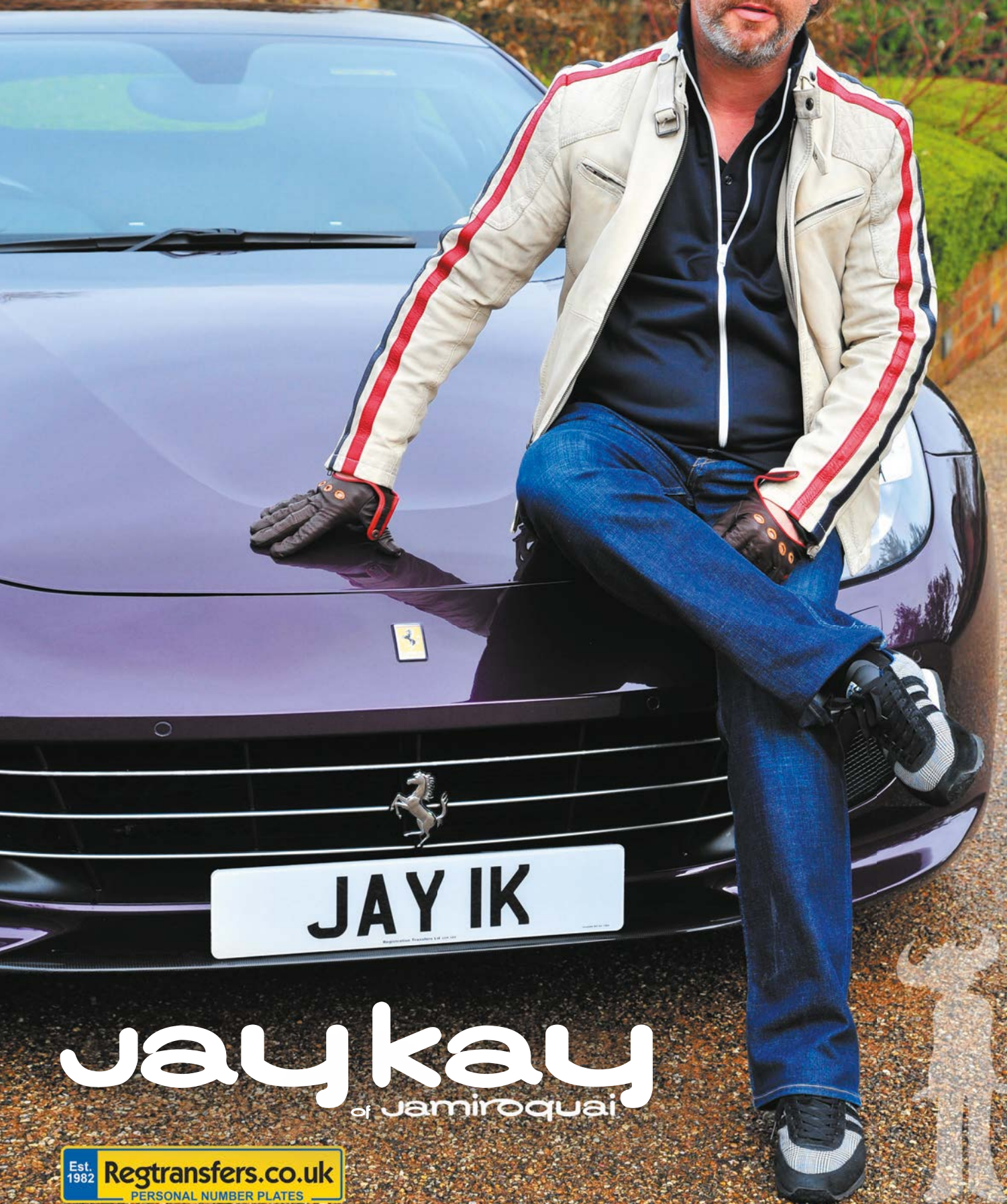


The World of Personal Number Plates

Regtransfers

Issue 51



jaykau
or jamiroquai

Under the Hammer

Viruses and lockdowns may come and go but the private number plate market marches on!

Seriously, we have all experienced a very worrying time and, no doubt, there are still challenges ahead but that makes it all the more encouraging to see signs of economic activity and indications that people are doing their best to live life as normally as possible.

The personal registrations market has repeatedly proven itself to be surprisingly resilient during difficult times: the industry fared well in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and has remained very active even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This resilience has been demonstrated again in the recent DVLA auctions of newly released numbers that took place in May, July and September of this year. Clearly, public health considerations have made

live auctions impractical, so these last three events all took place online.

March's auction offered 2250 lots for sale. We saw some great opportunities for bargain hunters as a couple of decent word numbers, HU57 LED and LUN 471C, were snapped up for relatively modest prices. Both could prove to be worthwhile investments.

May's auction of 1250 numbers produced some spectacular results. Unassailable champion of the bout was J42 MES, achieving an all-in price of £102,826. Runners up included 4 RS (£95,109), IG 5 (£87,739), 88 O (£57,899) and 8 YK (£47,973). Once again, there were also bargains to be found. 54 LAM ("Salam") sold for £23,860 but we can easily imagine this one achieving a higher price should the right buyer be tempted.

Continuing the upwards trajectory of auction prices, July's sale was a corker.



2250 lots were available for bidders to choose from and there was plenty of activity. Highlights included 86 A, which sold for £111,814, SUN 1A (£45,174), 9 YK (£40,012), 1 NAB (£36,186) and 10 RA (£33,104). September's notable sales included 45 S (£66,861), IG 11 (£34,774), 8 OSH (£33,618) and 80 SCH (£32,861).

Elsewhere, two more spectacular private sales were recorded:

On Saturday 26th September J4, a Jersey registration, sold for a hammer price of £380,000 at Glencoe Auctions. This completely obliterated Jersey's previous record of £91,000, achieved by J68 in 2019. The second heavyweight was LFC 1. There can be no better number plate for a Liverpool FC football fan, so this was always going to do well. While the auctioneer's pre-sale estimate struck us as being unrealistic, LFC 1 still made a higher price than we expected. £125,062 including fees is a fantastic price that, once again, demonstrates the vitality that continues to flourish in the private registration market. Long may it continue!



May 2020

J42 MES	£102,826
4 RS	£95,109
IG 5	£87,739
88 O	£57,899
8 YK	£47,973
I YLA	£39,255
6II S	£33,477
23 GTS	£31,076
5 XP	£25,773
54 LAM	£23,860

July 2020

86 A	£111,814
SUN 1A	£45,174
9 YK	£40,012
I NAB	£36,186
10 RA	£33,104
ARJ IS	£32,629
8 UV	£30,780
I KVN	£30,549
72 OO	£30,267
XKS I	£29,625

September 2020

45 S	£66,861
IG 11	£34,774
8 OSH	£33,618
80 SCH	£32,861
360 A	£26,428
XJM I	£25,773
4 XP	£22,691
8I CKS	£22,075
7 UO	£22,062
I WOB	£21,947

The Regtransfers Auction

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

What is the number plate auction?

The number plate auction is a premium online service that provides customers the opportunity to list their plates in an online auction for others to bid on. It also offers buyers an excellent opportunity to purchase registration marks securely in an online auction environment. Our auction differs from many other online auctions in that we specialise in selling registration marks and draw on over 35 years experience in the

marketplace to ensure that the transfer process is overseen securely and legally by Regtransfers staff.

If you have any questions, or need any help, please remember that we have staff here every day, who will be happy to speak to you.

Why you should sell with us

Regtransfers have been trading since 1982 and draw upon this immense industry experience to deliver a safe and secure service. We understand that, with the rules and regulations governing the transfer of

registrations, it can be a daunting experience for customers unfamiliar with the industry. We aim to offer the most straightforward, most secure and best overall online auction facility for buying and selling registration marks in the UK.

www.regtransfers.co.uk/auction



Jay Kay



Few musicians can boast a silhouette so distinctive that it can be used as a logo or a trademark. A good hat can make all the difference to an image and there is no greater master of the hat than Jay Kay, frontman of acid-jazz favourites Jamiroquai. Even Mountie-headed Pharrell Williams must settle for a distant second place where headgear dominance is concerned.

Despite the instantly recognisable horned outline of Jamiroquai's famous 'Buffalo Man' logo - reportedly based on a sketch singer Jay Kay did of himself - you'd be hard-pressed to find a photograph of Kay actually wearing such a contraption. All manner of elaborate tiffers, yes: a Buffalo Man hat... not so much, if at all. Nevertheless, that silhouette has been the enduring image of both singer and band since it first appeared on the cover of the 1993 debut album *Emergency on Planet Earth*.

From the 1990s onwards, Jamiroquai supplied us with a highly successful stream of relentlessly danceable tunes and some classic videos. Even now, the MTV Award-winning video for Jamiroquai's single 'Virtual Insanity' compares favourably with big-budget current offerings. The baffling movement of the floor, the props and Jay Kay himself in that video were achieved using real-world, mechanical effects that are, somehow, at least as satisfying as any present-day CGI mock-up could be.

We had the pleasure of visiting Jay Kay recently when we delivered the number plates for his new JAY 1K personal registration. As you probably know, especially if you've caught one of his several appearances on BBC's *Top Gear*, the man is as famous for his love of cars, especially supercars, as he is for his music. He is also a valued Regtransfers customer, having purchased many terrific registrations from us over the years, including JAM numbers as well as name- and car-related registrations. We were delighted to be able to hand over yet another set of fantastic personal plates.

Although he has enjoyed a wide range of models from different brands from BMW, Audi and Mercedes to Lamborghini, Porsche and, of course, Ferrari. One of his best known acquisitions was a bright green Ferrari LaFerrari that he owned from new but then put up for sale in 2019 with just





1900 miles on the clock! Having owned over 100 cars, when Jay Kay was asked in 2017 which was his favourite of them all, he picked his 1968, royal blue Porsche 911S.

"Before I could walk, I was playing with cars. As a little boy, I spent a lot of time on the road travelling with my mum [jazz singer Karen Kay] to shows and, at that time in the early 70s, the range of cars that you could see and the differences in them were far easier to spot than today. These days they're a little bland in my opinion. I am from an era when they built some great cars that were emotionally more inspiring and individual than they are today."

Jay Kay isn't a fan of contemporary registration numbers as issued to cars by default and much prefers something more appropriate. "I find that today's [format of] number plates can look quite ugly on cars and it is always nice to have a number that

relates to the model of the car. It just completes the picture."

That same aversion to dullness and homogeneity and preference for character and variety drives Jay Kay's preference for supercars. He is attracted to that which is more than ordinary.

"1970s supercars were rare things and the people who bought them were invariably at the top of their game. They were far less accessible then they are now, in terms of both cost and performance and there is something magic in that."

Jay Kay's first car was a 1972 BMW 1602. Not only was it the car he learned to drive in but it was, reputedly, also the car in which he composed many of the tunes that would appear on *Emergency on Planet Earth*. It certainly sported styling that is pretty far removed from today's BMWs. Jay clearly had a significant emotional connection to the 1602 as he hung on to it



Jay Kay put his new JAY 1K plate on his Ferrari Lusso Shooting Brake. The car left the factory wearing Grigio Ferro paint, which is pretty cool, but the frontman of Jamiroquai took it over to Topaz Detailing in London where they gave it a lick of

Rolls-Royce Purple Silk.

So, is this a wrap or a new coat of paint? A bit of both. In a multi-stage process they called Topazskin, the detailers have a sprayed-on finish that's also removable while protecting the factory paint.

Ferrari would have asked tens of thousands of dollars for this look, but the custom respray is a fraction of that cost. Best of all, nobody else on the road has anything like it.

Jay Kay calls his car "Cosmic" and, while we agree, it does launch us into a completely different discussion. You see, this feels like a throwback kind of look, and it immediately makes us think back to a purple Lamborghini Diablo he drove many years ago in the iconic music video for "Cosmic Girl."

Topaz

www.topazdetailing.com

and didn't sell it until earlier this year. We can't help wondering if he would have been equally inspired to compose in a 2020 production Beemer.

These days, Jay Kay has rather more comfortable songwriting facilities at his disposal but he still finds his focus wandering at times.

"I get a melody in my head and then build it up with chords and hope it develops into something good, but when I'm writing and recording I just want to be out on the stage



jaykay



Jay Kay

Even before the enforced break imposed by the virus, Jay Kay had endured a period of inactivity due to a back injury he sustained in 2017.

"I am not sure how it happened but it could have been jumping on the trampoline with my daughter. Now that I am 50, I realise that I shouldn't be doing that again in a hurry! It was heartbreaking to have to postpone the dates but people were great about it and came to the rescheduled shows."

When he eventually did get back onstage, Jay Kay found his movement somewhat limited by the injury, at least early on, but every cloud has a silver lining and the singer realised that dancing a little less energetically left him with more breath for singing, so his vocal performance actually benefited to some extent.

The influence of Jamiroquai has been cited by a range of artists. Pharrell Williams (in whom the influence appears to have been in headwear as well as music), Tyler the Creator and Calvin Harris have named the band. In turn, Jay Kay has acknowledged those who provided inspiration for him, including funk and jazz legends Sly Stone, Roy Ayers and Herbie Hancock, 'godfather of rap' Gil Scott-Heron and others. Although Jay Kay has denied that Stevie Wonder was a strong influence - presence in the musical mix that formed the soundtrack to his early life. despite a certain, coincidental, similarity in vocal quality- despite a certain, coincidental, similarity in vocal quality - he readily admits Wonder's presence in the musical mix that formed the soundtrack to his early life.

"There was a lot of The Beatles, Stevie Wonder and jazz in the house when I was young and my mum sang a lot of jazz. To be honest there was a bit of everything going on, from Elton to Elgar."

With the period of inactivity following his injury and the performance hiatus due to the pandemic, Jay Kay must have found himself listening to a lot of music. What comprises his day-to-day playlist?

"Well, I've got a broad range including anything from rock to classical. My favourite stuff is jazz-funk but it can be anything: Latin, jazz, hip hop, disco, rock. To relax these days, however, I am very into my classical stuff."

The break from the day job has also given Jay Kay more time to be a family man. While accepting the Broadcast Music Inc President's Award in 2017, he finally ended speculation by confirming that he and his partner Maria had married. The couple have two daughters; the eldest is named Carla and the youngest is Tallulah. Jay Kay's song 'Carla' from *Automaton* was written about his eldest daughter and the lyrics, a promise of care and protection, hint at how profoundly the arrival of children has affected the way Jay Kay sees the world.

Interview: Angela Banh

Story: Rick Cadger

Photography: Stan Thompson, Amy England

doing it live. On the other hand, when I am in the middle of a tour, which can be very tiring, I just want to be back in the studio."

Touring has been an interrupted process for Jamiroquai over the last couple of years. Obviously, as with all touring music artists, the band's plans have been ravaged by the global Covid-19 pandemic. Performances in front of live audiences have been impossible and restrictions on personal contact between band members have made even rehearsal impractical.

"At the moment, with the lockdown, the future is definitely on hold until I can get back into the studio later in the year," Jay Kay says.

The Jamiroquai Funkography

Year Album Peak UK Chart Position

1993	Emergency on Planet Earth	1
1994	The Return of the Space Cowboy	2
1996	Travelling Without Moving	2
1999	Synkronized	1
2001	A Funk Odyssey	1
2005	Dynamite	3
2010	Rock Dust Light Star	7
2017	Automaton	4

JAY
MEWS SW7
CITY OF WESTMINSTER



The Staffordshire-based Anglia Holdings group of companies is owned by Michael Cole, who has equipped two of his prestige cars with Anglia Holdings Ltd number plates branded with the company initials. "F1 AHL is on my Virage special limited model and F2 AHL is on my Vanquish Carbon Black version," he says. "I also have M1 AHL on a GTR."

Other business-themed initial plates in Michael's collection include F2 MSL and F3 MSL for Machinery Systems Ltd, one of

the group's other companies and XL 4 on a Porsche, pictured here with Harminder Chahal of XL Associates Accountants.

"And there's more," Michael says, "my Range Rover SVO 550 model has DDZ 34. The vehicles are used when visiting on business" he explains, "and they clearly have an impact. We don't promote them ostentatiously, but they do suggest a degree of success."

The range of business interests that reside under the Anglia Holdings umbrella is fairly diverse. "Under an investment in Health Made Easy Group," Michael tells us, "we are the leading distributors of health and

nutritional products in the UK. We own Tree of Life Ltd, The Health Store, Higher Nature vitamins, minerals and supplements brand and Peppersmith confectionary."

The Anglia Holdings Ltd group also comprises machine tool trading, property and asset management and business consultancy.

Away from work, Michael's personal number plate collection includes two splendid matching MJC plates (incorporating his middle initial, J for John) on a brace of Rolls Royces, "MJC 60 is on the latest model of the Phantom" he tells us, "and 60 MJC is on my Wraith."

www.angliaholdings.com



“We don't promote them ostentatiously but they do suggest a degree of success.”



You'd Butter Believe It!

Some years ago, Russell Carman worked for a butter packing company. The business had been in existence for 113 years, but ceased trading in 1989 at which point Russell took it over. He invested in a new factory and expanded the operation.

"I bought butter from all over the world," says Russell, "blended and packed it and began supplying the UK market as well as exporting back to many countries in packet form. As a business, maybe not that exciting but it kept the wolf from the door."

Russell's son and daughter now own and run the business although, these days, the packing is outsourced.

The first plate Russell acquired was RCO 28, which was the best he could afford at the time. Early issues with "creative" spacing of the number plate characters resulted in Russell being pulled over twice by the police, so he reverted to the regulation spacing!

"I also have a Porsche with the number SYC 12 and a Mercedes with 22 DC on it."

Of course, Russell also owns the splendid 29 RC and 3 RC pictured here.



High Fliers



A few years ago, Alan Keenan bought a Range Rover for his sister, Anne. The following year, as a Christmas gift, he gave Anne her splendid ANN 3 private number plate.

Anne, a former air hostess, and her husband, Captain Jonathan Gordon [pictured here], met while working for the Scottish airline British Caledonian. At one point, Jonathan was the youngest captain the airline had ever had. British Caledonian, which operated out of Gatwick

Airport, was taken over by British Airways in December 1987.

Anne and Jonathan decided to stay in the world of aviation and a few years after their time at British Caledonian, they decided to start their own small, executive airline, LyddAir, operating out of Lydd Airport in Kent.

'ANN' registrations were first issued in 1933 by Nottinghamshire County Council.

www.lyddair.com



A Robust Investment

"I look forward to your magazine," says Jonathon King from Tadcaster in North Yorkshire. "I really like the stories showing people and their prized numbers."

For as long as he can remember, Jonathon has had an interest in personalised number plates. "I've still got a couple of JDK plates, JDK 61N - for my wife, Virginia ('Gin') - and JDK 98N, but when I saw 700 JK advertised on your website. I just had to have it."

Jonathon bought the number on retention until he could display it on his new pickup.

"The process was super easy and very professional," he says.

"What made this number extra special was that my little boy, Jenson, shares my initials, which he thinks is great. It was a considerable investment, but I shall never sell it. I will pass it on to Jenson once he drives and it will also be a robust investment. What other investments give so much joy?"



“What other investments give so much joy?”

Nearly Complete

Neil Brown, from Holt in Wiltshire, has been a cherished numbers fan since, as a teenager, he used to peruse the registration listings in *Exchange & Mart*. Years may have passed but Neil's enthusiasm for number plates has not diminished.

"My first number was 33 JYD," he remembers, "which I purchased from a friend who acquired it from an elderly lady who lived at the Royal Crescent in Bath. The number was the original Somerset registration issued to her Austin A40. It went on my Ford XR3 followed by many cars after that. I still have the original steel number plates even though I no longer own the registration."

One day, while driving past the Morris Minor Centre founded by Charlie Ware in Bath, Neil noticed the registration NBO 367 and he managed to persuade the proprietor to sell it to him.

"Not long after that," Neil says, "I saw that Regtransfers had 367 NB for sale.

I sold both 33 JYD and NBO 367 through Regtransfers in order to finance its purchase."

As some readers will know, when issuing a series of numbers, the DVLA occasionally holds back selected numbers for various reasons: they may be numbers that are deemed potentially offensive, or there may be numbers identified for sale at auction at some future time. In April 1999, DVLA released one of these numbers, 17 NB.

"It had both my initials and my birth date," says Neil. "I had to have it, and I've kept it to this day on retention."

22 N followed in 2008. Some readers may recognise that registration from a previous article in issue 28 of this magazine. Recently, Neil also secured 222 N.

"If it ever became available it would be nice to complete the set with 2 N," says

Neil. "Although that would be highly unlikely unless I won the lottery."

"Being in the garage business," Neil says, "I have, with the help of Regtransfers, helped a lot of clients buy some great numbers over the years."

And Neil still hasn't finished buying private registrations himself. He recently bought N8 VGG and N8 VCG for the company's matching courtesy cars.



Passion

Jill Scott and her husband, Tony, live in Lincolnshire where Jill is the director of a plumbing and heating engineering company. The couple have two sons. Her two splendid 'JIL' plates, JIL 38 and JIL 588, were birthday presents from Tony on separate occasions.

"My ideal plate would be J1 LLY," says Jill, "and, no doubt, Tony will buy me whatever he sees first. "My first car was a Mini Clubman 1275 GT," Jill recalls, "and my first private number plate was A7 GES (Gillian Elaine Scott) on an

Austin Metro VDP. Showing my age now!"

Tony has his initials [Anthony Charles Scott] on his H6 ACS number plate, currently displayed on his Mercedes SLK. "I bought him that in 1990 for Christmas," says Jill. Tony also has Jill's initials on V1 GES, which is on his VXR Corsa. "Tony's still a boy racer," says Jill. "I wonder if he'll ever grow out of it!"

Tony tells us that Jill enjoys restaurants and travelling, especially on holidays to the Caribbean and South America. She spends a lot of time working out, swimming and taking part in water

aerobics. "But her biggest passion, next to me," he says, "is cars!"

That said, Jill seems to have saved some of her enthusiasm for Regtransfers, "I was very impressed," she tells us. "Staff were very helpful, polite and professional."

Registrations issued in Northern Ireland, unlike those from the rest of the UK, may contain the letter I, as in JIL 38. Additionally, they contain no obvious year code and so are considered dateless, which makes them very popular.



“Very impressed with Regtransfers. Staff were very helpful, polite and professional.”

Keep Calm and Buy Number Plates

2020 has been one of the most challenging years in living memory, both for the UK's population as a whole and for British businesses. Obviously, the issue of universal concern has been the Coronavirus pandemic. Its impact and consequences are both profound and ongoing and, with no real end in sight, it's impossible to count the human or economic cost. Despite the unprecedented situation, people and businesses are finding ways to carry on with life. With 'normal' a distant memory, the story has become one of learning, adapting and innovating.

Like many other businesses, Regtransfers is grateful for the technology that has enabled us to stay in touch with friends and colleagues and to continue providing service to customers. We are fortunate that all our transactions take place online or by telephone. We are very aware that businesses such as 'bricks and mortar'

retail outlets, hair and beauty salons and pubs, restaurants and hotels have been far more severely disrupted.

The Regtransfers IT department has certainly had its work cut out but the tech chaps have stepped up and equipped team members to keep uniting people with their perfect personal number plates. Where essential, our employees have worked in offices adapted to ensure safe distancing and a range of other precautions to guard against infection. Where it has been possible for team members to work from home, they have been provided with laptops and secure connections to the computers and servers they need to access. As the saying goes, isn't it amazing what they can do these days!

Meetings take place by video or telephone conference and employees have said that they really look forward to seeing each other on video meeting platforms. While it's not quite a face-to-face interaction, seeing one's friends and colleagues certainly provides contact that many people really missed during furlough. In some respects, the enforced changes to working practices have actually been beneficial. For many people, working from home provides a quieter environment than a hectic office

and some actually find it easier to focus. The elimination of the daily commute is universally appreciated and, obviously, the temporary reduction in the number of cars on the roads has resulted in fewer accidents and less pollution. Every cloud, as they say, has a silver lining.

Our IT department has also added functionality to our website enabling us to accept uploaded registration documents, retention certificates etc. As well as offering a convenient option to customers in general, the document upload facility means that vulnerable people who may be shielding or isolating are able to send us their paperwork without leaving the house to buy stamps or to post envelopes.

It remains to be seen which of the measures adopted during the pandemic will be retained long-term, through necessity, and which will be retained because they have actually proven beneficial to team members and the business. At the moment we are just relieved and grateful that we have found ways to continue serving our customers and that the spirit of our fantastic team has endured through these difficult times.



Rob Lansdowne, from Wadhurst in East Sussex.

Determined

When Stephen Close, from Hartlepool in Cleveland, bought his Aston Martin three years ago, he paid a lot of attention to detail before parting with his money.

"I did 18 months of research on Vantage V8s before I found the right colour and transmission," he says.

That same attention was the order of the day when Stephen went in search of a dateless number plate to mask the exact age of the car. "I selected EFZ 232 because EF were the original letters issued to cars registered by West Hartlepool County Borough Council over a century ago. Regtransfers offered a great, fast service for a very reasonable price."

Stephen also explored the possibility of buying a Ferrari but the second-hand

prices were very high. "I was offered a Ferrari 430 for £48k nine years ago," he recalls. "The same car is now £68k!"

Expensive or not, Stephen hasn't given up on the idea and he says that his next 'Sunday car,' as he puts it, will be a Ferrari or a Lamborghini. "It will be second-hand, of course. The thought of all that depreciation on a new model almost makes my eyes bleed!"

Stephen has never been one for run-of-the-mill cars. "I bought a convertible Triumph Spitfire when I was 16 and learned to drive in it. Then a convertible TR7 and, when I 'grew up,' a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow 2.

“Regtransfers offer a great, fast service for a very reasonable price.”

I am now back to sports cars as long as my arthritis will allow me."

The luxury of his nice cars is something Stephen has worked hard to afford. His lack of formal educational qualifications has never deterred him from pursuing his ambitions. Owning his own business manufacturing and selling blinds has provided the financial security he has needed.

Stephen believes that it is not the end of the world if a child doesn't do well academically. "It just made me more determined," he says.





The Icing on the Cake

Grainne McPherson, from Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex was really pleased to receive her new Range Rover Evoque. Her husband, Steve, provided the icing on the cake with the number plate GR14 NNE, from Regtransfers, for her birthday.

Originally from Monaghan in Ireland, Grainne regularly travels between London and Southern Ireland and often receives



comments on what a great plate it is. "It looks so good on the Evoque," she says.

Grainne is mum to two-year-old Rory and enjoys cooking as well as regular visits to the gym for yoga and swimming. "Rory's nickname is Rors," his dad tells us.

"After buying GR14 NNE from you guys at Regtransfers, we receive the magazine through the post. We couldn't believe it when we saw ROR 2S and had to buy it. We've put the plate on the Porsche Cayman that I have; I hope this will be Rory's car when he is 18."



Unorthodox

Nikhil Patel is a pharmacist by profession. He qualified from university in 2004 and now owns his own pharmacy in London.

When Nikhil passed his driving test and bought his first car, he didn't waste any time kitting it out with its own private number plate.

"I immediately acquired the reg N1 XHL, for my name, as I wanted my car to stand out and be unique. I had that number on a few cars as I used to change them every 18 months on average. My first was an Audi A3 followed by an Audi TT, an Audi A4 convertible and, lastly, on my Porsche 997 C2S. I later sold that number plate.

"I purchased 29 NP for myself a few years ago as those are my initials and my birth date is the 29th of June. It is currently on my Range Rover Vogue, which I got wrapped in matt black last summer."

In 2006, Nikhil met his wife, Keshal. Nikhil's approach to romance was unorthodox to say the least, but it seemed to work...



Kaelan with his plate on the family's latest addition, a BMW i3

"After our first date, I kind of knew she was the one, so I searched for her number plate. I came across KE55 HAL and I bought it straight away, after knowing her for less than a week. We got engaged in 2008 and married in 2009. We celebrated our 10 year wedding anniversary in August 2019. Keshal has had her plate on two Mini Coopers, an Audi Q5 and currently on her VW Beetle."

Nikhil's policy of getting in early when buying plates for family members seems to be well established.

"I bought K43 LAN for my eldest son, Kaelan, from Regtransfers two years ago. He has just turned nine in June. Regtransfers arranged for the number to be released into auction for me and one of your team bid on my behalf to acquire the plate. I think it would be helpful to let readers know this is possible, just in case they search and can't find the plate they are looking for.

"I also bought 15 JNP for my youngest son, Josh. The 15 had no meaning, but the JNP

“Regtransfers arranged for the number to be released into auction for me and one of your team bid on my behalf.”

are his initials (Josh Nikhil Patel). That has been replaced by JNP 6 which is currently on my 996 C4S. I am now on the hunt for KNP 6 to complement JNP 6 so both sons will have matching plates. Hopefully someone out there has it or can source for me.

"I also bought 9 NDP, including my middle initial D for Dinesh, which is currently on my other black 996 C4S. Both Porsches are identical."

That's quite a collection Nikhil has gathered for his family!







No Stranger

Simon Stevens is no stranger to our pages. He previously appeared in issue 41 of *The World of Personal Number Plates* relating the tale of his successful recovery from serious illness and the way the experience affected his outlook on work, family and life in general.

At the time of that last article, we featured Simon's SS 2 personal registration: a terrific number which, in its time with Simon, graced an Aston Martin Vanquish Volante and a Lamborghini Aventador Roadster. Impressive though SS 2 was, Simon eventually decided that it was time to cash-in that investment and replace it with a plate that was a little more fun, so SS 2 was sold.

That replacement was SSB 1G (SS BIG). "It is somewhat accurate too," says Simon. "As well as having the initials 'SS', I'm also 6ft 3ins tall and around 100kg in weight. Actually, I am trying to get back to my ideal knock-down fighting weight of 85kg."

The fighting weight to which Simon refers was in his younger days as an exponent of Kyokushinkai karate: a tough, full-contact style developed in the 1950s by a larger than life character named Mas Oyama, who was reputed to have won bullfights by defeating the animals with his bare hands.

Another of Simon's number plates, RS16 TOY, was, he admits, "a late-night eBay moment after a few glasses of red wine. My wife, Tanya, isn't a big fan of it and she dislikes SSB 1G too. Her humour is in a different place to mine. She hates anything too showy, so she may have married the wrong guy! Having said that,

when I tell her they've doubled or even tripled in value since I bought them she's a tad less bothered by them."

RS16 TOY currently resides on Simon's Ford Focus RS MK III. The car was another impulse purchase that Simon describes as a sort of mid-life crisis.

"It was a nostalgia trip back to my early twenties when I would drive my black, H reg Escort RS Turbo around Milton Keynes with my arm hanging out of the window." The Ford is another choice that has met with a degree of scepticism from Tanya who, according to Simon, wouldn't be seen dead in it.

"After 20 years of marriage," Simon quips, "maybe it's actually time to trade her in for a new model instead." We can see why Tanya might not share Simon's sense of humour. With jokes like that he may soon find he needs his self-defence skills.

When the couple's first son, Jacob Oliver Stevens was born in 2004, 11 JOS became available, so Simon bought it as an investment. "It might even become part of the deposit for Jacob's first house one day," says Simon. The registration is currently displayed on the Porsche 991 GT3 RS that previously sported SS 2.

A51 MON (A SIMON) was yet another late night online impulse buy around 12 years ago (We see a pattern emerging here), but Simon estimates that it has almost tripled in value. The registration now sits proudly on a stunning, blue Aston Martin Vantage V12S.

Another splendid pairing in Simon's collection is his Range Rover Autobiography with its S 76 registration: a combination that Simon describes as "blooming great". The number that previously graced the Range Rover, 97 SS, is currently retained: a situation that Simon considers may justify another addition to his stable.

"I don't like having great numbers left on retention collecting cobwebs in a filing cabinet," says Simon. "It just seems like such a waste. I've got 14 good plates and only nine cars to put them on. A classic Bentley would make a nice round 10!"

Simon, from Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire, runs SecondSkin PPF Ltd, specialists in applying self-healing paint protection film to cars.



SECOND SKIN PPF
ULTIMATE SELF-HEALING PAINT PROTECTION FILM





“While the cars often depreciated in value over the years, the plates have steadily increased and have become a significantly worthwhile investment.”

On the Ball

Mike Morley from Harpenden in Hertfordshire has a diverse professional life. His first love is golf and Mike is a professional caddy.

"It was the obvious route to pursue," he says. "I started caddying in 2006 and I absolutely love it. Travelling the world with a sport that you love is an amazing feeling. I visited 20 countries in 2019."

Mike decided that he wanted to set up a business that would be flexible enough to work around his touring commitments so, together with his son, Sam, he set up

The Paint Caddy, providing a high-class, bespoke decorating service in his local area.

"The Paint Caddy is now run by Sam so I now get told what to do in both of my jobs! But that works perfectly for me."

For a long time, Mike was looking for the perfect number plate for his business. He eventually ended up at Regtransfers where he found his CAD 551Y registration.

"I was really impressed by the way in which the business was conducted and found

each step easy, including ordering plates to fit on the van."

So, Mike the golf caddy and founder of The Paint Caddy has a 'caddy' number plate on his... VW Caddy van. We're not sure but we think we see a theme emerging here!



“I was really impressed by the way in which the business was conducted.”

There's a Plaice For Us



Phil Coltherd is the driving force behind Phil's Plaice on the North Shields Fish Quay in Tyne and Wear

Phil began working on the quay more than 30 years ago and, in October 2018, became the proud owner of the very shop where he first started out when he was just eighteen years old.

From their prime location, Phil's Plaice sells a variety of locally caught fish and seafood. The produce comes from sustainable sources and is as fresh as it gets, coming, as it does, directly from the boats working out of North Shields Fish Quay.

"My goal is simply to supply the freshest, sustainable fish to my customers," Phil says.

"With the continued growth of the business," he says. "We bought our first vehicle, a Fiat van. One of my team

scoured the lists of cherished plates and found PH11 COD, which was an obvious choice."

The next purchase was their Volkswagen Beetle, which Phil had sign-written with an adjusted version of the company logo that would fit with a "Herbie" vibe. A private plate was also required for the VW and PH11 BUG fit the bill perfectly.

Phil's latest number plate acquisition was the family name, CO17 ERD, which is on the Audi driven by Phil's wife, Pauline.



The X Men

“We are both extremely happy with the service we have received and will be recommending Regtransfers.”

Matt Stephens is a self-employed shop fitter from Northampton. “I have always been into cars since I was very little,” he tells us. “In the four years I’ve been driving, I’ve had 12 cars as I just can’t settle with one. However, I think my current car will be staying for a while. I have owned it since October last year. It’s a 2011 BMW 335i DCT and I am very impressed with it so far. I have owned a few Civic Type Rs, an Integra Type R and a Honda Legend to name a few. I’m mainly into Japanese cars, however, the BMW makes a nice change. I also currently have a Civic Type R EP3 that I plan to take to the track this year.”

Matt’s father, Dave, is also self-employed and has been a plumbing and heating engineer for over 40 years.

“My dad is the main reason I’m into cars,” Matt says. “I remember being very young and him having cool cars and bikes. He has owned more cars than I think I ever will: several Porsches, a couple of Maseratis, BMWs, Mercedes, Range Rovers and many more.”

Dave also has a passion for Ducati motorbikes and has owned three Multistradas and a 916. Dave has had a few number plates in the past, which he now regrets parting with: FRS 5, DS 7849 and V8 DSM, which was on his Maserati 3200 GT.

“He currently has T2 LJS on the Range Rover Evoque,” Matt says, “which my mum drives. The Jag in the photo is a

2009 XKR v 5.0 Supercharged V8 and it is an absolute weapon! I’m 21 and my dad is 57. We purchased our plates from Regtransfers around the same time and we chose these plates because they seemed like good value for money.”

Son and father’s initials are actually ‘MJS’ and ‘DJS’ respectively but the ‘X’ replacing the middle initial was not only a cost-effective substitute, but it also provides a novel and distinctive touch to the registrations.

“We are both extremely happy with the communication and service we have received,” Matt concludes, “and will be recommending Regtransfers. The transaction was very swift and easy.”



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Raising a Few Eyebrows

Twenty-year-old Sophie Draper from Draycott in Derbyshire received this great registration for her 17th birthday.

Sophie, originally an actress by profession, attended Trent College in Long Eaton, Derbyshire and also trained at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts in London.

In order to earn some income between auditions, Sophie began doing eyelash extensions from home. The business took off to such a surprising extent that Sophie was able to open her own beauty salon, Sophie Laura Beauty in nearby West Bridgford. The salon is now a very successful business that employs four additional beauty specialists.

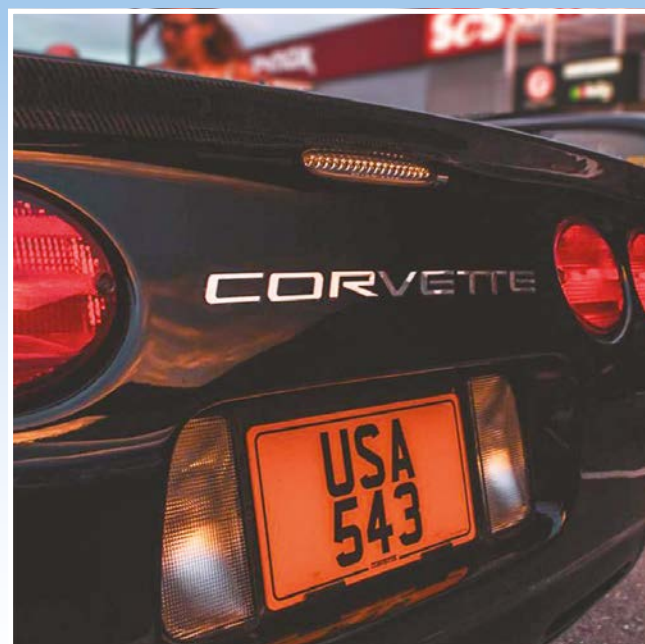
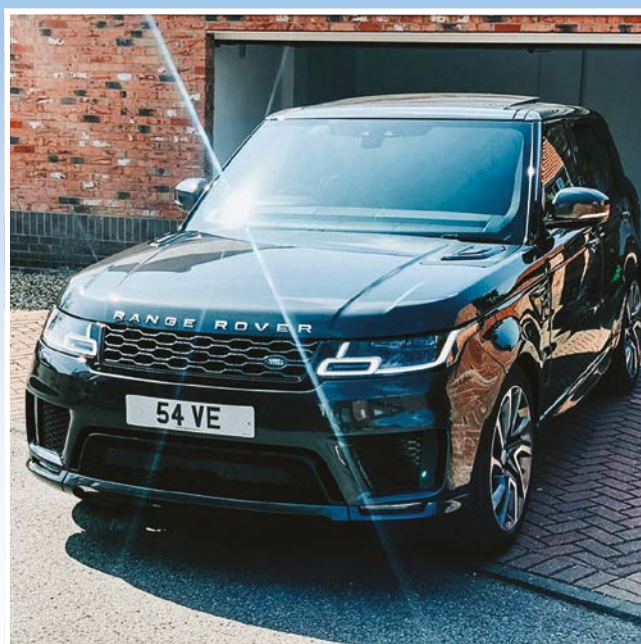
With her name on a plate, we are sure that Sophie's personal registration will prove to be good promotion for her salon and will certainly raise a few eyebrows in the area.

www.instagram.com/sophielaurabeauty





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





Smooth

Richard Hay, from Caterham in Surrey, inherited his enthusiasm for private number plates from his late father, Douet, who is pictured below with 402 CUW on his beloved Thames van.

"My dad got me into cars and taught me to drive at the age of 17," Richard says.

"My brother Ronnie also had a passion for private plates, mainly on his convertibles."

Richard himself previously owned a convertible too, a paprika red Mk2 VW Golf, to which he assigned the number SIA 579. "Everywhere I went I got admiring glances



so I decided to purchase another personal registration from Regtransfers and I must say it was a very smooth transaction." RAH 362 is now displayed on his BMW.

Richard likes the way a personal number plate adds a certain something different to his vehicles. "I cannot afford a supercar so the next best thing is to make the car you can afford stand out."

In addition to featuring his initials, Richard's plate contains numerical links to family. "I have three sisters," he says, "there are six brothers, including myself, and I have two children."

Richard's daughter, Nadine, also owns a very nice private number plate. Nadine got T8 NAD for her 21st birthday. The T stands

for her middle name, Tamara, and the 8 signifies her date of birth.

"My son, Anthony [pictured above], is not interested at the moment," says Richard, "but he may get one for his next special birthday."

Richard takes pride in his car's appearance and clearly considers a personal number plate has a part to play in making the most of it. "I think this registration plate will remain in my family," he says. "I have no intentions of selling it."

“I must say, it was a very smooth transaction.”



Car-Mad



Nigel Rostron, Jillie Walker and their son, Steven Rostron are, by their own admission, a car-mad family. Originally from Rochdale, they now live in a little village called Scholar Green on the Cheshire/Staffordshire border.

The smaller photo shows Steven in 2002, aged just six, with dad Nigel's first Porsche 996 Turbo and POR 55H plate. Steven has always loved his dad's cars and is a big fan of Porsches so it seemed inevitable that he would also become a Porsche driver.

The larger, more recent photo shows Steven with his very own Porsche 718 Boxster S and his first personal plate.

"Steven is car mad," mum Jillie says. "He spent his childhood racing go-karts. He now goes on as many track days as his work allows and loves supercar track experiences."

Jillie has her own J11 YYE plate and the quirky WH15 SSH, whilst Nigel also has NRO 609. Steven is reportedly on the hunt for his next car and is currently considering the Porsche Carrera 4S.

"He would be thrilled to be included in *The World of Personal Number Plates*," says Jillie. "He reads it from cover to cover."



The 480 Bug

Edie Fox from Lincolnshire is a big fan of Volvo cars. Her favourite is the Volvo 480: one of the Swedish company's sportier models that was produced in the 1980s and 1990s. "Once you've got the 480 bug, you'll never shake it off," Edie says.

Edie attends regular meetings of a group of enthusiasts from The 480 Europe Forum to talk about all things relating to their favourite car. She also takes part in a convoy of around 15 cars which travels hundreds of miles, visiting places of interest for photo opportunities

"This is my fourth 480," says Edie "I always said, if I was going to get another, it would be the best one I could find, to love and preserve. This was on a G plate when I got it, so I started looking for a registration as soon as I'd put a deposit on the car and soon found FOX 480B."



Edie has purchased several private registrations from Regtransfers, one of which was ED13 FOX. That one was acquired with the intention of putting it on a Volvo C30: an intention so strong that Edie bought the plate before securing the car!

Edie considers the C30 to be the "son" of her beloved 480 model. As she already owns the daddy in white she has her heart set on a matching C30. "It has to be white," she insists, "and it has to be a '13' plate, of course. This narrows my options considerably as the C30 actually ceased production in 2013."

Edie's surname is Fox and her 11-year-old son's first name is also Fox. There is a perfectly good reason for this seemingly baffling arrangement of monikers but we'll have to leave the reader to speculate for themselves, as space doesn't permit us to share such a long story here! The younger Fox has a different surname - his begins with a B - and it was for him that Edie purchased FOX 480B.

"I thought I'd get it for him so he could also be involved in the ownership of the 480 and, for the future, as his own plate to remember his dear old mother's love for the Volvo 480."



Fire!

Retired firefighter Keith Roszell now lives on a farm in Cornwall with his partner, Linda. Keith joined Hertfordshire Fire and Ambulance Service (now Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service) in 1964 and he soon began fundraising for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund (FSNBF), a registered charity originally set up during the Second World War to provide for widows and orphans of firefighters killed during the blitz. In 2008, the fund changed

its name to Fire Fighters Charity and is the foremost organisation caring for UK firefighters' families in times of need. In May 2007, Keith received an MBE for services to Fire and Rescue and, in 2012, a Lifetime Achievement award from the Fire Fighters Charity.

"Having an unusual surname makes it difficult to find a registration number that properly represents it," says Keith. "But in 2002, when new plates were being issued, RO52 ELL

was amongst them, so I purchased it. I kept it on retention until 2007 when I bought a 2004 Rover 75 Club SE which I still have today.

"Last September I purchased RO62 ELL from Regtransfers. It was an easy, no hassle procedure and something I would certainly recommend. And thank you, Regtransfers, for this great publication!"

www.firefighterscharity.org.uk



“Such an easy, no-hassle procedure and something I would certainly recommend.”

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 51

Regtransfers

