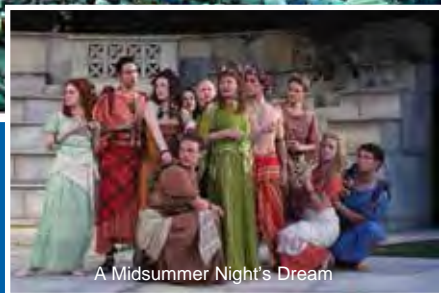
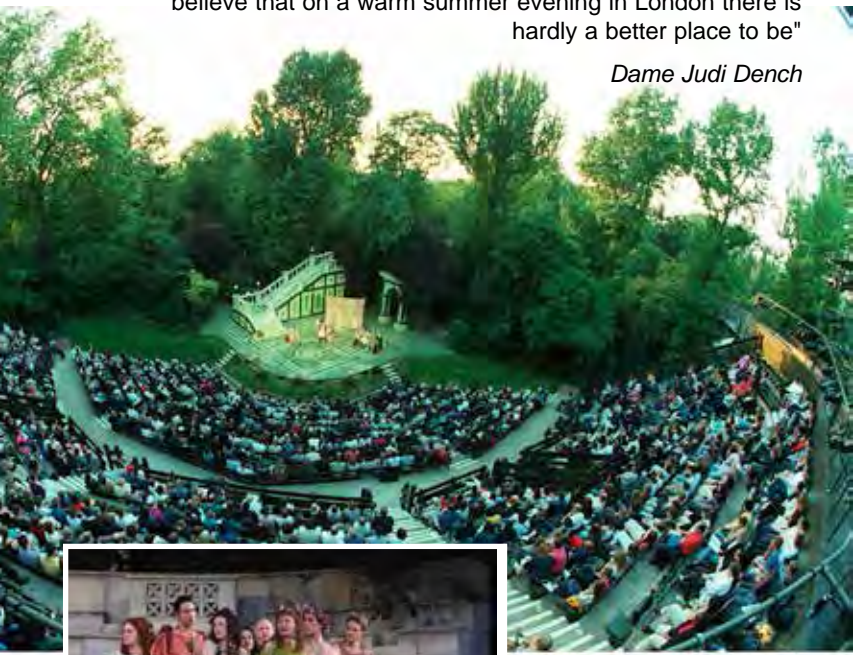
Photo: Barry Monks





"The unique quality of The Park is its setting and I do genuinely believe that on a warm summer evening in London there is hardly a better place to be"

*Dame Judi Dench*



Musical of 2005, *HMS Pinafore*.

Previous performers and directors have included **Martin Jarvis**, **Desmond Barrit**, **Rhys Ivans**, **Russ Abbot**, **Roy Hudd**, **Richard E Grant**, **Ralph Fiennes**, **Michael Denison**, **Peggy Mount**, **Martin Clunes**, **Bernard Bresslaw**, **Jim Broadbent**, **Paula Wilcox**, **Gary Wilmot**, **Christopher Biggins**, **Dora Bryan**, **Janie Dee**, **Edward Fox**, **Jack Hawkins**, **Toyah Wilcox**, **Felicity Kendal**, **Vivien Leigh**, **Damien Lewis**, **Anna Neagle**, **Denis Quilley**, **Sue Pollard**, **Summer Strallen** and **Dame Judi Dench** (who is also a director of the company)

On Sunday evenings the theatre plays host to a series of comedy shows and concerts. Previous events have featured **The Comedy Store Players**, **Ronan Keating**, **KT Tunstall**, **Nerina Pallot**, **Martina Topley-Bird**, **Stacey Kent**, **Ross Noble**, and **Jimmy Carr**.

There is also an intimate indoor studio, which is the home for two weeks of comedy, dance, music and drama

Approximately 120,000 people visit the 1,200 seat theatre during each 15-week summer season. The summer of 2006 saw a record-breaking attendance of more than 140,000.

[www.openairtheatre.org](http://www.openairtheatre.org)

Box office: **08700 601811**

*The New Shakespeare Company* is a registered charity and receives no public subsidy.

MAC 837H is available exclusively from [regtransfers.co.uk](http://regtransfers.co.uk) at £14,995

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**IO YD**  
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**VAR I37Y**  
**COSI UME**  
**VI OLA**





# 4 RT for Art's Sake



Number plate collecting has become a bit of a family hobby for the Rhind-Tutts of Wiltshire and London. Property developer Andy Rhind-Tutt of Salisbury gave us a brief insight to this unusual name and the family's collection of cars and number plates.

When Andy's great-grandfather Tom Tutt, married Jane Rhind on 23 October 1866, in Paddington, Jane was determined to keep her name in memory of her late father Charles

Rhind, who was once a messenger for King William IV and retired to become first postmaster of Paddington in 1837, before the Penny Black. It was after their marriage and following the births of their six children that the first generation of Rhind-Tutts was created. Since then, there have been 120 Rhind-Tutts over four generations, Julian Rhind-Tutt, of TV's *Green Wing* fame, being Andy's cousin.

Keeping the new family name and being in the limelight with it, started back before the turn of the last century when Andy's grandfather, Charles Rhind-Tutt, who was an entrepreneur and master builder in Paddington, had a car built for himself by a company in Marylebone, London called Hurst and Lloyd. The car which Charles helped design, took two years to build and was finished around 1898. Charles used to visit the factory

every other Saturday to check on progress. The car was such a novelty for the workers of Hurst and Lloyd, as the age of the motor car was yet to begin. It had a single cylinder engine and tiller steering, similar to that of a steam traction engine. When Charles finally collected it he smiled, as none of the workers would dare tempt to drive it, and ended up driving it out of the factory himself. This car was Charles's first and was used to travel from London to Salisbury and back each weekend, to his family's country cottage.

Andy recalls a story of Charles picking up a hitchhiker at Hartley Whitney and shortly after, being stopped by a walking policeman for having no lights showing at the rear. Charles's details were recorded in a notepad and he was told to expect a summons in due course. When Charles dropped off his





passenger in London, he was thanked for the lift and told not to worry about the summons. Charles queried the comment, whereupon the passenger informed him that he was a professional pickpocket and passed the notepad over.

Charles is shown on the front cover of *The Car* motoring magazine dated 20 August 1902, driving the car through Hyde Park.

In 1904 Charles bought a De-Dion Bouton with the registration **A 448**. Charles was very proud of this and kept the car in the family until 1956, when Andy's grandmother sold it to a doctor from Nailsea for £30. The car has remained with its second owner ever since and Andy has the original cast aluminium number plate.

From the very earliest days, Andy's uncles carried on the tradition of their father. William David, bought the number plate **DRT 2**. He also bought a Bentley with the plate **OKW 100**, hoping to drive it on his 100th birthday, and Richard bought **RRT 4**. Both **DRT 2** and **RRT 4** were bought for £5!

Andy started his collection back in 1997, when he went to register a new car. To his delight, **R7 UTT** became available

Later that year Andy bought **RRT 7F** for his wife Becky and, in 2004 Andy

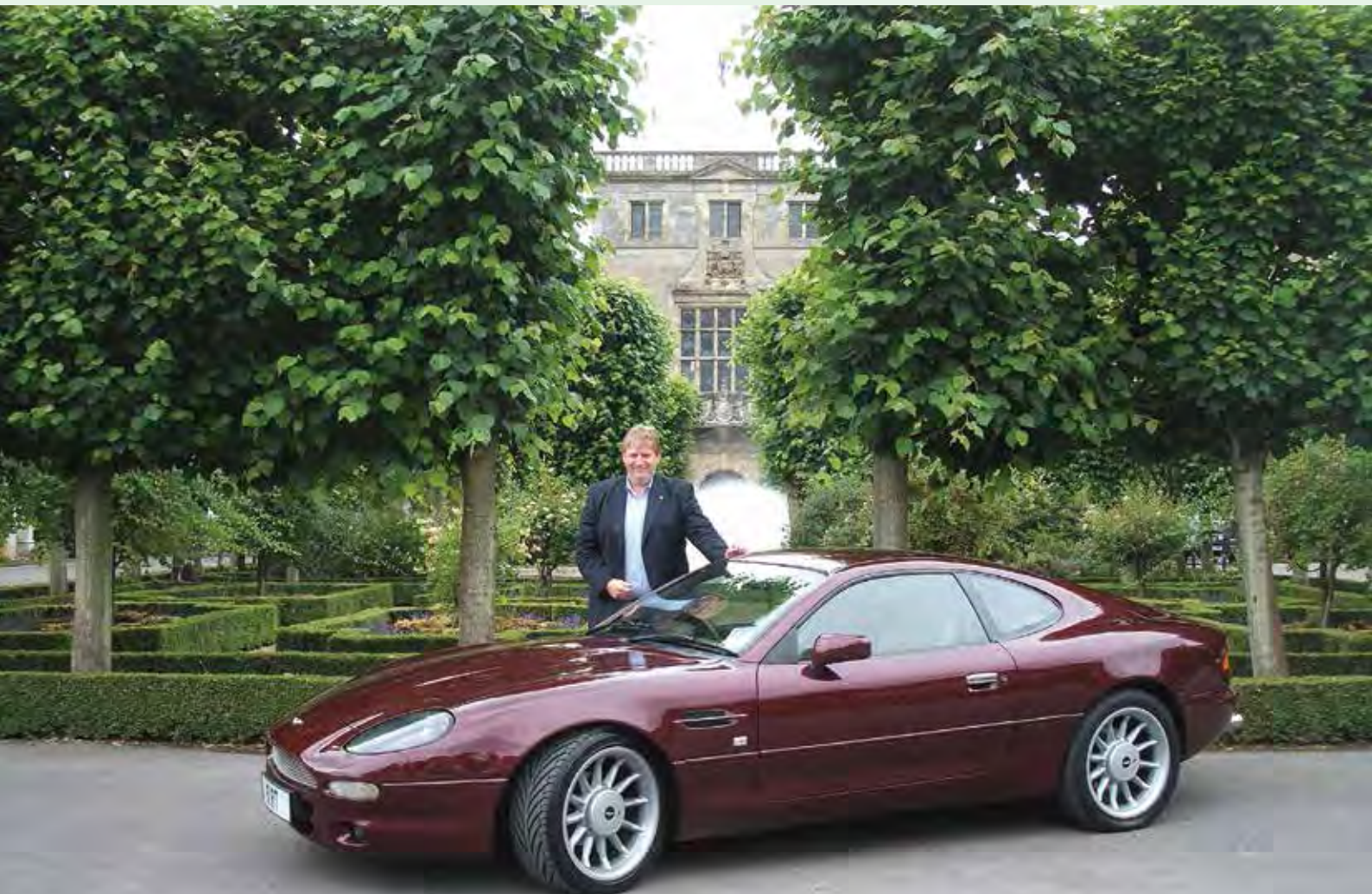


bought an Aston Martin and decided that a new plate was required. Being the 51st Rhind-Tutt, the plate **51 RT** seemed the ideal companion. Andy bought the plate from Regtransfers and was so thrilled with it, he named one of his companies, SIRT Consultancy, after it.

The latest addition to his collection was **4 RT**, bought earlier this year and now taking pride of place on his old

Landrover.

Andy says that he probably won't buy too many more plates as he's running out of space for the cars.





# Taking Care of Business

The **commercial benefits** of distinctive number plates are now well-established.

With the UK's **largest selection** of quality registrations - and now celebrating 25 years' trading - **Regtransfers** has become the first choice of a wide range of businesses eager to find a **cost-effective** marketing solution.

We are, naturally, delighted to relate their experiences in this magazine. In this issue we are pleased to feature **Morrow Brothers** of Preston, the UK's leading refurbisher of kegs and casks.

**? Why not get YOUR company noticed with corporate number plates**

Distinctive number plates:

- provide excellent promotional, marketing opportunities
- look great in press releases, newspaper articles, TV, etc.
- raise public awareness of your company
- help to create corporate identity
- are great fun items
- set your company apart from the rest
- are tax deductible
- provide proven investment potential

Here are just a few organisations who have used personal number plates to identify and promote their businesses >

A visit to our website at **www.regtransfers.co.uk** is certain to provide you with inspiration and ideas for the perfect registration to take care of YOUR business.

With stories and video clips you can see how companies just like yours have gained considerable prestige from their distinctive number plates.

Remember, our friendly sales staff are on hand to help you until 11pm every evening - including weekends.

A Better Move **110 ADU**

All Star Limousine Hire **A115 TAR**

And So to Bed **CO51 BED**

Cry Records **2 CRY**

Gowing and Pursey **PUR 53Y**

Fantastic Fireworks **5 NOV**

Floors to Go **2 FTG**

Independent Safety Advisors **S4 FTY**

KMK Electricians **K13 KMK**

Julian Graves **NUT 5**

Ladybird Photography **P777 BUG**

Morrow Brothers Limited **1 KEG**

New Dimension Exhibitions **WH05 NDE**

Progressive Print Services **R55 PPS**

Rack Storage Systems **DEX 10N**

The Accessory People **2 TAP**

Venmore Thomas & Jones **1 VTJ**

## Roll out



It was whilst he was sitting in his hospital bed, that Alan Morrow saw a personalised number plate that was just right for him: **1 KEG**.

"It was made for the type of business we are in. When I saw it advertised in the



*Sunday Times*, it just struck a chord," says Alan. "When I arrive at a brewery, it brings a smile to everyone's face.

"My brother David already has the number plate **A1 KEG**, so I suppose the idea had been in the back of my mind.

My wife, Sandra (**W1 KEG**) has retired from the business, but my sons Kieron (**K18 RON**) and Liam (**LJM 222**) along





# the barrell!

with my daughter in-law Claire (**KWM 841**) have all joined the business."

David's wife Tina (**T1 NRS**), daughters Emma (**P1 NUP**) and Lucy (**J1 NER**)



and son Simon (**S1 MUN**) also sport personal plates on their cars.

"They are an easy identifiable link to our core business, and provide a talking



point at any brewery we visit," says Alan. "They also represent a good long term investment."



**Morrow Brothers Limited**, based in Preston, Lancashire, is the largest seller of stainless steel beer kegs, keg racking lines and keg caps in the UK. In 1969 Alan and David Morrow started repairing kegs for the brewing industry in the UK. Now, nearly forty years on, Morrow Brothers have become the leading supplier of new and refurbished stainless steel kegs and casks.

Morrow Brothers specialise in the refurbishment of all types of stainless steel casks, kegs and extractor tubes.

They also provide new stainless steel kegs, tamper evident keg caps and the retro fitting of transponders for keg monitoring.

We are very proud of the reputation and name that we have built up over the last forty years within the brewing industry. As times and trends have changed so Morrow Brothers have adapted to constantly meet the requirements asked of us.

From the beginning Morrow Brothers has kept its three main principals, which still hold true today.

The casks and kegs that Morrow Brothers supply to all of the major breweries in the UK are highly regarded for their quality and standard of

workmanship. All sizes of keg and cask can be repaired with skills developed



over forty years, there is often little wrong with a damaged keg or cask that cannot be fixed given the right expertise and equipment.

Years of experience in the working of high grade steel, metal working, welding and surface finishing techniques have contributed to the quality of our refurbished kegs and casks.

[www.morrow-brothers.co.uk](http://www.morrow-brothers.co.uk)

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# UK & International Number Plate News

*These national and international stories are published by kind permission of [www.numberplates.com](http://www.numberplates.com), the personal number plates club*



## **Number plates go missing in Halifax**

Residents in the Halifax area have noticed an alarming rise in the amount of missing number plates.

Local police fear that of the 104 number plates that have gone missing in the last six months, many of them may have been used to assist congestion charge fraud in London.

Chief Supt Ian Levitt, head of Calderdale police, said "We have no idea exactly where these number plates are going, but one possible reason is that they are being sent elsewhere in the country to help people evade congestion charges.

"We believe they could also be being used to help people avoid speed cameras or for making off without paying at petrol stations."

PC Keith Williams, Calderdale's crime prevention officer, said they were in the process of acquiring new anti-theft number plate screws. Officers will be visiting locations across Calderdale where people can bring their cars and have their current nylon screws replaced with anti-theft screws for free.



## **Mobile phone ban getting tougher**

The ban on using mobile phones when driving came into effect in 2003, but many drivers are still flouting the law.

From 27th February 2007, drivers caught using a mobile phone whilst driving face a £60 fine (previously £30) and three points on their driving licence. Employers who cause or permit their employees to take or make phone calls or text messages whilst driving will also face prosecution under the revised law.

Drivers can also be prosecuted for

using a hands-free device if they are deemed not to be in proper control of their vehicle, and can incur the same penalties.



## **Businessman spends £436,000 on number plate for father**

A businessman in Dubai has paid Dh3.12 million (£436,000) at auction for a number plate reading 'E15', and said he will give the personalised plate to his father.

Aqeel Sayed Abdullah, who owns a chain of department stores, already owns a string of three-digit number plates, and said "I liked this number plate and I wasn't interested in any other number plates at the auction, but I didn't think it would go this high."

Aqeel said he expected the registration number to sell for between Dh1.5 million (£210,000) and Dh1.8 million (£252,000).

"I had it in my mind that it would not go for more than Dh2 million, but there were many people interested in getting this registration number".

A total of 79 car registration numbers were sold at the event, which raised almost Dh30 million (£4.2 million) for the government. The second most expensive number plate at the auction, F30, sold for Dh2.2 million (£308,000).



## **Banned Australian drivers to lose number plates**

Banned drivers in Australia will have their car number plates seized by police as part of a new initiative to keep habitual offenders off the roads.

The new punishment will be used on top of existing penalties, which include up to 18 months in jail, in an attempt to stop unlicensed and disqualified drivers from getting behind the wheel.

Illegal motorists cause 40 fatal crashes in New South Wales each year, with more than 1,000 unlicensed drivers being caught in the state every week.

More disturbingly, many illegal drivers are habitual offenders with disqualification periods of more than 70 years each.

"These disqualification periods are not given for any one offence," an RTA spokesman said. "As these offenders are habitual offenders, their disqualification periods are cumulative on multiple offences."

Current legislation allows courts to punish repeat offenders with increasing periods of disqualification, fines of up to \$3,300 (£1,350) and up to 18 months in jail. Under the new legislation, courts will also have the power to confiscate the number plates of vehicles driven by unlicensed or disqualified drivers.

The court may also order a longer period of disqualification, including disqualification for life.



## **Anger over South African number plate blunder**

Vehicle owners in Limpopo, South Africa, are understandably angry over recent confusion regarding the new series of number plates.

The new plates, with an L at the back, have been revealed as illegal. The plates also have not been approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Also lacking a watermark, the number plates are open to theft and fraud.

Gary Ronald, manager of public affairs at the AA stated that the number plates in Limpopo have been changed seven times since 1994.

The new L-series number plates

> > >



appeared in 2005 when Stan Motemele, previous MEC for transport announced that number plates containing the letter N (Northern Province) be changed to L (Limpopo).



### **Bright green number plates for sex offenders**

The worst sex offenders in the US state of Wisconsin could soon be forced to drive cars with bright green number plates.

The Republican proposal took a step closer to becoming law on Wednesday when it cleared the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee with an 8-3 vote. Opponents of the measure claim that marking cars according to the drivers' past convictions was unconstitutional.

Republican Fred Kessler, who suggested naming the proposal "Hester's Law", claimed that offenders should wear a patch or badge to identify them as a danger.

The bill states that the bright green license plates should be attached to offenders' cars and trucks upon their release from prison. Offenders would also have to cover the \$30 cost of the number plates.

Any offenders who don't install the number plates would be subject to fines of \$25,000 and up to ten years in prison.

A similar number plate bill is pending in Ohio.



### **Fake number plates linked to bank raid**

A fake number plate kit may have been used in a bank robbery in Bolton in which police officers were shot at.

Greater Manchester Police believe the equipment was used to make false number plates for vehicles which were used in the robbery at Barclays Bank in Horwich, Bolton in November 2006.

The number plate kit consists of a wooden shelving unit holding letters and numbers alongside a box of blank number plates. Police believe the kit was stolen in Wigan, Merseyside or Cheshire, and are

offering a £50,000 reward to anyone coming forward with information on the incident.

The robbers drove off in a red Ford Focus which was later swapped for a silver Ford Mondeo. Police said both cars displayed false number plates.

Two men, aged 25 and 26 were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit armed robbery.



### **The most expensive number plate ever**

A number plate in the United Arab Emirates has sold for Dh25.2million (£3.5million), making it the most expensive number plate ever sold anywhere in the world, shattering the previous British record of £331,500 for M 1 last summer.

More than 700 people attended the auction which raised over Dh100million for accident victims and people with special needs.

The number plate, which simply reads '5' was won by Talal Al Khoury, who was up against two other bidders. When asked if the number 5 had any meaning to him, he said: "The number does not mean anything to me. I will keep it and after my death it will be re-auctioned and probably raise more money that will again be given to charity and humanitarian work."

Another number plate, '12' became the second most expensive number plate when it sold at the same auction for Dh8.9million (£1.2million).



### **Sexy car number plate allowed in Hong Kong**

A car number plate which was originally banned by the Hong Kong government has been allowed back on the road after a judge intervened. The private number plate reads Zestra, the name of a feminine arousal oil which is used widely in the city of 6.9 million.

Hong Kong's commissioner for transport, Robert Footman, said: "The Hong Kong community is generally conservative about sex, in particular sexual intercourse." It

is believed that the car number plate has been registered by the manufacturers of Zestra.

Judge Carlye Chu Cun-ling ordered the application to be reconsidered, saying that Hong Kong was "a mature and pluralistic community."

Vehicle owners in Hong Kong are able to apply to register private number plates or buy specific number plates at government auctions.



### **'Offensive' George Bush number plates given the green light**

A woman from South Dakota has been allowed to keep her private number plates which almost landed her in hot water with the American government.

Heather Morijah's number plates, which read 'MPEACH W' had caused quite a stir in her local area due to the political connotations of the registration. On the 18th of April, Heather received a letter from the South Dakota DMV informing her that the plates had been recalled, giving her ten days to return them.

DMV director Deb Hillmer stated "It's offensive to someone and not in good taste and decency, and the plates were the property of the state of South Dakota. The story was all over the American media within hours - even CNN did a piece on Heather's now famous private number plates.

However, on Monday, the state phoned Heather to inform her that they would not be pursuing the recall of her private number plates.

"This particular issue has been resolved," she says. "But I hope the momentum this has created continues. And not just on the free speech issue, but also on going forward with removing this incredibly harmful administration."



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