

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 23

# Regtransfers

.co.uk

VANESSA-MAE





# Plates of distinction

**P**aul Brittlebank is a Chartered Surveyor, Arbitrator and the Principal of Brittlebank Commercial. Whilst being based in Leighton Buzzard, the practice has clients spread over a wide geographical area, dealing with all aspects of commercial property management. Paul is also a consultant to the North London practice known as Michael Berman & Co.

Paul's home town is Scarborough in Yorkshire but, when he was a young man, there were regular family trips to London. Paul immediately took an interest in the quality cars and the private registration numbers commonplace in London but, at that time, rarely seen elsewhere. As he got older, Paul came to appreciate the benefits of living in the capital.

"My first registration purchase was as a student in Sheffield in 1972. Whilst refuelling my Ford Anglia I spotted a car for sale with the registration **92 WX**. It was an appalling vehicle but just roadworthy.

All I wanted was the registration. In those days transfers were difficult but despite many obstacles I still have the number which is currently displayed on our Range Rover.

"**B1 TSB** followed for my daughter, Tasmyn St.Claire. Whilst now married she has, in her professional life as a solicitor, retained her maiden name.



"Generally, my interest is in plates which are distinctive and unusual. It is of no consequence to me whether the letters are my initials or relate to the business. A distinctive plate is readily recognised and generally becomes associated with the individual or business.

"**S1 OOS** was a subsequent purchase and is currently displayed on our Land Rover Defender - a car used by my partner, Stephanie, in the winter and in which she feels safer than in her MX5. In the long term it has been claimed by my son, Adrian, who is a keen Land Rover enthusiast."

The next goal achieved was the purchase of a mews house just off Hyde Park. The mews was featured in *Scandal*, the film about the notorious John Profumo affair, used by Volkswagen for Golf adverts and is home to London's oldest original riding stables.

A chance meeting with a neighbour in the mews, famous within the music industry, who has the registration **DC 1**, on his Rolls Royce, led Paul to realise that a 'number one' was his ultimate goal in registration numbers - initially setting his sights on three letters.

"That was where Regtransfers came in. As the letters were of little consequence to me it became apparent that a number plate comprised of two letters and a number one was, despite rarity, financially attainable. If my maths is correct, and if all potential combinations were released, which they were not, there could only be 1,058 two-letter/number one registration numbers. It is very rare to see any such number on a vehicle.

"A long wait but, with the professional assistance of Regtransfers, **1 XU** was acquired in June 2007 and is currently displayed on my Ferrari F430 Spider."





# mail

## What's the story?

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



## Why not?

Thanks for overseeing the purchase of **83 CF** in such an efficient manner. It was a very straightforward transaction and your online tracking system regularly kept me up to date with what was happening with the documentation.

I think you will agree that the plate looks great on my Golf GTI 'Edition 30'.

I'm a retired 61 year old and, being a real car enthusiast all of my life, I thought it about time I had my own registration. When I got your text saying this number was available I thought "why not?".

**Chris Fardell**  
by email



## Anniversary

I had a private plate **JW02 LJW** which was great but it wasn't quite me. So, I used your RegAlert service and they came up with **LJW 22**, which stands for Leigh John Williams and the date I got married, the 22nd.

I told my husband and he purchased it for our wedding anniversary which is 22 July.

Since then I have also learned that it has increased in price by £2000.

**Leigh Williams**  
by email

**RegAlert**  
YOUR PERSONAL PLATEFINDER SERVICE



## happy holidays

Madeline and Trinity Dobson on our trip to France in September last year.

Happy holiday memories

**Debbie and Phil Dobson**  
by email







## Ellie must wait

This is my granddaughter, Ellie Megan Gregory, with her registration **L10 EMG**, which I bought for her a couple of years ago. It is currently assigned to my motorcycle until she is old enough to drive, when it will be transferred to a car for her.

The L10 part is almost the spelling of her birth sign, which is Leo.

Thanks for a great magazine.

**Gary Gregory**  
by email.



## Simon says

My partner bought **F9 SAH** for my 40th birthday last July. So, 'F' is for fortieth, '9' for 2009, and 'SAH' for my initials.

Buying from Regtransfers was an excellent experience from start to finish.

**Simon A Haigh**  
by email



## Seeing is believing

During the recession of 1990, I was asked to sponsor the local cricket club, whose ground was near my opticians shop. I was delighted - good eyesight is a vital attribute to playing cricket.

Each summer they hold a Festival of Cricket Week and last year the highlight was a match against Yorkshire Cricket Club. As sponsor I was allocated my own parking space near the pitch, and a cordoned off

area of seating for me and my guests.

After the game I approached my car to find it surrounded by ladies 'of a certain age'. One said, "Look at that car number plate". Her friend replied, "Yes, he must be a dentist".

**David Inman**  
by email



## Keeping a Promise

I am so pleased with the way your company has handled the transfer and the supply of my registration.

I purchased **409 KBH** after coming to terms with redundancy in 2005. I always promised myself, if this arose, that I would have my own plate.

**Keith B Hallam**  
by email



# Vanessa-Mae

Ask the person next to you to name five violinists. Really, go ahead and ask.

Depending upon the age and preferred musical genre of the person you asked, you'll get different answers. Many will include Nigel Kennedy, Stephane Grappelli, Yehudi Menuhin, Itzhak Perlman, Paganini and perhaps even the odd folk fiddler such as Dave Swarbrick, Kevin Burke or John Sheahan. If I were a betting man I would willingly hazard a few pounds that the name Vanessa-Mae would appear on more lists than any of those above.

Bearing in mind Vanessa-Mae's widespread fame as a violinist, it comes as some surprise to learn that her early success was as a pianist. Vanessa began learning to play the piano when she was just four years old. A year after that she began to learn to play violin as well, and by the time she was seven, Vanessa had won a prize in the Young British Pianist of the Year competition. Despite that early accolade achieved at the keyboard, with the encouragement of her parents, Vanessa began to concentrate more upon violin. Her potential on the second instrument soon became evident and by the age of eight she was studying under Professor Lin Yao Ji at the Central Conservatoire in China.

Vanessa-Mae's musical studies continued at prestigious establishments in Europe, notably the Royal College of Music, and when she was 10 years old she performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Her first studio album, *Violin*, was recorded in October 1990, around the time of her 12th birthday, and released in 1991. That first album featured classical music exclusively but her next album, *Kids' Classics*, also released in 1991, contained popular songs as well as classical pieces. Her third album, *Tchaikovsky & Beethoven Violin Concertos*, which was released the following year, saw a return to pure classical content. From that point on, she began to release classical and popular music separately or together, seemingly as the mood took her.

*continued . . .*





Photo: Stan Thompson

*continued . . .*

During 1993 and 1994, Vanessa-Mae recorded what would be her breakthrough album, *The Violin Player*. This was a very different sound, and marked the beginning of her development in a genre that she called Techno-Acoustic Fusion, which later evolved into her Classical-Crossover style. The commercial appeal of this hybrid-genre album was huge. Before long, a succession of TV appearances around the world had firmly fixed the image of the petite oriental teenager and her electric violin in the public eye. Since its original 1995 release, *The Violin Player* has sold over 8 million copies worldwide. Subsequent recordings and live performances have been similarly well received making Vanessa-Mae arguably the most recognisable, popular and successful star of contemporary violin music.

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***"I guess that if you're interested in cars then you're interested in the plate. I think they're cool."***

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Regtransfers.co.uk met with Vanessa in London when we delivered her new personal registration, **V1 MAE**. We chatted in her Audi RS6 Avant.

"Actually, I didn't take my driving test until I was about 21. Before that I never really had a need to drive. I wasn't that mobile and independent. I think many people think they're going to break free around the age of 17, but I was still very much living at

# Vanessa

home with my parents until I was about 20. There seemed to be no point in learning to drive.

"My first car was a Lotus Elise 111S. When I was a kid I used to like to spot cute and retro looking cars. I was like, when I get my first car I'll get a Lotus! I had L-plates on that car for ages and it cost me a bomb because I only had a provisional license and the insurance for a learner to drive a sports car is very high. Finally I thought I'd just take some lessons, learn and take my test. I passed first time, so I was quite pleased about that.

"I still have my Lotus. It's got my **W8 MAE** plate on it, which was a reference to my postcode, and is quite cute."

We hadn't realised that Vanessa-Mae was already a private number plates enthusiast.

"I don't know why, but I guess that if you're interested in cars then you're interested in the plate. It makes sense to me. I think they're cool. I have a friend who was teasing me the other day, saying they're tacky. But why are they tacky? I mean, you care about how you dress and you care about the colour of your car, so why wouldn't you want to top it off with a personalised plate."

Vanessa is not the only family member whose car sports a great plate.

"My father's name is Graham and he has a country home called Hoo Hall. I bought him **G2 HOO** at the same time I got myself **W8 MAE**."

"My boyfriend's from France. The French have a funny system for their number plates and he says that you can't personalise them there. I think it's really cool that you can have something personalised like that in this country."

Vanessa admits that she is very particular about certain things, such as her cars. It is a personality trait that she associates with her choice of musical instrument.

"When I was young I went to this all-girls school where everyone played something. Obviously some played recorder, but other people played the guitar or the flute, piano,

violin. I played the piano and violin but I concentrated on the violin when I was eight. It's a bit like my car: I'm quite fussy about who gets behind the wheel. I'm a little OCD in a way, so part of what attracted me to the violin was that I had my own instrument. With piano you had to share. It kind of felt like someone else had played it and hadn't disinfected it afterward, but the violin is your own.

"As a child, before you think of the artistry, you think about things like how it's just a cute looking instrument. The aesthetics of the violin are probably what pleased me most as a child."

Vanessa also associated learning piano with a degree of pressure that she did not experience with violin.

"I liked both instruments at the same time, but my piano teacher was much more pushy about me working harder, so I kind of gravitated towards the violin because there was less pressure there. From age eight I concentrated on it seriously. In fact, tonight I am going out to dinner with the professor who taught me from when I was 10 until I was about 15 years old."

Looking back at her own childhood, how does Vanessa see the role of music in children's lives?





# Vanessa-Mae

"You know, it is such an important part of children's lives. Things like that, sports and music, anything that gets them out of the house and motivates. Well, perhaps music doesn't get you out of the house much, I've spent many hours practising inside the house, but you know it really motivates you and gives you a focus."

The mention of  
sport  
leads  
to



the subject of injuries. Vanessa is a keen skier and suffered a mishap that rendered her unable to play either music or sport for a while.

"Well I broke my elbow last year when I walked out of a cable-car and slipped near my home in Zermatt. It was fine really, because I had my arm in a plaster cast and had intense physio. I managed to do a show seven weeks later. Then there was a kind of sprain that I got at Easter. It sounds really pathetic, but I moved a pot from the stove to the worktop and... Well, I don't know; something went. I had to have a bespoke plaster cast made; one that I could put on and take off unlike a traditional plaster cast.

"I'm pretty gung-ho about things, I'm afraid, and being a musician doesn't make me any less gung-ho. You can hurt yourself as easily cooking as skiing. I think you just have to get through it."

Now she is recovered, Vanessa is working on some new material for her tours. Like her recordings, Vanessa-Mae's tours have featured a wide variety of different musical styles.

"Classical music relies on so much old repertoire. I mean, if you listen to most classical albums it's the same thing over and over again. It all shares a pool of music. Of course, I love classical music as well, but at the same time I like to stretch myself, to commission new music and have writers co-write with me. Even then it comes to a point where you feel that you've

## Vanessa-Mae Discography

### Albums

*Violin* (1990)  
*Kids' Classics* (1991)  
*Tchaikovsky & Beethoven Violin Concertos* (1992)  
*The Violin Player* (13 February 1995)  
*The Alternative Record from Vanessa-Mae* (1996)  
*The Classical Album 1* (21 October 1996)  
*China Girl: The Classical Album 2* (August 1997)  
*Storm* (UK: 27 October 1997; USA: 14 July 1998)  
*The Original Four Seasons and the Devil's Trill Sonata: The Classical Album 3* (UK: 9 November 1998; USA: 9 March 1999)  
*The Classical Collection: Part 1* (25 September 2000)  
*Subject to Change* (14 May 2001)  
*Xpectation* (Jazz collaboration with Prince) (2003)  
*Choreography* (18 October 2004)

### Compilations

*The Best of Vanessa-Mae* (2002)  
*The Ultimate Vanessa-Mae* (23 December 2003)  
*Platinum Collection* (19 February 2007)

### Special edition albums

*The Violin Player: Japanese Release* (1995)  
*The Classical Album 1: Silver Limited Edition* (1 January 1997)  
*Storm: Asian Special Edition* (1 January 1997)  
*The Original Four Seasons and the Devil's Trill Sonata: Asian Special Edition* (1 February 1999)  
*Subject to Change: Asian Special Edition* (1 July 2001)  
*The Ultimate: Dutch Limited Edition* (January 2004)

### Singles

*Toccata & Fugue* (January 1995)  
*Toccata & Fugue - The Mixes* (1995)  
*Red Hot* (May 1995)  
*Classical Gas* (November 1995)  
*I'm a Doun for Lack O' Johnnie* (A Little Scottish Fantasy) (October 1996)  
*Happy Valley* (1997)  
*Storm* (October 1997)  
*I Feel Love* (December 1997)  
*Devil's Trill/Reflection* (November 1998)  
*Destiny* (2001)  
*White Bird* (July 2001)

### Filmography

*Live at the Royal Albert Hall, The Red Hot Tour* (1995)  
*The Violin Fantasy* (1998)  
*Arabian Nights* (2000)  
*The Making of Me* (2008)

Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

toured enough of the same songs. That's when it becomes time to create new music."

Vanessa-Mae's repertoire has attracted its share of controversy at times. When she first strayed from straight classical material into the realms of pop, rock and techno music, certain eyebrows were raised.

*continued . . .*



continued . . .

"Yes, fifteen years ago, when I came out with *The Violin Player*, it was me just being funky and spunky, but I think I had guts. I was facing a lot of purists who were like, 'ooh what are you doing?' and I just didn't give a toss, you know. I just did my own thing, which I think proved to be right for me.

"When you start a career at that age, you've nothing to be frightened of. I am lucky now, at 31, to have 15 years or so of crossover experience and before that a few years of classical experience. I couldn't have asked for a better start in the music business, but definitely it was a shock for a lot of people to see the violin in that light, because people had only ever seen it touching on folk music and little bit of jazz, but mostly classical. There I was making it as outspoken as an electric guitar, which meant that the violin had a lot of potential in it really and just needed somebody to take it out of the instrument.

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***"I haven't even listened to that much classical music."***

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"I don't listen to that much classical music. I've got stuff on the MP3 player in the glove compartment, but a lot of the stuff that I listen to isn't so much classical. When I was growing up I listened to people like Prince and Michael Jackson through the 80s and 90s. Sure, my training was classical, but luckily I was allowed by the people around me to push forward. There is always going to be an audience for classical music, but why not play new music as well?"

*Interview: Angela Banh*

*Story: Rick Cadger*



Photo: Stan Thompson



**What's the story?**

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and photos to:  
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# Alan **plays** the market

**A**lan Player has long coveted the number **P14 YER**; in fact, he has had his eye on it since before P prefix plates were released. He sent a cheque to a plate dealer in an attempt to secure the number but his payment was returned with a letter explaining that **P14 YER** was to be sold at auction. It was a year and a half before he received details of the auction.

"I wanted the plate so badly that I got a loan of £13,000 hoping that would be enough to get it," Alan says. "When the bidding started it was fast and furious, but I wasn't going to give up. The friend I had taken along to the sale room with me said that my wife was going to kill me - especially as it was our anniversary! The bidding stopped at £7,600,

but after taxes and fees the total cost was closer to £10,000.

"That evening I took my wife out for a meal. Once she found out what I had spent I was lucky that the whole thing didn't end up in a divorce. Fortunately, now she can see that it was a good investment."

Even once the wrath of his wife had been evaded, Alan was still faced with a slight problem... He didn't own a car onto which he could transfer his new plate.

"All I had was an N-reg Mondeo. As I couldn't make my car look newer by putting the P prefix plate on it, I swapped my car for a Suzuki Baleno with a girl I used to go out with. She wanted a bigger car for her kids,

and I didn't care what I had as long as it had a P registration so my plate could go on it!"

Towards the end of 2008, Alan bought a Ford Focus, but he wouldn't let it leave the show room until it had his **P14 YER** plate on it. Once again, his wife was less than pleased.

"She wanted the car there and then.

"Ultimately I would like to see the plate on a Mustang, but that is still a few years away. I would consider selling **P14 YER**, but only for a serious amount. Other than that, I see myself handing it down to my son who at present is only seven."





# Marketing on a **Plate**

## If the **shoe** fits . . .

**M**arsha Hall's personal number plate is a perfect fit. It was also the perfect gift. **MR55 HOE** (Mrs Shoe), a birthday present from Marsha's husband Geoff, reflects Marsha's passion for her bespoke shoe business: it is also a splendid marketing tool.

In 2001, she got married, and the difficulty she encountered in finding exactly the shoes that she wanted for her big day made her very aware that many other people must encounter similar frustration. Consequently, she sourced a handmade collection from Italy, which she began selling in 2003, and her business was born.

Marsha has a degree in Fashion Design from the Surrey Institute of Art and Design (now the University College for Creative Arts), so she saw no reason why she should only be able to offer her customers the limited range of styles and sizes available from most suppliers of quality, handmade shoes. She went on to study footwear

design and construction at the London College of Fashion, and also became a qualified member of The Society of Shoe Fitters. Since graduating, Marsha has been making bespoke footwear for a wide variety of customers and occasions. In November 2009, she opened her first shop.

"I continue to love what I do with a passion, as every customer has different requirements and no two days are ever the same. The attention to detail that I put into the shoes and customer service shines through, according to the testimonies I have received."

In addition to making and selling shoes, Marsha also runs workshops where customers can learn to create their own unique shoes. The notes on her website state that in just two days it is quite possible for workshop participants to make a pair of shoes that they can be proud to wear. Workshop bookings can be purchased as gifts.



Marsha's personal registration looks great on her Honda Civic Type R, which she has customised with sign writing to advertise the business.

"The Civic is sporty and practical. I can get everything in it for my business. I really like the car, and I absolutely love my number plate."

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



### **What's the story?**

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





**How long have you worked for the company?**

For seven years.

**Describe Regtransfers as a place to work. What do you like most about it?**

It is a brilliant place to work. Although the company has grown enormously, and we now have over 80 members of staff, it still feels very small and friendly.

**How have things changed since you started?**

The company has grown considerably but has adapted positively to developments in the market.

**What is your present role?**

Sales Manager.

**How did you get the job?**

I started as a sales negotiator. The opportunity for my current role came along in June 2005. I started on a three-month trial basis and I'm still here!

**Tell me about your staff.**

I have a team of eight full-time sales people and one part time.

**What constitutes a typical day for you?**

Every day I receive about 300 emails, which may require urgent attention. I carefully oversee the team's performance, monitoring telephone calls and transactions, whilst negotiating with potential buyers and sellers in response to enquiries and investment opportunities.

**Do you remember your first big sale?**

Yes. It was a very expensive number from the company's own stock of registrations. It was on a Sunday night and came right at the end of an otherwise quiet week. Since then I have been involved in a number of other very big transactions.

**Have you dealt with any famous customers?**

Not with 'celebrities' as such, but I have negotiated impressive sales for some very well-known names from the business world.

**Who buys personal number plates and what do most people look for?**

Anyone and everyone. People tend to look for personal initials and names, but there is also a big demand for plates which are used to promote businesses.

**Why do you think people buy them?**

I'd say that the majority are bought for personal prestige but, in recent years, many people are growing wise to their potential as serious investments alongside the more traditional areas.

# RT Team Spotlight

Through this series of articles, we hope to enable our readers to get to know Regtransfers a little better. In each issue, we feature a different member of our team and, gradually, you'll become able to put faces to the voices you hear when you call us. In this issue, we talk to **Donna Allen**.

**How does Regtransfers ensure that their service is the best available?**

By training our staff to a very high standard so that they are equipped with the expertise to deal with any queries that may arise. Our sales people are on hand seven days a week and we also have a highly-focused administration department who will ensure that transfers are processed speedily and efficiently.

**What would your advice be to someone looking to buy a registration?**

Come to Regtransfers! Find a plate that is not only personal to you but one that also has longer-term investment potential. Names are always good buys and 'Number Ones', apart from being the ultimate 'mark', are likely to retain their wider appeal.

**How do you view personal number plates as investments?**

I've seen people achieve returns that they could only dream of from traditional savings

or investments. Importantly, even in the recent uncertain economic climate, number plates have consistently held their value and people are still making lots of money.

**What is the best way forward if you are considering personal number plates as part of your investment portfolio?**

I can provide valuable historical evidence and an insight into current trends, together with information and advice to help you decide which plates are likely to provide benefits in the future.



To find out how number plates could be the opportunity you are looking for, please call Donna on **01582 470076**

The **Alternative** Investment (see over . . .)

**Wedding B3 LLE**

Christmas Eve 2009 was a truly joyous occasion when Donna tied the knot with her long-term partner, Ronnie at Dunstable's Grove House Register Office. Recent snowfalls provided the perfect festive touch

for their picture book Christmas wedding. Having both exchanged their wedding vows a little earlier, the wedding car's number plate provided an amusing endorsement of the couple's sentiment on that special day!



Photo: Stan Thompson

# At any price

Ross Chorlton is a lifelong car enthusiast, and his interest in personal number plates is equally keen. Ross is one of those number plates fans who shares his enthusiasm with the rest of the family. In addition to his own personal registration, **OO05 ROS**, which he displayed on his new Toyota Corolla, Ross purchased an initial plate for his wife Amanda.

"Her full name is Amanda Louise Chorlton and her birthday is November 20th. We bought **N20 ALC** from Regtransfers. The plate is perfect for her, and we thought the price was very reasonable."

In January 2008, Ross and Amanda inherited some money when Ross's mother sadly passed away, and they found themselves able to afford a very nice car. Ross purchased a BMW 135i M Sport Coupe, but somehow his **OO05 ROS** plate didn't quite seem to suit it.

"It just wasn't right for this superb car; I needed something very special. While I was waiting for the new car to be delivered, I did a lot of searching. Eventually I found **RAC 3D**, which was perfect! RAC are my initials, for Ross Alexander Chorlton, and the 3D looks like 'ED' at the end, which spells 'RACED'. It is ideal for such a

fabulous fast car. It was a no-brainer, I had to have it. I bought it immediately, and when I got the my car, the plate looked stunning on it."

As Ross has now found his perfect personal registration, **OO05 ROS** is currently on a

retention certificate, and Ross has put it up for sale. As for **RAC 3D**, Ross says:

"Certain reg numbers have to be purchased at any price. You might not get that opportunity again."



## Fantastic opportunities

John Birchill has always been interested in personal number plates. He considers them to be both interesting and fun.

"Personal registrations alleviate the boredom of driving," he says. "Some plates make me laugh and others make me wonder about their meaning. Often when filling up at petrol stations I've spoken to the

owners to ask them the significance of their plates. The owners' replies are fascinating."

John recently fulfilled what he describes as a life-long goal and ambition, when he purchased a private registration depicting his nickname.

"I purchased **BA55 SSH** for "Bash", which has been my nickname since I was a supplier in the Royal Air Force. I used to bash the keys on the keyboard when I worked in the supply control and accounts section as a customer advisor."

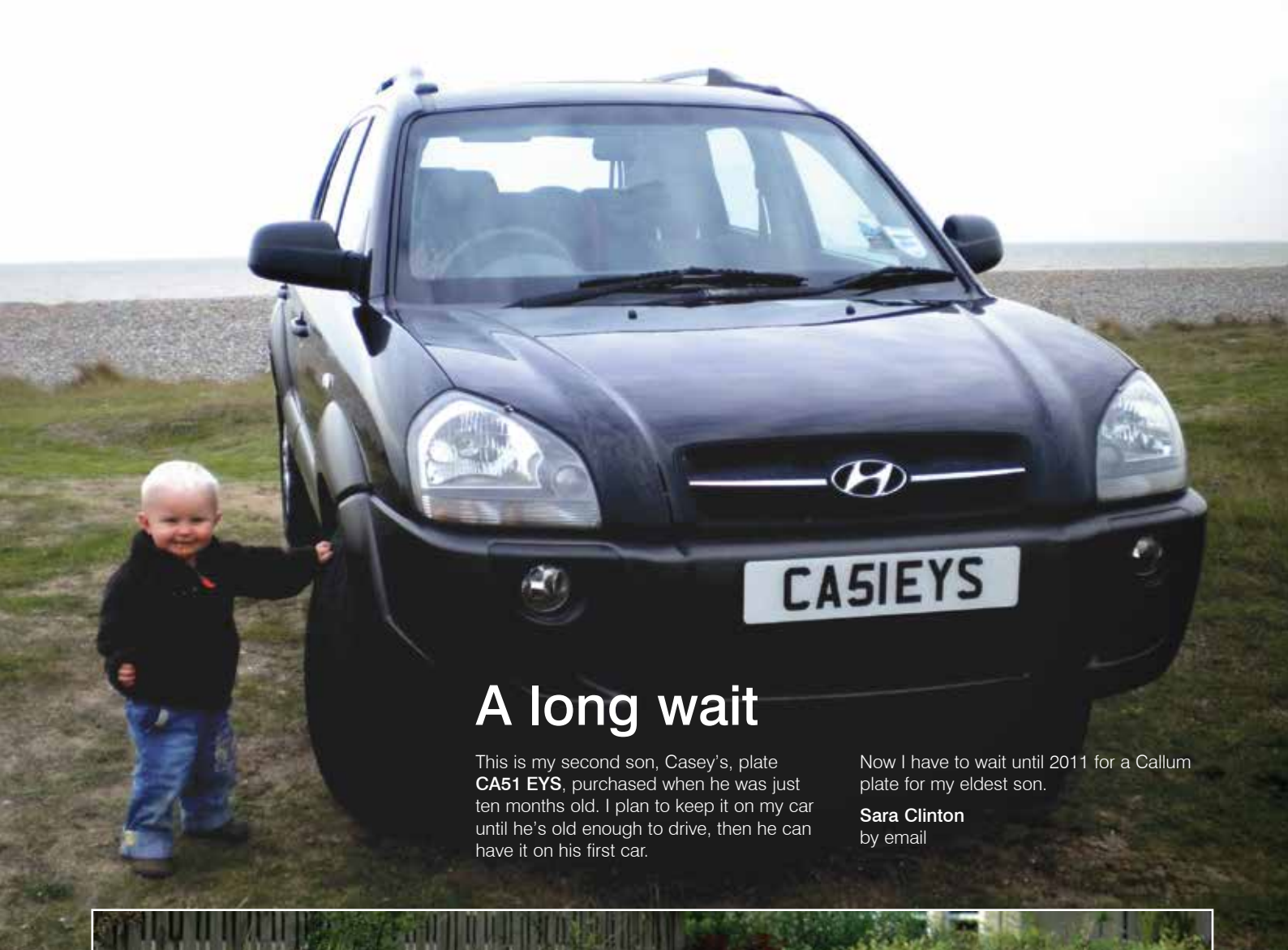
All John needs now is a newer vehicle upon which he will be able to display his special plates. In order to raise funds for that purpose, he is selling two excellent registrations through Regtransfers. Even though he is parting with them, John is perfectly well aware of their potential appeal.

"I'm selling **CUP 111D** ("Cupid") and **B357 MUM** ("best mum"). These are both fantastic opportunities to show loved ones how much you love them.

"You only get one Mum and this is your chance to show her how much she means to you by purchasing **B357 MUM**, the original 'best mum' plate. **CUP 111D** could be used for promoting wedding cars or dating agencies."







## A long wait

This is my second son, Casey's, plate **CA51 EYS**, purchased when he was just ten months old. I plan to keep it on my car until he's old enough to drive, then he can have it on his first car.

Now I have to wait until 2011 for a Callum plate for my eldest son.

**Sara Clinton**  
by email



## Magical

Please thank your team for the first class service I enjoyed when I recently purchased the registration **80 YLE** for my Ferrari F430.

I think you will agree it looks magical. My son, Ryan, is in the picture and is already figuring out how he can talk me into giving up the mark and the car to

him when he is old enough to drive. I don't think so!

**Steven Boyle**, Glasgow



# Top Secret registration

**W**e are always asking for interesting stories for the magazine. Well, Anne Gifford's story was certainly that. We don't recall any other story involving such subterfuge!

Anne managed to keep a personal number (**G1 FFX**) a top secret for nearly two and a half years!

In March 2007, Anne purchased **K5 KGX** as an 18th birthday present for her daughter Kristy Sarah Kimberley Gifford. Shortly after purchasing **K5 KGX**, Anne received an email from Regtransfers.co.uk informing her that **G1 FFX** was also available to purchase.

Anne told us, "This was the perfect number for my son, Jack Gifford. Jack's nickname since his school days, has always been 'Giff'. His friends phone and ask for Giff, on the football pitch his team mates call out 'over here Giff', in fact, I think the only people who ever call him Jack are family members.

"I had always intended to purchase a personal number for Jack at some time in the future, probably for his 18th birthday, as I did for his sister. But when **G1 FFX** became available more than 2 years before, I had to buy it – even though Jack was only 15, and not even old enough to have a driving licence at the time! It was even more perfect because it meant both of my children had a 'X' from their mum at the end of their number plates!"

So in April 2007, Anne bought **G1 FFX** and kept it on retention for the next 28 months until Jack turned 18 on 20 August 2009.

"I didn't tell many of our friends and family about it at the time, but those I told were sworn to secrecy and threatened with death if they let the secret out before the big day!"

Anne tried to put the plate to the back of her mind but, every time the retention certificate renewal drew near, she panicked that Jack would find out about it. Occasionally the stress even gave her nightmares.

When Jack passed his driving test in March 2009, and got his first car, he was over the moon. He mentioned to his mum that all he needed now was a great number – he even mentioned that 'Giff' would be perfect! Anne suspected then that he must have found some of the hidden paperwork and that he was trying to get the secret out of her – but she stayed strong and gave nothing away.

The big day finally arrived on 20 August 2009. The family were on a cruise on P&O's *Oceana* in the Mediterranean at the time.

"I'd had a mini version of the number plate made to take on holiday with us. On the morning of his birthday we gave him his presents – lots of aftershaves, CDs, shirts, etc – but no special keep-forever 18th presents. He accepted his presents graciously and never showed any signs of disappointment, although I suspected that

secretly he felt it!

"I arranged for all our friends to meet up with us in the bar at 7 o'clock that evening (which happened to be a 'formal' night on the ship – so we were all dressed in our finest) to celebrate Jack's 18th with a glass of champagne before dinner.

"After two and a half years of keeping **G1 FFX** the biggest secret of my life I finally presented the mini version of it to Jack in front of our friends. He was thrilled to bits and when

I told him how long I'd had this number he couldn't believe it! He had a dazed look on his face for the rest of the night!

"While we were sailing round the Med, the folks at Regtransfers were busy completing the official side of the transfer. They were also sworn to secrecy and kept to it! At the same time, the actual number plate was being fitted to his car by some friends at home.

"As we returned from our cruise and pulled onto our driveway at home – Jack was thrilled to see his little Fiesta complete with **G1 FFX** standing proudly on the front. The photo is of Jack giving his new number the thumbs up!"

**Anne Gifford** (Managing Director)  
Southern Drain Services Ltd





## Riky, don't lose that number!

**H**ad it not been for the sharp eye of his model girlfriend, Riky Ash may have missed out on the chance to own his perfect personal car registration.

"I wasn't looking for a new plate as I already had a cherished registration on my car, but my girlfriend, Luisa, was looking for a registration plate to promote her modelling career. During her search she spotted **R1 KYX**. As my name is spelt Riky it really was the perfect registration plate for me."

Riky works as a television and film stuntman and stunt co-ordinator. He considers a recognisable registration plate to be a great asset to his stunt company, *Falling For You*.

Riky qualified as a Stuntman in 1993, and since then he has achieved over 400 television and film credits and even earned a place in *The Guinness Book Of Records* for his amazing stunt achievements.

"My girlfriend did find her dream registration. She is Italian and spells her name Luisa, so **LUI 545** ('Luisa's') was the perfect plate for her.

"She began modelling in 2005, and at 5' 11" Luisa is the perfect height for that kind of work. She has also even been known to do the odd stunt. She has no fear of heights, and she is skilful behind the wheel. Luisa is the perfect model when action is involved."

Riky and Luisa are both believers in the power of personal car registrations for self-promotion.

"Luisa has a pink Ford KA which proudly displays her name. When she goes on modelling shoots, a registration plate like **LUI 545** gets everyone talking. Having an identifiable registration plate is a great asset to my stunt business too. Any business investing in a cherished registration plate will greatly benefit from it as a solid investment and a great promotional tool."



Riky acquired his very first cherished registration plate, **575 GVO** in 1995. The following year he purchased **N20 ASH**. Since he and Luisa have found their perfect number plates, both these earlier numbers are for sale through [Regtransfers.co.uk](http://Regtransfers.co.uk).

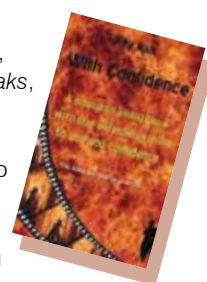


"We often look at the interesting registration plates on vehicles," says Riky. "I firmly believe that if you are proud of your car then there's no better finishing touch than something that represents you."

"My new registration plate is on my current car but will be transferred over to the new black Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder which I shall be taking delivery of very soon. The X on my registration is a kiss for Luisa, who found both of our number plates!"

[www.fallingforyou.tv](http://www.fallingforyou.tv)

Riky, whose credits include *EastEnders*, *Emmerdale*, *Hollyoaks*, *The Bill* and *Silent Witness*, is also the author of a self help book entitled *With Confidence*. (Trafford Publishing 2007)





# From **database** to **driveway**



**R**aj Ramparsad has worked hard at his education. He graduated from Imperial College London, and subsequently was awarded a full scholarship to read neuroscience at Oxford University where he intends to gain his M.Sc./D.Phil.(Ph.D.). Naturally, his achievements to date have made his family very proud, so it is perhaps unsurprising that his parents felt that his hard work should be rewarded.

"My parents bought me a new car," he says, then proceeds to wax lyrical regarding

the vehicle and its specification and appointments. "I opted for a uniquely modified BMW 540i complete with an exclusive body-kit imported from Germany. The engine was upgraded with a customised performance quad exhaust and the exterior was styled by: Xquisite Automotive, Kudos BMW and M-Style."

Impressive. Clearly, a car like that deserves an impressive number plate too.

"For my 22nd Birthday I received **F7 RAJ**, which my parents bought for me. Within two



weeks it was on my car, completing the look I desired. My Dad bought **F1 RAJ** from Regtransfers.co.uk and he has that on his S-class. Both cars look pretty striking on the driveway, parked together.

"Our family, collectively, own many number plates including **F1 GEM**, **F1 RAV**, **Y24 RAJ**, **T8 NUA** and eight others. I have been offered more than £40,000 for one of them alone, yet I have no intention of selling. My family and I have bought from Regtransfers before, and we will continue to do so in the future due to the inherent investment potential of number plates as well as Regtransfers' unprecedented swiftness in transferring the plate from an online database to your car in the driveway."



**What's the story?**

Send **YOUR** stories  
and photos to:  
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# mail extra

## What's the story?

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and photos to:  
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## An ace set

I have always admired high quality registrations and, to my delight when typing in 'D BOWYER', the Regtransfers search engine came up with **DB03 YER**

I had to buy it there and then, even before I had a car to put it on. Since then my dad, Paul, has purchased **PB03 YER** to complete an ace set!

**David Bowyer**  
by email



## Top trio

I have owned the number plate **T50 SPC** for 31 years, having acquired it on a second hand Ford Capri. It is now on my wife, Sue's, Peugeot, and **2576 MC** is on my Volvo.

I have also recently purchased **W11 MJC** from Regtransfers for my Mercedes SL.

**Melvyn Cousins**  
by email

A personalised number plate always makes you stand out from the crowd, but the meaning is often less obvious. I recently purchased two private plates from Regtransfers.co.uk, **S333 ARJ** for myself (Alan **R** Jenkins), and **S333 MTO** for my fiancée (Merlinda **T** Osted). We have only been together for just over two years, but during which time we have had more than our fair share of ill fortune.

Now that things have made a turn for the better, we decided not only to replace our old cars but also to treat ourselves to the plates which, thanks to Regtransfers.co.uk, has been swift and uncomplicated. The service we received was better than excellent and value for money.

We are delighted with our selections. My Volvo V50 T5 Executive and Merlinda's Volvo V50 2.4i SE Lux look as well-matched as we are.

**Alan Jenkins**  
by email



## Well-matched



**John Harrison**, one of the country's leading authorities on the British registration system, editor of *1903 and all that* and Archivist and Adviser to the Registration Numbers Club answers readers' queries.

Please email your questions to: [forum@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:forum@regtransfers.co.uk) or by post them to: **Registration Forum, 139 High Street South, Dunstable LU6 3SS**

**Could you please tell me how registrations in the following format came about and can new ones be created if they do not currently exist, AB 1 or 1 AB?**

When local authorities started issuing registrations in 1903 they had one or two letter codes and they were then issued in numerical sequence. Thus, for example, Hampshire had the code AA and issued AA 1, AA 2, etc. Initially the codes A to Y and AA to FP were allocated as codes in England and Wales (other codes were used in Scotland and Ireland). As authorities needed new additional codes when they reached 9999 or new county boroughs which required their own codes were created, the sequence for the new code similarly started at 1, e.g. when Blackpool became a county borough in October 1904, it was given the code FR and started at FR 1. Thus, all such possible AB 1 format marks have been issued.

When authorities started issuing reversed format marks, i.e. the numbers before the letters, in the 1950s and 60s, some started by using three-letter combinations, rather than two-letter ones and those that used two letters often did not start at 1 to avoid possible confusion with trade plates which were in a '123 AB' format. Those which were

not issued at the time have in recent years been sold at the DVLA auctions, so no such marks are now left unissued.

'Number ones' are, of course, the most attractive registrations and much in demand. Thus a mark in a 'AB 1' or '1 AB' format would be very expensive and marks with a popular set of initials could well cost well into six figures.

**Under the current post-2001 registration system, the first letter is known as the 'regional identifier' and indicates the area where the mark was issued with a mnemonic, e.g. A is (East) Anglia, B is Birmingham, etc. K which covers Luton and Northampton is not used as a mnemonic, however. Why is this?**

The answer is simply that nobody could think of a mnemonic! Incidentally the Luton office closed in 2008 and its marks, KA to KL, were passed to the London-Borehamwood office for possible use there.

**I would really like the registration D16 ASW but am told I cannot apply for it until 2016, but yet I saw D12 ASW the other day? Please help as I am very confused?**

Whoever answered your query was confused. D1-20 DSW were released for sale by DVLA

## 1903 and All That



John Harrison's newsletter *1903 And All That* deals with all aspects of vehicle registrations.

It is published quarterly and costs just £6 a year.

If you are interested in subscribing and wish to receive a sample copy, simply send a large 76p stamped addressed envelope to:

**John Harrison, 175 Hillyfields, Loughton, Essex IG10 2PW**

some time ago. D16 DSW has been sold, but there are still seven other D?? DSW marks currently for sale on the DVLA-Registrations website. The comment about not being available till 2016 relates to Dx16 ASW where x can be any letter (except I or Z).

## Too good to miss

Philip and Margaret Parkes are a fortunate couple: both husband and wife drive Morgan sports cars.

Philip bought his Morgan Plus 8 in 2003 and, like many Morgan owners, he decided that a good private registration was required.

"The Morgan factory had **V8 MMC** on one of their demonstrator cars, so when I saw **V80 MMC** on the Regtransfers site I just had to buy it. It was appropriate for my V8 engined car, and MMC represents Morgan Motor Company."

In 2004 Philip bought Margaret her pink Morgan V6 Roadster as an anniversary present. Shortly afterward he found **V600 MMC** on Regtransfers.co.uk.

"It seemed too good to miss, and made for a good pairing with my number.

"Both cars are used for touring and some hill climbs and sprints for added fun. The Plus 8, which I have owned for six years, has been taken to Europe each year

except for 2005, when we shipped it to the USA and drove San Francisco to New York via the Great Lakes with 40 plus other Morgan owners."

Philip also owns an Audi A6 bearing the number **AUD 150V**.





# mail extra

## What's the story?

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

## Platebusters

As a keen military aviation enthusiast, I grew up listening to and reading stories of the famous 'Dambusters' raid which was carried out by 617 Squadron in May 1943.

I have since been privileged to meet several veterans who participated on that daring raid over Germany which changed the course of the war and which was immortalised in the film *The Dambusters*.

I purchased **617 SDN** ('617 Squadron') in 2003 and have recently completed the pair with the purchase of **G17 SDN**. The two black Labradors in the photo are Monty and Gibson, named after Guy Gibson, the Commanding Officer, whose own black Labrador was killed on the night of the raid.

**Edward Dunstan**  
by email



## Spooky

Whilst browsing the internet last November, I saw I had an email from Regtransfers, asking me to make an offer for a BS number. I placed a bid and, lo and behold, a couple of days later their sales advisor, Saf, rang to say that I had been unsuccessful but, there was another number, **BS 6923** which I could buy for the same price. Well, I couldn't believe my luck. BS - my initials, 69 - my wife's works number and 23 - the number of one of our previous houses. With the numbers reversed, 96 - the year I retired and 32 - also the number of one of our previous properties. Spooky or what.

Thanks once again Regtransfers for the quick transfer and the opportunity to buy my personal plate.

**Brian Seddon**  
Preston



## Just a matter of time

For as long I can remember, my dad has always had a personalised number plate. He bought **SVJ 206** (Steve and Vicky Johnson) nearly twenty years ago and has had nine Mercedes to date.

It must have rubbed off on me because, while growing up, I always said that I

wanted a Mercedes with my name on the number plate and a Rolex watch, amongst other things. I've finally got my Mercedes, with the number plate and now it's just a matter of time before I get the Rolex.

Thank you Regtransfer for helping me achieve one of my goals!

**Steve Johnson**  
by email





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Maserati Quattroporte  
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