

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 30

# Regtransfers

Amy Childs







## Wood you believe it?

**H 2729** is over 110 years old and we inherited it from my husband's great grandfather, who was in the timber business.

Unfortunately, he lost one of his hands in an accident with a circular saw and, as a result, was fitted with a hook to replace the hand.

He had the *circa* 1901 Lloyd & Plaister car (pictured here) adapted, so he could use the hook for steering.



**Jenny Alsford**  
Granbrook, Kent

*Note: This historic plate is currently available through Regtransfers @ £3745*

## Second to none

In 1981, I bought a new Ford Granada and thought that a cherished number plate would look good on it. In the *Exchange & Mart* I found that **BS 5673** was on offer from an address in Scotland. So I bought it.

It adorned my Ford Granada for five years, during which time I bought my wife, Lin, a cherished number for her Ford Escort with the letters VBL, which stand for 'Very Beautiful Lin.'

That number adorned a few of her cars including a 924 Porsche, a 3 series BMW, and four Mercedes: a 190, a 230, a C220 and a 320 CE, which I still have.

One day, in 2011, I saw an advert for Regtransfers in the *Daily Mirror*. Whilst looking through the listings, I came across **3 BNS**. After a quick phone call and a little negotiating, I bought it for the 320 Mercedes.

In 1985, I started to do wedding car hire so I changed the Granada for a 1973 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow and transferred **3 BNS** over.

In 2011, I changed the Silver Shadow for a 1988 Silver Spirit. I thought then that a better registration would look nice, so I rang Regtransfers and was informed that **1 BNS** was being sold. I bought it and now it is on the Silver Spirit.

The service I received from Regtransfers was second to none and I would recommend them to my friends and relations if they ever needed a cherished registration.

**Brian Singh**  
Taunton, Somerset



## How perfect

I first saw a Fiat 500 six years ago and immediately fell in love with it. But, in those days, I had a company car which I eventually bought when I retired.

Two years later, however, I was able to take advantage of the government scrappage scheme and I traded it in towards my dream red Fiat 500.

My husband already had his initials (AJN) on a plate purchased through Regtransfers and had been looking for a plate for me since the day I had my new car.

A year later, on my 65th birthday, I got the plate with my initials plus '500'. How perfect was that?

I receive lots of comments about the plate and even more now that the car has the eyelashes!

**Rose Georgetta Neck**  
Luton, Bedfordshire



## Funny business

I am in the comedy business as an impressionist and entertainer working in the UK's top rock 'n' roll theatre touring show, *That'll Be The Day*. I have been in show business for 35 years and my best pal is Joe Pasquale.

I get plenty of laughs when I drive by in my beloved ML 500 Mercedes with cherished number plate **FUN 11Y** ('Funny'), and it still makes me smile too. I hope you like it.

Give us a look in next time you want a real fun night out at a theatre near you or, if you get to see me on the road, give us a toot 'cos now you know who I am!

I'm currently looking for another number plate with the name of my lovely fiancée, Tracy.

Love the magazine. Brill!

**Gary Anderson**

Bristol

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

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



# mail



**What's the story?**

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

## Starting young

Here's a picture of me with my own personal number plate!

My mum has the plate with my name on her Mercedes A Class and my grandma has **P90 NNY**, my dad's name ('Sonny'), on her C Class.

**Shalin Bhamrah**



## Raising the steaks

I have been a butcher for 35 years and, since 2002, I have owned my own shop, Paul's Quality Foods.

My passion for meat and its by-products has grown over the years.

I recently bought a new car, a Mercedes 320 CLS, so there was only one registration to get, **MR57 EAK** ('Mr Steak').

I love it and so do my friends. Thanks,

**Paul Dolan**

Kirby, Liverpool





*"Every time I see your magazine I'm thinking, brilliant. It's very cleverly done."*

"I just think this is fantastic, guys, I've got to tell you. Every time I see your magazine I'm thinking, brilliant. It's very cleverly done."

David has recently updated his autobiography as he felt that there were a few improvements to be made.

The revised version is available as a free download from his website,

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

Twitter users may follow @davidgoldwhu

Photography: Stan Thompson



David Gold recently invited us back to his home for a return visit. David, who is a great friend and supporter of this magazine, has featured in our pages several times with his excellent "Gold" number plates. David's daughters Jacqueline and Vanessa (respectively chief executive and managing director of Ann Summers) bought him a new registration for his collection, **MR60 LDX** ('Mr Gold X').

"I forget where I was," says David, "but I arrived home and there it was, my new plate, already on the car. When I saw it, I said to my daughters, 'that's cool'. Because I'm a young person, I knew what that meant. No, seriously, I really did think it was cool."

As he flipped through the pages of a recent issue of *Regtransfers: The World of Personal Number Plates*, David admired several of the registration numbers featured, but then declared: "I still think that mine are the best!"







## The team's favourites

*Of course, we always think the latest magazine is the best issue ever and the one you are reading is no exception - packed full of news, articles, superb photos and a household name celebrity interview to boot. But what do the production team consider to be the best of the other 29 editions?*

**Stan Thompson** *photographer*



Choosing my favourite edition of the Regtransfers magazine is not an easy call; there have been so many enjoyable photo

shoots, where our celebrities have received us with exceptional courtesy and kindness.

But looking back at the twenty magazine photo shoots that I have undertaken over the past eight years, I would have to nominate the **Amir Khan** edition as my favourite.

We visited Amir on a dark and dank day in December 2005. Right from the outset I was worried about the poor light and the prevailing fog. How would the photographs turn out?

And my voice was beginning to fail me. I wasn't feeling that well. Little did I know then that I would be laid up over Christmas with a nasty chest infection.

But despite the excruciating 5am departure to meet Amir in Bolton, the worry about my deteriorating health, my concerns about getting some decent photographs, and not being able to find a decent place for lunch, it was so very uplifting to meet a young man who impressed us considerably with his modesty and humility. You could say that I was knocked out, metaphorically, by this young pugilist!

And the magazine cover shot of Amir turned out to be a great one in the end!

**Angela Banh** *editor*



It's hard to pick a favourite from the 30 magazines we have produced.

**Fiona Fullerton** was the first person I interviewed and **David Hays** was my one and only cover photo, so both are special. However,

my favourite issue must be the **Russell Watson** one. Russell was an absolute gentleman who seemed so delighted with his number plate. He had a great reaction when he saw the number plates. He had overcome great adversity and had such a passion for life.

**Barry Monks** *designer*



It's so tempting to choose **Frankie Dettori** astride a toy zebra, but the **Nicky Clarke** issue featured, equally unusually, its subject seated at the piano, rather than with a car. This best illustrates, perhaps, the wider appeal of personal number plate ownership as a lifestyle choice and not just a motoring accessory.

**Rick Cadger** *writer*



**Russell Watson** was a great subject for our article. He was a real gentleman who made my colleagues very welcome when they visited him. He was helpful, spared plenty of time for the

interview and gave us plenty to work with. Russell's story has plenty of substance and was really interesting to write. It was also a pleasure to correspond with his loyal fans, who contributed to the piece.

**Simon Palmer** *editorial*



Being a boxing fan, I had to choose the **David Hays** issue as my favourite magazine. It's always nice to get an unbiased insight into sports personalities' lives and David's article puts across what a genuinely nice guy he

is and still a peoples' champion.

**Lisa Riley** *editorial*



Although I have only been part of the editorial team for the last two issues, I have been with

Regtransfers for five years and always looked forward to each new issue. My best so far is number 28, **Stacey Solomon**, my all-time favourite X-Factor contestant. I love her enthusiasm for everything she encounters, including number plates!

**John Doherty** *editorial*



As I'm a keen footballer and fan of the game, our **Vinnie Jones** issue was my fave edition of the magazine. Vinnie's the only (ex-)footballer we have met so far.

At first we had the impression that Vinnie didn't really seem too enthusiastic, but after we had been chatting for a while he warmed to us; so much so, in fact, that he kept his driver waiting outside for quite a while. The poor chap was waiting to take Vinnie to London for another interview.

Many years ago, Regtransfers used to produce a brochure. It was very nice - a compact A5 volume packed with registration listings - but then, suddenly, our MD decided that it wasn't enough. He described his vision to the marketing department... We would publish a magazine, a real magazine, with colour pages of articles and photographs as well as the number plate listings. Of course, we listened carefully. We considered the time and resources that such a project would demand, and how much it would cost. We did careful calculations, double checked our answers, and came to the conclusion that he must be crazy. However, as none of us was qualified to make a formal diagnosis, we simply had to get on with the job, even though we knew it was impossible.

What you hold in your hand is the 30th impossible issue of *Regtransfers: The World of Personal Number Plates*. A professional-quality publication that is produced in-house by a team that also copes with the day-to-day marketing demands of an industry-leading business.

Our first issue was pretty impressive (if we say so ourselves). It contained 66 full-colour pages of articles, photographs and listings, just as prescribed by the boss... But it wasn't a patch on what was to come. With each magazine we produced the bar was set a little higher. 66 pages increased to 84, production values went up and, perhaps most significantly, we began to include interviews with celebrity customers. The celebrity aspect has become the most popular feature of the magazine and has firmly confirmed our place as number one number plate provider to the stars!

The Regtransfers magazine is still unique and unrivalled in the industry. There is nothing like it, and we believe that there never will be.

Here's to the next 30 issues.







## Double Dippie

Two of David Dippie's three daughters have recently added personalised number plates to their cars.

Louise, pictured above with her two dogs (Bee, a Lurcher, and Maddie, a Patterdale

Terrier), is married to Aaron Woulfe from Dunstable. They fitted their namesake plates at Christmas 2011.

Laura, who lives in Cheshire, transferred her **GBR 112** plates to her BMW 330 from a 1956 Morris Minor in Sunderland.

The car was bought new by a Miss Eva Crinson, a schoolteacher who taught

David at Grange Park Junior School in Sunderland, and was sold as lot number one at auction along with the contents of her house when she passed on in her eighties. It had done only 49,148 miles from new.

"Both my daughters are delighted with the new identities which their plates have given their cars," says David.





Well  
of

"Reality" broadcasting of one kind or another has been around in the UK since before the Second World War, although the label itself is a more recent development, as is the emergence of a loose consensus regarding what constitutes a "reality" show. Programmes such as the British version of *Candid Camera*, which was first screened in 1960, introduced the principle of depicting ordinary people in unscripted (though often arranged) situations but it is with subsequent generations of shows - arguably beginning with the advent of *Big Brother* in 2000 - that the genre has become prominent to the point of ubiquity. Finding a television channel that completely shuns reality output is not easy.

There is no sign of the phenomenon losing momentum. In all of its varieties, reality television seems (despite the scathing attention some shows have attracted from critics) to be as popular as ever with the public. From the contrived situations of *Big Brother* and *I'm a Celebrity...* to the competitive formats of *MasterChef* and *Strictly Come Dancing*, viewers are addicted to shows that perform a peculiar inversion: a bit of conceptual sleight-of-hand whereby ordinary people are turned into instant celebrities, while the rich and famous find themselves precipitated into situations where wealth and status count for nothing.

Despite the astonishing popularity of the programmes themselves, the fame achieved by participants seems usually to be relatively short lived. With the exception of some winners from the talent show sub-genre, very few reality stars seem to persist.

Warhol's famous comment about everyone getting 15 minutes of fame seems to have been prophetic.





# *"In Essex, we all have personal plates!"*

One of the more recent additions to the reality stable is *The Only Way is Essex* (popularly abbreviated to *TOWIE*, or "Towie" when spoken). *TOWIE* is in the vein variously known as "contrived but not scripted" or, more pejoratively, "scripted reality". The cast are filmed as they ostensibly go about their daily lives. Despite their many layers of cosmetic adornment and enhancement, the show's opening caption claims that "the people are all real although some of what they do has been set up purely for your entertainment." The degree of scripting and contrivance has been the subject of lively debate.

So far, few of *TOWIE*'s cast have gone on to wider fame. Former participant Mark Wright has made a few subsequent television appearances but his own show,

*Mark Wright's Hollywood Nights*, vanished after one series due to low viewing figures. To date, the only *TOWIE* star who has enjoyed significant success outside of activities directly tied to the show is Amy Childs.

Amy appeared in the first two seasons of *The Only Way is Essex*, and immediately became a focal point and one of the most popular characters. There was a certain, endearing starry-eyed enthusiasm about her that appealed to viewers. Her aspirations seemed plausible and she did appear to have some sense of direction and ambition. She chose to leave after the second series.

In August 2011 *The Guardian* ran an article

questioning *TOWIE*'s ability to survive Amy's departure. Despite the article's satirical tone, there is universal acknowledgement that the loss of Amy was a real blow to the programme.

Although the media often highlights the dubious reality of *TOWIE*, there is no denying that Amy's activity since leaving the show has proved that her energy and determination are genuine. Indeed, Amy's success at school had already shown that she knew how to knuckle down and work. She was head girl at the Raphael Independent School in Essex, and she received qualifications as a beauty specialist from Brentwood Academy. Since leaving the show, Amy has put her







positive qualities to work across a range of projects.

Amy has appeared in *Vogue* and has modelled for Topman, Lipsy, Ultimo, Tesco,

Samsung and others. In addition to her modelling work, Amy has made regular appearances on television. She came fourth on the 2011 series of *Celebrity Big Brother* and has been the subject of her own fly-on-the-wall reality series. She has appeared as a guest on panel shows and as a presenter, notably for the fashion segment of ITV's *This Morning* magazine show. She has written magazine columns and is a firm favourite of tabloid newspapers and celebrity magazines.

In October 2011 Amy launched her own

eponymous autumn/winter fashion collection. The collection was a great success achieving excellent sales and Amy kept up the momentum with a spring/summer collection that launched in March 2012 and a second autumn/winter collection in September 2012. She has opened her own beauty salon, launched a range of beauty products and produced a best-selling fitness DVD. Amy has also put her image and fame to work for good causes including the Cure Cancer charity. It has been a busy time.

"These last two years have been amazing," says Amy. "It was an overnight success. I was working in Loughton as a beautician when I





met a guy who said they were doing a programme about Essex. I went along and I didn't even need to audition. It all just went on from there."

Certainly Amy's appearance fitted in perfectly with the feel of the show. One can imagine that she would have seemed almost ready made for *TOWIE*, but Amy's image actually owes little to the programme.

"I've always been like this. Ever since I was young, I've loved dressing up. This [Amy indicates her hair and make-up] is how I always go to work; I've always been the same. Some people did think it was just for the show, but this is how I used to go to work before *TOWIE*. I've always loved fashion."

At 22 Amy is already a millionaire. Her rapid ascent to fame and fortune has meant that Amy is able to indulge in a few

luxuries; unsurprisingly, a nice car is one of them. No *TOWIE* fan would expect Amy's white Range Rover to go without a little extra adornment, so her **AMY 22Y** personal number plate comes as no great surprise.

"I've always had personal plates; I had **EA07 AMY** before. I really like to name my car and I wanted another AMY plate. I seem to lose the car all the time, so I think I need my name on it!

"In Essex, we all have personal plates. They make great gifts and I know loads of people who have them."

Nice though the Range Rover is, Amy wouldn't mind something a little nipper. "I really like the Audi R8..."

Amy's mum, Julie, is less keen on that particular model. "She's not having one of those," she tells us.

"They are too fast. A boy's car!" And, as Amy lives at home, Mum still gets to have an opinion on how she lives.

Home, for Amy Childs, still means the family house that she shares with her parents, Billy and Julie, and her brother (also named Billy) in Brentwood.

Furthermore, Amy has chosen to operate some of her business ventures locally. Her beauty salon and her new clothing boutique are both in Brentwood.

This is one millionaire celeb who remains true to her roots. Amy is unquestionably a genuine Essex girl, and proud of it.

*Interview: Angela Banh*

*Photography: Stan Thompson*





# Shake it up!



**S**hakeTastic is a young brand that looks set to have a tasty future. Josh Kettle and Amir Darabi set up their milkshake and juice bar business in 2009 when they opened their first shop in Mill Hill. Their shakes and juices soon achieved a reputation for imaginative, witty recipes and high quality. Customer satisfaction was the focus of everything ShakeTastic did. Today, the ethos remains the same but the scale of the operation has changed, and Josh and Amir now have eight ShakeTastic shops.

"We have created a brand with a huge following," says Josh, "and I'm pleased to say that it is going from strength to strength. We've opened our new outlet in the famous Hamleys Toy Store on Regent Street in London, and this year we also plan to launch a UK franchise and an international franchise in Dubai."

"Right from the word go we wanted something completely unique. We came up with a delivery concept so people could phone up and have an award winning smoothie or milkshake delivered fresh to their door. We've taken the idea even



further now, and people can now order from our app on iTunes.

"To be honest, the delivery idea was an excuse for me to buy some smart cars, brand them up and buy some private number plates! We have collected four great plates for the business so far, as you'll see from the photos, and there are more to come. Amir and I also have our own personal plates. We have bought and sold quite a few numbers through Regtransfers over the years. The process is always seamless from beginning to end. The service is excellent, very efficient. I will have no hesitation in continuing to buy and sell through Regtransfers."

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







**A.W. Lymn, The Family Funeral Service,** has been arranging and conducting funerals in Nottingham and the surrounding areas since 1907. The company's eponymous founder was the great-great-grandfather of current director Matthew Lymn Rose. The elder Lymn had tried his hand at many different professions but, with the assistance of his son, began arranging funerals through his furniture business, along with around 300 other undertakers in the city of Nottingham at that time.

Today A.W. Lymn conducts around 3,000 funerals annually through 24 offices

throughout Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire. The company has one of the largest Rolls-Royce and Bentley funeral fleets in the world and is proud to have continuously run Rolls-Royce motor hearses since moving from horse drawn carriages.

The current fleet is comprised of eight matching silver Rolls-Royce and Bentley hearses, 16 matching silver Rolls-Royce and Bentley six door limousines, one silver Rolls-Royce hearse for babies, one black Rolls-Royce Phantom VI hearse, one matching black Rolls-Royce Phantom VI limousine, two silver Bentley Arnage

saloons, one silver Bentley Continental Flying Spur saloon and the silver Rolls-Royce new Phantom saloons - all of which display 'number 1' registrations.

"The first few number plates we acquired included my father's plate **NLR 1**, and various other plates such as **LJK 520** and **TKL 3**," says Matthew. "In the late 1980s he caught the bug, and the first six number ones were a great set: **YKN 1**, **1 YKN**, **YKP 1**, **1 YKP**, **1 GUW** and **GUW 1**, he also added **2 GUW** as the seventh. From there on we became known for our private plates. Almost every vehicle in our fleet bears a 'number one' plate.







"Some nice sets include the "mirrors" such as those mentioned above, as well as **1 XAS** and **XAS 1**, **1 RXW** and **RXW 1**, **1 XUF** and **XUF 1**. Recent additions **XE 1** and **1 XE** look good on our new Phantoms, as well as **1 UE**, **1 UF**, **1 UG** and **1 UJ**, along with **1 RV** in the short collection. A nice Irish set was completed with **OBZ 1**, **OBZ 11** and **OBZ 111**.

"In the Lymn Rose family we carry a few plates too: **NLR 1**, **1 NLR**, **11 NLR**, **1 JLR**, **7 JLR**, **1 PLR**, **11 PLR**, **2 MLR**, **11 MLR**, **111 MLR** and **11 SLR**. My sister also owns **CH10 ELR**, and my grandad **GRO 5E**."

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*The A.W. Lymn fleet vehicles are available to hire for funerals, wedding and private hires.*

*"Our family serving your family since 1907"*

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







Renaud Spencer made life easier for our graphic artist, Barry, by supplying his own mock-up of the page layout. We were so impressed that we thought we would simply print it as it was, leaving Barry free to concentrate on more important matters, like playing the guitar and writing poetry. But the Spencers' plates are so much fun that Renaud has agreed to let us publish the actual photos in future issues to accompany a regular column about continental motoring matters and the vagaries of the French registration system.

## Some English names that won't translate!

When Renaud and Kirsty Spencer retired and moved to Saint Valery, a seaside port on the Baie de Somme, France five years ago, little did they realise the implications for their small collection of private number plates.

"In France," says Renaud, "It isn't legal to run an English car on UK plates for more than six months. You have to either re-register it - a complicated and often expensive affair - or buy a French car."

The impracticalities of keeping their UK cherished numbers have meant that the Spencers have decided to sell their collection through Regtransfers.

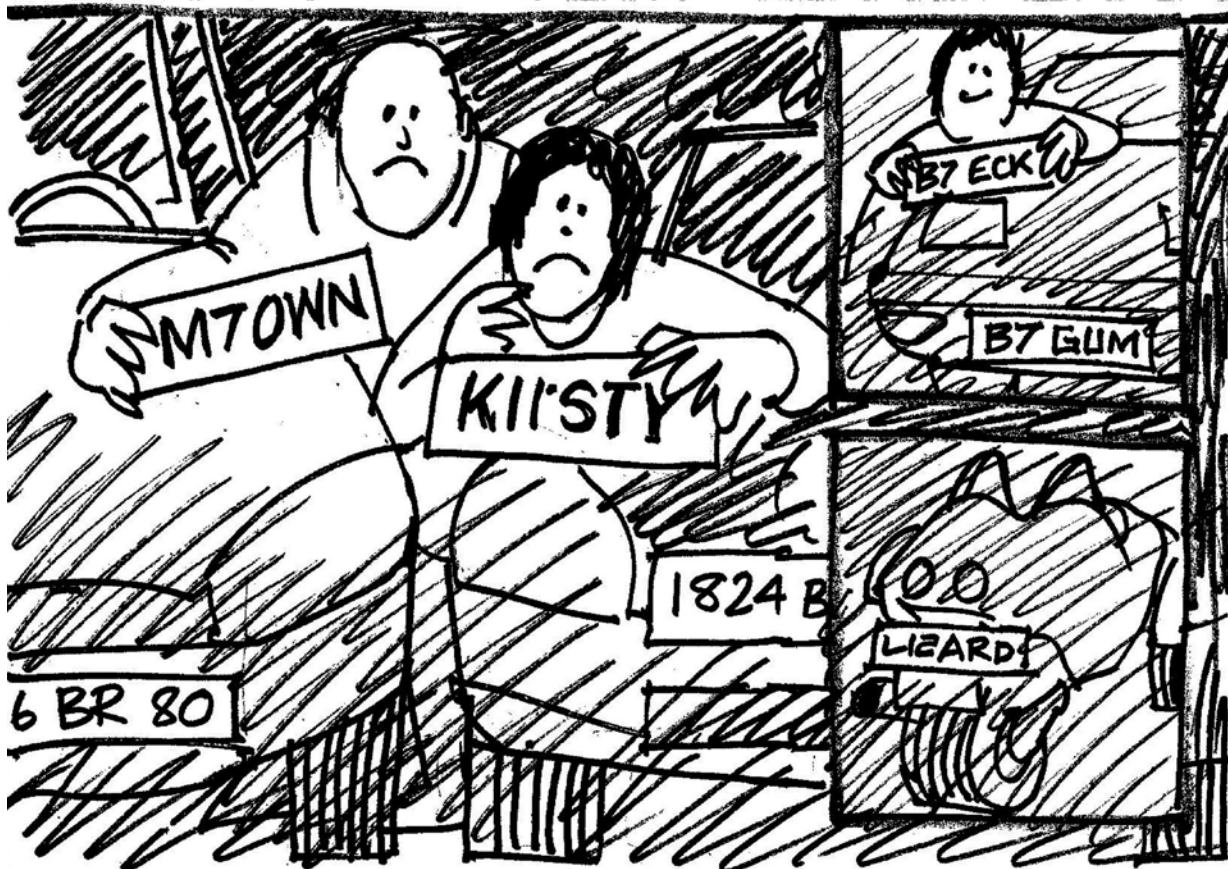
"It's a great shame, because we've had so much fun with them over the years", says Kirsty. "They made our cars totally individual - people used to stop and stare at the words and names. They were so much more interesting than just initials. All that's gone now we've moved abroad."

Kirsty remembers the time she was pulled over by a police car after tweaking the '7' in her **M7 OWN** registration to

look a little more like a Y. "It might look nice, Madam" said the policeman, "But get it changed!" He saw the funny side of it, however, and let her off with just a warning.

Renaud bought **L12 ARD** years ago and sold it recently for nearly £10,000. "Words and names have a rarity value, and it seems easier to pinpoint prospective buyers. No similar scheme for personalising your car with a private plate exists in France.

"On the other hand, in general, things are much better for the average motorist. Well-built, low-maintenance motorways with a lot less traffic. And although many roads charge tolls, there's no road tax to pay. Good lane discipline means most are two-lane, and now we laugh at stretches of the M25 where everybody jams the outside three lanes of the five available. The MOT equivalent, is required only every two years, and of course there's better insurance with built-in roadside assistance. The police are in the process of clamping down even harder on drink-driving, speeding and tailgating."



The registrations **M7 OWN** ('My own'), **K11 STY** ('Kirsty'), **LE55 MPG** ('Less MPG'), **A6 EEP** ('A geep'), **N7 ORK** ('New York'), **L15 OFA** ('US of A'), **B7 ECK** ('By 'eck') and **B7 GUM** ('By gum') are currently for sale through Regtransfers.



# Teas 4 YOU!

**R**avi Soni is managing director of Teas 4 U and I Love Ravi's Tea Bags. Both companies deal in fairtrade English breakfast tea bags. For the uninitiated, English breakfast tea is a popular blend of Kenyan and Assam leaves. Ravi, who has been selling tea for seven years now, is married to Deepti and has a son called Adhitya.

"I purchased the registration **TEA 1** to promote my tea business," says Ravi. "So far it has worked well. I get stopped in supermarket car parks by people who want to make enquiries, and I even get interest from people when I'm stuck in traffic.

"These days a fairtrade business has a good chance of success and my **TEA 1**

plate is helping a lot. For me, it's just the best 'TEA' registration I could have, as it ends with number one. I don't think I would sell this plate even if someone offered me £200,000!"

Ravi also owns the personal registration **RAV 159R**, which he purchased from Regtransfers about eight years ago. He estimates that it could now be worth as much as £10,000. Many of Ravi's friends and family also have personalised number plates, often used to promote their businesses.

"Number plates and marketing go hand in hand. With **TEA 1**, I am guaranteed an audience. Wherever I go, people are interested and curious and often enquire about my tea."

Finally, Ravi is keen to thank Sam, the Regtransfers sales advisor who dealt with the purchase of

**TEA 1** and whom Ravi describes as "a wonderful, calm, and gracious person". High praise from a valued customer.

Search for '[Teas 4 U](#)' or '[I Love Ravi's Tea Bags](#)' on [facebook.com](#)







## 3 SKY's the limit!

Frank Macdonald is a partner in Sky CS Ltd, a Kent based cleaning company that offers a comprehensive range of premises cleaning services in London and south-east Kent. Frank is proud of his business; he is also proud of his white Mercedes. What, then, could be more natural than the desire to adorn his nice car with a personal number plate that would both make the vehicle stand out and promote his company?

"I went to Mercedes-Benz in Croydon to look at the B Class models. I took a test drive and just had to have one. The dealership were very helpful, and the only trouble was the three month wait for the factory order.

Frank has indulged in a bit of tongue-in-cheek lateral thinking that ties car, business and number plate together.

"As for the **3 SKY** number, well, with a company called Sky I thought it could be good advertising; it certainly gets a lot of looks from people. Also, the car is a Mercedes and their emblem is a three-pointed star. Where do you find stars? Yes, in the sky!

"It's a good plate for a nice car. I think the only better number for me may be **SKY 1**.

"A good number definitely makes a car stand out. Whether you want plates for personalisation or novelty you can find nice ones at good prices and, as money in the bank is not giving you much interest at the moment, I think it could be better to put it into number plates."

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







**S**tephen Siciliani recently bought the registration **VAN 177A** from Regtransfers.co.uk. It's clearly a very good "vanilla" number, even out of context, but once one learns that it was purchased to go on an ice cream van it suddenly becomes a great number.

"My father, Giuseppe, started the business 33 years ago," says Stephen. "With his old Bedford ice cream van, he was a one-man band selling cones to customers on the local streets. Slowly but surely, the business grew to justify another Bedford and, at that point, my mother, Maria, became a local ice cream lady. Between them they worked day in and day out selling 10p cones. A bit later, my siblings and I started helping out where we could and, slowly but surely, ice cream became a bigger part of our lives than we knew at the time.

"At 17, I was given the chance to take my own van out. I ended up working from a vehicle that was a good 10 years older than me, but I was happy to be continuing the tradition alongside my folks."

Stephen's brother, Antonio, was the next to get more deeply involved, followed shortly afterwards by their sister, Alessandra.

"We worked on and off while seeing ourselves through university," says Stephen. "We were studying various degrees between us, including a Masters in Applied Translation Studies, a Masters in Motorsports and a degree in Beauty. No matter how much we studied and tried to work at other jobs associated with our degrees, the ice cream in our blood always called us back.

"My brother and I came to realise that, if we were going to make the family business prosper, we needed to push ahead, expand and work harder. As well as growing our fleet, we also began to do wholesale and explore the possibilities of production. We kept our older vans but we also decided that it was time for a new van that would allow us to achieve more successful sales and get involved with events and shows.

"When I bought my first new style ice cream van there was a huge sense of satisfaction for all the hard work put in over the years. I found the perfect registration for my van: **VAN 117A**. It was perfect for the business we were in. We soon saved up and bought another new van, but it felt as if there was something missing. Thanks to Regtransfers we were able to complete that missing puzzle piece with the purchase of our fantastic **VAN 177A** plate. Now the twins sit boldly in all their glory and really do us proud.

"Today, the whole family works together as a strong unit, with a nice fleet of clean, tidy vans - some old and some new. We cater for all events, from weddings to shows and parties. And, of course, we still hit the streets in the traditional manner!"

[info@rossisicecream.co.uk](mailto:info@rossisicecream.co.uk)





The Registration Numbers Club is the *only* traditional UK based club catering for enthusiasts of personalised vehicle registration numbers. Joining us costs very little and the benefits could be substantial. We were originally founded in 1977 and currently produce a quarterly newsletter, RNC News, which is the original independent club publication and is available free to subscribing members.



The club is run by Honorary Secretary, Steve Waldenberg from the RNC office in Leeds. Rod Lomax from Bury in Lancashire is the club Publicity Officer and John Harrison, who has an expert knowledge of the whole system of vehicle registration in this country, is club archivist and advisor.

For information about the RNC, please contact:

#### Steve Waldenberg

Honorary Organising Secretary  
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## Rally 2012 celebrated 35 years of the RNC

During 2012 the Registration Numbers Club celebrated its 35th anniversary and on Sunday 1 July held a rally at Burrs Country Park just to the north of Bury in Lancashire.

Burrs is one of the areas earliest industrial sites and whilst many of the original buildings have now gone, much has been restored to give an interesting insight into manufacturing and life in the early nineteenth century. The site was acquired by Bury Council in 1986 and



A pleasant evening dinner was held prior to the rally

since then has been continually developed as a country park.

Despite the unseasonable wet weather around 60 vehicles arrived on site leading to a very enjoyable day. The atmospheric hooting of the nearby East Lancashire Steam Railway helped keep up the interest and some stalwart members even managed to picnic. By the time prize-giving arrived in late afternoon, the sun actually came out. As usual members registrations were placed in various classes and a self-voting system produced the results. Major number plate dealers sponsored various sections of the rally helping to cover some of the not inconsiderable costs of organising an event such as this. We are grateful to them for all the help given. Members, too, donated several car related items for a prize-draw which raised additional funds to help support the club.

On the previous evening, Saturday 30 June, many members enjoyed a convivial dinner at the Red Lion Hotel in the nearby village of Hawkshaw, just a 10 minute drive from the rally site.

A full list of results can be found on the club website at [www.TheRNC.co.uk](http://www.TheRNC.co.uk) along with further photographs.



A great mix of classic cars and steam trains



# A word from the RNC

by Rod Lomax

## What happens when I die?

One of our club members recently asked did we know what happened to a cherished registration once the owner (grantee) had passed away as obviously the documents cannot be signed by them. According to the DVLA if the grantee has died, the executor or beneficiary of the will can either surrender the retention document and request a refund of the £80 assignment fee, or keep the registration number and add their own details to the retention document instead.

The request must be made in writing enclosing the retention document and a copy of the death certificate and grant of probate. You should send the documents to Cherished Transfer Section, A2, DVLA, Swansea SA99 1BW.

Alternatively, if it is the nominee who has died, the grantee can apply to change the nominee details in the usual manner.

## Unlucky for some



How unlucky is the number 13 for you? Would you go to extreme lengths and not buy a new car between 1 March 2013 and 31 August 2013 as it will have a figure 13 in its registration?

The DVLA thinks you might and is discussing plans to let superstitious motorists registering vehicles between these dates have a 62 in their registration instead of a 13, which effectively keeps it in the same range as those registered in the previous six months. After the 31 August 2013 the DVLA says that the system would revert to the normal pattern introducing 63 registration plates from 1 September 2013.

But should we really put off a new car purchase just because it carries a number which might be considered unlucky or should we just ignore it and snap up one of the numerous great cherished plates that will be on offer containing the figure 13?

## 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**





# Going for **Gold**



Back: James and Joseph Hearne. Front: Vashtie Hearne, James Jnr, Joseph Jnr

**J**ames Hearne's school project was themed around the London 2012 Olympic Games. The subject engaged his interest and enthusiasm, and James soon had a number of stories about various Olympic athletes. His clear favourite was the 100 metres. Seeing his son's excitement, James Hearne senior found himself feeling nostalgic for the days when he himself had admired the achievements of Linford Christie, Seb Coe and Steve Redgrave. So the Hearne family sat down to watch the opening ceremony of the games. They all thought it was

fantastic and James junior, in particular, was very excited to see all the athletes. The next morning James was up bright and early, waiting for it to start. The television commentators began discussing how many gold medals Team GB were trying to achieve at the games. After listening for a few minutes James ran into the study where his father was working and asked if it might be possible to get **GB60 LDS** on a car number plate. This gave James senior something to ponder.

"We have bought a few number plates from Regtransfers in the past, and have

found them to be a fantastic firm to deal with. Everything is always straightforward and fair, so I went on the Regtransfers website where I discovered that the number was available. I purchased it there and then.

"The plate will be an investment for my son James. He has not stopped talking about the Olympic Games. He cannot believe what our athletes have achieved, and I agree that it is quite phenomenal. We were completely glued to the television. The London games have even inspired him to take up the sport of boxing."







**Mad** for it!



**Y**orkshire Trade Windows Ltd is a long established and successful producer of PVCu windows, doors and conservatories. For the past 15 years the company has operated from its 30,000 square-foot manufacturing facilities in Castleford. Although, as the name suggests, YTW is based in Yorkshire, the company delivers as far north as Northumberland, and all the way down the eastern half of England to Dover in the far south.

In 2009 to cope with expansion, YTW purchased a 12,000 square-foot property in Braintree, Essex.

The company is proud of its reputation for high quality, good service and excellent value. In fact, a significant fraction of customers have been returning with repeat business for YTW since the business started in 1997.

Managing director, Stuart Lindsay Drewell is proud to celebrate his success by displaying personal registrations on his cars. Stuart's Lamborghini sports his ultimate personal initials plate, **1 SLD**, while his Porsche 911 displays **911 MAD**.

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

*Yorkshire  
Trade Windows*





## Winston's Birthday Plate



A Land Rover once owned by Sir Winston Churchill, has been sold at auction in Sutton, Cambridgeshire for £130,000 - more than twice the reserve price.

The vehicle, first registered in 1954 in the name of the two-term ex-prime minister, had subsequently lain dormant for years with just 13,000 miles on the clock.

The car was built specially for 'Winnie' so that he could be chauffeur-driven around his 300 acre Chartwell estate in Kent and was presented to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday. It features a heated foot well, an extra large passenger seat with arm rests, and a tool box designed to allow Winnie to indulge in his unusual hobby of bricklaying.

Following his death in 1965, the car was sold off by his family to Mr Norman Mills for just £160 who sold it on to a friend, Frank Quay. The car was used to tow the Quay's horsebox for a short time and then put in storage in 1977.

What is most interesting, however, is an early example of a personal number plate. The registration, UKE 80, was chosen especially and is thought to refer to both his age and 'United Kingdom Empire'.

## Should Have Gone to Regtransfers



A well-known chain of high street opticians is offering a novel promotional item aimed at company car fleet operators.

Concerned by statistics, which indicate that commercial drivers are twice as likely to be involved in an accident, the company has devised a number plate attached to 20.5 metre ribbon, representing the prescribed distance at which drivers should be able to read the registration. Although there are far more stringent rules for HGV and bus drivers, the simplistic distance test included in the practical driving examination is all that is required for other occupational drivers.

The opticians hope that their Driving for Work initiative will help to improve safety and eventually reduce the associated costs.

## Join the Club



A member of a number plate collectors club in Western Australia has had his collection impounded by the authorities,

although he has not been charged with any offence relating to them.

It is estimated that there are some 1200 collectors in Australia but no others are known to have been confiscated so far.

As well as administering the country's vehicle registration system, it seems that the Department of Transport is also the sole supplier of the plastic number plates themselves. Consequently, any obsolete ones are still considered to be their property, and this is the basis of the action taken.

This is very different to the situation in the UK where all plates are prepared and sold by private companies. Whilst you must be entitled to display a particular registration on a vehicle, the possession of unused plastic plates has never been brought into question.

## Centre of Attention



Scrap metal dealers J Davidson of Altringham, Cheshire have commissioned artist Matthew Penneycott to decorate their Scania R730 6x2

truck with James Bond images, at a cost of around £5000.

The lorry now displays iconic images from various Bond movies and, to complete the picture, the vehicle boasts the number plate U007 SPY. The effort has been endorsed by none less than Mr Bond himself, in the form of actor Daniel Craig, who sent the scrap merchants a message of approval.

"We're delighted with the Bond truck," says managing director and Bond fanatic Jamie Davidson. "Like the man himself, it always seems to be the centre of attention wherever it goes."

Bond fans will instantly recognise the secret agent's iconic Aston Martin DB5 which makes a cameo appearance in the latest blockbuster movie, Skyfall. The car first featured in Goldfinger, some 48 years ago, but has retained its original number plate, BMT 216A.

# Regwise news

For the latest news and articles and to subscribe to our online newsletter, please visit [www.regtransfers.co.uk/news](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk/news)

## No Test, No Win



It looks like the only winners likely to emerge from the relaxation of MOTs for pre-1960s vehicle will be the

insurance companies.

Under new legislation, effective from November this year, the owners of 'classic' cars and motorbikes will no longer be required to have their vehicles tested annually for roadworthiness. The argument is that they are rarely used on the roads and are scrupulously maintained anyway, without the need for certification.

This may well be true. Statistics show that the present failure rate for older vehicles is half that of their modern counterparts and that they account for just 0.3% of road accidents. However, what will now happen in those rare instances? There is no call for insurance exemption, so you can be sure that premiums will go through the roof, totally negating the savings promised by Roads Minister, Mike Penning.

Penning suggests that exempt vehicles may still be tested on a voluntary basis, a move likely to be adopted by the 99.8% of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs members who declined to vote in favour of the changes. What legal foundation, if any, these optional examinations will have, remains unclear.

One has to wonder how this irrelevant and unpopular legislation has been forced through in preference to the myriad of tax and licensing issues that, surely, need to be addressed first.



## Membership is **FREE**

With so much interest in personal number plates these days, a definitive guide to the subject needed to be brought to a wider audience.

And what better way than to utilise the internet.

Historic and comprehensive information on number plates from over 300 countries!

## Membership benefits:

Forums with your questions answered

Half-price offer on the superb 300-page book *Fanatical About Number Plates*

Cherished Registrations newsletters

News bulletins about changes to number plate rules and regulations

Early access to the best newly available personal plates

Third party special offers

Valuation service

Certification Alert

Where and when a registration was issued

The UK's largest online number plates community

### Average Joe



Harold J. Bacon, from Orange, Massachusetts is one of 124 winners in the State Registry lottery which

allocates desirable 'low number' plates in an annual draw.

"I like it that any 'average Joe' can obtain a low-number plate," says Harold, a precision engineering plant manager, "not just politically connected people."

There were around 7500 entries in the draw for the plates, which feature just numbers rather than the standard combinations of six letters and digits.

Mr Bacon will have to pay a nominal \$40 to display the "easy to remember" number '8794' on his Buick.

## Regwise news

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[www.regtransfers.co.uk/news](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk/news)

### Guernsey Profits from Plates



The Guernsey Environmental Department has been raising money over the last year by auctioning vehicle registration

plates with 0 and 00 prefixes. These popular plates are being released in stages to try to preserve demand. Interest so far has been very high, with over £100,000 worth of revenue being generated.



### I Spy a Charity Event

Keyline Builders Merchants recently bought a number plate from [Regtransfers.co.uk](http://Regtransfers.co.uk).

**R700 SPY**, which is now on a BMW Z3, headed for Switzerland recently on the James Bond themed charity event 'Thunderball Rally 2012'.



The company took on the challenge of raising over £100,000 for their charity partner, The Prostate Cancer Charity in June 2012 in an epic journey inspired by the classic James Bond film, *Thunderball*.

Thirty bond classic vehicles and their pilots drove 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service' to uncover the truth about Blofeld's allergy research station high in the Swiss Alps for a four-day charity challenge journey through three countries, covering over 1,500 miles.

Neil Bell and Richard Lacey from Keyline say that their aim was to raise as much awareness and money as possible for 'The Prostate Cancer Charity'.

If you would like to support Neil and Richard, and their chosen charity, then please consider donating to the cause at: [www.thunderballrally.co.uk](http://www.thunderballrally.co.uk)



The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 30

# Regtransfers

Amy Childs

