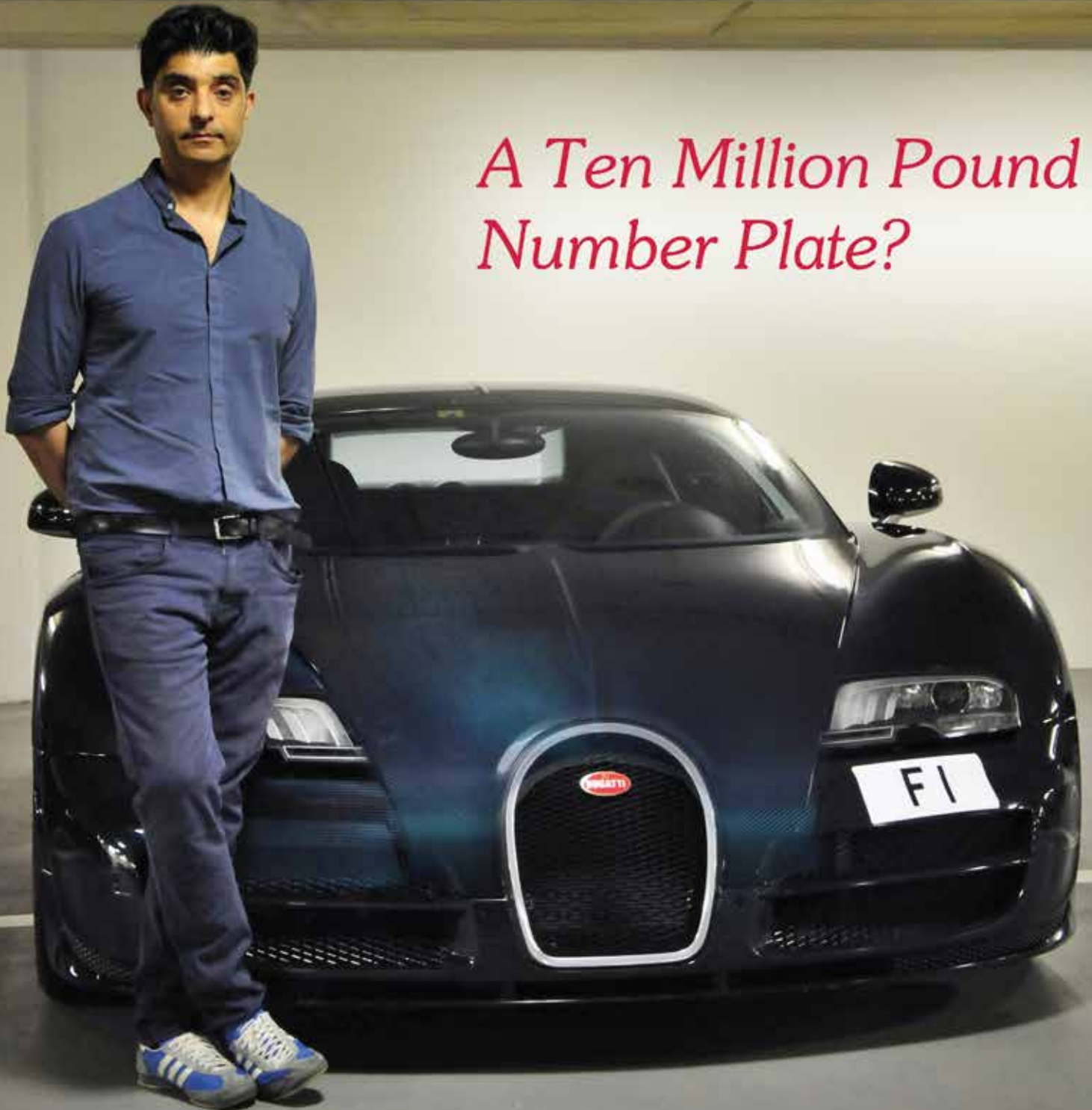


The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 46

Regtransfers

*A Ten Million Pound
Number Plate?*



AFZAL KAHN





Tibby Singh was BBC3 TV's *Carpenter of the Year* 2011. The show, *Young Talent of the Year* celebrated the best in British tradesmanship by finding out which of four young carpenters at the top of their trade could cut it at the highest level.

From creating a floating duck house to fitting a complete functioning kitchen in just three hours, it tested the finalists' creative and technical skills in a high-pressure environment. Singh nailed it to become the eventual winner. He used some of the proceeds of the win to buy himself this very appropriate plate.

www.tibbysingh.com



Stuart Dixon considers his collection of Jaguar-themed plates to be as good as any he has seen in our magazine. He has the following remarkable series, J700 XKS, SO07 XKR, XO07 XKC, XO07 XKR, XO07 XKS, XO07 XKX and XO07 XKK.

There seems to be a bit of a James Bond thing going on there as well, but Stuart is

not a secret agent, although we suppose he wouldn't tell us if he was anyway!

Stuart, a retired businessman from Sheffield, has a passion for Jaguar cars and helping local charities. "I take my cars around the country," he tells us, "raising monies for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice". Covered in signed stickers and company logos, the car has



raised around £40,000 in four months for the children's hospice. When finished it will have raised over £60,000. "I then want to start another one and take it over to and across America," Stuart concludes, "this should raise over £100,000 for the hospice."

AFZAL KAHN

Kahn do!



Afzal Kahn is one of those people you just can't help but be inspired by. Just over twenty years ago he took the leap from a safe career in architecture to the world of car design and customisation. Starting with custom wheels, he's created a multi-million-pound business doing for cars what a high-end fashion designer does for clothes.

As a self-made millionaire, he is also the proud owner of one of the world's most desirable and sought-after number plates - F 1,

currently sitting on his blue carbon Bugatti Veyron Super Sport - one of only three in the world.

We spent time talking to him about automotive fashion, refining cars and, of course, number plates.

The world first heard of Afzal Kahn - the creator of automotive fashion, (as his official Instagram page, @AfzalKahn states) - in the mid-nineties when, fresh from leaving his architecture studies, he designed the

RS-R Alloy wheel, a striking innovation that quickly became a sensation amongst car aficionados. With the capital from this first success, he was able to begin a number of customisation services.

Kahn Design was the original standard bearer for Kahn's creations, followed by The Chelsea Truck Company, Project Kahn, and his supercar project, The 'Vengeance'.

Kahn has a very forthright view when it comes to design - "You're either born crea-





tive or you're not, simple. If you're creative and you love something, you'll have the eye for it, you'll know instantly whether it's beautiful or not. You take the finance, and the opportunity away, and you see it as raw... You see beauty... That's how it's supposed to work."

"When you think about it, a car is one of the few pieces of jewellery a man can have. If you look at a car, it's an escape, it's more than just a car", he says, describing his motivations for entering the automotive design game." Later he tells us that he's become an automotive designer to, "take the best that exists and refine it."

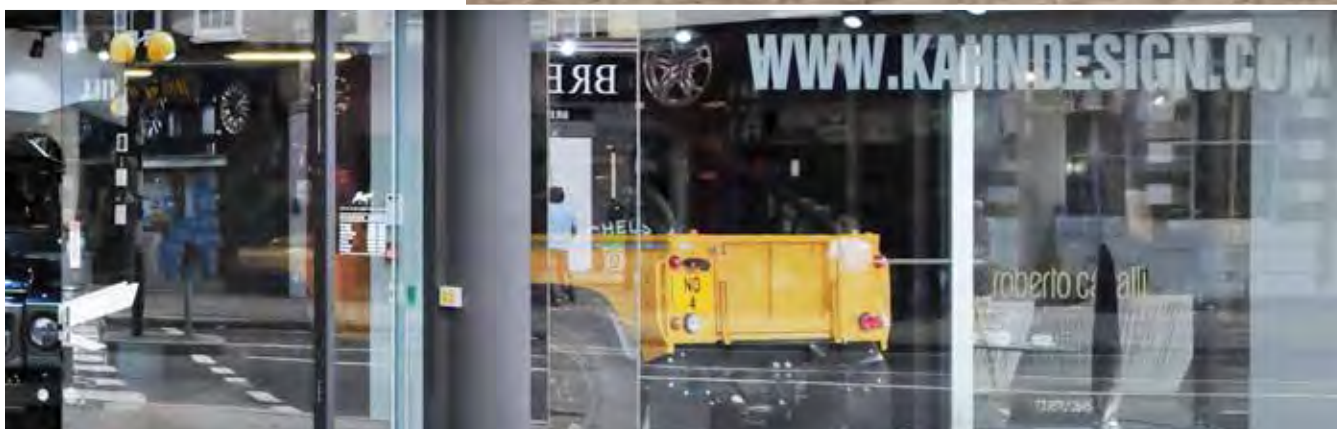
Kahn prefers to do most of his work with a few distinct models - Jeep Wranglers and Land Rovers, both rugged and powerful vehicles with a long history of success in the United Kingdom and favourites of his since childhood.

“A car is one of the few pieces of jewellery a man can have.

Most of his work involves replacing wheels, widening the body, creating bespoke leather interiors via an in-house workshop and incorporating new suspension and engines.

This allows him to focus on obtaining and crafting the best possible modifications. Interiors can be fitted out in any number of combinations, thanks to partnerships with luxury brands like Harris Tweed, Dame Zandra Rhodes and Cosworth. Over the years he's offered a few collectible models such as the 'Longnose' based on the Land Rover Defender, and the 'Black Hawk', based on the Jeep Wrangler. Buoyed by their success, he's turned his hand to Aston Martins - specifically the DB9 - unveiling the aforementioned 'Vengeance' at the Geneva Motor Shows in 2015 and 2016, having invested a total of £2.2 million in order to 'pay homage' to Aston Martin.

When asked about his favourite parts of the car to design, he finds it hard to identify



one, "It's the way it sits together. It's like a suit, you can't just have one part, it's all of it. Perhaps wheels - they're the most visual part." He's more forthcoming when he talks about the design process, especially when collaborating, telling us "the most important part is getting the juices flowing... you go into a little space with whoever you're working with, floating around, moving things about, making connections. It doesn't matter who's sitting around you."

“I’m relaxed all the time. Enjoying myself is what I’m doing now.

Kahn's vibrant, unique designs have won him a lot of fans. Last year, he was asked to fit out a number of bespoke, luxury cabs for the LEVC, one of the premium taxi firms in London.

More recently, Afzal has created coachbuilt projects like the 'Flying Huntsman' 6x6 Defender. After all, Britain has a proud history of luxury coachbuilding!

Produced on a limited basis - the colossal Land Rover Defender XS Double Cab Pickup 2.2 TDCI 'Flying Huntsman' 6X6 started life as a standard vehicle.

Around 880mm longer than a normal Defender and 150mm wider, the 'Flying Hunts-

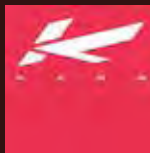


man' 110 6X6 is adorned with a full range of mechanical & styling upgrades, that gives the vehicle a muscular appearance and improved performance. It features six driven wheels, an upgrade to the suspension and braking system, locking differentials and a six-speed automatic gearbox - ensuring this ground-breaking vehicle is as tough as they come.

Then there's the appearances on Discovery's *Supercar Megabuild*, and his hit YouTube Show *The Kahn Office*, a short fly-

on-the-wall documentary series following the day-to-day lives of his office employees, which has amassed legions of fans in a short space of time, thanks to Afzal's sense of humour and his sense of boyish enthusiasm for all things cars. Both have furthered his image as an automotive fashion auteur. A long wait list and a celebrity clientele running across sport, music and television mean that his workshops are always busy.

When asked what he does to relax, Kahn tells us that it's what he does, day in, day



Kahn Design's headquarters are in Bradford, but they have two prestigious premises in the heart of London.

Their stylish Chelsea showroom is currently displaying a full range of vehicles and accessories enabling clients to experience the style, innovation and excitement that comes with innovative car design.

You will find a range of accessories and components sitting proudly alongside vehicles such as the Chelsea Truck Company Jeep Wrangler Black Hawk Edition.

Offering a unique interpretation of automotive couture in an atmosphere of unmatched elegance, the new boutique

located on Kensington High Street will feature distinct Project Kahn and Chelsea Truck Company vehicles alongside an exclusive collection of wheels and accessories.

Kahn Boutique
385 Kings Road
London
SW10 0LR
0207 751 4555
chelsea@kahndesign.com

Kahn Boutique
377 Kensington High Street
Kensington
London
W14 8QZ
0203 740 6005
info@chelseatruckcompany.com

"I wouldn't sell it for ten million."



out, that fuels him and keeps him happy. "I'm relaxed all the time. Enjoying myself is what I'm doing now. If you ask a creative person who is in the industry that he loves, they're on holiday. He's having his break and enjoying life. The only pressure, that everybody gets, is finance... The rest of it is just a great ride. If you can find a place in life where you enjoy going to work, you're going to enjoy life, you're going to look good and be healthy."

Now, in what may seem a natural progression from his work as an automotive fashionista, he's also designed an electric bike, 'The Chelsea', based on a 1920s pre-war motorbike with a range of fifty miles, the prototype to be released at the end of October.

Kahn has also branched into food - developing a range of 'hardcore' raw food bars that contain no gluten, no soy, just "raw food" - a subject that he is also very passionate about. "It's all natural, it's good for you. Because if you don't fuel yourself greatly, you're going to have issues"

Of course, Kahn came to Regtransfers attention when he purchased F 1 back in 2008 for £440,000.

When asked why he purchased the plate, he tells us, "It's F1 related, it's one of a kind, it's the most powerful sport in the world, it's related to a very, very expensive sport... You'd be mad not to buy it". F 1' has attracted a lot of attention since it came on the market. Kahn purchased it based on the proviso that he wouldn't sell it for ten years, to deter speculators from purchasing the plate. He says it's definitely his favourite plate, and

he's flat-out turned down plenty of offers for it - "I wouldn't sell it for ten million."

Perhaps the reaction he gets from it is part of the reason why he has refused to part with it so far, "It's on my Bugatti Veyron, and whenever I check my Instagram page, I am tagged into countless images of the blue carbon Bugatti Veyron Super Sport, so it's great in terms of connecting with people."

In fact, Kahn is no stranger to personalised number plates, having accumulated a large collection over the years - over sixty - as part of his customisation services. Many of these plates sit on retention, awaiting the perfect owner, such as 1 CEO, 51 UNT and NO 4. Others he places on his show cars, such as 4 HRH.

“You could put a short plate on a rubbish car and it makes it look so much better.”

Asked about why he loves number plates, his eyes light up, saying "I love short numbers, I think they make the car look good. "You could put a short plate on a rubbish car and it makes it look so much better. It's the cleanliness, it's the simplicity. I'm in the industry of designing cars and helping people look like heroes on the road. The number completes it."

In a way, Kahn's a very dedicated plate investor, taking advantage of the thriving market that has sprung up around personalised number plates, noting "Fact is, I've been in the number plate business since I was a little kid, I've watched them, I've been in the business, a collector in a way". Along the

way, he's picked up some stunning plates. "I have NO 1, which I sold recently. 51 R, I bought that back in 1999, which I thought was a great number, JO07 NAZ, K4 AHN, AK11 ANS..."

"Much like my automotive creations, each registration I own tells a story and generates a sense of intrigue, not only surrounding the vehicle but also the person behind the wheel.

"To the casual observer they are just a set of numbers and letters, but to me, they are an opportunity to set people's imaginations racing. A good registration turns a mundane requirement into an exciting opportunity to say something about yourself."

We agree - and add that they are a canny investment, considering the lack of red tape and maintenance costs associated with other investment items. A clever buyer can pick a plate - those with a solitary '1' being extremely desirable - and hold onto it, allowing a third-party dealer to place it on auction after a period of time. It is yet another revenue stream for Kahn and one that allows him even more room to experiment and grow his business.

A motoring design mogul, Kahn demonstrates the rewards of skill, practice, determination and striking out for yourself. With his stable of companies steadily growing and talk of even more cars being added to his bespoke range, there doesn't seem to be much chance of him slowing down any time soon. We wonder what's next for Kahn - more 'Kahn Office' shows on Youtube? Further partnerships with some of the country's most famed brands? His own marque, built from the ground up? We can't wait to find out!

www.kahndesign.com



Afzal Kahn has over 100,000 followers at:
www.instagram.com/afzalkahn

Story: Mike Stutchbery

Interview: Angela Banh

Location photography: Stan Thompson



A Bold Statement



EVision Electric Car Hire is the UK's first and largest electric car hire company and has been operating since 2014. Originally the company was a specialist in Tesla electric supercars, however, in January this year the company expanded its fleet to include other brands of electric car in order to make itself accessible to a wider customer base. One make of car that was introduced is the Renault ZOE, and EVision made an early decision to add personalised number plates to these new vehicles.

Marketing Executive for EVision, David McKnight, says "when we introduced the new Renault ZOE cars earlier this year we wanted to do something that would be an instant eye-catcher. We know that personalised number plates are far more distinctive than regular number plates, particularly when the number plate contains a familiar word in it. We decided early on that this was something we wanted to pursue as a way to draw attention to our cars, knowing that it's more likely to make a memorable impact, which is something we were very keen to do."

The number plates on all the EVision Renault ZOE's begin with the prefix 'EV', which is the commonly used abbreviation for 'Electric Vehicle', followed by a two-digit

number. The plates all end with the word 'ZOE', making them easily identifiable as one of the revolutionary makes of electric car, as opposed to the very similarly shaped Renault Clio, a petrol or diesel make of car by the same manufacturer.

EVision's fleet manager, Kevin Moody is pictured below with three examples of the 'ZOE' plates.

David McKnight went on to say, "even though electric car technology is developing at a furious rate, there are still many people who will not be converted until they see more electric cars on the road. By making a bold statement with the number plates we hope to attract more people to trying electric vehicles."

"At EVision we don't just see these number plates as a promotional tool for the company but as a promotional tool for electric cars in general, helping to convince the public that electric cars can look good and that it is OK to switch from a diesel or petrol car to an electric vehicle."

EVision Electric Car Hire are adding the new Jaguar I-Pace car to their growing fleet later this year. When asked if there are plans to add personalised number plates to the Jaguars, David responded, "I'm sure we will



be looking at adding personalised number plates to the new Jaguar cars when they come in. It will be interesting to see what plates are available when the time comes. Hopefully there will be something quirky and eye-catching."

To find out more about EVision Electric Car Hire, or to make a booking enquiry, visit their website at www.evrent.co.uk

“By making a bold statement with the number plates we hope to attract more people to trying electric vehicles.”





A sea change can do the world of good - just ask Barry Downson-Park, who took on Foxholes, an exclusive Four-Star country hotel set in its own beautiful grounds in the Glen of Lerags in Scotland.

The hotel is just a couple of miles south of the popular town of Oban, the 'Gateway to the Isles', in Argyll and Bute.

Barry was a qualified engineer but made a change of career some 20 years ago when he purchased the successful hotel with his late wife Shirley. The hotel has often catered for classic and sports car clubs including the likes of Aston Martin.

One of Barry's passions has always been beautiful sports cars. Having owned many lovely vehicles, his current prized vehicle is his Jaguar XK RS which now sports the superb plate, BDP 1 - a registration he purchased through Regtransfers last year. BDP 2 also has pride of place on a gleaming BMW.

To house his automotive treasures, Barry has recently built a six-car garage from solid oak. The garage has a wonderful apartment above which, when completed, will be available for weekly hire. Sounds just the place for a relaxing motoring holiday!



Quite apart from their prestige value, ownership of a quality registration represents enormous investment potential.

There are thousands of examples of Your Initials in the listings at the back of this magazine. To search our entire database containing millions of private registration numbers, please visit www.regtransfers.co.uk

Four-Star Registrations



Roaring Success

The Most Expensive Plates September 2017 - September 2018

If the past twelve months is any indication, personalised number plates continue to have a strong, bright future as both desirable luxury items and a choice investment. Across the world, auction results have demonstrated a burgeoning demand for plates with simple letter and number combinations.

While at the time of print we don't have any auction results, one market to keep an eye on over the coming year will be Australia. Auctions of New South Wales and Victorian plates are expected to take in the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of pounds. The hottest ticket at the auction was an NSW motorcycle plate, 1, expected to go from anywhere between £280,000 and £550,000.

China is also experiencing steady growth in the sale of personalised number plates, with an increased number of auctions taking place, especially in cities like Hong Kong and Shanghai.

At home in the United Kingdom, we saw a few significant sales, contributing to the £116 million that HM Government takes in from personalised number plates each year.

An anonymous bidder paid £68,100 pounds for 96 O at a DVLA auction in Cambridge, in September 2017. This price could be due to the upcoming Porsche 960 series of supercars, set for release some time

in the next two years - a worthy investment, considering the demand for plates that reflect specific models and marques of cars.

It was a British classic, however, that was celebrated in the UK's highest-selling number plate sale in the last year. RR 1 went for an impressive £472,000 (including 15% buyer's premium and 20% VAT) to an anonymous bidder at a Bonhams auction held during this year's 2018 Goodwood Revival. The plate used to belong to the car manufacturer Rolls-Royce, who used the plate for promotional purposes at their various headquarters.

The United States has also seen an upswing in the sale of personal number plates, particularly in the state of Delaware, where a plate featuring a solitary, low numeral or numerals is seen as a sign of status.

In August 2018, the number plate 20 sold for £312,037, up there with some of the highest-selling number plates on record in the country. Another emerging market for personalised number plates is Malaysia, that saw a brisk sale in number plates at auctions over the last twelve months.

PNG 1 sold for £64,378 in November 2017 to property developer Datuk M. Murly. PNG is the abbreviation for the Malaysian state of Penang - a canny advertising choice considering his occupation in one of the world's fastest developing nations.

Malaysia's highest selling number plate was 1, purchased, interestingly, by a corporation - Aldi International Sdn Bhd, in August 2018 for £204,204.

The Malaysia agency in charge of number plate distribution will be selling numbers 1 - 9999 over the coming years to interested buyers at auction, with only one number

exempt - 2020, reserved for the country's president, Mahathir Mohamad. The United Arab Emirates has proven to be the most lucrative market for those buying and selling personalised number plates, with a number of Dubai auction sales bringing in hundreds of thousands of pounds.

1111 was sold for £300,000 in November 2017, to a twelve-year-old boy, Khalifa Al Mazrouei. He raised half the money in a Quran-reciting competition, and half was given to him by his father. Khalifa will be placing the plate on the car he is driven to school in - he won't be able to drive himself for a few more years!

While we don't have an identity for the buyer, W22 was sold for a hefty £543,153 at auction in March 2018. More than five hundred individuals attended this auction, with buyers increasingly interested in buying plates for their own investment purposes.

Majid Mustafa plans to keep AA10 for his own personal use, which he paid £646,779 for at an October 2017 auction. Mustafa has been a long time participant at auctions and has a collection of over 5,000 personalised plates, that he sells for profit at both private sales and auction - a smart move.

Dubai's most expensive plate - and the most expensive of all the plates sold around the world last year - was 2 which raised £2,056,212 for police services and charities at an auction in November 2017. The winner of the auction, businessman Ahmed Al Mazroui, is quoted as saying, "I am very excited and proud to get number 2. it's the number that signifies the UAE union's creation on December 2."

All currency conversions were correct as of early September 2018.



Under the Hammer



It is now common practice to apply the word 'antique' to a collectible object at least 100 years old. By that definition, many vehicle registrations easily fall into that category.

Whether they qualify or are simply of great potential value because of their inherent desirability, their value on the open market continues to increase year upon year.

Both private and government-sponsored auctions have yielded spectacular prices over the last few years and the trend shows no sign of abating. Number plates are fast becoming an essential part of any investment portfolio.

Here are some examples of the prices achieved at recent events:

Oxford Belfry Hotel Milton Common Thame OX9 2JW 18, 19 and 20 July 2018

Top prices achieved (including estimated fees and taxes):

27 O	£48,939
123 AP	£37,016
TIG 1	£35,072
8 SSK	£24,704
1 RRX	£24,574
115 N	£19,520
786 AF	£19,002
101 AM	£18,224
43 OO	£18,224

Macdonald Kilhey Court Hotel Chorley Road, Standish Wigan WN1 2XN 19, 20 & 21 September 2018

Top prices achieved (including estimated fees and taxes):

29 O	£43,496
1 MYY	£38,960
365 P	£32,480
250 M	£26,778
200 PW	£26,000
1 LVH	£24,315
7 MAH	£20,557
DUL 44Y	£18,224
11 CEM	£16,669



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



WOT a Lot We've Got!

Ian Watt, from Hertfordshire, found a great way to capitalise on the phonetic pronunciation of his surname. It gave him the idea that, when his identical twins Kate and Kirsty passed their tests and got their first cars, he would give them each a personal number plate as an 18th birthday present.

"Kirsty was born first by one minute," says Ian, "so she had to be K1 WOT." In fact,

Ian found K2 WOT first and was amazed to find K1 WOT was also available.

The girls are now 33. Kirsty is a successful IT Sales Manager for Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Kate is a senior recruitment consultant for a boutique agency called Merje.

For many years, Ian, a retired chartered accountant, had owned WOT 947 which he acquired through Regtransfers. "It was fun,



but it didn't really mean anything," he says. Then about five years ago Kirsty texted me that WOT 3 was available through Regtransfers, which seemed a great way of completing the three car set of 1, 2 and 3.

"The Regtransfers team were great," Ian continues, "and helped me negotiate a good deal. We are very proud of having this set and they will last all of our lives, even if the girls' surname changes."

Currently, the plates are on a BMW M4 (K1 WOT), Peugeot RCZ (K2 WOT) and a BMW 435d (WOT 3). The wonderful old photo of the girls shows them with their first Peugeots.

“The Regtransfers team were great and helped me negotiate a good deal.”



The Luck of the Draw

Who doesn't love a windfall? Paul Davis from Hertfordshire, who works for an insurance brokers in the City, purchased 42 PD from us in January 2012, following "a bit of luck" on the Christmas Eve lottery, and has recently transferred it on to his new BMW M4 Competition.

"We were driving home after being away for Christmas," says Paul. "when I saw the plate on your website, and I just had to have it as each character represents every one of our family.

"Our boys Jack and Charlie were born in 2002 and 2004, so the 'P' is for me, the 'D' for my wife Sian (Davis), the '4' for Charlie, and the '2' for Jack.

"The plate means a lot to us, and I can't ever see us parting with it."

Sian, who works locally for a national construction company, and is known affectionately to Paul as 'Pudsey', also has SD16 PUD on her Ford Fiesta.

"I have to say," concludes Paul, "that, from the moment we put in the offer to the purchase being completed, we were really impressed with the service we received from Regtransfers, and we will definitely use them again."

Perhaps he should purchase another lottery ticket?



“We were really impressed with the service we received from Regtransfers, and we will definitely use them again.”



Blaney Commercials Ltd, of Motherwell in Scotland, specialise in the supply of new and quality used commercial vehicles nationwide.

Grant Blaney started the business in 2012 with his uncle, John, who is now retired. With over 40 years experience in the motor trade, the professionals at Team Blaney are well equipped to look after your enquiry. With their national network

of suppliers, superior industry knowledge, reliable finance partners, full dealer facilities and their "Can Do" attitude, you can trust them to supply you the right vehicles at the right price to get the job done.

To highlight the company name, Grant has the superb 11 BCL plate, displayed here.

"I bought my first private plate, G124 NTB, from Regtransfers about 10 years ago," says Grant, "then traded in and bought

38 GJB, sold that at a profit and bought 18 GJB." The GJB incorporates Grant's middle name of 'John'.

Grant's passion for personal plates extends to his young family. Six-year-old, Zara *[inset above]* also has her name included in their GJZ 8 registration and nine-month-old son, Grayson, will be receiving GB14 NEY when he is 17 and ready to hit the roads - perhaps in keeping with the family trade?



Dream Car, Dream Number

Riyas Miyanath from London says, "My experience with Regtransfers was that it was so easy to buy a number plate. The processing was so fast."

As the boss of his own retail company, Riyas has cleverly combined his title with

the familiar internet acronym 'www' to create the perfect plate.

"It was my dream to have a car with a special number," he tells us. "I bought my dream car," he continues, "so I needed a special number."

“It was so easy to buy a number plate. The processing was so fast.”

David Graham has loved cars from an early age. "Like every boy," he tells us, "I had the posters on the walls, Top Trumps cards, then finally my first car, the Mini."

This obsession led him to the world of private number plates. "I would read the *Sunday Times* motoring section where all the private ads were placed and it was here I discovered Regtransfers."

David has built a solid and dependable reputation for his company, David Graham Developments. Over almost three decades, his dedicated team have renovated, and newly built some of the finest homes of character within the Cheshire and North West region.

"Many of our renovations of listed buildings have featured in quality homes magazines," says David. "For me and the team, the real accolade is the finished project when handing over the keys to the clients. It's that moment of realisation from them when you deliver their dreams into reality."

With success came a desire to enjoy the fruits of his work. David soon found he

was spending as much time looking for plates as he was for cars, although blissfully unaware that they would make such great investments.

"My first reg was 100 DG," David recalls. "I will never forget the morning I came downstairs and there was a letter from you guys saying you had this registration for sale. I was hooked," he continues, "and found buying and selling was a great fun and a great investment."

"I bought RO11 ERS because it's just a great plate," says David, who currently holds the registration on retention awaiting sale. "Ultimately, it belongs on a Rolls-Royce Wraith. Who knows where it will go? We will just have to wait and see."

Besides 99 DGD, pictured below, David has another great initial plate, A1 DGD, and his two sons already have their own registrations on retention for their 18th birthdays. "But my wife, Catherine, has what I believe is the best plate, CAT 1G," he concludes.

We think he's made a very sound investment on *all* those plates!

David Graham Developments renovate, design and refurbish period properties and project manage new build homes of distinction for both private clients and commercial.

Whether it be the renovation of a listed period building or a bespoke contemporary wet room for a penthouse apartment, they have the design and the construction experience to deliver from concept to completion.


DAVID GRAHAM
DEVELOPMENTS

www.davidgrahamdevelopments.co.uk

RO11 ERS

RO11 ERS is currently available through
Regtransfers





Set in 35 acres of beautiful Dorset countryside, overlooking the lush Stour valley and Wimborne Minster, Merley House is the ideal location for your own holiday home, lodge, log cabin or small business.

www.merleyhouse.co.uk



The splendid backdrop to the photo above is not, as Philip Hammick is quick to point out, where he and his family live, but the 18th-century Grade I listed Merley House is located within the Dorset holiday park which he and his wife, Fiona, have run for over 50 years.

Number plates have been of interest to Phillip since he was a child. "My grandmother had KAY 46 on an old Vanden Plas," he tells us, "and my late father, John Hammick had 1111 JH on a 'dish top' Mercedes.

Phillip recalls a game he used to play as a kid: "You had to see consecutive numbers

starting at 1. It took forever but kept us quiet in the car on long journeys. I think I only ever made it up to about 215!"

Having acquired 5808 PH for himself and then 5488 FH for Fiona, Phillip's brother, Bernard, got 5809 BH, only to sell it a few years later. "Imagine my surprise," says Phillip, "when I saw it for sale again on your website. I bought it immediately for my son Benjamin, who is a naval officer. In the meantime, as an avid drinker of sloe gin, I had also bought S10 EGN from Regtransfers and put it on the Land Cruiser. It gets many admiring looks and comments when out at a shoot somewhere in the winter. It also was the talking point

at the ferry terminal on the Isle of Skye back in May.

"When I bought the DB7 Vantage a few years ago I hadn't realised the plate on it YG02 UNY, read 'Why go to uny' [university] so I replaced it with MY 02 AML - 'My 02 Aston Martin Lagonda'. Having got the Aston for myself as a small investment, my wife decided she wanted a little summer run-around and got the Mazda, so for her birthday I got her, again from Regtransfers, FH 4488 to go with her first plate 5488 FH that was on her Audi.

Last summer, Phillip got a Mercedes SL 500 and Regtransfers were pleased



to provide another 'Sloe Gin' plate, S100 EGN, to go on it. "I then chopped that in for the DB9 and transferred the plate onto it."

The couple's daughter, Emily, a prep school teacher, is getting married next year and they want to get her a plate for her car, "but it will have to be along the lines of just Emily or an ES to reflect her married name," says Phillip. "I'll just keep checking the magazine and website on a regular basis."

www.merleyhouse.co.uk



One Traveller



Looking to get away? Ian Darkin is the founder and director of One Traveller Holidays, a specialist travel company for mature single travellers, based in Swaffham, Norfolk.

"I'm half Czech and also spent a lot of my childhood in Italy with my extended family there," says Ian, "so travelling and engaging with different cultures has always been a part of my life. It was pretty natural for me to go on to work in travel and tourism."

One Traveller was born out of Ian's realisation whilst working as a tour manager, that single travellers often felt isolated or even neglected when holidaying in groups with couples. "I decided to set up my own tours of Prague, a city I know well from my mother's side of the family.

"My idea was to create a holiday just for mature single travellers, so they would be with like-minded company, staying in a double room for single occupancy with

lots of social activities, meals and drinks included in the one price."

Ten years later, One Traveller is now a successful and award-winning travel company, employing a small band of staff and offering holidays across much of the world, all designed for single travellers.

Ian's company car number plate I TRV was purchased through Regtransfers and is fitted to his Tesla Model S, which sits next to its own charging station at the company's office.

"I'm almost beginning to forget what a visit to the petrol station is like," laughs Ian "which nearly caught me out recently when I borrowed my dad's petrol engine car while mine was in for a service!

"My dad used to own a car dealership and is still very interested in cars. In fact, he is the one who took the photograph of my Tesla outside our office. He has always had


his own plates and really encouraged me to find one that fits with the company's name.

"I had heard of Regtransfers from a friend, who is an athlete and who had a really good plate on his car, so it was the natural place to look for mine. 1 TRV could have been made for me, so when I saw it I had to have it! I've seen other people in this magazine describe the plate as a marketing tool and, while this wasn't the reason for buying it, it does attract attention and I can see the benefit compared to the regular registration number."

One Traveller is a family-run company, with Ian's wife, Emma (who has her own private plate) working as the company secretary and both sets of parents also having roles. Their two-year-old son, Jack is a regular visitor to the office, "but we haven't put him to work just yet," laughs Ian.

For more information about One Traveller, visit their website at www.onetraveller.co.uk





Derek Bird lives in North London and tells us that, sadly, both his mother and best friend passed away within days of each other. "It was just before Christmas, five years ago," he says. However, their legacy lives on, in a way - they both left him some money, with which he bought a new Peugeot RCZ. Things, however, were about to get even more fortuitous. "While waiting for the delivery," Derek recalls, "I looked on my computer at Regtransfers and came upon D17 BEM. I could not believe it - D for Derek, 17 - my birth date and 'BEM'."

BEM? Well, thereby hangs a tale: "When I was 18, I received the British Empire Medal from the Queen, for bravery in chasing and apprehending a gunman." When not engaging in acts of heroism, Derek tells us that he also performed for many years as a 'Frank Spencer' look-alike - some mothers do 'ave 'em!



A cautionary tale, ladies and gentlemen - Garry Van Weenan from Barnet in Hertfordshire bought 405 GVW from Regtransfers some 20 years ago. "It went on my RS Turbo that I had at the time," he recalls, "and each time I changed my car my number plate went with me." But, on one occasion, when Garry part-exchanged his 5 Series BMW for a Lotus Esprit, he was promised by the dealer the plate would be returned to him. "A huge mistake," he says, "as I had sold the car I had inadvertently sold the number plate as well." Garry tried everything to get it back but to no avail. "I think it was about ten years ago," says Garry, "I was looking on your website and there was my number plate for sale. I phoned immediately, bought it back and put it on a BMW 7 series that I had. I bought my present car a few months ago and, as you can see, it is now on my Mercedes SL."

We're very happy that Garry has his beloved plate back, but make sure that yours doesn't get sold when trading in your car - taking the number off a vehicle couldn't be easier, and there are instructions on our website at www.regtransfers.co.uk.

Words and NAMES

Quite apart from their prestige value, ownership of a quality registration represents enormous investment potential.

There are thousands of examples of Words and Names in the listings at the back of this magazine. To search our entire database containing millions of private registration numbers, please

We Just Had To



Jennifer Minchin from Poole in Dorset used to live in Aberdeen and was 18 when she met her husband-to-be, Donald, who had just moved down from the Isle of Skye.

"I think it was roughly 1981," she recalls, "when he saw me dancing in a nightclub with friends. We'd very briefly met a few weeks before, so he'd remembered I was a horse groom and bravely approached me for a dance.

"His chat up line? Wait for it. 'You like horses don't you?' 'Yes,' I said. 'Well, I've a Mustang outside!' Yep, I fell for the cheesy line."

Amazingly the couple still have a photo of that 1971 Ford which first sparked their romance."

To cut a long story short, they dated for nine months or so but, much to Jennifer's regret, they drifted apart. Some 30 years later they were reunited through "this Facebook malarkey," as Jennifer calls it with the message, "Is that Donald from Skye, who used to drive a Mustang?"

Donald had, however, moved from Aberdeen all the way down to Poole in Dorset. "He drove up to Aberdeen to see

me," says Jennifer, "and it was like we'd never been apart."

"I have been here for seven years this October and been married for nearly five. The first time in my life I've been truly happy. So when we saw the Mustang for sale; well, we just had to."

Amazingly, the 2015 5-litre GT auto coupe V8 came complete with the fantastic MU65 TNG [Mustang] number plate. "Complete strangers come up to me," says Jennifer, "and tell me how beautiful the car is and ask if it's ok to take photos."

Going by the Book



Rob Harris from Kingsteington in Devon has always had a strong interest in personalised number plates. He tells us, "I have had a long interest in car registration numbers for many years and am still in possession

of *Car Numbers Then and Now*, and *Car Numbers Millennium Edition*

Knowing this, wife Lesley obtained XIW 156 for him in December 2005 through Regtransfers. "The car is now showing just over 130,000 miles," notes Rob "and while it is in great condition, and the second love of my life, it is probably not worth as much as the number!"

In February this year, it was time to change Lesley's Mazda 6 Tourer. "Having agreed the purchase of a new CX5 with Vosper's of Exeter," Rob says, "Lesley said, as we were turning in that night, that a nice plate would be RH17 LAH, as Anne is her middle name."

After drowsily grabbing the iPad, a quick search on the Regtransfers website revealed that the very same number was available.

"This was too good to miss," said Rob, "A call to Bruno at Regtransfers the following day was all it took to secure the number and the certificate was with us in a couple of days."

"Until this purchase, I had always regretted not having a middle name but now I don't mind so much as seeing the plate always makes us both smile."

“A call to Bruno at Regtransfers the following day was all it took to secure the number and the certificate was with us in a couple of days.”

Car Numbers - Then and Now by Noel Woodall and Brian Heaton is available now at: www.regtransfers.co.uk/gifts



The WOR 5T Plate in the World?

Marston Tillyer's plate collection was first featured in Issue 31 of this magazine. It all started with his two 'Marvel' plates, M42 VEL and M412 VEL, which relate to his hobby of collecting the US comic magazine memorabilia.

SYM 5 was purchased because it resembled SYMphony number 5 and was a potential investment. Similarly, CEO4 MEX could be a Chief Executive Officer with an American Express card.

"T122 YER obviously shows my surname," says Marston, whose brother Julian has another version of their surname, T111 YER, on his VW.

"MAR 573N resides on my daughter's boyfriend's car.

"Of course C8 THT was bought for my wife Cath," Marston continues, "and J2 OMY for





my daughter Romy [pictured left]. M6 LVA was for my mother Melva, who has since given up driving at the ripe old age of 85!"

The X90 ROY plate was on Marston's father's Volvo XC 90, whose name was, of course, Roy.

"The G7 MGT was purchased with the intention of putting it on a Mustang GT at

some point," says Marston, "which I have yet to do. Finally, TIL 666 was on my recent Harley Davidson Breakout motorcycle."

One Sunday morning, Marston, from Heddington in Wiltshire, was washing his cars, as you do, when two of his friends turned up with their Bentleys - and their cherished number plates - to ask him if he fancied a round of golf.

Being somewhat under-dressed having just washed four cars, the conversation turned to cherished registrations, which then prompted a spontaneous photo shoot.

"We had some fun arranging the cars on my driveway," says Marston. The rather 'dodgy plate', DOD 6Y, [pictured above] belongs to Marston's friend, Phillip Fernandez, who is the MD of Pool World (Wessex) Ltd, and it is currently on his Bentley. Phillip also has 1183 PF on an old Austin 7 and 921 UXB on a motorbike.

But the prize for the 'WOR 5T plate in the world', must surely go to another of Marston's friends, Wayne Smith, who is MD of the Nutrimin animal feed group and is on his Bentley Supersport ISR Ltd Edition. Wayne also has a couple of other great plates, RAM 130Y and 1963 WS.





Deepak P Chanrai from London is self-employed, earning a comfortable living 'dabbling' - his words - in the property and financial markets that make the City their home.

Not one to miss an investment opportunity, he also has some prize number plates, including two impressive variations of his initials - 1773 DP and 689 DP.

He must be doing alright - 689 DP has pride of place on his McLaren!

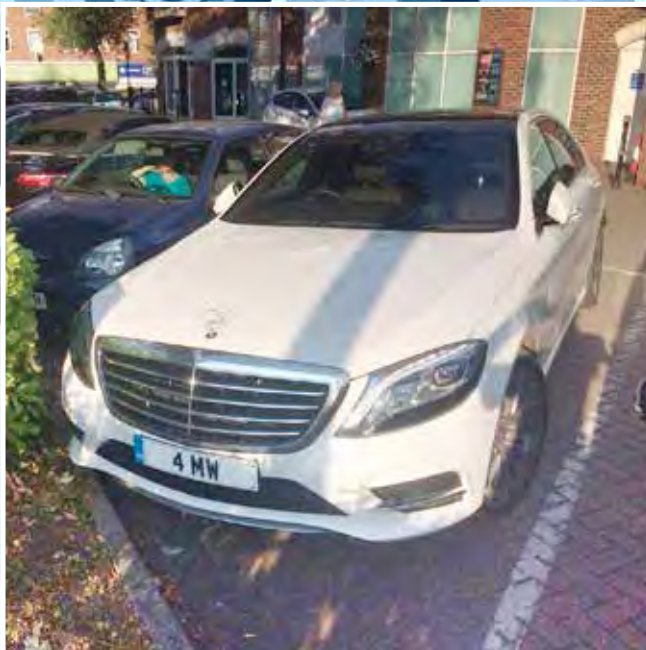


Social Media GALLERY



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.







Perfect Timing

Wendy Greaves from Norfolk bought this number plate for her daughter Melissa's 18th birthday.

She wanted to find a registration which cleverly combined Melissa's age and name. "I spent hours trying to find the perfect number plate but I needed to keep it a secret and tried to time it all for her birthday.

"The staff at Regtransfers were excellent and the service was perfectly timed," Wendy explains. "Your sales adviser Julie delayed the transfer for me so it all came through exactly when needed."

“The service was excellent and perfectly timed.

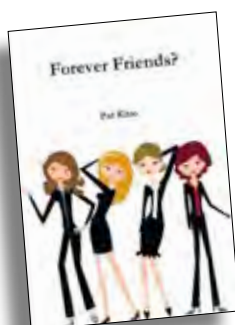
Pat Kitto, from St Helens in Merseyside tell us that her mother always liked to ride in Pat's car and had, on many occasions, suggested she should get a personalised number plate for it.

"She died last year," says Pat, "and, in order to honour her wishes, I have now got the plates which she would have loved."

The registration combines Pat's first name with both her date of birth ('47) and 'M' for her middle name, 'Margaret'.

As a retired teacher in a local further education college, Pat now spends some of her time as a trustee supporting two local charities, The Warrington Disability Partnership and The Warrington Wolves Foundation.

"My other interest is writing," she says, "and I have published a novel called *Forever Friends* based around my time in further education. I have also had a couple of short stories published in the *Sunday People* magazine."



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