

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 31

Regtransfers



**MARTINA
COLE**



Always on the look out

I purchased my plate, **540 JML**, about four years ago now and have enjoyed it ever since. I had always promised my wife, Jacqui, that I would get one for her when we bought a new car and found **L6 OJL** for her birthday on September 10.

We decided this was a good buy because it not only includes her initials, but also the

'60' relates to the year 2010, which was the year code for the new-style registrations.

I am always on the look out for interesting plates with our initials in the Regtransfers magazine and look forward to each new issue dropping through the letter box.

Keep up the good work.

Jon Langford
Orpington, Kent

mail



What's the story?

Send **YOUR** photos to
editorial@regtransfers.co.uk

Would EU believe it?

I noticed that, in issue 23 of your magazine, the registration **EU 7** was for sale at £24,995.

'EU' and its derivations, forming the second and third of three-letter registrations, were the codes for the Breconshire County Council licensing authority up until 1999, so they are common in this area. But I have a special connection with this particular one.

In 1985 my wife and I bought a large Victorian house in Bridge Street, Brecon

where we lived with our children until 2002. The house was originally built by Edwin Wright, Mayor of Brecon in 1886.

The Brecon museum holds a 1904 photograph of the garden of the house showing members of the de Winton family, the residents at the time, on board a De Dion-Bouton car.

The registration? **EU 7!**

Peter Roberts
Brecon, Powys

[EU 7 was sold to a Brecon resident and is currently on a Range Rover - Ed.]



Brilliant

I recently bought the number plate **BU04 TAR** from Regtransfers for my wife's new car on her birthday. It spells out our surname.

Regtransfers were brilliant in helping me to find such a good number plate and sent me texts regularly suggesting possible alternatives.

Thanks guys for all the help and the number plate. I love the magazine and am always looking for other excellent number plates.

Hafeez Buttar
Blackburn, Lancashire



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www.powys.gov.uk

What else?

I got the number because what else do you call a big cat like my Jaguar XKR but **P1 USY**? It's certainly caused some great comments.

I am retired now but still keep very active. As an actor/singer, I am always busy performing or directing my musical trio 'Showbitz!', who have years of experience in wowing audiences across the country.

Currently, 'Showbitz!' perform at arts events, festivals, fundraising events and corporate functions.

This year, they raised money for the Norfolk Air Ambulance and to help with the refurbishment programme at Sheringham Little Theatre, Norfolk.

David Rees

Norwich

www.showbitz.org



Good taste

The reason I chose the registration was because it relates to my name. I was never interested in a private plate, but one day I wandered onto the Regtransfers site and, low and behold, found the number which sort of clicked with me. It was simple. I ran through your list of numbers and found one I could afford which said 'GTW', my initials, and bingo! I decided that it was the one for me.

I made a few enquires with Tom, one of your sales advisors, and, after a short conversation, I decided to go for it. It looks the part on my MX5 and sets it off a treat. It would have been nice to have

had X5 GTW, as I drive an MX5, but you can't win them all.

My wife and I own the Tastebuds Cafe, in South Street, here in Wolverhampton. We are listed on Google and have attained a 5-star rating with Wolverhampton Health and Hygiene, whom we serve with food and sandwiches on occasions. They stated that we are 'hospital clean'. What a title to have!

I showed my brother and daughter the new registration and they started quizzing me on prices, how long it took and so on. They were very impressed, so I think you may have some more new customers. I hope I get commission!

Glyn Thomas Watton

Wolverhampton

By all accounts

The number plate **JO02 JJO** was a gift to my granddaughter, Joanna. She is called 'Jo Jo' by her friends, which is why the plate was her choice. It is her 21st birthday this year and she has passed all her accountancy exams at Stirling University where she is reading for her honours degree.

Joanna passed her test two years ago and now has a Mini Cooper. My other granddaughter is 17 and has just got her provisional licence, so the next buy will be something for Pamela.

From a very proud gran.

Margaret Crichton

Dumbarton



Peter Aust

Necessity, it is said, is the mother of invention; it can also be the mother of unexpected career choices. Shortly after Peter Aust retired from his work as a hotelier in such exotic locations as Africa, India and the Middle East, he found himself at a UK wedding as a guest. The toastmaster who had been booked for the event failed to turn up, so Peter stepped into the breach. Although unplanned and unrehearsed, his performance in the role impressed the other guests so much that he was invited to officiate at another wedding a month later. Peter enjoyed the experience and decided to explore the possibility of doing it regularly. He purchased a uniform and took a course with The London Guild of Toastmasters. Things developed, and what had started out as a hobby soon became a new career.

Since becoming a toastmaster, Peter has encountered all manner of unexpected and complicated situations. Some of them would not be out of place in the script of a sitcom or stage farce.

"Once, a pregnant bride thought she was about to give birth while she was on the way to the reception. The white Rolls-Royce had to drive at great speed to the nearest hospital while I applied delaying tactics with the guests and reassured the groom. It turned out to be a false alarm and the bride eventually returned, allowing the wedding to proceed two hours late.

"The best man at another wedding was so nervous about making his speech that he locked himself in the loo.

It took a lot of coaxing by me to get him to unlock the door. After a short coaching session and some gentle reassurance he successfully delivered his speech.

"On one occasion, a bride was so very late arriving that the registrar who was due to marry them had to leave to do another wedding. As everything had been paid for they had to continue with the reception, wedding breakfast, speeches, cutting of the wedding cake, first dance and throwing of the bride's bouquet - even though the actual ceremony had to be postponed and they weren't married!"

Peter has long been an admirer of good car registrations. "One of my ambitions was to have a personalised number plate. I recently purchased **TM 2548** from Regtransfers. As well as realising that ambition, I believe that the number will assist me in raising my profile and promoting my business. It could be a valuable marketing tool.

"I found the staff at Regtransfers most helpful, friendly and above all, professional and efficient. I will certainly be going back to buy my wife a personalised number plate for her next birthday."

We hope the number serves Peter well. That said, it seems that he is already doing very well. At events in the UK and abroad, Peter has officiated in the presence of royalty, heads of state and other famous people. He was recently elected President of the Northern Guild of Toastmasters.

www.peter-aust-toastmaster.com

www.toastmaster-events.com





Giving something back

John Smallridge, formerly of Bolton based Chancellor Financial Management Ltd., an independent financial advisory business, retired in December of 2012; he had worked in the industry for over 35 years. In the early 1990s, John managed to secure the number plate **1 FAS** (Independent Financial Advisors) when it came up for auction. "It could not have been more appropriate," he says.

Now he has retired, John has decided to sell the number in order to raise funds for three specific charities. Certainly **1 FAS** is an attractive registration, and should attract a lot of interest - and not just from those in the financial services sector. Its appeal is far wider than that.

"I have spent the majority of my working life in the North West," says John, "and I



want to give something back, consequently, any price secured over a reserve value will be donated to three charities close to my heart."

The charities are: Bolton Lads and Girls Club, which John describes as Britain's best youth club; DEBRA, a charity that

helps babies who suffer from a rare skin condition called Epidermolysis Bullosa, and The Wigan Youth Zone.

STOP PRESS

We are delighted to report that 1 FAS has now been sold.

Absolutely Fabulous!

On 18 April 2013, radio and television presenter Chris Evans launched a novel charity project. The campaign, named FAB1 Million is intended to run for a year, during which it hopes to raise a million pounds for Breast Cancer Care.

Chris and celebrity co-drivers Gary Barlow, James May and Professor Brian Cox, drove a pink Rolls-Royce from Land's End to John O'Groats. The Rolls-Royce Ghost, which is at the heart of the campaign, bears the famous **FAB 1** registration that many readers will

remember from the iconic pink Rolls owned by Lady Penelope in the 1960s TV series *Thunderbirds*.

Rolls-Royce has donated the Ghost to the campaign for at least 12 months, and funds will be raised by hiring the unique vehicle out to paying customers.

More than 50,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK each year. The vast majority of these people are women, but the disease can occasionally affect men as well. It is the most common cancer; one in eight women in the UK will develop breast cancer during their lifetime, and the risk increases with age. Survival rates are fairly good, and early diagnosis improves the likelihood of effective treatment.



Chris Evans owns the **FAB 1** number plate, and he is making it available for use on the Rolls for the duration of the campaign.

Chris says: "FAB1 Million aims to raise a million pounds for breast cancer. It's as simple as that."

You can hire the most famous Rolls-Royce in the world as the icing on the cake to whatever special event you are attending or celebrating knowing that you are donating to a very worthy cause in the process. It's a win win situation."



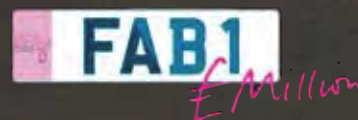
The **FAB 1** Rolls-Royce and its chauffeur are available to hire on a daily basis anywhere in the UK.

There are a number of hire packages available, each offering its own benefits and features.

In addition to the basic and premium packages, additional premium packages will be auctioned via the campaign website; these packages incorporate admission to sporting and entertainment events including Glorious Goodwood, The Silverstone Grand Prix, The Festival Of Speed, Britain's Got Talent The Final, The Brit Awards and Royal Ascot.

FAB 1 can be booked by calling the FAB1 Million booking line on 020 7960 3482, or you can find out more information by visiting www.fab1million.co.uk

To find out more about breast cancer and the Breast Cancer Care charity, or to make a donation, please visit www.breastcancercare.org.uk or call the charity's free helpline on 0808 800 6000





Darrin Young from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has both bought and sold many personal number plates through Regtransfers and commented how quick the sales went through and how easy they were.

"I have always had a passion for private number plates, so I started to buy them as an investment, but also because I like to see them on either my work vans or my cars.

"Regtransfers sold one of my first private plates within a few months of advertising through them. Funnily enough that first plate was **PR11 VTE**. Recently they sold another one of my plates **SM04 RTY**.

Both sales went through with the greatest of ease."

Darrin's company, Asbury Ltd., specialises in property maintenance and high pressure jet cleaning.

"The numbers on our vans get people talking to us," he says. "So I think private plates are a good way to advertise.

"I had **TH11 RTY** on one of my vans recently, but now it's up for sale with Regtransfers as I think it will be a great birthday or anniversary present for someone.

"**KR11 KEY** is another one for sale, which would look great on a fast car. But I am getting rather attached to it as it gets noticed, hopefully not because of my bad driving.

"I bought **AN61 EEE** for my wife Angela's Mini Countryman and, because it's such a good plate, it should return a healthy profit. I have also got **A4 YSD** on my Land Rover Defender. I now fancy a change but cannot make up my mind which plate to put on it."

www.asburyservices.co.uk



MARTINA COLE

We're very lucky, you know. Producing the Regtransfers magazine gives us the opportunity to meet a lot of very interesting people. We've spoken with actors, sports stars, business people, musicians and more, but, until recently, we had not interviewed a novelist.

Actors and musicians tend to be extroverts, used to facing the public. Similarly, business people seem, mostly, to be confident and to possess good face-to-face communication skills. Even athletes are accustomed to performing under the scrutiny of a crowd. All of these people seem to be natural interview subjects. On the other hand, to our interviewing team, writers are a relatively unfamiliar species. Their narrow experience of the breed (consisting mostly of their interaction with the writer of this article) had led them to formulate an image of writers as reclusive, petulant, antisocial and irrational, so the prospect of interviewing a novelist was greeted with as much caution as enthusiasm. As if the preconception described above were not enough to give them pause, our team read some of Martina's books as part of their research: books full of vicious assaults and gruesome murders. And then there were the other interviews... Accounts by other journalists who had interviewed Martina Cole read more like descriptions of kidnapping than of conventional interviews. At the end of their ordeals, it seemed, they hadn't so much left as escaped.

Volunteers

In the absence of volunteers, straws were drawn and Angela our interviewer, Stanley our photographer and John our driver departed leaving instructions that the police should be called if they did not turn up for work the following morning.

Martina Cole lives in an idyllic Kent village. Her home is a beautiful 14th Century Tudor house - all beams and chimneys. The Grade II listed house and the Bentley on the drive are unmistakable badges of the occupant's success, and in an industry where many writers struggle just to make a living, Martina's success is extraordinary. Her books invariably top best-seller lists, and her readers wait with bated breath for



each new volume. At the time of writing this article, the paperback edition of her latest novel, *The Life*, is due to be published in early May. *The Life* is Martina's 19th book. Since publishing her first novel, *Dangerous Lady*, in 1992, Martina has sold more than 10 million books and the value of those sales has exceeded £50 million, a milestone passed by very few British authors. It is not surprising that her agent and her publisher adore her.

Martina writes about robbers, murderers, convicts, hard men and women. She writes about loyalty and she writes about deceit, betrayal and revenge. Her style is direct and uncompromising. The language is strong and the acts of violence described are gruesome and extreme. Murder is treated as a fact of life.

Dangerous Lady, a tale of love and violence in the gangland of 1960s West End London, was the first of Martina's books to be adapted for television; the four-part mini-series aired on ITV in May and June 1995. It was well received, with the actors' performances and Martina's story receiving praise. The television adaptations introduced a new audience to Cole's work. As Martina is the first to admit, her style is not literary. The language is direct and without frills. More attention is paid to pace, impact and effect than to the finer academic points of grammar. The television versions of *Dangerous Lady*, *The Jump*, *The Take* and *The Runaway* converted people who might otherwise have dismissed her books as too trashy.

Pigeon hole

Many writers in various genres - mystery, crime, thriller, horror, fantasy - seem to suffer from a kind of caste prejudice. Once associated with niche fiction it can be difficult for an author to be taken 'seriously'. There are a few writers who manage to avoid or transcend their pigeonhole. Some, like Stephen King and Ian Banks, do so through a combination of literary ability and by creating a substantial body of mainstream work outside their specialist genre. Others, like Martina Cole, are simply immersed in what they know and feel compelled to write about.

Martina's knowledge of the rough world of her fiction is not based upon internet research or interviews with reformed criminals; her books depict the environment in which she was embedded for much of her early life. Growing up on an Essex council estate, the daughter of a sailor and a nurse, Martina encountered sinister people on a daily basis - she has said that an early boyfriend was a bank robber, and she had school friends whose fathers were periodically "banged up" for various transgressions. Even now, when success has enabled her to live the life she chooses, and to do so in luxurious and secure surroundings, she still knows some... colourful characters. Legend has it that criminals may have helped her with

the plots of certain works, and that at least one character was based directly on an underworld figure of Martina's acquaintance.

So, it comes as both a relief and a surprise to meet the real Martina Cole. Despite a husky, gritty-edged voice that would lend itself to the delivery of threats over the telephone, the lady who welcomes our team is bubbly, warm, attractive, surprisingly petite and decidedly unscary (is that a word?). A misunderstanding over the time of the appointment means that Martina answers the door wearing a dressing gown and hair rollers. Instead of sending us away she insists that we come in.

A short while later, as Martina's son, Chris, takes us outside to arrange the cars for our photoshoot, Martina shouts from her bedroom window. "How do you want me dressed? Do you want smart or casual?" She opts to cover all bases and go smart-casual in a black blouse and jeans.

Chickens

During the shoot, Martina introduces us to her chickens. "They have an electric fence", she explains, "to keep the foxes out." The chickens are just one aspect of Martina's strong desire to know exactly where the family's food has come from, and to avoid unnecessary interference and processing. In addition to having her own source of fresh eggs, Martina has a vegetable garden and an orchard behind the house and buys a lot of fresh food from local producers. She loves cooking and at the back of her kitchen is an entire library of cookery books, from traditional recipe volumes to the contemporary offerings of celebrity chefs.

Once we have enough photos, Martina settles us down for the interview. Just as we are about to begin, a thought strikes her.

"Have you eaten? Have you had lunch?"

Um, no, we haven't.

"Right. Shall we go to the pub then? Let's go and have some lunch. We can talk in the pub."

Our research indicates that anyone who has interviewed Martina at her home will be familiar with this *modus operandi*. Just as criminals are creatures of habit with preferred methods and behaviours that they revisit time and time again, writers tend to have their own routines and rituals. Martina's MO seems to involve food, wine and the pub. We steel ourselves. This interviewing lark is hard work but someone has to do it, so we repair to the hostelry as our hostess suggests.

"The pub" is conveniently situated next door to Martina's house; not just nearby but *literally* next door. Next door to the pub on the other side is Martina's office where Chris works. She has the establishment

surrounded. There is no chance of it escaping.

Although Martina does most of her writing at home, the business side of her writing career and management of her other interests is done through the office. Martina takes an active part in the TV adaptations of her stories, and has also made forays into the music world. She has a record label and she manages the confusingly named British band Alabama 3 (who are neither from Alabama nor a 3-piece group).

Lunch is great. The pub is splendid with a nice atmosphere and wonderful food. It is no wonder that Martina and Chris make good use of it. As we sit talking, Martina's teenage daughter, Freddie, appears with a friend; they are going shopping. Martina dishes out spending money to both girls.

After lunch we return to the house and Martina shows us around. Martina moved to the village six years ago to be closer to her son Chris. She says that she fell in love with the place as soon as she walked in, describing the experience as feeling "a sense of being back home". It wasn't a simple move, though. The sale fell through the first time and Martina looked at another property in the area.

"But I always knew that I would live here. The house needed a lot of work; it had a strange smell, the ceilings were falling down, everything had to be done. It was six months before I could move in."

Even now, six years later, Martina says that there are always things going wrong with the house. As it's a Grade II listed building there are things that cannot be changed,

which rather complicates the process of putting faults right. Martina repeatedly apologises for the mess but the house is beautiful and completely charming. The rooms are all decorated in styles consistent with the history of the house - Tudor and Jacobean. There is a library complete with first editions by Lewis Carroll and Charles Dickens and a bible from the 11th century.

Gothic

Martina sources a lot of the furniture and furnishings herself. What she cannot find, she has made for her - such as the bespoke leather sofas that were made specifically to be in keeping with the house. The Gothic-looking chandeliers and the fireplaces and also bespoke. Other

items have been selected from widespread sources; the curtains are made from Italian silk and there is a grandfather clock that she found in Ireland, although she doesn't wind it up as it is too loud.

"I loved the clock. When I bought it they said they would deliver it. So, this father and son delivered it all the way from Ireland in a van. I didn't think they would make it as it was snowing, but they came all the way." Martina assumes an Irish accent while telling the story, and tells us that she made the two men a roast dinner for when they got there."

Amongst all this wonderful period splendour, the only prominent concession to 20th/21st century technology is a startlingly anachronistic Elvis jukebox in the corner of one of the rooms.





Ghost

"There are several ghosts. I see them quite often," she says as she shows us her impressive library. "It goes icy cold. There's a woman - you might see her today - who likes to sit in that chair." She points to a chair in the corner of the room. "Chris hasn't seen her, but he's felt it, haven't you, Chris?" Her son confirms this.

Martina shows us the minstrels' gallery and the fireplaces. In front of one of the fireplaces downstairs are two small chairs that Martina bought for her grandchildren. They usually face the hearth. "But every morning when I came down I'd find them facing the other way. I used to turn them back but the next morning they would be turned away again. In the end I gave up

and just left them. It's obviously the way they [*the ghosts*] want them."

Another intriguing tale - Martina is full of them, as befits a professional storyteller - is that of the house's association with the infamous Gunpowder Plot. It is rumoured, Martina says, that her home is where Guido Fawkes and his cronies conspired to blow up Parliament.

Martina clearly enjoys the rewards that her success has brought. She is unashamed and unapologetic about her nice house and cars. She has worked hard and feels that she has earned what she has.

On her gravel driveway stand a black Bentley and a white Mercedes. Shortly after buying the Mercedes Martina had a small memory lapse regarding her cars.

"I went shopping at Lakeside and when I went back to the car park the car was

gone, so I called the police. I was very upset. I called Chris and told him that someone had stolen it. He said 'What? Someone has stolen the Bentley?' And then I realised that I had driven the black one, not the Mercedes. The Bentley was there in the car park where I'd left it. I thought it was hilarious. The police didn't."

Tradition

Martina's son, Chris, has an interest in personal number plates. In fact it was he who spotted her new registration, **8 OOK** ("book") on the Regtransfers.co.uk website. Martina has a tradition of buying herself a gift whenever her books get to number one. As this is a regular occurrence she has acquired a fair number of these gifts, her Bentley amongst them. When Chris came across **8 OOK** he pointed it out to Martina and suggested that it would be very appropriate as her next gift to herself. Martina agreed, and the new registration is now displayed upon the Bentley. We think the combination looks fantastic.

Successful people are invariably busy and we quite understand that they only have limited time to spare for interruptions such as interviews and photo shoots. Surprisingly, Martina Cole does not seem to be aware of this. Even if one accepts that she is naturally gregarious and likes nothing more than a good chat, it is impossible not to be overwhelmed by her hospitality. As well as standing us a fine lunch and plying us with decent wine, she gave us four and a half hours of her valuable time: four and a half hours that we enjoyed very much. We are very grateful to Martina and Chris for their kindness.

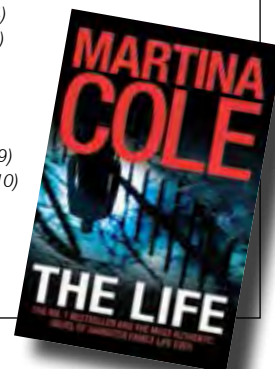
Story: Rick Cadger

Interview: Angela Banh

Photography: Stan Thompson

Bibliography

Dangerous Lady (1992)
The Ladykiller (1993)
Goodnight Lady (1994)
The Jump (1995)
The Runaway (1997)
Two Women (1999)
Broken (2000)
Faceless (2001)
Maura's Game (2002)
The Know (2003)
The Graft (2004)
The Take (2005)
Close (2006)
Faces (2007)
The Business (2008)
Hard Girls (2009)
The Family (2010)
The Faithless (2011)
The Life (2012)





A million dollars

After signing up for the Regtransfers *RegAlert* scheme, the exact number plate that Raymond Kramer had been looking for, came up.

"Thanks to a very professional and polite sales representative called Amber," Ray says, "I was able to finally purchase the number plate that I had been waiting for during many years."

"Yes, of course, my name is Raymond and the nicest thing about my personal plate is that I also live at number 59. So you can see that **59 RAY** could not be better."

"Thanks a million to all your staff, especially Amber (who initially handled my request and assisted me in obtaining a very good price for my

number plate), for the very efficient way that all was handled."

Ray, of London NW2, has been the proud owner of a blue M3 BMW for the last 11 years and says, "the car now looks a million dollars, thanks to your company."

"The right price, an efficient and a quick service too. What more does a customer require?"



Bargain

Ric Tovey, from Uckfield in West Sussex, has no less than four vehicles bearing personalised number plates.

Fortunately, his surname lends itself to such plates and, amazingly, he was able to obtain all four of them for less than £1000.

"I bought my first personalised registration, **K2 VEY**, about fifteen years ago on a new Mitsubishi Space Wagon," says Ric.

"Another £150 on top of a £16,000 car seemed a bargain."

"It is now on my newest car, a Citroen C4 Grand Picasso."

"A couple of years later, my wife purchased an MG TGF and so I treated her to **T2 VEY**. Soon afterwards, my son added a Fiat Punto to our fleet and, for a similar cost, I was able to get **V2 VEY** for him."

This year, the Toveys bought a Peugeot Majestic 100 Camper Van and, thanks to Regtransfers' "very efficient and speedy sales service," they were able to add **R100 VEY** to the collection.



Attention to detail matters to Ajay Vasdev, and he applies that philosophy to every facet of his working and social life. As the director of Asco Lights and Asco Lifestyle, award-winning leading lighting designers and high-end lighting retailers, Ajay knows that finishing touches are vitally important. Where his cars are concerned this is certainly true; he sees a good quality personal number plate to be an essential adornment for a nice car.

Ajay's latest personalised registration plate purchase is **OSR 4M**, a nod to one of the world's oldest and most well-known global lighting solutions companies, OSRAM. This new plate now is proudly displayed on one of his company vans for all to see.

This is by no means Ajay's first foray into the world of personalised registrations. He has been seeking out and collecting

number plates with meanings that are close to his heart for some years now and he has built a small, but valuable, collection. Ajay's cars are one of his life's main passions, and he is proud to display his carefully selected registrations upon them. His classically sporty BMW 6 series convertible has the number plate **V45 DEV** which clearly represents his surname. And, when he saw the opportunity to purchase both **BUD 61E** and **BUD 61IE**, which are both close enough to the nickname of 'Budgie' that friends and family have known him by for years, he could not resist. **BUD 61E** is now the number plate on his BRABUS customised Mercedes-Benz and **BUD 61IE** is on his Mercedes S-Class.

Ajay's companies, Asco Lights and Asco Lifestyle, are internationally acclaimed lighting consultants and lighting retailers who advise, design, source, supply and install all manner of spectacular illumination solutions for select high-end celebrity, commercial and residential clients. Recently featured in the

Financial Times and luxury lifestyle magazine *A1*, they continue to expand their business in the UK and abroad. Asco Lifestyle have recently developed an iPhone app that lets customers see the effect of different lighting solutions in their own space. Called 'Light Ideas', the app allows customers to upload an image of the space they are looking to illuminate and then select individual light fittings to see just what they would look like in situ along with the light they would give off. Play with palatial chandeliers, spots, mood lighting or coloured accents to find just the right combinations for your home, office or commercial premises. Clever stuff.

The app, which is compatible with the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad, is totally free and available for download from iTunes.

Ajay is thrilled to bits with the latest addition to his personalised registration plate collection. "I love beautiful objects and my cars are one of my life's passions. In my opinion a personalised plate adds so much to a vehicle as it puts a unique stamp on it, adding soul to design perfection."

We're sure that this is not Ajay's last plate purchase, so we're excited to see both what he buys from us and of course what car he'll be adding soul to next.

The name Osram is a contraction of the words Osmium and Wolfram (the German word for Tungsten) which are both chemical elements commonly used for lighting filaments at the time the company was founded.



'Spinky'

From a very early age, Joe Spink has been 'Spinky' to his friends. So, when the registration **SP11 NKY** was issued in 2011, he just had to have it.

Joe had known about the new release and the possibility of a 'Spinky' plate for four years, so it was a long wait before he was finally able to secure it through Regtransfers.

The problem was that he just couldn't decide which car to buy. After a few test drives, Joe *[pictured right]* eventually settled on the Infiniti FX shown here with Dean *[left]* from the Leeds dealership.

"It stood out a mile from the competition," he concludes.

Dean and his staff had been asked to fit the plates before collection, but when Joe arrived at the showroom, he found that they had made a rather *risqué* variation to the characters with the help of some black insulation tape. Joe was more than happy to share the joke and, once the temporary



amendment had been removed, he was finally able to appreciate his new car and plate in all its glory.

"I have only had the car for six days but the plate gets lots of comments," says

Joe, who also owns the complementary **523 JOE**.

"A big thanks to Kelly at Regtransfers for all her help in sorting out the perfect plate."

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Headline



Marston Tillyer, from Calne in Wiltshire, first became interested in cherished plates many years ago when his 'name' plate came up at auction. Unfortunately, he was outbid on **MAR 570N**.

Over the years, however, Marston has looked specifically for other 'name' registrations and now has two excellent alternatives, **M425 TON** and **MAR 573N**, and two 'Tillyers', **T122 YER** and **T111 YER**. He also has **J2 OMY**, representing daughter's name, Romy, and **C8 THT** for his wife, Cathy.

Not content with this, Marston then went on to find **M6 LVA** for his mother, Melva



and **X90 ROY** for his father, Roy, who displayed it on his Volvo XC 90.

Other acquisitions along the way include **SYM 5** ('Syms' or, perhaps, even 'Symphony') and **M412 VEL** ('Marvel'), reflecting his hobby as an avid collector of *Marvel* comic memorabilia.

And the list goes on: **G7 MGT**, essentially just his initials, but also good for a Maserati GT, **YMW 1V** (somewhat fancifully, 'You're My Wag') and **CEO4 MEX** (or the Chief Executive Officer of American Express?), all of which, concedes Marston were, "just a whim as and when they came along."

"I suppose that I have been lucky over the years," he reflects, "in being my own boss."



I have been able to devote time and resources into searching and buying cherished plates for pleasure, without the

confines of a nine to five day job.

"My next targets are **REY 111T** or **REY 221T**," says Marston, referring to his company, Reyllitt UK but, because they are so old, I don't hold out too much hope of finding them.

"My failing is that I should buy more vehicles to put them on, because most are held on retention certificates.

"Yes," Marston finally admits, "I would love MT 1 or 1 MT, but unfortunately my budget does not stretch that far."

www.reyllituk.com



Catchphrase

Nicholas Hunt has always been very keen on private number plates but only purchased his first one when the '11' series plates were issued.

With the surname 'Hunt' it seemed obvious that this was perfect timing. However, Nicholas was looking to buy a fish restaurant at the time and, instead, made some enquiries for **HA11 BUT** because, even if the restaurant fell through, he knew it would be a good investment.

"I bought the number plate in December," he says, "got the keys for Catch Fish Restaurant in January and bought a Smart Car to put the plate on in March."

Since then the restaurant, in Hainault, Essex, has been going from strength to strength, attracting personalities like Mark Cavendish, Lord Sugar, Teddy Sheringham and many more.

So after all the hard work he had put in, Nicholas, considered it would now be nice to treat himself to a number plate he first

saw many years before but was well out of his reach.

"**N11 UNT** was now looking like a great investment as well as a pat on the back,"

says Nicholas, "and I would just like to thank all the team at Regtransfers for all your help in securing the plate."

www.catchfishrestaurant.com





Eddie and Janet Battersby bought the number plate **NET 1T** in 1990. As owners of Swinton Angling Centre, they employed it in their business stationery and advertising campaigns with the slogan, 'Net It at Swinton Angling Centre.' After selling the business in 2006, they retired and now live in the Cheshire village of Culcheth.

Nearby, is a 15-lake fishing complex called Partridge Lakes where Eddie now spends most of his spare time fishing. "Wherever I go, be it fishing or watching my grandson play football, **NET 1T** always creates

interest and comments," he says. "Many offers have been refused over the past few years and, until the right one comes along, I will continue to enjoy what is truly my cherished number plate."

Eddie always had a keen interest in private number plates, perusing through the thousands advertised in the national newspapers and magazines, mainly looking for any connected to angling. One day, he spotted **NET 1T** for sale and knew straight away that it was the perfect plate for both his business and hobby.

Gone **fishing**

"Janet, my wife, asked about the cost," he says. "When I told her, she shook her head saying that we could not afford it. She was right as always, but I was determined to own **NET 1T**."

"After discussions with my bank manager - an angler himself - he agreed to the loan, saying that it could be a shrewd investment. The next phone call was to the seller who remarked that he had never connected the plate to angling, thinking more of the football connotation."

"Other drivers - especially fellow anglers - are always pointing and peering in my car whilst overtaking. I think that they expected to see a famous footballer or fisherman. Sorry that I could not oblige."

"My nearest brush with fame was one Saturday at the *Fish-o-Mania* final held at Doncaster, a yearly angling competition covered by Sky Sports TV. On entering the car park, something caught my eye in the mirror. It was the Sky cameraman on his knees filming my number plate (not me) and it was shown live on TV to the delight of me and my wife plus many of my watching customers."



X marks the spot!

Andy Raymond Osborne, from Orpington in Kent, purchased **ARO 1X** from Regtransfers several years ago. However, Andy's daughter, Amber Rose, always laid claim to it because they share the same initials.

He explained to her that the '1X' represented the Roman numeral for '9', Andy's favourite number, and not '6', which was hers. But Amber Rose's choice of preferred digit soon changed to

'11' when Andy acquired **X1 ARO** and now considers this plate to be rightfully hers.

Andy displays the plates on his Mercedes [ARO 1X] and his BMW [X1 ARO]. These vehicles form the chauffeur driven fleet of his company, Kestons Executive Cars,

"As well as giving them a distinguished look, they make the cars very easy to spot at venues where there are several

similar vehicles all lined up," says Andy. "My clients have commented how easy it is to pick out their transport home."

Kestons Executive Cars operates from Farnborough in Hampshire and provides luxury personal transport for all sorts of social events such as weddings, golf days and airport transfers.

www.kestons.com

To Hull and back

The opportunity to take full advantage of the '11' series registration was too much for Steve Reed and his family from Hull, Yorkshire. He is pictured here with **HU11 DAD**, together with his wife, Jan, naturally sporting **HU11 MUM** and daughter, Kate who is clearly a **HU11 GAL**.

There were, of course hundreds more possibilities to choose from, especially in the three-letter name department (HU11 SUE, HU11 TED, HU11 BOB etc.)

Steve is quick to point out the great sport plates that the '11' series afforded: HU11 CTY or HU11 AFC for Hull City Association Football Club and HU11 HKR



for Hull Kingston Rovers Rugby League Club fans.

The '11' series also provided a highly fortuitous and appropriate option which Steve immediately spotted.

"As a Hull boy based for many years in Cardiff I was first of the mark to get



CY11 MRU and prepare the plate with the Welsh badge the slogan *Cyrmu am Byth* ('Wales, forever').

Hassan Bhatti's number plate, **H8 SAN**, is pretty impressive in more ways than one.

Firstly it is an

excellent representation of the name 'Hassan'. Secondly, he purchased the plate through funds acquired from a small business venture he set up when only 16 years old.

Hassan, from Ilford, Essex, saw a gap in the market for computer memory cards and began to sell them online.

"I started from scratch and was making good money with little overheads," he says.

"Some days, I had less than an hour to package over a 100 orders."

Using the gains from his fledgling enterprise, he managed to secure the car, plate and the not inconsiderable insurance premium applied to young drivers when he was still just 17.

The young entrepreneur has been offered £10,000 for the registration by a local garage owner with a similar name, but he plans to keep his hard won plate and transfer it once he is old enough to be insured on a better car.

A gap in the market



Photo: OMJ Photography

On the right track

Derek 'Del' Curtis has two great passions: Great Western Railway steam locomotives and Minis - the cars, that is.

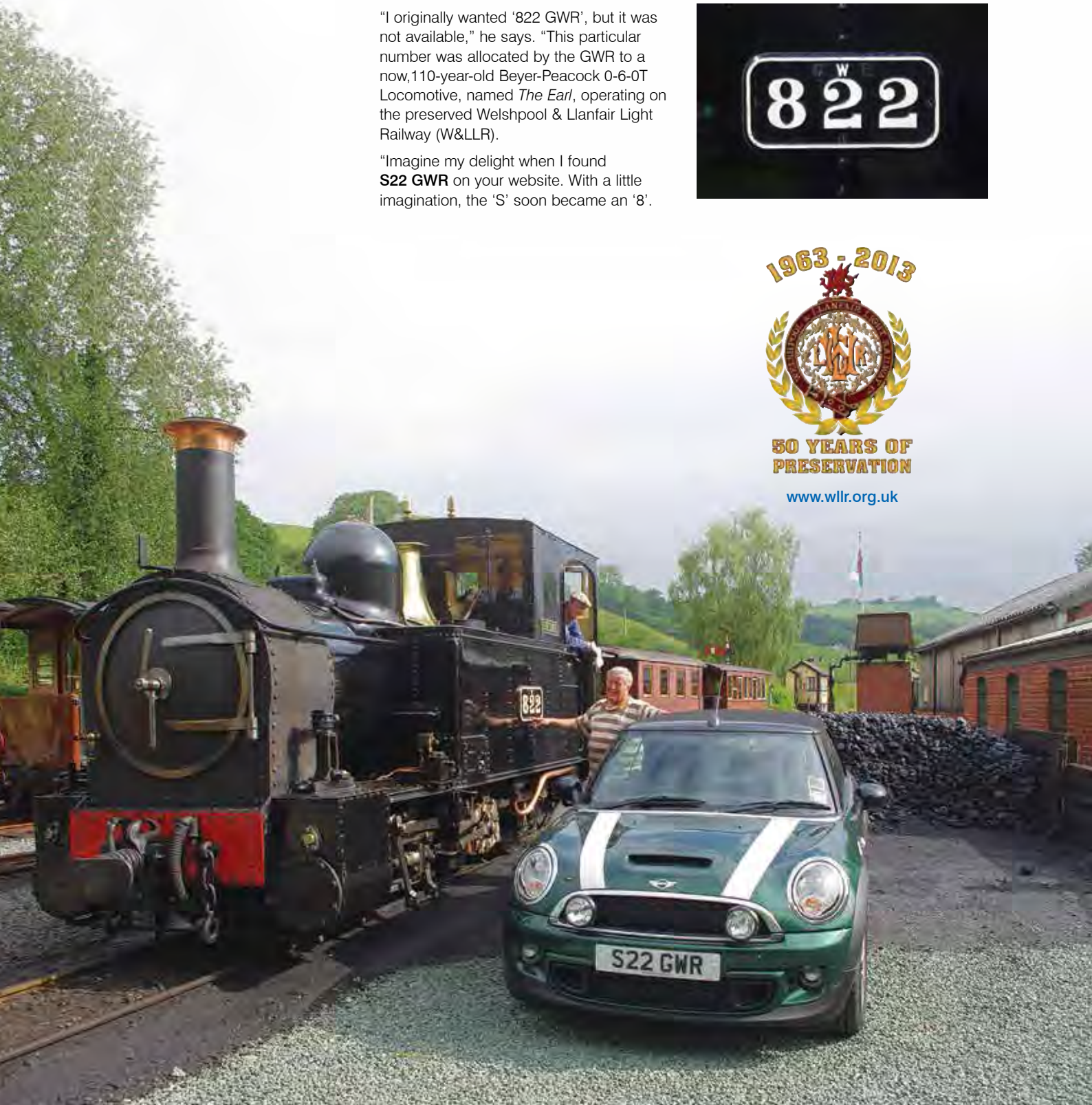
In April 2012, Derek realised a life-long ambition to buy a Mini Cooper S convertible and wanted a suitable number plate to put on it. For years he had trawled the newspapers and internet with that purpose in mind.

"I originally wanted '822 GWR', but it was not available," he says. "This particular number was allocated by the GWR to a now, 110-year-old Beyer-Peacock 0-6-0T Locomotive, named *The Earl*, operating on the preserved Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway (W&LLR).

"Imagine my delight when I found **S22 GWR** on your website. With a little imagination, the 'S' soon became an '8'.

So a deal was quickly done. Thankfully, not everyone wants a plate like this one, so the price was very reasonable."

Derek has been a volunteer driver on the W&LLR for some 23 years and *The Earl* is his regular and much loved locomotive. It can be seen hard at work with three, soon to be four, other locomotives.



1963 - 2013



50 YEARS OF
PRESERVATION

www.wllr.org.uk



The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London. Photography: Stan Thompson



The **Vee Dub** Club!

Lee Clarke from Wellesbourne in Warwickshire is one of the few people to buy a 40-year-old car just to authenticate a personal number plate.

"I have always been interested in personal number plates," he says. "I remember scouring the *Exchange and Mart* for hours at a time, in fact one of my biggest regrets was not being able to convince my parents to let me buy **LCV 1P** for £400 when I was 14 years old. With hindsight, I should have used the 'it's an investment' argument."

Lee purchased his first cherished number, **LCO 27** in 1998 from Regtransfers, to go on a new BMW Z3. The number plate has been on the car for 13 years now, and both the car and the plate are looking good as it's done only 18000 miles from new.

In 2000, Lee purchased another dateless plate. His employer at the time enforced a three-year-old limit on the company's vehicles and cars and he didn't want to keep having to buy new cars. **HBN 102** has been on several of his work vehicles, including a Volvo V70 and a Wrangler Jeep, but now takes pride of place on Lee's weekend play thing, a 1966 Volkswagen Splitscreen Camper Van.

"The van was imported from Indonesia," says Lee, "and, when I got it registered in the UK, I had to give up its cool overseas plate 'B 7997 Z' for a 'D' plate which I

didn't like. So, I transferred **HBN 102** onto the van."

He uses the van to attend various VW shows and events, and it even has its own website at www.HBN102.net

Lee's other personal number plate, **71 LEE** cleverly combines the year of his birth with his name. "This has been on a couple of modern vehicles but, to mark my 40th birthday last year, I treated myself to a classic Volkswagen Beetle.

"My first car was a Beetle and I've always fancied owning one again." But it couldn't be any old Beetle, of course. It had to be the right age for the plate.

"I must be the only person who went out looking for a 40-year old car just to suit my number plate," says Lee.

"The car is used daily to get me to and from work and was first registered in 1971, So, I'm Lee and I was born in 1971 and this is my car, also from 1971.

"Our three-year-old, Jacob, loves the Volkswagens. We attend many shows together, including our local VW show 'Back to Basics' in Warwickshire."

Naturally, Jacob thinks all cars have their engines at the back and the owner's name on the number plate."

www.vwshow.co.uk





The Love of My Life?

Garry Woodhead describes his wife, Janet, as 'the love of my life.' Janet got him the registration **G16 GAW** for his 50th birthday. "The '16' is the date of our wedding anniversary," explains Garry, "and the initials 'GAW' stand for Garry Andrew Woodhead." Garry was so impressed by the idea that he bought **S666 CTY** for his daughter, Stacey.

The Woodheads both drive for a living. Garry is a long distance Class 1 driver for AM transport, near Liverpool. He covers the whole of the UK during the week and travels back to Wales at weekends to see the family. Janet drives a school bus during the day and, at weekends, drives an Alpine Travel open top sight-seeing bus in Llandudno. "We both love driving," says Garry, "and like the nice things in life, like personal number plates."

The couple moved to North Wales eight years ago from Yorkshire to be near their grandchildren, close to the seaside and to enjoy lots of free bus rides.

Janet's bus is called 'The Road Runner' and, according to her, "it drives like one."

"She never stops talking about it," complains Garry. "She prefers it to her car. Is that the true love of *her* life?" he wonders. "Well, at least I've got my plate."



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Regtransfers



**MARTINA
COLE**