

The World of Personal Number Plates

# Regtransfers

Issue 28

.co.uk



**Stacey  
Solomon**





Since this photo featuring my grandson, Matthew, was taken, I changed the BMW for a Ford Galaxy but retained my **G8 EAF** plate.

I bought this because my first name is Geoff and it's nice to have a little pose now and then.

**Geoff Gomersall**

## Join the club

I purchased **LAD 1E** in October 2009. It had been in the previous owner's possession for over 40 years. The number receives a great deal of attention wherever it's seen.

I joined the Registration Numbers Club (RNC) in 2010 and **LAD 1E** came first in its

category at the Haynes International Motor Museum, Somerset in June 2011.

The RNC is a great club to be in. I have made many new friends and learned a lot about registration numbers.

**Darren Moore**  
Coventry

*See the regular RNC feature on page 48.*

## Nice try

I first became interested in number plates when I saw the plate **EEE 333** on a Ford Cortina outside a cafe on the A1 near Peterborough.

I then enquired of the Department of Transport if **MDT 1** (my perfect personal plate) was available to purchase. I was politely put in my place when they replied that the plate belonged to the Mayor of Doncaster, who was unlikely to sell it. Nice try!

My car is a Toyota Prius Hybrid model T4, hence the 'HYB' plate. I would, of course, preferred the 'T4 version, but that particular registration was not available.

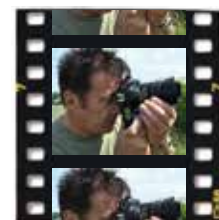
The plate has been admired quite a lot, particularly by both staff and customers at my local dealer, Yeomans Toyota.

**Melvyn Trigg**  
Worthing





## The Thompson Prize



In each issue, our resident photographer Stan Thompson, nominates his favourite picture from the hundreds submitted by our readers. This time round, the winner is Virad Patel's photo here. Virad receives a copy of our fantastic book, *Fanatical About Number Plates*.

# mail

## The best gift

My dad, Raj, gave me this number plate as a joint birthday and Christmas present and there were a few reasons why he chose it. Firstly, he was given the number plate **RAJ 55R**, by his own father when he first passed his test. He has had it on all of his cars for more than 25 years now and loves the attention it gets.

Secondly, I am studying economics and my father is always telling me about new markets and forms of investment. He must

have read an article on number plates and seen that, not only are they a great gift, but they also present a different kind of investment opportunity. And the right plates always seem to go up in value. He was going to put the money into shares for me, but this seemed like a much better investment, however it is one that I am unlikely to ever cash in.

Ever since I have had the plate, my friends have been spotting me and saying how amazing and perfect it is for me.

The plate currently sits on my mum's A-Class, which I drive. When passing the plate on to me, my dad requested that I work hard and achieve my dreams and, hopefully, in the future I can have a super car to put this amazing plate on.

This is the best gift I have ever received and I strongly advise anyone who finds the plate they want, to go ahead and get it while it is available.

**Virad Patel**



## What's the story?

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

## Park and ride

**N11 FCY** currently resides on my motorcycle, but here is an earlier picture when the registration was on my Mercedes parked outside St. James Park, Newcastle.

**Dave Young**



# RT Team **Spotlight**



Photo: Stan Thompson

Not pictured: Greg George, Arun Johal and George Zafirakis

**T**hrough this series of articles, we hope to enable our readers to get to know Regtransfers a little better. In each issue, we feature different members of our team and, gradually, you'll become able to put names to faces.

With 60 full-time advisors, Regtransfers can boast the most comprehensive sales service in the industry.

But it's quality as well as quantity that counts and all sales enquiries are handled efficiently by people who are not only

eager to help you find your perfect number plate, but also who know the market and know number plates.

In this issue, we feature Sales Manager, **Carl Kelly** and his team.



Colin Fraser is the used car preparation and display manager at a Toyota car dealership in Stockport, Cheshire. Now in

his fifties, Colin's children have grown up and left home, a situation that leaves him and his wife with a little more free time on

## **Delighted**

their hands and, occasionally, a little more spare cash.

Colin had been casually looking for a personal number plate for most of his adult life. Specifically he wanted a CCF registration to match his initials, but for years he felt that he couldn't justify the expenditure as the CCF numbers he had seen were a little expensive.

Previously Colin owned **160 CPU**, which he kept for 30 years, but he parted with that number in order to help raise the funds for **CCF 100**.

Colin's transaction was handled by Regtransfers sales adviser Alfie Moon, for whom Colin has kind words of praise.

"I consider **CCF 100** a good investment in the present economic climate," Colin says. "I'm delighted with the new plate, and I was equally delighted with Alfie's professionalism and good service."

# Stacey Solomon

*The X-Factor* is an epitome of the reality television phenomenon. Even more than *Big Brother* or *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* it polarises opinion into two main groups, those who hate it and those who are addicted to it. The latter group seems to contain a further bifurcation: those who watch it for the talent, and those who watch it to smirk or wince at the unfortunate eccentrics and characters that the format so mercilessly exploits. Very occasionally, a contestant arrives who manages to appeal to both camps.

Stacey Solomon is a character. When she first appeared on the show it was plain to see that a metaphorical train wreck was widely expected by the judges, and probably by most viewers. Stacey did not present a cool, professional, composed, facade. What we saw was an eager, nervous, modest, star-struck Essex girl to whom the concepts of self-censorship and fakery seemed completely alien. If a thought popped into Stacey's mind it popped out of her mouth a second later. As the judges pronounced their verdict following her audition performance of 'What a Wonderful World', Stacey just couldn't help interrupting to tell Louis Walsh:

"I can't believe you're saying my name!"

She was instantly likeable and it would have been terribly sad to see her fail. Fortunately for all concerned, the engaging personality was accompanied by a great voice and Stacey sailed through the first stage with the approval of all four judges.

"I'd auditioned a couple of times before that one," says Stacey. "Usually it was just a day out for me and my mum. Go up there, sing, go home because I didn't get through. But then that time I did get through and it was really, really weird. We kept just looking at each other, trying not to get too excited, because you never know when it's going to end.

"It was amazing. It was such an experience; one of those things where you can't believe it. I still live in the same place, with all the same friends. Everything is exactly the same, so when we're all sitting there reading a magazine about someone and they're like, 'You met her, didn't you?', and I think, Oh God, yes! I met her! It's so weird to think that I did all that. It's just mad."

Series 6 of *The X-Factor* was eventually won by Joe McElderry from Tyne and Wear, with second place going to Stacey's fellow Essex native, Olly Murs. Stacey remained popular throughout the series

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**Save the Children**

"I'm going to be a patron of their No Child Born to Die campaign, going to different events and visiting Africa, and keep getting involved in trying to help."

[www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

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and achieved a very respectable third place.

Now her career is taking off independently of that show, does Stacey keep in touch with any of the other contestants?

"Yeah, I still see Olly and Danyl [Johnson] all the time; sometimes Jedward, but they're always all over the country. Olly's just down the road so I see him. He's recording all the time as well, so we're in the same studios as I'm working on an album at the minute. Please God, it'll be released in the summer. It depends. Sometimes the deadlines don't go exactly how you want them to go, but as far as I am aware it'll be summer. I can't wait!"

As Stacey observed, even the best laid plans sometimes have to be revised, and the album release is, at the time of writing, due to happen during the winter of 2011/2012.

Success on *The X-Factor* led to more television offers and Stacey was asked if she'd like to participate in the 2010 series of *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!*

"They rang up and asked for an interview, then they just said do you want to do it? I was like, why not?"

"I can't say no to anything and my manager gets so annoyed. All the charities and things like that, I just can't say no to them. I was no one before all this happened, so for me to say, no, I'm not doing it, well, I'd just feel like an idiot. In two years' time I could look back and think that I'd turned down an opportunity that I'll never get again. So I have to do everything!"

"The jungle was so much fun. I've never, ever been to somewhere so different from where I live. I've never been in an environment so extreme and so different from everything that I know. I'm sleeping outside and it's freezing cold. It's

constantly tropical storms. I'm exercising every day - something I'm not used to. I'm going on these long hikes, eating bugs and things like that. I know that sounds disgusting and like someone's worst nightmare, but I thought it was such an experience.

"I love camping. I know it's not the same, but I go to the V Festival every year and I sleep on, like, mud on the ground and I love it! But the jungle's just the worst. Two weeks into it you're thinking about baked beans or sweetcorn - just imagining things that you know you could have every day at home. It makes you think that you don't really need anything. It was so nice not having my mobile phone. I have about a thousand phone calls a day, and it was so nice just to lie there and think, I wonder what's going on in the outside world. I don't have to think about anything!"

The celebrity jungle wasn't the only far-flung corner Stacey has been called upon to visit. She made a trip to Africa with Save



the Children. As we ask about that, there is just the tiniest change in Stacey's demeanour. The giggles die down a little and her answers become more thoughtful.

"Save the Children are doing a new campaign called No Child Born to Die. We went to Malawi to visit some hospitals that they've built and some nurses that they've trained up and some schools they've put money into. It was wicked. It was so good and such a good experience. The people there are so nice and so happy. In fact, what you see on the telly with like barren land and flies everywhere, it's not all like that. It was green, with trees everywhere and the people were so happy. They didn't have anything but they were just so, so happy. It was one of the nicest experiences I have ever had. I thought it was lovely and really nice to see.

"But they had 80 children in one children's unit and just three nurses. Five children die a week just in one hospital. So I'm going to be a patron of their campaign, going to different events and visiting Africa, and keep getting involved in trying to help."

Stacey has lent her time, her name and/or her image to a number of causes in various ways since she became famous. Malaria No More, Barnardo's, Genetic Disorders UK's Jeans For Genes Day and others have been able to list her amongst their supporters.

It is hard not to use cliches such as 'down-to-earth' when talking about Stacey Solomon. Stacey does not take her good fortune for granted. She seems to treat each new opportunity or success as an unexpected blessing. In fact, she still

radiates a faint aura of this-can't-be-happening-to-me. She remains firmly rooted amidst the people and places she knows best and still has the same interests that she had before she appeared on TV.

When we met Stacey her enthusiasm was focused on her new car, a VW Beetle. After the more serious interlude during which we discussed her work with Save the Children, Stacey returns to giggle mode.

"I decided on the Beetle because I've got a big Cougar at the minute, and it's really, really big. Perfect for, like, going away or... Well, I feel safe in it and it's like a family car, but I've always wanted my own sort of girly, not practical, car

"I think it's so lovely. So tiny as well, so now I don't feel like a bus when I'm getting into parking spaces. And I just feel really girly, and the roof goes down and I can't wait for summer."

What made Stacey choose **SX10 BUG** for her personal registration?

"I decided on that number plate because I didn't want anyone to know my name, or to have my name on the car. I looked at it and I thought, Aw, it's such a cute little Bug, and then when I saw the number plate I was like, 'Sexy Bug!' I really wanted it - I'm really sad!

"My old number plate is **E10 SXF** for 'Stacey X-Factor'. Really, really sad! I didn't even choose that one, Ford got that for me.

"I'm obsessed with number plates. I think your number plate has to go with your car. Whereas the other one was just like a random number plate, this one really fits



### Stacey: My Story So Far

"Stacey shares the heartwarming story of her rise to the top."

Published by  
Michael Joseph

ISBN-10: 0718158156  
ISBN-13: 978-0718158156

my car. Aw, my little Bug's sitting out there with 'Sexy Bug' written on it!

"Me and my manager, Sal, were looking through your website and we were just like [gasps]! We saw things like **BUG 2** or **BUG 1**, and some of them were really good, and then we saw 'Sexy Bug' and I was like, 'Oh my god, I've got to have that one!'

"But I wouldn't have my name, no. With 'Stacey' then I'd think everyone knows it's mine. Some people don't notice a number plate unless it's a name, so if I had 'Stacey' I'd hate that - parked right outside my house as well. I might as well drive 'Rob Me!'

It seems that Stacey's friends and family share her love of personal registrations.

"My friend's got **J44 DES** (Jade's). My dad's got **SO10 MCN** (Solomon). [Laughs] We're really sad! Hmm... Who else has got one? My friend, Natalie has got 'Nat'. We're really, really into number plates. It's really quite sad, but it's so cute,

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"When I saw the number plate I was like, 'Sexy Bug!' I really wanted it."



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having your number plate and having your car.

"Back in the day, my dad used to just buy random number plates. He's a photographer and he had 'camera' on his plate and things like that. He just bought loads and loads and loads, and we were always like, wow! As kids we thought it was all really cool.

"We're Jewish and he had 'Chuppah' [Jewish wedding canopy], **C11 UPA** because he did Jewish weddings. He had a Rolls-Royce and things like that, like just for hire, and he used to put that number plate on and...whatever. So, he's always been really interested in it. My mum couldn't care less.

"My sister's quite into it. She doesn't like to admit it but she is quite into it. She's called Jemma and even if a number plate just has a 'J' in it she thinks, Yes! Some people have really good number plates. I've seen one with just LEE, like 'Lee'. I know it sounds stupid but to me that's like, wow!"

When we spoke with Stacey she was working on her book. *Stacey Solomon: My Story So Far* has been a very successful first autobiography.

"Yeah, but it's not really an autobiography because I haven't really lived very long! It's more like everything I've done so far. I wanted to write everything down so I'll remember it how I felt it at that time. You know how you just forget how you felt. Like you forget what it was like to give birth - like how horrendous it was, you just forget and think, Aw... another baby? I don't want to forget anything that I've thought or anything that I've felt. I don't want to forget nothing.

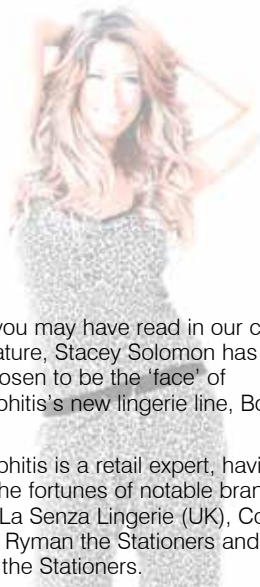
"So, me and a writer have got together and I've got to tell her everything that's ever happened, exactly how I felt. She'll help me put it all into a book, and then that'll be mine, everything that I've ever felt and ever done."

A lot is happening in Stacey's life; she is the new face of Boux Avenue lingerie [see our feature on page 23] and has just launched her own perfume, 'Smile by Stacey Solomon' in the Perfume Shop and other stores nationwide.

At this rate more installments of her autobiography won't be far behind. She is clearly determined to live life to the full and grab every opportunity that comes her way. We can't wait for volumes two and three and...

Story: Rick Cadger  
Interview: Angela Banh  
Photography: Stan Thompson





As you may have read in our cover feature, Stacey Solomon has been chosen to be the 'face' of Theo Paphitis's new lingerie line, Boux Avenue.

Theo Paphitis is a retail expert, having revived the fortunes of notable brands such as La Senza Lingerie (UK), Contessa Lingerie, Ryman the Stationers and Partners the Stationers.

Theo is probably best known these days for his role as one of the 'dragons' in the popular TV show, *Dragons' Den*. Recently, Theo also starred in a new seven-part BBC TV series, called *The Next Big Thing*. The programmes looked at the exciting world of retail buying and the strategies and tactics adopted by potential suppliers.

Theo's latest venture is another foray into the world of fashion. As he explains, "Boux Avenue will offer an amazing lingerie and nightwear shopping experience for women who are looking for something truly special."

To celebrate his new clothing venture, Theo has adorned himself, or rather his car, with the perfect number plate, **X8 OUX**.

The 'Boux' plate was supplied by Regtransfers who, as regular readers of this magazine will know, had previously indulged Mr P's passion for personal and business related plates with numbers like **RYM 4N** (Ryman), **LA53 NZA** (La Senza) and **T1 HEO** (Theo)



The height of **fashion**



**Boux**  
— AVENUE —

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



# Legend

**O**lly Ross is a Scottish motor sport legend. He has been racing cars of one kind or another since 1964. Before that, and upon leaving school, Olly ran a car service garage. The early garage experience fed his enthusiasm for all things automotive and, in 1968, Olly took over the Kenway School of Motoring which he still owns. His parallel career as a racing driver started when he began competing in timed speed hill climb and sprint events, later moving on to circuit racing. During a

remarkable period of over 40 years, Olly has raced in more than 30 different vehicles. He has raced in an astonishing variety of motor sport classes and achieved 200 wins and 18 major racing titles.

Olly sent us a photograph of his two private registrations, **OBR 188** which was purchased by Olly's father 45 years ago, and **9 OR** which Olly bought through Regtransfers.co.uk more recently.



**What's the story?**

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

Olly uses **OBR 188** on his driving school vehicle. The OBR plate matches the initials of his full name, Oliphant Biggar Ross.







## Hot Property

**N**azum Akhtar is a successful property developer from Birmingham. He purchased his first personal number plate when he was just 18 years old. **N4 XUM** - representing his name - has sat proudly on his Honda Accord ever since.

"The next plate I bought," said Nazum, "was **24 WR**. This was a gift for my brother, Wahid. We have a portfolio of 24 properties in Birmingham. The 'W' stands for Wahid and the 'R' for his wife, Razia. **24 WR** adorns our Rolls Royce Silver Spur."

By now, Nazum had really caught the bug and decided to buy yet another plate for their BMW Series 7. **N77 UMA** again resembles his forename but has the 'A' for Akhtar at the end as well.



Then came **Y14 SMA** for Nazum's sister, Asma, on the occasion of passing her driving test.

But things haven't stopped there. Nazum is keen to find a plate for his daughter, Rabia, which will reside on his Evo 6 Tommi Mackinem model, and for his son, Tauheed, and nephew, Haroon.

Nazum is eager to credit his brother, Mohammed Wahid (below), for the siblings' business success. Wahid owns many businesses such as newsagents shops and is very popular in the area. "Without his hard work and success," says



Nazum. "We wouldn't have been as successful as we are today."

The family's business acumen goes back another generation, however. Their father, Mohammed Akhtar (left), was a butcher who eventually owned a string of properties in the 1980s. He is now retired and has a passion for buying horses back home in Pakistan. Naturally, Nazum will be searching for an appropriate 'Horse' plate for his father's next birthday.

"I was really pleased with the service Regtransfers provided," says Nazum. "I always go to them when I need a personal plate and have told my family and friends to do the same."



# Number plates **bug**

**F**raser Russell is the proud owner of two registration marks purchased from Regtransfers.co.uk.

Fraser's wife started the ball rolling when she bought him **65 FR**.

"I was not born in 1965, however the 65 does have relevance. I initially had it on a Jaguar but then I had it transferred onto my Landrover Discovery 4 last September when I bought it. Lovely car, and the plate really does it justice."

Becoming the proud owner of **65 FR** gave Fraser the infamous number plates bug: the urge to buy more!

"I decided to find another plate for the bike that I predominantly use for my business. I own a concierge and lifestyle management company called Head Concierge Ltd.

"Will Robinson, an excellent member of your team, helped me to negotiate with the previous owner of **65 HC**. HC being the initials of the company and 65 showing the date and month that I received my first payment from a client when I started the business back in 2003.

"Purchasing this plate was a great experience. I was well assisted and felt protected the whole way."

Initially the price of the plate was a little more than Fraser wanted to spend, but with a little negotiating by Will on behalf of both parties, and a little flexibility all round, a deal was struck and everyone was happy.

"I paid the initial deposit and the plate for my motorbike arrived in the post the very next day. What amazing service! The whole way through the process I was able to track the progress of my purchase online. I was able to see that you had received the paperwork from me, the paperwork from the seller, right through to the receipt of the documents from the DVLA. Altogether a wonderful professional service.

"I am still keeping the Regtransfers team busy through your cool *RegAlert* service, as I am looking for another plate for my wife's car. I have looked at other firms out there, but none of them come across to me as professional and helpful as you guys at Regtransfers. Thank you."

And thank you, Fraser!



**If it's out there, we'll find it!**

Can't find exactly the number plate you are looking for? Our **RegAlert** service can help.

Simply sign up online and tell us what you are looking for. We will contact you by SMS text and email immediately a match is found.

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# ODY one out

**B**ill Ody is an expat Englishman living in Australia. He must be one of the few Australian residents to own a UK vehicle registration on a retention certificate. At first thought it may seem difficult to imagine how such a situation could arise, but when one knows the story it all makes perfect sense.

"In 1961, when I was about 11 years old, my mother was hospitalised and subsequently went to a convalescence home in Bexhill, East Sussex. One day, as we went to visit my mother I noticed that there were vehicles around with ODY registrations.

I learned that Bexhill was within the Arundel registration area for DY.

"The DY number plates really caught my attention and, even at that tender age, I became determined that one day I would have a car with an ODY registration.

"Well, the years passed and, from time to time, I scanned the adverts in papers such as the *Daily Telegraph* or *Sunday Times*. Then, one day in around 1972, I saw an advert for **ODY 7**. The asking price was offers over £100. So, I phoned up and offered £100. Upon being told that it was offers over £100. I said, 'OK, then. £101!' That was accepted and, having declined the offer of the old Ford Consul that the

registration was on, I became the proud owner of **ODY 7**."

Bill transferred the registration to his parents' car when he emigrated to Australia.

"My mother in particular loved having the number on her car and she was well known in Winborne, Dorset, where she lived, for parking pretty much wherever she felt like on the basis that she had a 'Blue Sticker'.

"Sadly my father passed away seven years ago and my mother just recently in May of this year. As I live in Australia the number is now on a retention certificate and at some point may have to be sold and put back onto a UK vehicle. I just hope that it goes to someone who has a good reason to want it and will give it a good home."





# DEREK ACORAH

THE UK'S NO1 SPIRIT MEDIUM

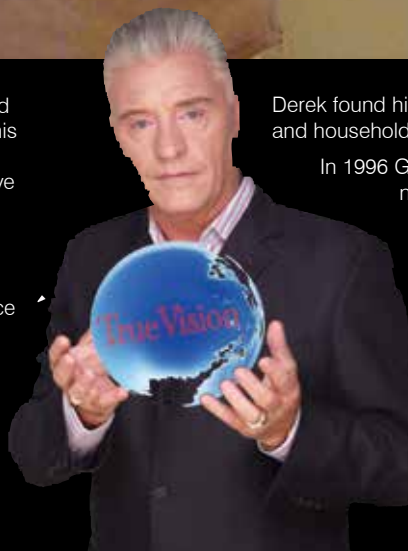


**D**erek Acorah is widely known as the UK's top spirit medium. As a young man, Derek fulfilled a boyhood ambition to be a footballer when he signed for Wrexham as an apprentice. Two years later he had moved on to Liverpool FC, his home town, under manager Bill Shankly. After spells with other clubs, he left the UK for Australia to pursue his career in football, but returned to England some years later following an injury which put paid to his footballing future.

Acorah says that he had always been aware of his spiritual awareness. His psychic powers have been with him since childhood. Upon his return to the UK he set up as a full time spirit medium, in a small office based in Liverpool. Success in his new field was not instantaneous and

Derek found his rise to international fame and household celebrity took a long time.

In 1996 Granada Television aired a new show called *The Psychic Zone*. Following the success of his initial appearance on the show, Acorah was regularly invited back to feature in weekly segments. He then worked as a main contributor in a spin-off





show called *Psychic Livetime*. Later he was given his own show, *Predictions with Derek Acorah*, where he would conduct readings for members of the public in their own homes.

In January 1998, Derek travelled to Los Angeles where he took part in various paranormal investigations there and in Hollywood. He recorded a pilot for a new show named *Connections with Derek Acorah*. The show involved touring the streets of Santa Monica giving impromptu readings to members of the public but sadly the show was never picked up by any of the television networks.

In July 2001, Derek was asked to feature in a new British television programme called *Haunting Truths* which was subsequently sold to the channel Living and renamed *Most Haunted*. It was at this time that he became Britain's most widely known medium and was described as "the sexiest man in spiritualism". He worked on the show for six series until his departure in 2005, when he left to pursue other projects.

In Spring 2003 Living commissioned *Antiques Ghost Show* which featured the art of psychometry, with Acorah exploring the mysteries of family heirlooms. *Derek Acorah's Ghost Towns* followed which involved the public, and highlighted their personal stories of ghostly activity in locations rather more

mundane than the well known stately homes, castles etc that had been the norm for *Most Haunted*. Derek would also knock on people's doors and offer them a private sitting in their own homes. Acorah was joined for the first two series by presenters Daniella Westbrook and Angus Purden, followed by Myleene Klass and Rhodri Owen for the third and final series.

In 2004, Derek was presented with the Variety Club of Great Britain's Multichannel TV Personality of the Year Award, as chosen by its members. To mark the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot (1605), Living commissioned a one-off programme called *Derek Acorah's Quest for Guy Fawkes* which was broadcast on November 5th in 2005. Derek travelled the country, visiting key locations in order to retrace the footsteps of Guy Fawkes.

In 2007, along with his wife Gwen, he travelled to Egypt to film *Paranormal Egypt*. This six-part series was commissioned by Living and saw Derek venturing into sacred tombs within the Pyramids, seeking out spirits of ancient pharaohs and gods.

2009 featured two programmes where Derek attempted to make contact with the spirit of Michael Jackson. Earlier this year he took part in a live online seance. The event was hosted by *The Sun* describing him as the

'UK's foremost medium'. Derek is currently half way through his UK theatre tour, aptly named *True Vision*.

Derek lives with his wife of 15 years in Southport, along with his two dogs, a cat, 15 chickens, three ducks and a prized collection of koi carp. His love for animals is apparent, always having had pets around him.

Derek has a love of fast, luxurious cars, his present chariot being a Chrysler 300 Hemi, with a huge 5.7 litre engine. He is nominee to a variety of cherished numbers, all of which are currently on retention. Derek says, "I've always thought of private number plates as an extension of one's personality. To have your name or your profession displayed on a vehicle is the ultimate accolade and testament to the success or achievement of your work. I am proud and privileged to be the nominee of such fantastic individual number plates and look forward to eventually owning a fleet of vehicles with them all on display."

Derek is currently on tour in the UK at various theatre venues where he hosts evening demonstrations of clairvoyance and mediumship.

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







## Byeways Coaches

Marketing on a **Plate**

**T**om Stanhope bought his first coach, a 12 metre Volvo 49-seater, in 1966, closely followed by a 1969 AEC Classic Coach.

"I called the outfit Byeways for no particular reason," says Tom. "I operated several coaches for 12 years before retiring, during which time I bought the registrations **804 BYE** and **805 BYE**."



"On a few occasions I was asked why I called the coaches Byeways. My answer was normally that 'I'm not allowed on motorways. I have to stay on country roads'. This was generally accepted."

Tom believes that both numbers were originally issued by Croydon County Council in 1963 to motorcycles used by the Metropolitan Police.

"As a young man, I subsequently joined the police force in 1965 and served for 25 years," Tom informs us. "I then ran a driving school for company car drivers, engaged in motorcycle training and also ran a chauffeur service. This vehicle had the registration **A11 LDN** ('All London')."

"When I decided to sell the plate, I advertised it in several London taxi drivers publications. Perhaps they didn't understand it, or were worried that it was too easy to remember. Considering they

will not go south of the Thames after 10pm they couldn't really display it! "

Now fully retired and Byeways Coaches disbanded, Tom is looking to pass the 'BYE' registrations on and is currently looking for a 'TPS' mark for himself and his wife, Pauline.



**What's the story?**

Send **YOUR** photos to  
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Marketing on a **Plate**



## Cut and Blow

**R**oger Paul Beresford-Jones runs the Thatch Hair Technique, a very trendy hair salon in Carlisle.

Roger owned the number plate **5 CUT** for about 30 years until he sold it through Regtransfers.

Roger and his wife promptly cruised around California on a Harley-Davidson motorbike on the profits.

The lady in the photograph is, however, not Mrs Beresford-Jones, but superstar,

Whitney Houston, who Roger met last year whilst touring round Ireland.

"I love our 'Cut' and 'Blo' plates, **BL04 CUT** and **BL05 CUT**, on the bike and car," Roger enthuses. "They are a great talking point and really help to sell the salon brand."

## Now You're Off!

"About 25 years ago I attended an auction in Nottingham," says funeral director, Harry Mouat. "I was interested in a car being sold by Champion Spark Plugs. The car was a Daimler DS420 and it was advertised as 'Managing Director's car'. I was interested in the car for my funeral business. The **NYO 1** number plate came with that car."

**NYO 1** is now displayed on his company's Rolls-Royce hearse which, because of the registration is affectionately known as Now You're Off.

"On my wife's car is the registration **WNR 1**," says Harry. "That sits there telling us both that We're Not Ready. We also thought Wayne Rooney's middle name might begin with an N, but actually I think its Michael..."

"On my Rolls Royce stretch limousine sits **XCV 1**. I'm sorry to say there is no tale to tell about this one, but it looks very smart when behind the hearse.

"On my own car I have **HMM 40**, my initials, which I had for my 40th birthday. The thing about this plate is that it brings back memories of youth as I am now 68. Sometimes you do think, where have those 28 years gone?"







## The **key** to success

never tempted to put it on the various Rolls Royces that I have owned."

The number is now on his Land Rover Discovery, complemented by **GR 45** on a 1910 International lorry. "I have had these for over 35 years," he states proudly. "**GR 45** does the London to Brighton run and other HGV shows." Goff also has **GPR 6** on his wife's car, and **6 GPR** on retention, a lovely matching pair of numbers which he purchased through Regtransfers.

But his pride and joy is the number **89 KEY**, which is displayed on the Volvo hospitality unit which tows a fairground organ to corporate events and shows. The number relates, however, to the organ itself, an extremely rare and beautifully preserved '89-key' Marengi model built in Paris in 1901.

"It plays on punch-card music," Goff informs us. "All key instruments from piano accordions through to grand pianos are all signified by the number of keys.

My 89-key fairground organ is critically acclaimed as one of the finest examples still travelling. I hire this out for corporate events, open days and weddings, etc. One client remarked it is cheaper than hiring the band of the Coldstream Guards!"

Goff bought the registration at auction, but the process was fraught



**S**elf-styled 'Wandering Minstrel', Goff Radcliffe, has spent most of his working life in the road haulage business. "Prior to selling my business to Pickfords, the number **GR 15** was always on my service van. I have tended to understate myself and was







with potential disaster, as he explains:

"I rearranged my very busy working life in order that I could bid in person, but the driver that undertook my regular Italian run was taken ill, so I was forced to undertake the run myself."

"I arranged to bid by mobile phone but, just as the auction began, I was entering the Mont Blanc Tunnel and the mobile phone reception was awful. Twice the phone 'died'. I prayed I would not be cut off again as the under-bidder would then get **89 KEY**."

"This time my luck was in and the reception was clear enough for me to hear the bidding in the room. I could tell there was not much interest in the number. The end result being that the number was knocked down to me for just over the very low reserve price. I didn't need to be driving over the Alps with 44 tonnes as I was personally flying much higher than that!"

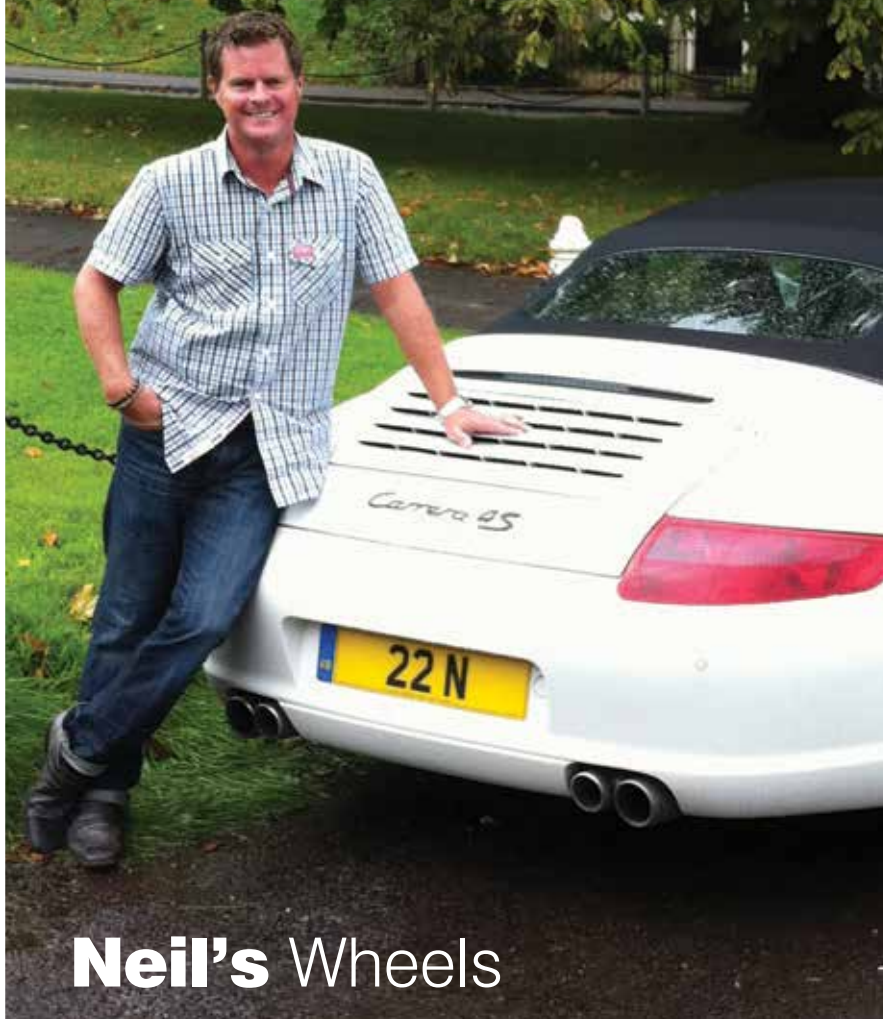
"Upon reflection I suppose that, apart from a locksmith or another 89 key fairground organ owner (of which there are only about

12 in the country), **89 KEY** would not be of much interest. But it attracts such a lot of interest when I attend events. On more than one occasion, someone has asked me if it was worth replacing the road plates with 'show plates' on private ground.

My polite response is 'please take a look at the tax disc in the windscreen.' Modesty forbids me to gloat when they realise it is the genuine number."







## Neil's Wheels



In our Summer 2006 issue, we published an article about Neil Brown and his longstanding interest in personal car registrations. Since 1982, Neil had purchased a whole catalogue of private number plates including: **33 JYD, NBO 324, 367 NB, 17 NB, JO51 HUA, H46 LEY, N88 OWN, J111 SEE** and **GFB 446** for himself or for family members. He also acquired many plates for friends, including **D6 XYS, P4 DUK, M6 LRB** and **V16 NDA**.

Neil contacted us again recently with an update. His autonumerological enthusiasm appears to be undampened by the passage of time.

Since our last contact, Neil has bought his own business. He purchased the Village Green Garage in 2009.







"It has been a garage since the early 1900s," says Neil. "We offer a selection of low mileage, high quality, hand-picked cars with full workshop facilities to support the customer. Although times are hard we still continue to supply a steady number of cars onto the roads."

He is still buying number plates. As before, he secures registrations for other people as well as for himself.

"22 N belonged to a friend of mine and it looked fabulous on his new Gallardo Spider. I said that if ever he wanted to sell it he should let me know. I bought it in November 2008 and it has been on a few Porsches since. It's a great number and creates a lot of interest.

"I was devastated to have missed the sale of 1 JUU. I had registered for the auction but my builder side-tracked me. It wasn't until the following morning, when I received the email from the DVLA to bid on the unsold lots, that I realised. So, disappointed, I rang the auction house to see if a dealer or a number plate fan had bought the number. The operator confirmed that it was sold to a dealer but, obviously, couldn't reveal the name. She did,

however, agree to call the dealer and ask him to contact me which, thankfully, he did. We agreed a price, the deal was done and 1 JUU now adorns my wife Julie's Mercedes.

"Regtransfers.co.uk has always given me excellent service and the number plates you provided have given me, my family and my friends a lot to smile about."





The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 28

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**Stacey  
Solomon**

