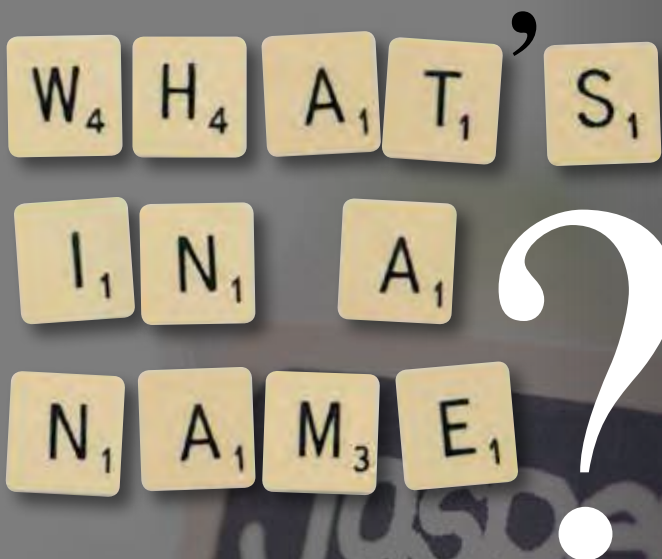


The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 44

Regtransfers



GOK WAN



There are a number of good reasons why name number plates are among the most popular. If you're thinking of treating yourself or a loved one in the near future here's why you might want to consider a name.

It's **E**xclusive

Initials number plates are great. They represent an affordable way of making your car your own and giving it just a little more personality. But initials plates aren't unique. Whatever your initials, there will be a fair number of cars with that same set of two or three letters.

There are very few ways to convincingly represent a name in a number plate: usually only one or two. The chances of encountering another car bearing a plate with your name on are quite remote. Name plates cost a little more than initials but that bit extra buys you real exclusivity.

It could make you **M**oney

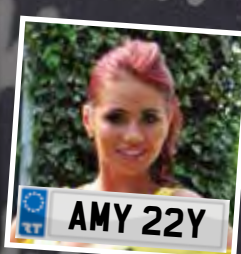
We're back to the exclusivity thing. Because name plates are unique, and even alternative spellings of any name are vanishingly rare on plates, they are a limited and scarce commodity in a thriving marketplace. Find the right buyer for that name and your plate could fetch a terrific price. Number plates really can be a sound investment.

So, what are you waiting for? Visit www.regtransfers.co.uk/names or just pick up the phone!

01582 967777
8am - 10pm 7 days



'Ryman'
Theo Pahitis of the
Ryman stationery
chain



'AMY'
Amy Childs of *The
Only Way is Essex*



'Jamesey'
James Buckley of
The Inbetweeners



'Lusardi'
Actress and presenter
Linda Lusardi



'Andros'
Footballer
Andros Townsend



'Kane'
Comedian
Russell Kane



'Dowsett'
Road racing cyclist
Alex Dowsett



'D Haye'
Boxer
David Haye



'C Nolan'
Singer and presenter
Coleen Nolan



'V Mae'
Violinist
Vanessa Mae



'KO Benn'
Boxer
Conor Benn



'Beefys'
Cricketer
Ian 'Beefy' Botham



“I think it’s great,” says Gok Wan of his new private number plate. “When I was younger, being Asian, private registration plates were very common. Cars are quite important to the Asian community, and to my dad in particular! When I got my first car, even though it was an old banger, an Austin Allegro back in the 90s, my dad bought me a registration plate which was L2 GOK. It was great and I loved it but when I went on television and became well known, then people would see me driving around with my registration plate on and I’d get followed into car parks. I’d come back after shopping and, although nothing malicious would happen, I’d have post-it notes all over the car and notes put under the windscreen wipers saying, ‘Can you give me a makeover?’, ‘Can you tell me what body shape I am?’ and ‘My mum loves you’, which was lovely but I took it off for that reason, just so I could have a small amount of anonymity.”

The loss of privacy and anonymity is a theme that is touched on in many of the interviews with Gok that one reads - especially those from relatively early in his fame journey. He doesn’t complain but there is just a hint that it all came as rather a shock.

Fortunately, the adjustment to being recognised pretty much everywhere seems to be well underway: so much so that Gok is happy to consider branding his car again with a personalised registration.

“When I saw this one, the ‘clothes’ one (CL07 HES), well obviously, it’s about my lifestyle and about my job and what I do. And, although it is personalised, maybe if people don’t read this interview or see this then they won’t know that it’s my registration plate! But it honestly doesn’t bother me that much. I think it’s funny and I think it’s clever with the seven being a ‘T’.”

That acceptance of all the attention, wanted and unwanted, is probably the only realistic strategy Gok could adopt. He has one of the most instantly recognisable faces on UK television. With or without a personal registration on his car, to see him is to immediately know who he is. Having presented his huge, overwhelmingly positive personality to the nation via a series of broadcast media projects, going unnoticed is not an option.



The first of those television outings to hit the big time was Channel 4's *How to Look Good Naked*. In striking contrast to more judgemental and demeaning makeover shows, Gok Wan was all about showing women that what they had was already terrific. He wasn't so much making over their style as making over their perception of themselves. The show could be unexpectedly moving and, somehow, for a show in a genre that can come across as superficial and contrived, it just felt sincere. The whole thing was an exercise in positivity and, to the frustration of involuntarily single straight men across the country,



it seemed that most of the UK's women fell in love with Gok Wan.

"I started off as a hair and makeup artist initially and then fell into the fashion thing. I originally trained at drama school. I set out to be an actor

when I was younger and when that didn't work out I did everything from recruitment consultancy, working in bars, restaurants, clubs, all the way through to being a waiter in a Soho restaurant. At that time my flatmate was a singer and through her I got to know what a glamour squad was: hair, makeup, styling. I just got a taste for it. I was very determined so I made some contacts and started in the industry that way.

"Television's a wonderful platform. If you like different things and you know how to talk about them then you can give them a go, so whether it's travel





or food or interiors or music, television becomes a way of discussing your passions. That's why it feels like I've got a lot of fingers in lots of pies but really no more than anyone else. It's just that I have such a great platform to talk about it."

Those disparate pies Gok mentions have included various advertising opportunities, TV shows on fashion and cookery, cookery books, and events and production business and DJing.

"The food thing is from my Dad. I was brought up in Chinese restaurants and takeaways in the Midlands, so I've always been around food. It's a big

passion for all my family - cooking and eating. My brother now works in food, all my uncles and aunties work in food still, so when Channel 4 asked me to make a cooking show and I wrote a couple of cook books it just felt very natural. It didn't feel like diversifying away from anything else I'd done really. Of course, in its way it's as creative as fashion."

One might be forgiven for thinking that Gok Wan is all about the creative and has little to do with the mundane or the practical.

"No, it changes. With the events and production company my personality is quite equally split. Half of my brain is about the process of business. I love the logistics of business, the learning and the organisation. The other half of my brain is chaotic and crazy and hectic and that's the creative side. So, by having an events and production company it allows me to do both: the creative, the devising, the making sure that we're doing really good events, but then also the practical side of actually running a business. Every single day is really different, whether it's dipping into an interview here or it's going into a meeting there or it's DJing this evening as I am doing, it's nice to have lots of different hats that fit the same head.

"The DJing's great. I love music, and I've always loved music but again, it's a business, you know. It's a passion that turned into a business."

Passion is something that still radiates from Gok Wan. There is no hint of jadedness or boredom.

"Everything I do still feels like it's in its infancy apart from maybe the fashion and the television as I've done it for so long but that will continue forever because it's my core business; it's what I do. But then progressing and developing everything else: the music; the DJing; the cooking, obviously; the events company... I mean, that's going to take up a lot of time because we just merged with another company so now we're in the process of building it up and getting it very strong, getting our name out there. We've got some great events this year, so that's going to take up a lot of time. And then a couple of other personal projects that I intend to do in the next couple of years."

Some of his television work on cooking resonates powerfully with his heritage.

As well as the *Gok Cooks Chinese* show he did for Channel 4, Gok has worked with his father, John, on screen in *Made in China* and in items for ITV's *This Morning*. In the course of filming, Gok travelled to his father's original home in Hong Kong. His enthusiasm was clear but equally clear was that Hong Kong wasn't Gok's natural environment.

Regtransfers roving editor/reporter, Angela, is Chinese so a brief comparison of family histories was inevitable.

"I was born here in England," says Gok, "so I'm second generation. And my mum's English actually, so I'm mixed race."

Does Gok speak Cantonese?

"I don't, no, no. My dad was always working in the restaurants and so, in the sense that they were always very busy, there just wasn't the time so it didn't really make sense to try and learn. Also, back in the 1970s, a lot of immigration was about fitting into the western community. That's why a lot of Asian people changed their names to English names. My dad's name, John - it's not his real name, obviously. Everybody spoke English because it was a case of, 'Right, we've got to fit in now and look as if we're part of the community'.



Born: **Kowkhyn Wan**
9 September 1974
Leicester, England

Residence: **London, England**

Nationality **British**

Occupation: **Fashion stylist**
Television presenter

Years active: **1994–present**

Employer: **BBC, Channel 4, ITV**

Television: *How to Look Good Naked*
Gok's Fashion Fix
Miss Naked Beauty
Gok's Clothes Roadshow
Gok Cooks Chinese
Baggage
This Morning
Gok's Fill Your House For Free

Website: **www.gokwan.com**

Source: Wikipedia



Because of that, my dad spoke English to us. He was learning to speak English at the same time. My mum kind of became the teacher for all of us. So we never did learn Cantonese, which is a real shame, but I understand why it had to happen that way.”

Gok’s childhood wasn’t the easiest. He’s written about that and spoken about it in numerous interviews so we don’t want to spend too much time dragging him over old ground, but those early years formed the Gok before us.

“It was tough and I have spoken about it a lot in the press. We were brought up on a council estate and we didn’t have very much money. There was a

lot of segregation through ethnicity and physically how we looked. Growing up gay and stuff like that.”

If there is a recipe for uncomfortable youth then one would think that the young Gok had all the ingredients thrust upon him. He was tall, of mixed race, substantially overweight (21 stone at one point) and gay. He has said on the record that the hostility he encountered in those days was mostly aimed at his size and sexuality, not at his ethnicity. But both Gok and his big sister, Oilen, have also said that he didn’t really acknowledge his Chinese heritage when he was younger, that he “stopped myself from being Chinese”. This raises the

question of whether or not Gok would actually have processed racial hostility for what it was. If he was in denial about his Asian component then we must consider the possibility that the denial extended to any racial hostility he may have encountered. Whatever the truth, it is clear that there were some difficult times.

“Yes, it was tough, but I’m here now! That’s a good thing and I’m very confident and very positive and actually I do recognise that all the struggles that I went through personally and that we went through as a family have all resulted in all of us being very strong, quite dominant characters now, so there’s been a plus side to it all.”

To round off the interview we remind Gok of an event he attended. One of our Regtransfers colleagues is active in whale conservation and was delighted to find Gok speaking at the event in 2014.

“Oh, yeah, I did do Whalefest! It was in Brighton. It was really interesting. A good friend of mine, Phil, who I’ve known for a long time now, does a huge amount for the wildlife community and also makes wildlife documentaries as a job. He asked me to get involved. It was a really, really interesting day. So much that was sad and shocking, but it felt very inspiring and very powerful. I’ve not worked with them since, for no particular reason. Actually I really don’t know why I’ve not worked for them since. It was a great session.

“I think that, regardless of whether you’re in the public eye or not, all of us have an obligation to do as much as we can for humanitarian rights and animal rights as well.”



Interview: Angela Banh

Story: Rick Cadger

Location photography: Graham Custance

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Apple Pay

Regtransfers now accepts payment by Apple Pay.

If you use a compatible Apple device you will be able to select this payment option at checkout.

New to Apple Pay? Here's how to use it...

Adding your card to Apple Pay

To add your credit or debit card to your iPhone, open the Wallet app and tap the plus (+) sign in the upper right-hand corner. If you are adding a new card, simply follow the on-screen instructions. If your card is already registered with apple, you can add it by entering the card's security code.

Completing your purchase

Click on the 'Apple Pay' button; select the card you wish to pay with and then place your finger on Touch ID to complete your payment. It really is as easy as that.

As with any payment method, when you've placed your order successfully, you'll be sent an order confirmation email.



LUTON TOWN FC

On the Ball



Regtransfers.co.uk is proud to sponsor our local team, Luton Town FC. Anyone with an interest in football will be aware of the fantastic

season Luton have had this year. It seems that they would struggle to put a boot wrong, even if they tried. Not only has the team been almost unbeatable, The Hatters - Bedfordshire's only professional football team - have achieved some truly spectacular scorelines too: eight goals in the first match of the season, followed by a procession of sevens, fours, threes...

A small contingent from the Regtransfers marketing department (all avid Luton fans, of course) visited the Luton ground to see



 **Regtransfers.co.uk**
PERSONAL NUMBER PLATES

Personal Number Plates

our new perimeter advertising boards being installed.








Luton Town's commercial director, David Hoskins, kindly showed everyone around – and kept us all safely away

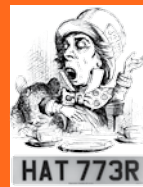
from the actual turf and the wrath of the groundsmen. There is no doubt that plenty of people are feeling the excitement this season. With more and more people becoming supporters, Luton Town will soon be finding space at a premium.

While the existing ground has served them, and the fans, very well, the planned new stadium mooted for the Power Court site should be a fitting new home for a newly resurgent Luton Town FC

www.lutontown.co.uk

EFL League Two standings

Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1  Luton Town	32	19	7	6	68	31	37	64
2  Accrington Stanley	31	18	4	9	55	37	18	58
3  Wycombe Wanderers	31	16	8	7	60	44	16	56
4  Notts County	31	15	9	7	52	34	18	54
5  Swindon Town	32	17	3	12	49	44	5	54



The club and its supporters' nickname, 'The Hatters', reflects Luton's historical connection with the hat making trade,

which has been prominent there since the 17th century. The nickname was originally a variant on the now rarely seen 'straw-plaiters'.



Home colours



Away colours



Third colours

Panel images and statistics: Wikipedia 12 February 2018





“To find and own your perfect number plate is always a special thing,” says Davinity Powis. “Especially if it’s dateless. To find sequential plates is even better. To have a collection of five dateless plates in a sequence is exceptionally rare and very special indeed!”

Davinity had just such a special array of number plates: 1 POW, 2 POW, 3 POW, 4 POW and 5 POW all proudly displayed on her cherished car collection.

“I’ve always had a fascination with personalised plates,” she says. “I don’t know whether it’s vehicle vanity, a de-ageing thing or what, but ever since my first car, I’ve always had some form of private plate on every one. The plates have got more special over the years, but I never anticipated ending up with my own royal flush of POW plates.”

Since Davinity bought her first private plate in 1997 she has bought a number of POW registrations, including POW 19, POW 111S,

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POW 13S, POW 15N and POW 15D. Some of the numbers have been given to family members while others are currently for sale through Regtransfers.

“The main dateless collection started in 2007 and took just under four years to complete,” says Davinity. “I certainly didn’t start looking for this many or this actual sequence. I originally wanted 1, 11 and 111 POW. Unfortunately, I lost to another bidder at the auction of 111 POW and so had to rethink my strategy.

“I bought the first plate through Regtransfers, and then asked for the last two to be released

at auction. The final one was nerve-racking as I knew I had to win it to complete the collection. Luckily nobody else bid for that one and I secured it for the list price.

“The funniest thing happened though when I moved house once. A rumour got out that we were linked to the Royal Family because someone thought that POW referred to the Prince of Wales. The local postman thought it was true and soon spread the rumour across all of his post rounds. Even now, years later, I’m asked if it’s true that there’s a connection. Maybe I will write to Prince Charles to see if he wants to buy the plates. I’m sure he meets all the criteria!”

4 POW has now been sold but
1 POW, 2 POW, 3 POW and 5 POW
are currently available through
Regtransfers, together with
POW 15D and POW 15N





Out of This World!

by Mike Stuchbery

When YG 1 was issued in West Yorkshire in the thirties, there was not the slightest inkling that this plate would one day provide a tangible link to one of the most daring and adventurous individuals of the 20th century.

Yuri Gagarin, born in 1934, was a cosmonaut with the Russian space program and a famed air force pilot. On the 12th of April, 1961 he launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, in what is now Kazakhstan, aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft. While his mission only lasted 108 minutes from launch to reentry, he was the first human to leave the earth's atmosphere, orbit the planet and return safely.

At the time, this was an astonishing feat. Gagarin's success not only launched the Soviet Union into the space age but represented a major step in human endeavour and ingenuity.



Gagarin became a worldwide hero. Three months after his mission, in July 1961, he travelled to the United Kingdom on a tour to promote the Soviet Union's achievements. There, he was wildly popular with the public and greeted with wildly cheering crowds. During his three day visit, he was driven to a number of meetings (including one with the Queen) in an open-top Rolls Royce proudly bearing the number plate, YG 1 owned by English singer Yana Guard.

There are a number of photos of Gagarin in the Rolls Royce, plates visible. Yana, who owned the registration, was also photographed with the car. In some respects, the car and plate was almost as much of a hit as Gagarin!

YG 1 is currently available exclusively through Regtransfers. Make an inquiry today about this historic number plate - who knows, you could be the next chapter in its story!



Yuri Gagarin and Zakaria Mohieddin 5 February 1962 Cairo Almaza Air Base, Egypt
by Fyodor Nosov, Licensed under CC BY 2.0

Under the Hammer



Fountains by Wychwood Park
by Ian Bottomley Licensed under CC BY 2.0

The final DVLA private number plates auction of 2017 was held at Wychwood Park, Weston, Crewe, on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of November.

Set in the beautiful Cheshire countryside and surrounded by landscaped gardens, Wychwood Park is a stylish and modern conference venue and hotel. Located close to the town of Crewe—with easy access to Junction 16 of the M6, and Crewe

train station with its direct rail links to Manchester, Birmingham and London—the hotel is ideally placed for all types of events and leisure breaks.

Wychwood Park offers an extensive range of light and airy accommodation along with an award-winning Steam, Bake & Grill restaurant, bar, clubhouse, and free Wi-fi throughout. For a scenic golfing challenge, golfers will enjoy the PGA European-tour standard 18-hole golf course.

The hotel offers 27 flexible meeting rooms, featuring contemporary design and natural light, and an extensive range of accommodations for up to 250 delegates. Combined with a dedicated in-house events team, Wychwood Park, Crewe is perfect for Cheshire conferences, weddings, and a range of celebrations.

There were 1250 car registrations on offer over the three days with the usual mix of prefix, suffix, dateless and current style registrations on offer.

The Top 10 highest priced registrations of the auction were:

28 O	£49,328
DUL 44Y	£33,776
200 OO	£27,296
1 TGR	£24,704
101 V	£24,704
555 ST	£22,760
1 RVC	£21,853
1111 CW	£20,427
WH15 KYS	£20,298
666 C	£20,038

Prices include fees and taxes



The Regtransfers Auction

Not to be outdone, we have successfully hosted our own online auction for many years.

It works just like a conventional auction, allowing you to bid on registrations or sell your own with the assurance of having us oversee the whole transaction.

It's a great alternative for buyers and sellers alike. So, why not take a look?

www.regtransfers.co.uk/auction



EASY LOAD



www.easy-load.co.uk



Tommy Lee has been in business for 45 years, operating a very successful Waste Management company based in Dartford, Kent.

Easy Load is a family run waste and recycling business which has been operating since 1968. With many years experience in all aspects of waste and recycling, the company is committed to reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. This has required considerable investment in plant and machinery to maximise the efficiency

of the recycling operation. From their state-of-the-art material recycling facility, conveniently located at Dartford Heath alongside the A2, the company are happy to supply individual householders, schools, government contracts, local builders and national construction companies.

Tommy purchased his first number plate 35 years ago, paying the sum of £10. This is now sold. He then went on to purchase TOM 1E which is also sold. From there he has since purchased TL 8 and 8 TL which

are on Tom's Bentley and his wife Carol's Mercedes. He also purchased RL 6, BL 2, CL 5, V8 TOM and 88 LEE for family members.

Tommy does not purchase plates solely for personal use. Originally operating with just one vehicle, the company fleet currently comprises more than 20 commercial vehicles and an array of heavy plant and machinery and many of these sport splendid industry-related numbers such as 100 YD, WA57 EON, BLN 1T, EAS 5Y and EAS 1Y.



A New Phase

Guy Mortensen, from Broadstairs in Kent, started Palm Bay Windows and Doors Ltd back in 2016. A family business with over 22 years of experience in the industry, they offer a wide range of friendly and reliable services.

Thanks to a very successful first year in business, Guy decided to get the number plate he had always wanted.

"My birth year and initials," he explains. "I have always enjoyed adding personal number plates to my cars, but this is one

that will stay with me. It marks a new and special phase in my life and will always be a reminder to me and my family of where it all began."

Guy is keen to thank our sales adviser, Sara who found the number and made the purchase "simple and stress-free".



www.palmbaywindowsanddoors.co.uk

“Big thanks to your sales adviser, Sara, who found the number plate for me and made the purchase simple and stress-free.”



THE WORLD'S MOST CONGESTED CITIES



No one in their right mind likes sitting in a traffic jam but most of us seem to do plenty of it. Whether it's the journey to one's holiday destination or simply the daily commute to the workplace, the increasing congestion on urban roads has become hard to avoid and impossible to ignore.

The frustration of long periods of immobility is bad enough but with increased congestion comes increased pollution and a rise in the medical conditions it affects. A higher density

of vehicles also means a proportionate growth in the number of potential accident situations.

Dense urban traffic is one of the factors responsible for corrosion and erosion of the local environment. Acids caused by the dissolution of pollutants in rainwater have long been known to cause damage to buildings. The bills for repair and cleaning of those buildings will continue to rise as long as we continue to add more cars to the queues and more pollution to the air.

Go to our blog page at
www.regtransfers.co.uk

to view our interactive, zoomable map, which shows the world's most gridlocked cities: the places where the impatient among us might be most prone to attacks of road rage. Check out the map and see how many of them you're familiar with – or just which ones you want to remember to avoid. We think there are a few surprises tucked away in there.



Halfords, one of the UK's top retailers of motoring and cycling products, has produced a document entitled Sharing the Road Report 2017. The 11-page PDF document looks at the relationship between the motorists and cyclists who use the nation's roads. It's a pretty dense read – lots of facts, figures, statistics and infographics – but there are some great insights in there. For example, 31% of motorists own at least one bicycle too. That might change the way we look at cyclists as we pass them in our cars. They too, in many cases, are motorists.

Much of the data tells us things we might expect: for example, it comes as no surprise that half of the people asked believe that cyclists should have to take proficiency tests before being permitted to cycle on the

roads. That is clearly in the interests of safety for all road users – cyclists most of all.

The survey found that 41% say they have no knowledge of car repairs and less than half know how to fix a puncture and/or change a tyre.

69% of the people asked said that they would not be comfortable travelling in a driverless or autonomous vehicle and only 7% claimed that they would be happy to be driven around by a vehicle not directly under human control.

Of the greatest interest to Regtransfers is obviously the revelation that more than half (59%) support the idea of number plates for bicycles. We would be excited by a brand new potential market for our product, but

We'd love to hear your opinion. Whether you're a driver, a cyclist, a pedestrian or a bit of a mixture, please comment and let us know your thoughts. It a good idea, a bad idea or just a lot of kerfuffle about nothing?

Go to our blog page at
www.regtransfers.co.uk

we can't help wondering how practical the suggestion is. Would it be enforceable? How much red tape would it mean for a group of road users that has so far been relatively unblighted by gratuitous regulation? The suggestion has generated a silly amount of predictable, sensationalist media attention, despite that fact that it occupies just one tiny paragraph in an 11-page report.

The tabloids have blown the suggestion out of all proportion, exaggerating its importance in the report and misrepresenting what was actually printed, and at least one cycling publication seems to have latched onto the knee-jerk, social media call for a boycott of Halfords.

Dawood Atcha, from Preston in Lancashire contacted Regtransfers after receiving a copy of our magazine and purchasing a plate from us.

"My uncle introduced me to private plates a couple of years ago," says Dawood. "Since then we have been slowly growing our number plates portfolio.

We currently own 4 CUU and F4 CUU.

I want CUU to be my signature so that every

car my family buys will have a CUU number plate. I'm currently saving up to buy D4 CUU and N4 CUU."

Dawood explained where the inspiration to buy 4 CUU came from. "I always used to see a grey Mercedes with a four-digit plate and said that one day I would buy my own four-digit plate.

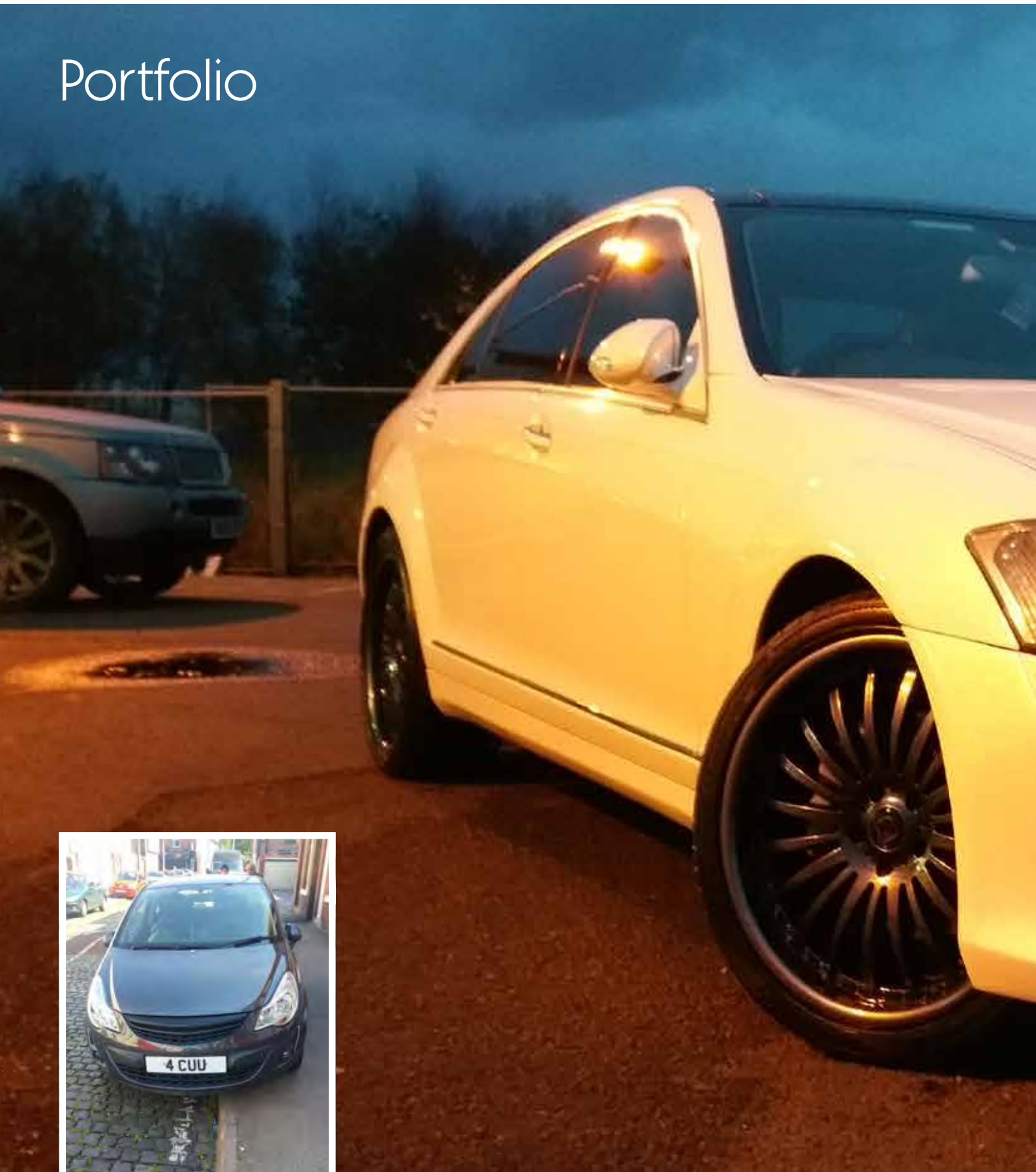
I started browsing the Regtransfers site and, two weeks, later I bought 4 CUU." But pride

of place in the Atcha portfolio must go the fantastic 54 LO which represents 'Sal', the nickname of Dawood's uncle, Salim Patel.

"There are only a couple of these in the UK," Dawood says of Salim's white Mercedes S-Class Brabus.

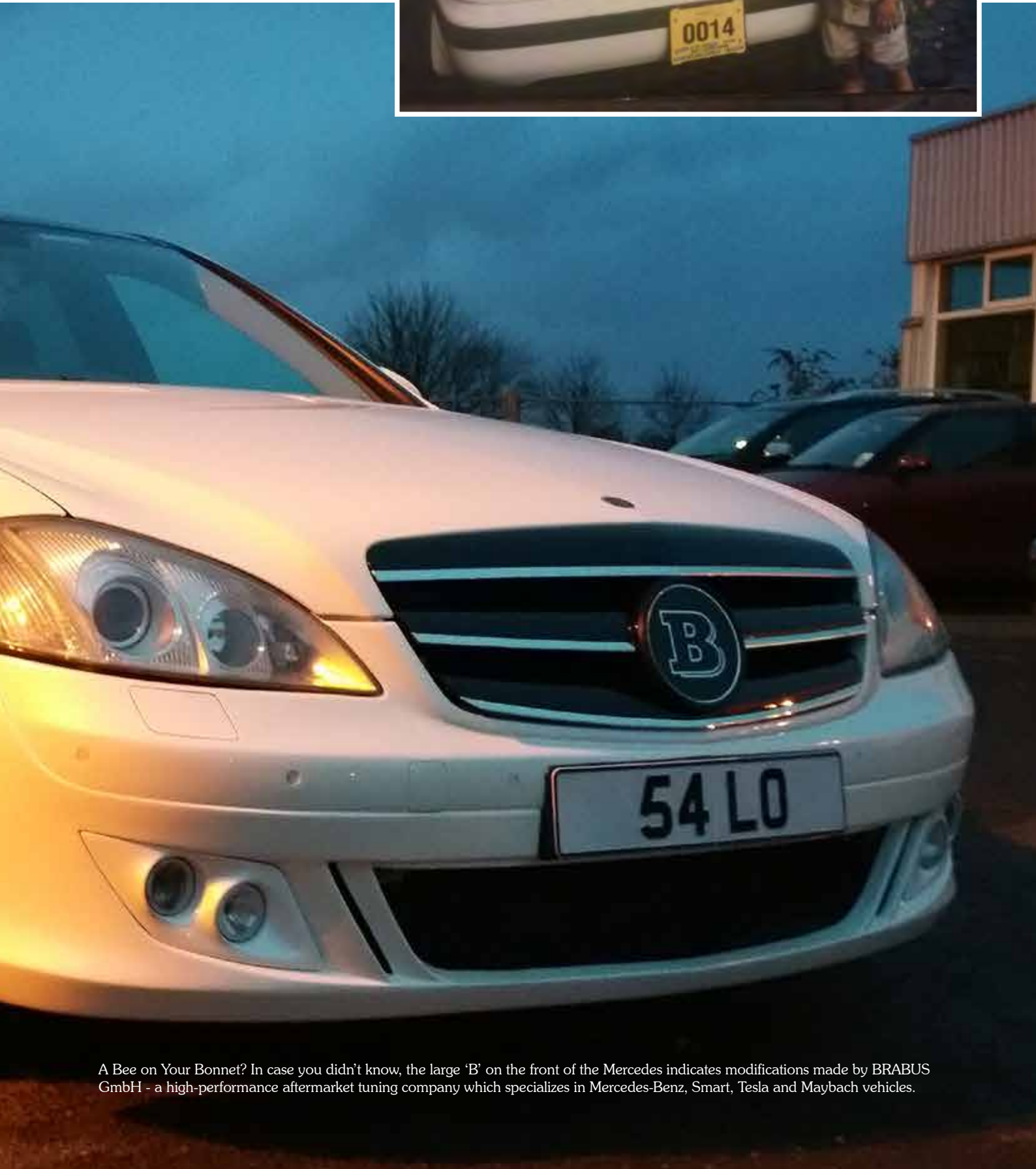
It seems that Dawood's recent interest in personal number plates has been rekindled from a childhood memory. "When I was young, my father bought D8 WOD for me,"

Portfolio



explains Dawood. "He first put it on his taxi. Everyone used to look at it as no one used to have private plates in Preston."

After the taxi was sold, the plate was put on retention and is still retained to this day. "I would never sell this plate, even if someone offered me a lot of money," says Dawood. "I once got an offer of £4000 which I declined. One day it will go back onto a car."



A Bee on Your Bonnet? In case you didn't know, the large 'B' on the front of the Mercedes indicates modifications made by BRABUS GmbH - a high-performance aftermarket tuning company which specializes in Mercedes-Benz, Smart, Tesla and Maybach vehicles.

In the Picture



Gina Gray's husband Shane already had his own personal number plate, S6 GRY, so he thought he would surprise her with a great present last Christmas. PH09 OTO was perfect for Gina's photography business. "I was absolutely over the moon with it," she says. "It's a great advertisement for my business."

38-year-old Gina started in photography around four years ago and the business has gone from strength to strength.

"I am a passionate photographer who loves my job," she says. "My main area of photography is weddings and christenings, although portrait, family sessions and pet photography are close behind. Hiring my

services will result in something special as I will always go the extra mile to achieve the best for my clients.

"I adore natural style photography and some of my favourite subjects are my four beautiful children. Companies often ask if they can display my work and just recently an exclusive designer requested a wedding album from me to display in their Bond Street store in London."

Gina and Shane live in Cradley Heath in the West Midlands but Gina's work takes her far and wide.

"My work means that I travel all over the UK, and overseas as well, creating bride and groom storybook albums of superb

style and quality. At a typical wedding shoot, I capture the day as it unfolds in front of me, while also creating composed artistic shots. With all that going on I have to take care not to take up too much of a couple's precious wedding day. I put as much time and patience into creating every wedding album as I would if it were my own. I think my personality lets clients feel relaxed and happy around me. That's really important if I'm to capture really stunning natural shots. I take pride in what I do and I'm really looking forward to what the future holds."

www.photographybyginagray.co.uk



Pantos, Punches and a Personal Plate

by Mike Stuchbery

While many in the UK today aren't familiar with George Formby OBE, there was a time when he was big. Really big. A comedian, singer and actor, he was one of the few English performers that can be truly described as a 'showbiz legend'.

Born in Wigan in 1904, Formby was the child of George Formby Snr, a popular music hall performer in his own right. After working as a stable boy for a time, Formby decided to follow in his father's footsteps. His jokes, impersonations and cheeky ukulele songs soon proved very popular and in 1926, he signed his first record deal.

By the mid-thirties, he was one of Britain's most successful performers. He became known for jaunty, innuendo-laden tunes

such as 'With My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock' and 'When I'm Cleaning Windows' that became all the more popular for attempts to ban them over their racy content.

It was at this time he was to buy the first of his many beloved Rolls-Royces, to which he proudly attached the plate, 'GF 1'. Each successive car would bear the same registration.

Formby made a skilful transition into film. One of his most memorable roles was in 1940's 'Let George Do It', in which he descended from a balloon into one of the Nuremberg rallies, where he beat up Hitler with the words, 'You are my last territorial demand in Europe!'

During the war, Formby and his wife Beryl worked tirelessly to entertain Allied troops, doing tours of Europe and further afield to raise morale. After the war, he was consistently in work in seaside pantomimes and performances around the country, making millions laugh. He even made inroads to television, and Queen Elizabeth was, and is a noted fan, alongside the Beatles.

Formby died in 1961, and the route to his burial, attended by many celebrities, was lined by over 150,000 mourners. With him passed a very special, unique aspect of English, and Northern culture.

GF 1

This unique slice of English showbiz history is currently available exclusively through Regtransfers.

Get in touch with us today to learn more.

Make an inquiry today about this historic number plate - who knows, you could be the next chapter in its story!





It Doesn't Get Any Better

Russell Albert's Ford Fiesta 1.4 diesel van displays his name with the registration RU55 ALB. "It doesn't get any better than that," says Russ. "It was a birthday present to me from my wife, Louise."

56-year-old Russell, from Cambridgeshire, works for Fenland district council as a street cleanser in Wisbech. Working four days on four days off gives him plenty of time to pursue his other interest, a 1985 Land Rover, built on a galvanised chassis, fully off-road prepared by Challenger from London. Over the ten years he has owned it, the vehicle has been updated and modified to the extreme. "A real pleasure to own and drive," he concludes.

"The other passions in my life are my six terrier dogs. All are girls and very naughty and I love them to bits."

The word 'Dalfson', emblazoned on the side of the van, is Russell's registered kennel name. Rather like a family name, it can be used only for puppies he has bred, like 'Dalfson Double Trouble' and 'Dalfson Black and White'. "The name comes from Dalfsen, in the Netherlands where the stud dog was born," explains Russell. "His name

was Dalf, my dog is the son of Dalf, hence Dalfson."

Russell loves his plate which he considers was made for him. "Regtransfers made the whole process of owning my dream number plate quick and easy," he says. "Now my wife is looking for one of her own."

“Regtransfers made the whole process of owning my dream number plate quick and easy.”





As a director of a very successful air-conditioning and refrigeration company based in Birmingham, Asmaan Khan has found that having a prestige number plate on his vehicle is an excellent way of portraying confidence when dealing with his many blue-chip clients.

"My life story is a truly "rags to riches" tale," he says, "starting at the company as an apprentice 25 years ago, I am now the owner and operations director"

www.braywhite.co.uk



Breaking the Ice

Simon John Gavin is an independent mortgage broker from Burnley in Lancashire. His first personal number plate, SJG 423, was a birthday present

from his parents more than 15 years ago and he has just bought R77 SJG as a birthday present to himself.

"I regularly visit clients at their homes," says Simon, "and the registration plates are a great 'icebreaker'. I always tell them about Regtransfers, the great

choice of plates available, and the great service."

Simon also purchased R8 JMG for his father upon his retirement a few years ago. Combining both his parent's names: John and Marilyn Gavin.



Plates of Distinction

Originally from Venezuela, 45-year-old Pedro Tang moved to Scotland 22 years ago and worked in the catering industry. "I met my current partner shortly after I arrived," he recalls, "and we set up a property portfolio business buying, refurbishing and renting properties, and became one of the biggest private landlords in Fife."

Pedro then re-trained as a gas engineer, initially so that he would be able to service the properties himself, but as things became busier he set up his own company, Crossgates Gas Services and Maintenance. "We recently won Green Deal Boiler installer of the year and have a few other awards."

Pedro first bought P26 ANG for his partner, Angela, after she kept losing her car in car parks! Angela's



sister, Lorraine, followed suit with N26 LOR as did their father, Bryan, with N26 BRY. Pedro's Mercedes sports the close representation of his name, P31 DRO. "But then I thought it would be distinctive for the company vehicle as I don't have them sign written."

The PED in Pedro's plates obviously represents his name. The repeating 26 theme seen in his and his family's registrations was Pedro's old motorbike racing number.

www.crossgates.com

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The Most Dangerous Roads in Britain



Britain's roads are seeing record rates of accidents and this has led to a five-year high. 1,792 deaths were recorded in road traffic accidents in 2017 – up 4% from 2016.

With the dark mornings and darker nights creating slippery, icy roads throughout the winter months, driving conditions are getting worse, causing more dangerous driving, and ultimately more accidents.

At Regtransfers we've conducted some research into the most dangerous roads in Britain to create an original data set and interactive map to highlight the 50 most high-risk routes and also the most dangerous road in each region across the country.

Some of the data tells us things we may already expect: for example, more than half (52%) of Britain's most dangerous roads run through London, with the highest accident rate being 12.70 per 1 million vehicle-miles driven on the A1010. These findings are backed by figures from the Department for Transport, which states that London's busy roads rank three times more dangerous than country routes.

In order to create this unique data set, we divided the number of accidents by the amount of traffic on that road. This revealed that the busiest roads that typically come out on top aren't actually the most dangerous.

The data is based on accidents and traffic volume that spans 10 years between 2007-2016 and the roads that have seen at least 1,000 accidents.

That's a lot of accidents, so by raising awareness of this issue, we can hopefully expect to see people driving safer and being more aware of dangerous roads – especially throughout the winter months.

Top 10 Most Dangerous Roads in Britain

Road	Rate*
A1010 London/East of England	2.70
A107 London	8.38
A105 London	6.75
A315 South West/London	6.70
A112 London	6.25
A400 London	4.40
A4020 London	3.93
A219 London	3.87
A215 London	3.87
A214 London	3.73

*per million vehicle miles driven

But if you don't live in (or near to) London, you may be wondering what other roads have a high accident rate. So, we took on some further research to find out the most dangerous road in every region.

Most dangerous roads in each region

Region	Road	Rate*
North West	A49	26.12
London	A1010	12.31
West Midlands	A4040	3.30
Yorkshire and Humber	A1079	3.11
Scotland	A7	3.10
East Midlands	A15	2.87
South East	A420	2.76
North East	A193	2.53
Wales	A487	2.05
East	A134	1.76
South West	A39	1.56

*per million vehicle miles driven

With the A49 having an accident rate of 26.12, over double the amount than the road ranking second, it is important to raise awareness of the danger of this road and hopefully attempt to reduce the rate.

Our online interactive map shows the roads' locations in Britain, and the accident rate per million vehicle-miles driven. Take a look at The Most Dangerous Roads in Britain on our blog page and help raise awareness.

www.regtransfers.co.uk

Studio/Gallery

480884

No. 5



Art for Art's Sake



Paul Karslake FRSA

“As one of the world's top airbrush artists I have to look professional,” says Paul Karslake, “and Regtransfers helped me do that with my ultimate registration, PK58 ART.”

Even before he won his first County Art Prize at the age of eight, Paul was immersed into the Art World. Paul's father, Mike, was a renowned architectural model maker. From Mike, Paul was taught business ethics, form and perspective – attributes so lacking in many of today's working artists.

After College, Paul joined his father in his business and assisted on many famous architectural projects such as the Grade 2 building Centre Point, on London's Oxford Street, the Thames Flood Barrier and working models for the Concorde Pilot seat.

Paul travelled to the States for what he imagined would be a three-week holiday. He stayed four years. Soon after arriving in America. Paul was working for Los Angeles Art Studios, CBS Television and Disney with whom, years later, he was to work on the EuroDisney Project.

Early in the 1980's Paul was back in England and formed a company, The Art House, to control his ever-expanding art business. In 1990 Paul was commissioned by the Wiggins Group Plc., to produce a 650 ft long artwork hoarding for their South Quay site in London Docklands for which he was awarded The Evening Standard Environmental Award. In the same year,

Paul was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (F.R.S.A.)

Under the guidance of Derek Johns, ex-Director of Sotheby's and Old Master dealer in St. James's, Paul decided to further strengthen his ties with the Fine Art market. In 1995 he undertook a commission for some very large Still Life paintings for the restaurant that became Gordon Ramsay's Petrus, in St James's, London. He followed up in 1998 with a solo exhibition at Derek Johns Ltd., in Duke Street, SW1.

In 2001, the Paul Karslake Fine Art Gallery and studio was opened in Leigh-on-Sea from where Paul's artistic talents have further brought him worldwide recognition. His paintings of iconic and popular figures, from the likes of The Rolling Stones, Johnny Depp, Sir Michael Caine and Grace Kelly are hanging in the homes of the famous and infamous and form part of many corporate and private collections in the UK and around the world.

Paul is passionate about sharing and explaining his skills. He takes an active part in supporting children wishing to do work experience, tutors at schools, and demonstrates at Art Groups. In 2005 The Karslake Centre for Art opened at The Cornelius Vermuyden School and Arts College, Essex.

Paul's celebrity clients include Sir Michael Caine, “who collects my art,” Brian May, “whose guitars I paint,” and Keith Richards, “who has paintings and a

guitar,” Mohamed Al-Fayed and Yeadley Smith (the voice of Lisa Simpson), to name but a few.

He has also extended his talents to other mediums including design and artwork for the Virgin F1 racing cars and some monumental scale commissions on commercial aircraft, coaches and even the Radio 1 roadshow trucks.

In his spare time, Paul enjoys singing and playing bass guitar in a band. But he is also a keen motor sport fan and tells us that he is currently building a Lewis Hamilton F1 tribute Mercedes and adds that, “I am looking for a registration for it!”

“PK58 ART says it all,” Paul concludes, “my initials, year of birth and what I do for a living, so when I turn up at one of my A-list celebrities mansions to deliver a commission, or just driving on the motorway, I am highly visible.

“I had a very professional and problem free service from you guys,” says Paul, “and I was impressed by the speed of the whole process.”

www.paulkarslake.co.uk

“I had a very professional and problem free service from you guys and was impressed by the speed of the whole process.”



expiry that the transfer from one Beetle to the other was completed. As the rules only allow registrations to be transferred from vehicles with valid MOT, the timing was pretty tight.

Both the Beetle and 1956 VW are set to stay in the family. "If my wishes are honoured after clogs are popped," as John puts it, "my grandson, Mark, is set to be the next owner."

Beetles made up to early 1953 with a two-piece rear window are known as 'Splits' and those following, up to mid-1957, are always referred to as 'Ovals'. Viewed from the front, the vintage is more difficult to determine.

John, who resides in East London was eager to share his unusual street name, Nutter Lane and adds, "It has been featured in national newspapers, who suggested that, whilst it is not a prerequisite to be mad to live here, close scrutiny of some residents suggests that a few of them might be."

Keeping it in the Family

John Spong has owned his Volkswagen Beetle since his uncle George sold it to him for £225 in 1964. "Two wings are the only non-original paint," he says. The car was originally registered 241 AFC in Oxford 3rd April 1956.

"I transferred a few numbers with personal relevance," says John, "including JS followed by four digits (indicating my birth date). At one time, I also had a 1953 Beetle and the two registrations JTS 59 and JTS 5."

During the 1970s and 80s, John was fortunate to have a friendly newsvendor who let him have a copy of *Exchange and Mart* late on Wednesday nights ahead of publication on Thursdays. "Early morning telephone calls to sellers of interesting vehicles resulted in me buying a Mini registered JTS 3, which I transferred to several vehicles, including a Sunbeam Tiger."

The purchase of a VW Beetle in 1975 for just £60 yielded the registration 1956 VW that now adorns the Beetle that John bought

from his uncle. "I never looked at the cars before purchasing as I really only wanted the numbers," says John. Fortunately, his wife noticed that the car had only limited MOT left and it was on the day before the



Good Dog!

After serving 18 years as a police dog handler, Amanda Marraffa decided to start her own dog training and walking business. She always had a love of dogs and the outdoors and, in February 2017, on a train journey down to London, her dream became reality when she purchased the domain name Good-dog.co.uk

Amanda initially purchased a 2008 ex-police dog car, a Ford Mondeo. “Even though it was a bit battered and bruised, it served us well in establishing the business,” she recalls, “until it gave up the ghost in September.” The business had grown substantially in these few months, with recommendations leading to new clients which got the business up to full capacity

with dog walking, regular training clients and cat home pop-ins. This gave her the confidence to invest in a new Ford Transit Custom fitted with a custom-built Lintran cage system for the dogs’ safety and well-being.

Already having their own personal registrations, Amanda and her husband, Carlo, decided to look for one for the business. Carlo found GO09 DOG on the Regtransfers website and they thought that would be an ideal number for the van.

“It really finishes it off,” says Amanda, “and it is already getting comments and people pointing as we drive past. We couldn’t have wished for a more perfect plate.”

“The purchase process was quick and easy and was handled efficiently,” Carlo says. The number plates were given to Amanda on their wedding anniversary.

Pictured with Amanda and her plate is Lex, the couple’s two-year-old German Shepherd who they got at eight weeks old and have trained from that day onward. Lex goes out all day walking with all the other dogs and loves his new friends!

www.good-dog.co.uk

“The transfer process was handled quickly and efficiently.”



One Happy Driver

John Rowell's interest in registration plates started when he was about nine years old.

"Us boys would sit on a cushion or blanket against the fence near to the A605," he remembers. "With lined exercise book in hand and a sharpened pencil each morning of the summer holidays, we would write down just the numbers from the registration plates of passing cars. The next summer, I decided that numbers were boring so decided to write down only the letters, much to the disgust of my mates but they soon followed suit."

Having been given an *Observer's Book of Cars*, John then began to underline the registrations and where they were first registered.

The interest in car registrations lay dormant for a period after that and life went on. John worked in Gibraltar for a time, where he purchased a new car that he brought back to the UK. Then one day, to his great joy, a cheque dropped in the letter box for a purchase tax refund.

"Now I'm going to buy a plate for the car," he declared. With no clear objection forthcoming, he began his search. "By chance, I found GIB 516," he says, "which, in my eyes, refers to Gibraltar, where I had worked. We agreed a price and with all the paperwork in place and plates purchased,

the car then had everything I had dreamed of all those years before."

GIB 16 has been on a number of John's cars since. "Almost everyone in the city [Ely in Cambridgeshire] knows who it belongs to," he says.

John's second plate purchase came about when he bought a second hand Ford KA Sublime. "It went like a dream," he says. "Until it was finally traded in for a low mileage special edition with leather seats. But I kept the GIB 516 plate."

Not caring for the registration the new car came with, the search was on again for a something suitable.

"ELY was the easy part," says John, "as we have lived here for almost 40 years and has only three letters." To his surprise, JR54 ELY was available. With his initials included, it became a simple choice. "When my brother first saw it," John confides, "he said how envious he was as he has the same initials and, to make matters worse, he was born in 1954. The KA is now known as my 'toy' and I'm so happy with Regtransfers for organising every detail.

"I am one happy driver," says John, "and the proud owner of registration plates I could

only dream of when writing down number plates all those years ago."

John is still trying to find a car with 'OZ' plates - the only registration missing from his photographic collection. "One passed me in the street two years ago," he says, "but having no camera in hand, the wait goes on."

More recently, John has purchased BR09 JUN from Regtransfers for his wife, Bertha, whose birthday is 9th June. "A little surprise for her last month," he says, "and which she is over the moon with."

John comes from a building background and became a carpenter on completion of his apprenticeship. He subsequently moved into management as building surveyor and clerk of works. "I took early retirement to enjoy life," he says, "as secretary and treasurer for local charities. I do enjoy my sport especially football, when I travel 26 miles each way for a home game, where I am a season ticket holder for my beloved Peterborough United. My armchair sport is snooker, which my wife follows avidly, forcing me to go to Sheffield Crucible once a year."



Social Media GALLERY



Here is a selection of some great number plates that have been spotted by our followers. To see more pictures, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.







The World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) is a coordinate system based on a standard spheroidal reference surface for use in cartography, geodesy, and navigation. It is the system used by all Global Navigation Satellite Systems such as GPS and has been adopted by the global community as the sole reference system to be used for land, sea and air navigation.

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