

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 57

# Regtransfers



## TYSON FURY

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1982

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PERSONAL NUMBER PLATES





# TYSON FURY

There's nothing the Regtransfers editorial team likes more than a good exclusive. Regular readers will know that we are also boxing fans. With those facts in mind, you can probably imagine our excitement when we got the opportunity to spend some time with WBC World Heavyweight Champion, and reality TV star, Tyson Fury.

We visited Tyson at his gym near Morecambe FC's Mazuma Mobile Stadium in Lancashire. We supplied him with a new personal registration for his wife, Paris, so this seemed like a good time to ask him about his interest in personal number plates. Paris's new 1 PF number is not the first the family has owned. In fact Tyson has been buying plates for a while.

1 PF

"Yeah, I have. I've been collecting them for the last, what, 10 or 15 years. I store them away and, every now and again, I put them on a little motor."

Tyson's "little motor" of the day is a Mercedes G-Class bearing his 1 TLF

plates. It could just as easily have been a Range Rover, a Rolls-Royce or a Ferrari bearing one of his other plates, 2 TLF and 88 GK.

2 TLF

"They're the ultimate ones for me. I bought 88 GK because it has my year of birth and GK for my Gypsy King nickname. I thought it was fitting. It looks good on a nice car and I'm very happy."

Now Paris also has her own personal registration, will Tyson be thinking about buying plates for his children? After all, eldest daughter Venezuela is now 14 and so could be driving in another three years.

"A lot of our kids have the same initials as us," says Tyson, "so they can use ours when they're old enough."

He's right. All his sons share the first name Prince: Prince John James, Prince Tyson II and Prince Adonis Amaziah, so any of them could borrow mum's new 1 PF registration. When the time comes,

however, daughters Venezuela, Valencia and Athena may need to persuade dad to go shopping for more plates.

Tyson has explained in previous interviews how the couple's sons' names tie into his Gypsy King mythos and it's simple: "I'm a king and they're princes!"

## Heritage

Tyson and Paris share common origins in the Irish traveller community: a heritage of which Tyson is proud, hence the nickname. Tyson has been vocal about the discrimination faced by gypsies in the UK and in an interview with Boxing News, he said "We're nothing in this society. We're considered as being no better than dirt on people's shoes."

Tyson's father, John, is from Co. Galway, while his mother, Amber, was born in Belfast to a mother from Co. Tipperary. Tyson has described himself as having Irish blood and a British heart. In fact, earlier in his career, he vacated the British and Commonwealth titles in order to fight for the Irish title.

Despite the variant spelling, Tyson Fury is reportedly related to famous Irish folk

Find your Initials plate



musicians The Fureys, including singer and virtuoso uilleann piper Finbar Furey, who appeared in the movie *Gangs of New York*. Perhaps that goes some way to explaining Tyson's own love of singing, be it 'Sweet Caroline', 'American Pie' or 'The Galway Shawl'. There is no shortage of video clips featuring Tyson exercising his surprisingly capable vocal abilities.

It's a striking juxtaposition, that capacity to deliver both a devastating punch and a wistful, melodic ballad.

## Netflix

Champion boxers appear on TV all the time. Tyson Fury, however, has gone far beyond trading jibes with opponents at press conferences. Tyson, Paris and the rest of the family have now starred in their very own hit reality TV show, *Meet the Furies*. This isn't the first time the Furies have been the focus of a documentary series: in 2020, ITV aired *Tyson Fury: The Gypsy King*, a three-part show that showed the Furies as Tyson prepared for his rematch against Deontay Wilder.

The new show, produced by Netflix, is on a different scale. The nine-episode series proved hugely popular with fans and was widely praised for not ducking the subject of Tyson's well-documented mental health struggles. Of course, you can't please everyone and some critics, such as *The Guardian*'s sneering Jack Seale, seemed dissatisfied to see a different side of Tyson Fury, apparently lamenting the absence of melodrama to hold the columnist's short

attention span. Still, it's the viewers that matter and the viewers did not disappoint.

"Eight days at number one," Tyson says, happily. "Eight days released, eight days on top of the world. It seems to be whatever I touch turns to solid gold. You'd better not get too near me: if I touch you, you might turn to gold!"

Joking aside, how did he find the process, with cameras following the family around?

"It was an experience but I'd had an experience like it before. In 2019 I filmed an ITV documentary, so that was the first taste. The Netflix one was like the next level as there were so many more cameras and so much more stuff. It went on a lot longer as it was filmed for about eight or nine months of 2022. It's interesting, a real eye-opener, to see what goes on in these TV shows."

When we observe that the children seemed able to take the whole thing in their stride quite naturally, Tyson agrees.

"They've always been around fame, though. They've been brought up in a crazy, mad household where dad's always on television, so they don't know anything different."

## Next generation

Considering that unorthodox environment with a famous father, an increasingly well-known mum and fairly frequent media intrusion, have Tyson and Paris had to be strict?

"I didn't have any sisters, so I don't have any examples to lead by. For me it is a

concern that, as a parent, I need to be doing a good job. Boys can be allowed to do what they're going to do and spread their wings. For me, I need to keep an eye on the girls because they're my princesses."

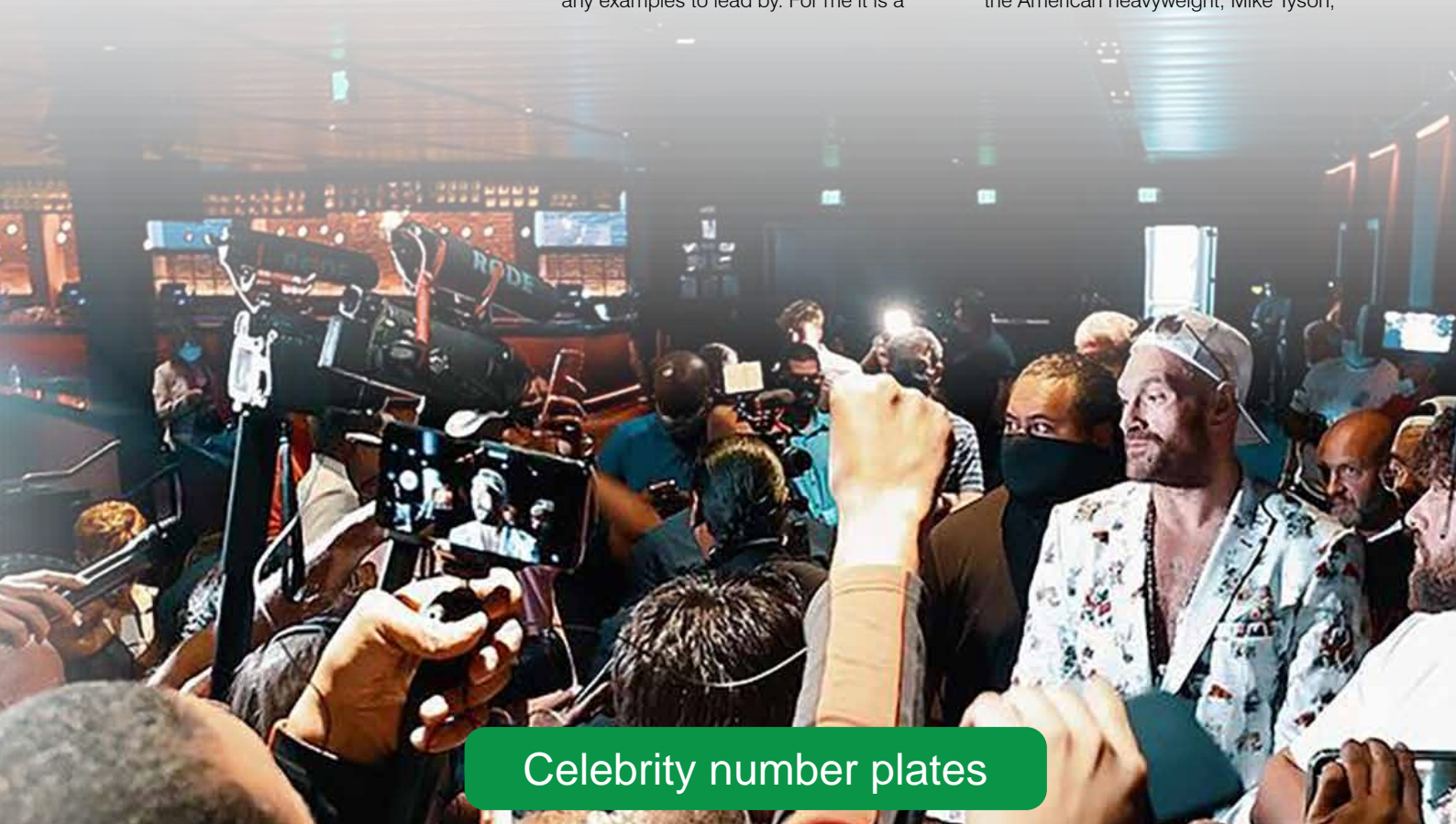
Does Tyson think his boys will follow in their father's footsteps and become boxers?

"It's difficult to follow in a legend's footsteps. If you look at all these boxers, footballers or any big sports star of the past, it's difficult for the sons to emulate the same success as their fathers. It's difficult because they're always being compared to their fathers or their uncles or whoever it might be. I see now with my brother, Tommy: he's a reality star boxer as well but they try and compare him to me and it's unfair, do you know what I mean? Everyone's got their own path that they've got to walk down."

## Choices

Although Tyson doesn't necessarily expect his sons to follow his path, there would be precedence should they do so as Tyson's own father, John, was a boxer. Fury Sr fought in both the bareknuckle tradition of the traveller community and as a licensed boxer.

In a way, one could say that Tyson's own course was set from birth. As a tiny premature baby, he had to fight for his life. He was born into a family that came from a tough community with that long tradition of pugilism. His father even named him after the American heavyweight, Mike Tyson,



Celebrity number plates



of whom John is a great admirer. Add to that Tyson Fury's own size and strength and his future as a boxer seems almost preordained but has he ever considered a different profession?

"Yeah, I'd probably be a politician. I'm pretty good at talking. So, yeah, I think that would be my job. I was once interested in running for Parliament here in Morecambe and Lunesdale in 2015. I was getting quite into it and brought a lot of media attention to Morecambe, but I thought to myself that I may as well just keep doing what I'm doing in my boxing career. Finish that first and then I can see what I want to do."

There have been times when Tyson thought he had already finished that career. In

2016, Tyson took a break from the sport in order to deal with the mental health issues that he has been so open and frank about. He confessed that, at times, he wished his life would end. Fortunately, although challenges remain, Tyson recovered to the extent that he was able to return to the ring in July 2018, when he beat Albanian fighter Sefer Seferi.

After another victory against Italian Francesco Pianeta, Tyson prepared to meet WBC champion Deontay Wilder. During Tyson's hiatus from boxing, Wilder had expressed the opinion that Fury was finished as a fighter. Tyson cited his determination to prove Wilder wrong as a major motivator in his return to boxing. The bout, which took place on 1 December

2018, resulted in a draw, proving that Tyson was far from finished. However, that was not the end of the matter, as the two men would meet twice more. At the first of those rematches, Tyson Fury took Wilder's WBC title, winning by a technical knockout (TKO) as Wilder's corner threw in the towel. That fight also won him the vacant *The Ring* championship. On the second occasion, Fury won by a knockout and retained the WBO and *The Ring* championships.

In April 2022, Tyson successfully defended his titles against fellow Brit Dillian Whyte. After the fight, Tyson expressed his intention to retire from boxing. In August 2022 he formally announced his retirement and vacated his *The Ring* championship. By the time he retired, Tyson Fury had held



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an impressive collection of heavyweight championship belts from the WBA (Super), WBC, IBF, WBO, and *The Ring* magazine. Furthermore, he was undefeated. Who could ask for more?

## Asking for more

An announcement in October 2022 stated that Tyson Fury would come out of retirement to defend his WBC title against British contender Derek Chisora. The fight took place on 3 December 2022 and Fury won the match by a TKO. At the time of writing, Tyson is scheduled to fight boxer and mixed martial artist Francis Ngannou in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 28 October 2023. The match, although official, will not be a WBC title bout.

Having retired once and then returned to successfully defend his title, Fury's undefeated WBC world champion

credentials are surely beyond dispute. Why does he keep doing it?

"I decided to do another fight. Obviously, I'm an active boxer. I've been trying to get a fight all year, really. It took until last month to agree a deal with somebody but now we've got October 28th happening over in Saudi Arabia. Why do I do any of the fights? Why does anyone go to work? Obviously to earn a few quid and pay your bills."

Francis Ngannou is a rather different kind of fighter to most opponents Tyson has faced in the ring. What difference does he think Ngannou's MMA background will make?

"I just think all men are men. All fighters are the same, I suppose. If you've got two men in a ring, or a cage, or over there on the grass, it's still a fight. If you had a Ferrari

and I was in a VW Passat and we were going to race, then who's going to win? What happens if I crashed into the Ferrari on the start line, buckled all the back wheels and then drove off? One punch can change everything.

"I'm training for this Francis Ngannou, who is a UFC heavyweight champion, very seriously, even though the media and a lot of people want me to overlook him by saying he's not got a chance. Whatever they rank him as, 10 to 1, 20 to 1, 5 to 1, whatever it might be, I'll take this fight as seriously as any other fight that I've ever had. For me, it's like if I beat Francis, I beat another man and I'll add him to the 35 I've already beaten over the years, but if he beats me, then he becomes a legend. If I beat him, he doesn't do anything for me apart from adding money to my bank balance. That's it."

## Blood money

Title fight or not, as Tyson says, there is a lot at stake in a bout that could be decided by one lucky punch in either direction. More at stake for him than for Ngannou. So, even though he said he does it to pay the bills, it's not just about the money, is it?

"I suppose. You can say professional boxing is not just about getting paid, but it is also a business. You know, when you're in there on the night, actually fighting, then it's not about money because you couldn't pay me any amount of money to lose. But it's a very dangerous business as well. So you need to be paid as much as possible for going and getting your brains knocked out.

"You've heard the saying 'blood money', well, that's what boxing is. It's blood money because you use your fists to smash someone else's face in to get money. So it's definitely blood money. You get paid to go in there and absolutely annihilate somebody and he's getting paid to do that to you. If he kills you in that ring, he doesn't go to jail or nothing: he gets to go away scot-free. So, we both know the risks of going in there and fighting. Heavyweights are one punch away from the grave.

"It's definitely a dangerous sport for a man in my position with everything to lose: family, kids and all that. You need to be paid a lot of money to risk it all. I am being paid a lot of money, so that's why I'm risking it. If I wasn't being paid a lot of





Paris Fury is well known as the power behind the Gypsy King's throne. As if she didn't have enough on her plate looking after Tyson, their home and seven children, Paris has inexplicably found the time and energy to write two books about her life and family.

Her first, *Love and Fury: The Magic and Mayhem of Life with Tyson* received great reviews.

Her second book, *How Does She Do It?: The Kids, Tyson & Me* was released on 28 September 2023.

It looks sure to be as fascinating as the first, so order your copy now from your favourite bookseller.



money, guess what? I'd kick it up into the air and say I'm not even interested."

## A form of addiction

What would make him stop?

"I don't know. I've been doing this my whole life and I don't know anything else. When you start off you want to buy your own house. You want nice things: watches, cars, all that sort of s—. When you achieve it, it's like, well, what do I do next? You've got to keep setting new goals, new targets and I don't know anything else but hitting targets, whether it's a boxing target, a money target, a business, whatever it might be. I will cross that bridge [stopping] when it's time. I suppose every fighter knows when it's time. But 99.99% of fighters know but they continue to go on because it's very difficult to let something go that you've done forever, from being a little boy to being an adult. I'm nearly 40 years old and it's hard to let it go.

"I thought I was clever, a shrewd man and I'd know when to let it go but I truly believe I should have retired in 2020 when I first said I was going to retire. But it brought me back. It brought me back for more and more and more and more. And it's never going to stop until there's a disaster and then you think to yourself, why didn't I stop when I should have? You end up living a life of regret.

"I've tried to get away from this game for, I'd say, 20 years and I can't let it go. It's more addictive than drugs, sugar, alcohol, love. It's more addictive than anything. You think it'd be easy to let go of getting

your brains knocked out for a few quid but it's not; it's very difficult.

## Why it's worth it

"Someone might come to me and say 'Right, we'll give you a fight for £50 million'. Why wouldn't I want to box for 50 million? I think to myself, is there ever going to be a person from my family, even in 500 years, who's going to be in a position to do 30 minutes of work and get £50 million? So you're setting up your grandkids and their grandkids and you know you're doing it for more than me. It's not about me anymore. It's not even about my kids anymore: it's generational. Do you know what I mean?"

And just like that, a whole set of assumptions are undermined. When we see a boxer continuing to risk his life, when he's already earned a fortune, most of us probably question how much money one man can need, or even spend. For Tyson, it's no longer just about that. It's also about how much he can invest in future generations of his family who may not have the opportunities he has had.

But what does Tyson's wife, Paris, think about it?

"Paris has not known anything different either. Don't forget, she was 15 when we met and I was 16. So I've always been a boxer then and, when we got married, I was always a professional fighter. But nobody wants me to continue. My whole family have said 'That's enough now. You've got nothing to prove; you've earned

tons of money; you've got a fantastic career; you've won every belt. Walk away'.

## Living without "normal"

"And having targets and different goals is good for my mental health, sort of what gets me through. Being a normal person is not enough for me. Going to work, coming home, doing your job, picking the kids up from school, tip runs and all that. I've tried and it doesn't work unless I'm aiming for the stars. Being a normal person for me just doesn't cut it. I'm anything but normal. I'm abnormal, so I suppose I've just got to keep going with my abnormal way of living and see what the future holds."

Normal and abnormal are difficult concepts to pin down, but Tyson clearly feels that he is different. Despite the health problems he has faced, and continues to face, he seems to accept himself for what he is, and he's not the only one. American heavyweight legend Mike Tyson, for whom John Fury named his son, said in an interview with *The Ring* that Tyson Fury's health ordeal has helped make him the person he is.

"Tyson [*Fury*] doesn't know what normal is," Iron Mike said. "Tell him to stay the f— away from normal; he wasn't meant to be normal."

## Making a difference

Tyson is very aware that he is in a unique position to help others who may be facing their own struggles with mental health issues. By sharing his story so openly, he wants to show that people can succeed despite depression, anxiety or whatever their personal challenges may be.

"At first, you think being a professional boxer or a sportsman is all right. You can entertain a few people on a Saturday night. But millions of people around the world can take inspiration from it and know that they're not on their own. Somebody who's as successful as me, a world heavyweight champion who looks untouchable, can be brought to his knees with mental health pressures too. So, it can be all right for those other people to be unwell because, you know what? Gypsy King's done well and he's the same; he's one of us.

"I've been very, very, very vocal about my ongoing mental health journey. Like I say, no one's untouchable. And somebody very, very close to you like your cousin, your uncle, your friend, they will be affected by

Find your Initials plate

mental health problems. That's how close it is and that's how real it is. Just because we can't see this disability doesn't mean it's not alive.

"I get a lot of mail about it. People say I've saved lives and whatever. But, you know, every day may be a struggle but sunshine days are around the corner. You wake up in a bad mood, you wake up down and dark and low. Get through today and we'll look forward to tomorrow. We've got to go do it one day at a time.

"One little girl, 17 years old, saved up her money for ... must have been two or three years. And she bought me a number plate because she said I saved her life [Tyson shows a photo of the number plate on his phone]. That actually made me cry because, although I didn't realise it, me being open with my own struggles helps a lot of other people and even saves lives.

"I come from a little tiny village in Cheshire. In my school there was 26 children so it's probably the smallest little parish you've ever seen. To come from there and conquer the world, not once but twice, shows that anybody from any little place on Earth can achieve something if they want

it bad enough. You can achieve everything you've ever wanted and spread a positive message."

## Pop star?

In 2022, Tyson's love of singing, and his desire to raise awareness of mental health issues, combined when he released a single. His cover of 'Sweet Caroline' spent a week at number one on the Official Singles Chart in November of that year. The single was released to raise money for the mental health charity Talk Club UK. Talk Club offers talking groups, sports groups and therapy to help men improve or maintain their mental health.

Tyson's singing came as no surprise to anyone: he's well known for bursting into song at pretty much any opportunity. What was, perhaps, more of a revelation was just how professional he sounded on a properly recorded and mixed track. When he finally does retire from boxing, if the politics idea doesn't appeal to him, perhaps he could consider swapping his gloves for a microphone. His wardrobe would certainly lend itself to stage appearances.

"I've a tailor who's made all my suits since 2014 and we come up with these

extravagant designs, shirts, coats, whatever I want. It's my personality: flamboyant, colourful, charismatic. I suppose I've never really been a boring person. I've always been outspoken, controversial, confident. So, just wearing a brown suit wouldn't really work!"

## Stop press!

When we began preparing this article we were very aware of two things. Firstly, Tyson hadn't yet given Paris her new private registration, so we had no idea whether she would like it. We were delighted to receive a text message from Tyson saying "She was over the moon with the plate as u could expect."

Secondly, and infinitely more importantly, Paris and Tyson were expecting their seventh child literally any minute. We checked the news and the Furies' social media constantly until, on 18 September, the couple announced the birth of their new son. We are delighted to join everyone else in welcoming Prince Rico Paris Fury to the world and send our sincere congratulations to Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters.

Interview: Angela Banh

Story: Rick Cadger

Location photography: Amy England

Opponent	Date	Location	Result
Derek Chisora	3 Dec 2022	London	Win
Dillian Whyte	23 Apr 2022	London	Win
Deontay Wilder	9 Oct 2021	Nevada	Win
Deontay Wilder	22 Feb 2020	Nevada	Win
Otto Wallin	14 Sep 2019	Nevada	Win
Tom Schwarz	15 Jun 2019	Nevada	Win
Deontay Wilder	1 Dec 2018	Los Angeles	Draw
Francesco Pianeta	18 Aug 2018	Belfast	Win
Sefer Seferi	9 Jun 2018	Manchester	Win
Wladimir Klitschko	28 Nov 2015	Düsseldorf	Win
Christian Hammer	28 Feb 2015	London	Win
Derek Chisora	29 Nov 2014	London	Win
Joey Abell	15 Feb 2014	London	Win
Steve Cunningham	20 Apr 2013	New York	Win
Kevin Johnson	1 Dec 2012	Belfast	Win
Vinny Maddalone	7 Jul 2012	Clevedon	Win
Martin Rogan	14 Apr 2012	Belfast	Win
Neven Pajkić	12 Nov 2011	Manchester	Win
Nicolai Firtha	18 Sep 2011	Belfast	Win
Derek Chisora	23 Jul 2011	London	Win
Marcelo Luiz Nascimento	19 Feb 2011	London	Win
Zack Page	19 Dec 2010	Quebec	Win
Rich Power	10 Sep 2010	London	Win
John McDermott	25 Jun 2010	Brentwood	Win
Hans-Jörg Blasko	5 Mar 2010	Huddersfield	Win
Tomas Mrazek	26 Sep 2009	Dublin	Win
John McDermott	11 Sep 2009	Brentwood	Win
Aleksandrs Selezens	18 Jul 2009	London	Win
Scott Belshaw	23 May 2009	Watford	Win
Matthew Ellis	11 Apr 2009	London	Win
Lee Swaby	14 Mar 2009	Birmingham	Win
Daniil Peretyatko	28 Feb 2009	Norwich	Win
Marcel Zeller	17 Jan 2009	Wigand	Win
Béla Gyöngyösi	6 Dec 2008	Nottingham	Win

Source: Wikipedia



Celebrity number plates



# 120 Years of UK Registrations



## 1903: The beginning of number plates

The Motor Car Act of 1903 was the first legislation of its type and it introduced number plates to British cars. The Act focused on driving licences, setting formal speed limits and vehicle registration. The last was an idea borrowed from the Netherlands, the first country to adopt national registration plates in 1898.

## What was the first-ever number plate?

**A I**

It is commonly, and mistakenly, believed that **A 1** was the first British registration issued. It was certainly the first issued in London; Earl Russell is said to have queued up all night long outside London County Council's offices to acquire the number.

Russell managed to secure it but, by that time in December 1903, other numbers had already been issued elsewhere. **DY 1**, for example, was issued on 23 November 1903 in Hastings and is, in fact, the earliest registration for which records still exist.



IB 49 was issued by Armagh County Council in December 1903,

Number plate history





**A 1032** was issued by London County Council between January 1904 and May 1905



**MX 6280** was issued by Middlesex County Council between July 1912 and August 1917

## When was it issued?

The sight of a new registration on the road means some lucky driver has a brand-new car. There are two issues each year, one in March and one in September and each one is eagerly anticipated.

Since 1963, it has always been possible to establish when a particular combination was issued because of certain identifying characters. For example, the 'F' suffix at the end of this plate places it between 1 August 1967 and 31 July 1968:

**ABC 234F**

Conversely, it is the opening 'Y' prefix which dates this later instance as between 1 March 2001 and 31 August 2001:

**Y234 ABC**

The current style of registrations uses numbers as the code for the date. Thus, the infix '23' tells us that this example was issued between 1 March 2023 and 31 August 2023:

**AB23 ABC**

It's easy to check the exact age of any registration of the above formats using the car registration years page tables on our website.

## Disguise

While it's not generally a problem, except perhaps with very new registrations, you have to be a bit careful to avoid one that would make your car look younger than it actually is. This rule was introduced to prevent unscrupulous second-hand car dealers from disguising the age of used cars.

If you are somewhat coy about the actual age of your car, the answer is to hide it altogether with a 'dateless' pre-1963 plate, where none of the letters and numbers relate to the registration's date of issue.

The clue is in the presence of an opening or closing digit:

**ABC 234**   **234 ABC**

## A word in your ear

The date codes are, in fact, far less conspicuous where registrations resemble names or words, like those in our illustrations below. You would probably be quite happy to display one of these excellent but 'dated' plates even on a brand-new car.

**BUT 70N**   **SU54 NNA**

**J3 RRY**



**Top Tip:**  
A dateless plate starts or ends with a number



**GK 6974** was issued by London County Council between September 1930 and January 1931.



Margate Fishing Festival 1913. **LA 6653** was issued by the London County Council between April 1910 and July 1911.

The single or double letter(s) in the first registrations indicated the local government authority responsible for the issue.

In 1932, an extra letter was added before the existing two-letter codes to expand the available combinations.

In October 1974, the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Centre (DVLC) - now the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency (DVLA) - took over the responsibility for issuing registrations.

The existing area codes were approximated by local offices until they were all dsibanded

in December 2013. Under the current system the area code indicates where the vehicle was first sold. If it changes hands, however, the code longer has any practical value. Indeed, you can add a flag or emblem to your plates regardless of your actual nationality or location.



**So, there you have it; 120 years of UK registrations - and Regtransfers have been there for over a third of them!**

**With over a million satisfied customers to date, we are firmly established as the UK's largest private dealer.**

And here's our MD, Tony Brown, pictured some years ago with a splendid vehicle sporting the C 5 plate, issued by Yorkshire West Riding County Council in January 1904.



**01582 967777**  
9am-9pm . 7 days



**Number plate history**



# Under the Hammer

The continuing spectacular prices achieved at auction demonstrate the resilience of personal number plates as solid investments in uncertain times.

The values of top-quality cherished registrations are growing, worldwide. It might be hard to believe, but eight of the ten most expensive UK number plates have been purchased since the onset of the 2007/2008 financial crisis. Despite uncertain times, people are confident that wisely selected private plates will hold or increase their value.

The competitive environment of a car registrations auction seems to be especially good at delivering spectacular

sale prices. Sums paid in the UK have been amazing enough, with outstanding examples achieving prices in excess of half a million pounds, but in some parts of the world, a single registration may sell for millions of pounds.

Spending a few hundred pounds on a personalised number plate is something most people are quite comfortable with; the increasing number of private registrations sold in the UK each year demonstrates the fact. That shouldn't surprise us; a good registration can do more to personalise a vehicle than any other change.

A flashy spoiler or custom paint job may be eye-catching, but no one can guarantee it will be unique. With a private registration, that is exactly what is guaranteed: uniqueness, forever.

The table below lists the top 100 prices (including fees and taxes) paid for plates at auction since March 2023:

## The **NEW** Regtransfers Auction

**The place to invest!**

See page 21



<b>HI NDU</b>	£143,901	<b>WIG I</b>	£31,024	<b>SYR IIA</b>	£23,192	<b>330 J</b>	£20,021
<b>I DEO</b>	£136,300	<b>2IO N</b>	£30,935	<b>I TKH</b>	£23,076	<b>202 AW</b>	£20,008
<b>5 PS</b>	£93,825	<b>TEG IH</b>	£30,408	<b>585 A</b>	£22,049	<b>950 S</b>	£19,995
<b>67 O</b>	£93,696	<b>SOP 9IE</b>	£28,341	<b>6 OMG</b>	£21,921	<b>5 DEO</b>	£19,995
<b>82 O</b>	£89,960	<b>8888 A</b>	£28,341	<b>9II WAX</b>	£21,908	<b>MOD IT</b>	£19,841
<b>5I O</b>	£73,268	<b>AAA 3A</b>	£28,341	<b>500 L</b>	£21,908	<b>28 AU</b>	£19,687
<b>9II OG</b>	£64,408	<b>76 00</b>	£27,442	<b>UPS 2</b>	£21,908	<b>750 X</b>	£19,674
<b>I97 O</b>	£54,021	<b>MSS I3</b>	£27,121	<b>550 S</b>	£21,895	<b>AAA IM</b>	£19,635
<b>I TLL</b>	£48,885	<b>AMB IIR</b>	£27,057	<b>88 RAD</b>	£21,690	<b>660 G</b>	£19,481
<b>4I OVE</b>	£48,243	<b>760 O</b>	£27,057	<b>SAF 4H</b>	£21,433	<b>II7 M</b>	£19,468
<b>I80 Y</b>	£47,665	<b>96 00</b>	£27,044	<b>JOD IIC</b>	£21,343	<b>ROB 7IN</b>	£19,353
<b>IIO L</b>	£47,614	<b>54 00</b>	£26,415	<b>9 MNH</b>	£20,958	<b>BOIO GNA</b>	£19,353
<b>4 SUV</b>	£40,012	<b>2 GWF</b>	£26,338	<b>AWH IT</b>	£20,958	<b>BTC ID</b>	£19,353
<b>MR15 LAM</b>	£39,897	<b>770 DBS</b>	£25,901	<b>9II DAK</b>	£20,881	<b>68I M</b>	£19,353
<b>FER 458A</b>	£38,844	<b>48 AY</b>	£25,773	<b>92 FM</b>	£20,881	<b>LUV IOW</b>	£19,353
<b>OEV IL</b>	£38,613	<b>HAK I3M</b>	£25,773	<b>I805 S</b>	£20,791	<b>IO RLA</b>	£19,340
<b>5IO W</b>	£38,600	<b>6 ODS</b>	£25,773	<b>808 M</b>	£20,740	<b>ATT 22G</b>	£19,340
<b>THE 9IIK</b>	£38,600	<b>24 OA</b>	£25,773	<b>25I A</b>	£20,675	<b>II KKY</b>	£18,737
<b>7 OOR</b>	£34,491	<b>I LYF</b>	£25,773	<b>DBS 770</b>	£20,637	<b>345 Y</b>	£18,711
<b>9 YT</b>	£32,950	<b>IOO JMW</b>	£25,773	<b>450 J</b>	£20,637	<b>20 YAS</b>	£18,711
<b>I VLB</b>	£32,321	<b>I THS</b>	£25,644	<b>AYR 4A</b>	£20,637	<b>I9 SSS</b>	£18,647
<b>I4 YTH</b>	£32,193	<b>I KWR</b>	£25,246	<b>II YX</b>	£20,624	<b>HUE I6G</b>	£18,197
<b>0008 000</b>	£32,180	<b>I JXD</b>	£24,489	<b>4 HJW</b>	£20,123	<b>93 RAJ</b>	£18,069
<b>II HSD</b>	£32,180	<b>92 EL</b>	£24,425	<b>MR2I NGH</b>	£20,123	<b>99 GUN</b>	£18,069
<b>8888 O</b>	£31,037	<b>7 KSK</b>	£23,205	<b>I YDS</b>	£20,021	<b>3I3 A</b>	£18,069

Online auction

# Perfect Pair • Pair Perfect



Find your Initials plate



We do sometimes encounter people who own several number-one plates: it's uncommon, but it happens. We occasionally encounter people who own both versions of a number-one: the letters-first format and the numbers-first variant. Now, that's pretty rare.

David Baillie Hamilton from South Lanarkshire owns that rare set, the forward

and reverse versions of his number-one initials plates. DBH 1 is displayed on a Range Rover and 1 DBH on a Land Rover Defender. David also has a Bell 505 Jet Ranger X light helicopter bearing the aircraft registration G-DBHI.

Now *that* really is rare. We could count the number of times we have seen the same initials plates on two cars and a helicopter on the fingers of one hand. Actually,

we could do it on the fingers of one finger. We're willing to bet that David has achieved something unique. It certainly makes for terrific photos.

'DBH' registrations were issued by Buckinghamshire County Council and DBH 1 dates right back to 1936.

The reversals, like 1 DBH are all later, from the mid 1950s



Find your perfect plate



# First-Class Post

We don't often receive handwritten letters these days, but Brian Holmes Featherstone kindly put pen to paper, in order to share his personal number plates journey.

Brian, who lives in Sunderland, acquired his first private registration number in 1967. He was driving his MGB when he spotted MGB 404 on the Ford Popular in front of him.



Brian followed the car home and spoke to the 17-year-old driver.

"I explained that I thought his number plate would look better on my MGB. I offered him £5 plus the DVLA fee of £5 and the cost of a new number plate for his car. He asked his father, who said 'OK' "

Five years later, in 1972, Brian bought BHF 7 for £75. "I sold it in 1994, thinking that the DVLA selling private number plates would ruin the market. How wrong I was! BHF 7 came up for sale again in 2006, so I bought it back for twice the price I'd sold it for in 1994. That taught me to think twice before selling something I like."

Brian bought E5 AFC in 2009 as a token of his support for Sunderland AFC, of which his brother had previously been chairman.

'H' registrations were issued by Middlesex County Council between December 1903 and July 1912 and the two-digit H 22 implies the earlier date.

Brian's next acquisitions, 2 OV, 86 V and 38 F were bought because a Regtransfers sales advisor had told him that short numbers may be more likely to increase in value.

"He was correct," says Brian. "They all went up in value by 50% within three years."

Brian has owned several more registration numbers. He bought 1 XMY simply because he had decided he'd like to own a number-one plate. He has also owned 22 BF, 38 F and BF 11 and, most recently, H 22 (which he still owns).



Find your perfect plate



# Centrepiece

Peter Tibbs' fascination with number plates began in 1978.

"Back then," he recalls, "the go-to source was the *Exchange and Mart*, and my sharper eyesight made scanning its tiny print a breeze.

"One day, while working in a village near Peterborough, I spotted a tractor on a trailer with the licence plate PCT 81.



"This was the very plate I'd always dreamt of, as it bore my initials [*for Peter Colin Tibbs*]. I mustered the courage to enquire, and we struck a deal of £500 for the cherished plate. I proudly displayed it on various cars over the years, including a Ford Cortina and a Sierra. It became a centrepiece in my photo album."

Many years later, Peter reluctantly sold the plate through Regtransfers to fund his first house renovation. He always regretted parting with it and, as the years passed, he often wondered what had become of the registration. When he retired, fairly recently, Peter checked the [Regtransfers.co.uk](https://www.regtransfers.co.uk) website and couldn't believe his eyes when he saw that PCT 81 was listed for sale.



He immediately bought the number back for his new car.

"PCT 81 is now back in my life and, despite owning several other plates over the years, none has held the same sentimental value.

"Some things are simply meant to be, and I'm grateful to the team at Regtransfers for completing this incredible story."

"PCT" plates like Peter's were issued by the Kesteven division of Lincolnshire County Council from 1959.



Find your Initials plate



# X-Rated



Actor, novelist and racing driver Simon B N Thompson bought the registration 27 X through Regtransfers about 12 years ago. The plate is displayed here on the Martini Porsche Cayman S which he drove around the famous Nürburgring Nordschleife racing circuit last year, reaching speeds of up to 135 mph.

The stunt was filmed as a promotion for the feature film *High Water* (Black Rock Films) which was released in May 2023 at the Cannes International Film Festival, and can be seen on Simon's YouTube channel, *Riviera Films*.

Other recent appearances include TV and internet commercials such as the latest John Smith's beer commercial, and films including *Stiletto* (Black Rock Films. 2014).

In 2021, Simon published his first novel, *Blue Monday* (Moose Press).



Find your perfect plate



# Welcome to the **NEW** Regtransfers Auction

## - *The place to invest!*

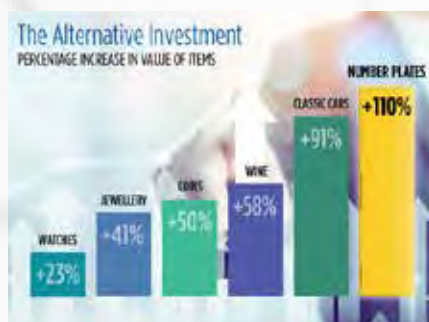


### Our premium online service

We've made big changes to our online private number plates auction. As well as a new look, we've made it easier than ever to find great plates at bargain prices.

### Investing or speculating?

If you are thinking of investing or speculating in the private registration market, the Regtransfers Auction should be your first stop! In recent years, private registrations have overtaken many more traditional investments, making them a real alternative when thinking about where to put your money.



### New watch feature

Make sure to use the new Watch feature and be updated on auction start times and when bidding will be closing. Don't miss out on a bargain.

Unlike other auction sites, Regtransfers protects your purchase and takes care of the whole process. So take a look at our current listings and find your perfect registration.

Be sure to watch any registrations that catch your eye, so you don't miss out on a potential bargain!

### What does it cost?

There are no auction fees to pay when you win. A deposit of 10% of the winning bid (or £100 whichever is the greater) will be taken and then you pay the balance plus the £80 transfer fee and VAT, if applicable, within seven days.

### Top tips for buying

Whether you looking for number plates for sale or you are selling a number plate, here are some handy tips to help you succeed in our number plate auction.

- Always 'Watch' the registration you are interested in
- When bidding, enter the maximum amount you are prepared to pay, bearing in mind the £80 transfer fee and that VAT may be applicable
- Look out for emails that tell you if you have been outbid
- Make sure your stored card is correct as we use this to take your deposit



Online auction



# In the Spotlight

## The Celebrities' Choice

For those whose profession relies on maintaining a high profile, a personal registration can be a valuable promotional tool. Regtransfers has provided personal plates to a host of celebrities from the worlds of entertainment, sport and business. Many of our famous friends use their plates to ensure they get seen, while the more astute also keep an eye on the potential resale values. Here are just a few of the famous names we have represented on number plates. You can read all about these and other famous number plate fans in the back issues of this magazine online and on our website's celebrity number plates page.

### Our Celebrity Customers

Read all our celebrity articles online at:  
[www.regtransfers.co.uk/celebrity-customers](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk/celebrity-customers)

## Find your perfect personal plate

Your own personal number plates needn't be merely a daydream: it's just a matter of getting in before demand pushes those prices up too far.

It could be money extremely well spent and there is an excellent chance of a profit should you ever resell.

**01582 967777**

Est. 1982 **Regtransfers.co.uk**  
PERSONAL NUMBER PLATES



Jodie Kidd



James Martin



Gok Wan



Jay Kay



Vinnie Jones



Nicky Clarke

Celebrity number plates





Frankie Dettori



Chris Eubank Jr



Greg Rutherford



Coleen Nolan



Phil Tufnell



Russell Watson



Ian Botham



Stacey Solomon



Denise van Outen

Celebrity number plates





## Crossover

Briony Hannam from Stoke-on-Trent is very thankful that her parents didn't decide on the more popular spelling 'Bryony' when they named her, since this made it much easier for her to find her perfect plate.

"The plate has received compliments and it's a plate I'll have for life," she says. "There's quite a few GR Yaris on the road now and you're guaranteed to spot a group of enthusiast owners at any big car meet but this one now feels personal to me. When I saw this plate at Regtransfers, I knew I had to have it."

Briony works in marketing at PC hardware specialists Overclockers UK.

"There's actually quite a large crossover in interest between PCs, gaming and cars," she says. "I often find people share both hobbies and I'm one of them. Our forums have a large motoring community and we've even held an Overclockers UK car meet in the past."

When she is not at her PC, Briony spends the weekends with her partner at car meets, track days or simply driving across the UK to visit places of interest.

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“Purchasing through Regtransfers was a great experience I'd like to say thank you to Remy for sorting out what was an exciting moment, with minimum hassle and at a great price.”

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Find your name plate





**H**elen Hylands founded HRH Housekeeping in Chippenham, Wiltshire in 1990. Helen's HRH initials work perfectly as branding for a business that makes the bold claim "We will turn your house into a palace".

Helen continued the theme to great effect when she chose her brilliant private registration, CA11 HRH. Her marketing message really couldn't be more obvious, even at a casual glance: she wants potential clients to call HRH. Simple and effective.

Private number plates are a novel and cost-effective way to advertise any business, large or small. Find yours in the listings at the back of this magazine or search online at: [www.regtransfers.co.uk](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk)



## Dateless Delights

We were delighted to supply Nick David Dunkerton with his superb initials registration, NDD 2, back in 2017. The plate is now up for sale again and is available from Regtransfers.

NDD 2 was issued in 1953 by Gloucestershire County Council and is a very early example of the series. Its dateless format makes it suitable for a vehicle of any age.

We have a vast selection of similar dateless delights, so give us a call on **01582 967777** or visit [www.regtransfers.co.uk](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk) and we will be delighted to help you!

Find your perfect plate



# Readers' Gallery

Here is a selection of great photos that have been submitted by our readers.  
Send yours to:  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)



Find your Initials plate





Find your name plate





## Big Break

Geoff Large, from Nottingham, started his company, GCL Billiards in 2004 and, although he doesn't actually play himself, he is an expert billiards fitter, working on snooker and pool tables.

Geoff's company van displays the registration GCL 13 ('GCL B', standing for GCL Billiards) while his VW Caravelle bears the very appropriate 147 GL. The letters in that one are obviously his initials and, as

any fan will tell you, 147 is the highest break achievable in a game of snooker.

"I have always been intrigued by personal registrations," says Geoff, "and I often play spot-the-private-plate with my work colleagues to pass time on the motorways." Geoff recognises that number plates can be a great investment, as have members of his family.

"My daughter has reserved GCL 13 after I have stopped using it," he says.

Geoff bought GCL 13 in 1988 through an advert in Exchange and Mart, well before the days of the Internet. He suspects that the number 13 in the registration may have put a few people off buying it, and may partly explain why it was priced so affordably.

Geoff's wife, Carol, has S9 GCL (for Geoff and Carol Large) on her Kia. The couple also own S90 GCL and GLZ 131, both of which are currently for sale and available through Regtransfers.

"I am delighted to have purchased 147 GL," says Geoff. "It gives a lift to the Caravelle and is a talking point. It also hides its age."



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



Find your Initials plate





Keith Evans, from Pencader in Carmarthenshire has an impressive collection of 'BX' registration numbers.

Keith has been interested in car registrations since he was young and in his years of buying plates he has developed a liking for numbers with local relevance to his home county.

The 'BX' indicates Carmarthenshire as the original licensing authority, and

Keith has acquired several: 78 BBX and 80 NBX are pictured here on Keith's two Nissan Jukes while SBX 472 and K5 BBX are held on retention documents.

As a fan of *The World of Personal Number plates*, Keith was eager to share his plates with other readers. "I find the magazine very interesting," he says.

"If it's possible for you to include these, it would be fantastic."



In 2022, we were delighted to provide Michael T Kayes with the splendid initials plate MTK 55. Michael, who hails from Glasgow, is no stranger to personal

number plates and boasts an impressive gallery of others, including: K4 YES, MTK 596, ISK 554, K11 YED, K6 YES, K4 YCS and GST 205.

MTK registrations were first issued by Dorsetshire County Council in 1959.

Find your perfect plate





# James Jordan

James and Ola Jordan became famous faces and household names when they joined the professional cast of *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2006. James eventually left in 2013 and Ola in 2015 but, during their time on the show they were great favourites with the viewers.

## Phenomenon

*Strictly* really shouldn't work. As the title suggests, its inspiration was an earlier BBC TV dance competition called *Come Dancing*, which ran from 1949 to 1998, thus boring a couple of generations to sleep. Those of us old enough to remember it will probably picture stiff,

formally attired couples with numbers on their backs.

Today's *Strictly* could hardly be more different. It is bright, sparkly and dynamic with an outstanding house band providing live music for the competition's performances. It has transformed many people's perceptions of dancing and dancers; it has made politicians popular and it has even given us respect for some of those more baffling celebrities, some of whom seem to be famous just for being famous. It has also shown that there is still a great deal of life left in some of the older celebs who we all thought had been put out to pasture.

*Strictly* has also given us a galaxy of new stars like James and Ola: amazing dancers and choreographers who, week after week, turn frogs into princes, princesses and princexes.

As fans of the show, we were excited to have the chance to visit James at his home to chat about him, his career and his new plates from Regtransfers.

## Early days

James began dancing when he was about nine years old but he wasn't the first dancer in the family.

"My parents used to dance. That's how they met many, many years ago. I've got a

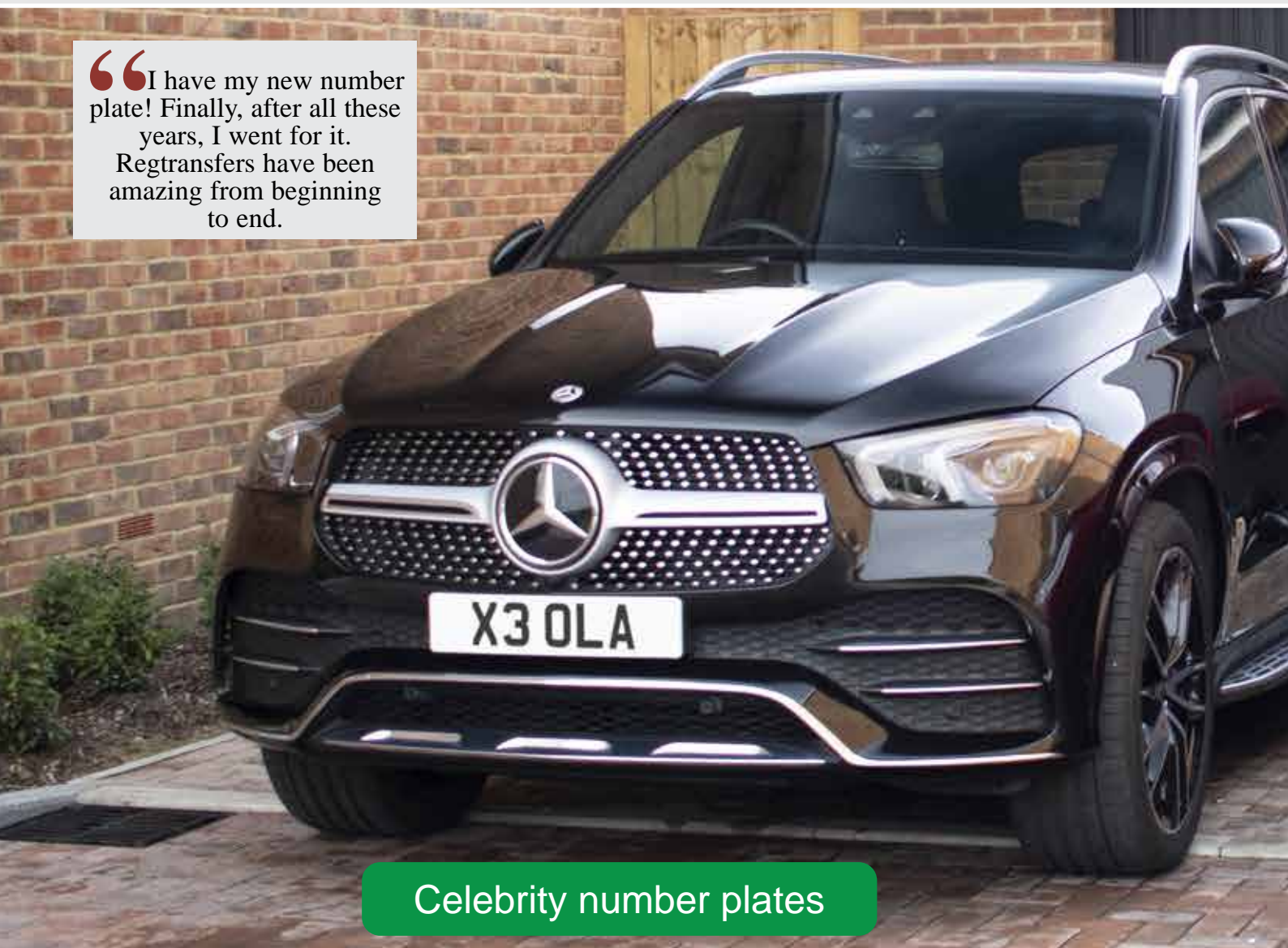
sister who's a year older than me and they took her first of all.

"I would say I was kind of pushed into dancing a little bit at the beginning, but once I was about 14, I started getting interested in girls. There were two boys in the class and about 30 girls, so the odds were really good and all the girls wanted to dance with the boys. The better I got at dancing, the more girls wanted to dance with me, so, I was like, 'Yes, this is amazing!' While all my mates were off playing football I was waltzing with all these beautiful girls."

James's enthusiasm for dancing continued and he began to dance competitively. He had several partners over the years but when he was 21 he met 17 year-old Polish dancer Ola Grabowska.

"My coach was teaching all around the world," says James. "I was British champion at the time and Ola was Polish champion. He was teaching her in Poland and teaching me in England."

"I had stopped dancing with my partner and so I was looking for another. I tried out with probably 50 different girls, you know, looking for a new partner and then flew to Poland for a tryout with Ola. I literally did three steps with her and just knew that I wanted to dance with her. Twenty-three years later, we're still together. Oh, she's a



“I have my new number plate! Finally, after all these years, I went for it. Regtransfers have been amazing from beginning to end.

Celebrity number plates



very lucky girl. Why are you laughing? I'm sure she'd agree if she was here."

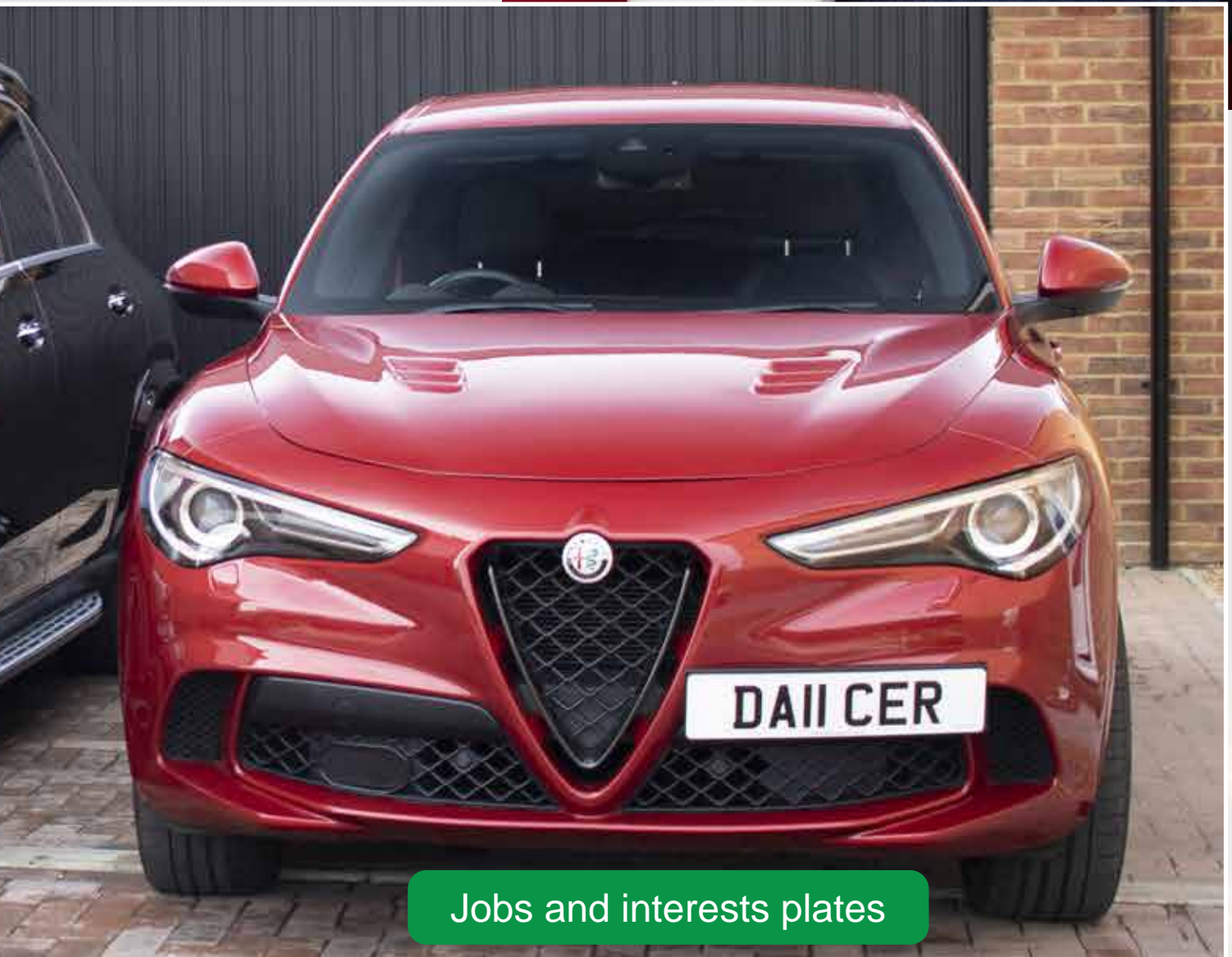
## Opportunity knocks

Their first competitive dance in partnership was in 2000 when they danced in the Dutch Open. However, the couple subsequently moved to Hong Kong and their focus drifted from competitive dancing to teaching.

"We went back to England to do our first professional competition as pros. In our first competition at Blackpool, we came second in the Professional Rising Star and that's where a scout from the BBC saw us. We didn't know anything about it so we did the competition and went back to Hong Kong to continue teaching. Then we got a phone call from the BBC asking if we would consider doing *Strictly*. The money wasn't very good when we started doing it but one of my students, and my parents, said to take every opportunity life throws at you. You don't know what it will lead to.

"Ola was very much against it in the beginning because she thought she was going to struggle in front of the camera with English being her second language, but we did the first year and loved it.

"We came as a package. If they had said they only wanted one of us we wouldn't have done it. We were doing it as a couple. I think it was much more about the couples when we did *Strictly*. You had Vincent and Flavia, you had Brendan and Camilla,



Jobs and interests plates



Anton and Erin, Darren and Lilia and myself and Ola. Now I think they take people on as individuals.

"We loved living in Hong Kong, loved teaching over there and we had a nice life. We did that first year, then moved back to Hong Kong. We got asked to go back a second year and that's when we started to get a lot of work off the back of *Strictly*. There were lots of shows and corporate events, things like that, so we eventually decided to move back to the UK."

## Life after the show

James's departure from *Strictly Come Dancing*, in 2013, wasn't an entirely happy affair, but how does he now feel about the show and his time there?

"Oh, it was amazing. I loved *Strictly*. We've had, you know, an amazing life in the 23 years we've been together: competing, travelling all around the world, living in Hong Kong. Doing *Strictly* and now having Ella [the couple's daughter]. We've been through a lot with each other and yeah, it's been very, very good memories. Really good memories.

"Ella is three and a half and we've not tried to push her into dancing but she just seems to love dancing all the time. Daddy's trying to get her into golf to become a professional golfer, and then I can be her manager and take 20% and caddy, get another 10% there. So, yeah, I'm thinking about my future as well as hers. All joking aside, she does love her dancing, so maybe she will follow in our footsteps in some way, shape or form.

"It's ten years since I stopped doing *Strictly*. We actually showed Ella the last time that Mummy and Daddy ever

performed together on *Strictly*: it's on YouTube. We did a cha-cha to Earth, Wind & Fire. They were there and we performed to them live, which was obviously amazing. Being able to show your children little things like that, nice moments ... But, yeah, to think that that was 2013 and that ten years ago was the last time I ever performed on *Strictly*. I always joke saying that I used to be in *Strictly* when it was in black and white."

## The truth

Even though he no longer appears on the show, James still keeps up to date with what goes on.

"I still watch it, yeah. I've got a podcast on it, a weekly podcast for Hello! called *Strictly the Truth*. I just say what I think, you know, I don't try to say what people want to hear. I think I've always been outspoken: not malicious but I just think that if you have an opinion, it's almost like you're supposed to just sit back and say nothing. I like to voice my opinions."

So, what is James's opinion on the current series?

"I love Krishnan [newsreader Krishnan Guru-Murthy] because, you know, he's normally got such a serious job, with the news and everything. To see him out there, throwing himself at it - and the fact that he's never danced before - I love that. I also really like Layton [actor Layton Williams]: he's amazing but he's clearly had a lot of dance training. And I really like Eddie [comedian and presenter Eddie Kadi]. I think that Eddie has this natural ability flowing through his body which, if Karen can get a bit of technique in there as well, I think he could be really

good. So yeah, there's about six or seven potentials."

Would he ever consider returning to the show if he were asked?

"I'm too old to do it now. I don't think my body would take it. They work really hard, you know. I take my hat off to all the pros, but they start in August and they finish just before Christmas. If you go all the way to the final, you're training every single day. You've got to put the choreography together and you've got to teach them. You have to travel to where they are. It's crazy and you're pulled from pillar to post, so it is full on. I did it for ten years and it was amazing. Would I want to do it now at 45 years old? No, thank you. I'll let the young ones do it and watch them on TV."

Did James have a favourite celebrity partner during his time on the show?

"I was lucky. I got on with all my partners, so it's really hard to say. I got on really well with Alex Jones from *The One Show*; Pamela Stephenson, Billy Connolly's wife; Denise van Outen; Cherie Lunghi. I had loads of really nice experiences, so it would be difficult to pick a favourite.

"I came second with Denise, third with Pamela Stephenson, fourth with Alex Jones, but I never won. Ola's got that over me - and she had a private number plate before me as well!

"But I forgot *Dancing on Ice*. I won that! Can you believe it? I had genuinely never, ever skated before. I think it was partly work ethic. I had to work a lot harder but once I got the skating, I enjoyed that show. A really good show."

## Still dancing

James may regard himself as too old for *Strictly* but he's certainly not opting for a sedentary life. He and Ola have launched a dance exercise platform called Dance Shred.

"We both put a lot of weight on through lockdown and, obviously, with Ola having Ella. When we continued to put weight on, we decided to do something about it.

"We created this mix of dancing with functional exercises. Dances that you see on *Strictly*, like the pasodoble, the jive, the salsa mixed with functional exercises like lunges, all choreographed. We lost a lot of weight doing it: about seven stone between the two of us. I think I lost three and Ola lost nearly four. Something like that.

"So, we launched what we did. It seems to be going very well and people seem to love it. They are getting to learn the dances, because we go through everything slowly. We've actually just started adding dances without the functional exercises, where we'd do a cha cha routine that you can learn. We go into the technique and things like that so people can actually use it either as a dance platform or fitness if they want to lose weight or they're just trying to tone up. We enjoyed creating it and it's something that we're quite proud of.

"We mainly dance for the Dance Shred platform now. We don't necessarily do shows and things like that except occasionally, when we get asked. I miss



Find your perfect plate



being young, I miss being able to do it, but I've been there, done it, got the t-shirt."

So it's mostly about the fitness now?

"Yeah. We have to be conscious that, when you're younger, you naturally have a faster metabolism. As you get older, it slows down anyway. You stop producing testosterone as men, so it's harder to keep muscle and things like that. For us it was a little bit about educating ourselves as well.

"People think because you're a dancer, it's easy for you, but we have to work just as hard. I think that's sometimes an excuse that people make. Someone wants to lose weight but doesn't necessarily work as hard as they should, or maybe they're consuming more calories than they should. You know, it's really that simple. People that say, oh, I've got a slow metabolism might have to work a little bit harder. I think sometimes people make excuses instead of just cracking on.

"I think that is the difference. I know what it takes to become a professional dancer. I

know I've got to put the time in and it's the same if you're trying to lose weight: it won't magically just happen. You can join the gym, but you have to actually go there. Or you can join Dance Shred, but you have to actually physically do it.

"It's a combination of everything. It's a lifestyle change, really, isn't it? It's a mindset. Some people are lucky that they can consume loads more calories than other people. But, generally if you don't move and you eat too much, you're going to put on weight. There you go, everyone."

### Leisure

Dance Shred takes a lot of work and the couple add content to the platform weekly, but are things easier now the competitive dancing is in the past?

"It's tricky, but I wouldn't have it any other way. I think anyone who has children would realise that you can't just do things off the cuff as you have to think about your child. We do lots of things together as a family, but we need to still make sure we do date

nights. We do occasionally, but we need to make more mummy and daddy time when we can go to nice restaurants and things like that."

When he does get time to himself, James is quite the car fan.

"I love my cars. I've had a lot of cars over the years but, recently, I've had one car the longest I've ever had one. We had a Range Rover Sport and we just loved the comfort of it, so we kept it for eight years and only recently sold it. I replaced that with a Mercedes GLE.

"My very first proper car was a black Ford Escort LX. I think it was a 1.6 engine. I loved it: it was a really nice car. That was my first proper car and before that I was driving old bangers. I had a Citroen Saxo VTR and then then a VTS. The reason I went for those was because you got free insurance. I was 19 when I bought my VTR so a year's free insurance was amazing.

"Then I moved up. I like fast cars, so I had a Mercedes C63 AMG and that was amazing. The V8 engine, I just loved it. That was a really amazing car.

"Then I had two Nissan GTRs. Actually, they were Ola's and she had her private plate on them. I get all these cars and then she nicks them off me. I'm like, 'Oh, I've always wanted a Nissan GTR', and then, suddenly, she's driving it. I'm like, 'How come you're driving that? I bought that for me,' and she says 'But I really like it. I feel safer in it. It's better for me.'

"So we had two of those. Not at the same time but I liked it so much that I bought another one. What else did I have? We had an Audi TTS and Ola loved that. Then I bought the Alfa [Romeo] Stelvio Quadrifoglio, which has a Ferrari California engine in it. They took away two cylinders and put in two turbos so it's a meaty engine. I think it's one of the fastest small SUVs out there. It does 0 to 60 in 3.7 seconds, I think.

"So I'm very excited to finally have my own private number plate. Ola, and everyone will be like, 'Look, there goes little dancer boy.' Everyone around here knows what I do, so it kind of works for me and it works for Ola as well. See, everything's about Ola still! She can drive either car and it looks like it's her private number plate now, doesn't it? Yeah, it's always been about Ola. Even when I was on Strictly, it was like Ola Jordan and her husband."

But James's tongue is firmly in cheek as he says it. The enthusiasm for his new plate, however, is genuine.

"I've always wanted to have a personal plate and Regtransfers have been fantastic. I think it's quite apt. It's something that I could one day pass down to my daughter if she becomes a dancer too."



Interview: Angela Banh  
Location photography: Amy England





999 Wedding Cars



Overfinch.com



Junction 26 Bed Shop

## Marketing on a Plate

Marketing and advertising are evolving arts. The advent of the internet provided a new and unfamiliar environment but the sharp-eyed were not slow to recognise opportunities. Before long, banner adverts and sponsored links became major sources of leads and business, and companies realised the importance of domain names to their brands.

Despite the explosive growth of the internet, there is still room for offline innovation in marketing and brand promotion. In recent years, Regtransfers has noticed, and encouraged, the increasing use of private vehicle registrations in this context.

Whether it is the raising of personal profile, as achieved by Lord Sugar's famous AMS 1 registration, or the novel promotion of a brand like Theo Paphitis's stationery chain, Ryman, with the number RYM 4N, personal – or corporate – registrations are big business.

An increasing number of companies and entrepreneurs have seen the value of private and corporate vehicle number plates.

Some have invested in single, outstanding examples that are guaranteed to make an impact.

Others, such as Pimlico Plumbers, have bought a whole series of imaginatively themed registrations. Many of those featured are regularly returning customers of Regtransfers.

Regtransfers is the UK's largest private dealer in personal vehicle registrations. The company was established in 1982 and is widely recognised as the leading source of authoritative information on the subject.

Regtransfers has the largest private stock of exclusive, top-quality registrations in the UK. Our website offers a range of easy to use search options, and our sales advisors are available to assist you from 9am to 9pm, 7 days a week.

If you would like to discover how this exciting and entertaining medium could work for you, please visit:

[www.regtransfers.co.uk](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk) or call us on: 01582 967777

VAT may be reclaimed if your plate is deemed to have been purchased for business use. Depending on the price paid, the purchase may also qualify as a capital allowance or be offset against corporation tax.



Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe



Souster & Hicks Bespoke Tailors

Marketing on a plate





Pimlico Plumbers



FunWhenYouDrum.com



Portsmouth Roofing



Rossis Ice Cream



Fantastic Fireworks



Electronic Excellence



Garcia Joinery



Good Dog Walking and Training

Marketing on a plate



# A Work of Art

At Regtransfers, we firmly believe that we have something for everyone. That claim, as you might imagine, attracts a broad spectrum of customers: people from all walks of life. We have supplied private number plates to celebrities, doctors, entrepreneurs, lawyers, hairdressers, tailors, convicted criminal forgers ...

What? Ah, yes, the forgery thing.

David Henty is a legitimate artist. He did have a bit of a problem with the law some time ago, when he was jailed for passport forgery, but he paid his debt to society and has been a free man for many years. Furthermore, while he was accommodated at Her Majesty's pleasure, Mr Henty worked at improving one of his skills. Admittedly that skill was faking the work of art's old masters, but he is now open about what he does and it really is a fascinating story.

To be honest, part of that story does involve a further period of incarceration, this time for selling stolen cars with forged registration documents, but let's move on.

## A rare talent

Henty now sells what might be called tribute works, paintings in the style of people such as Van Gogh, Picasso, Lowry, Monet, Modigliani, Caravaggio and more. He doesn't deceive his clients by claiming they are the genuine article: instead, he sells them as what they are. Occasionally, people have tried to pass off Henty's work



Find your perfect plate



as that of the artist who inspired it. In 2019, one of Henty's "Picassos" was valued at £1m until he declared himself the artist and thus saved everyone a great deal of confusion.

He does also still paint copies of existing works, but not to sell under false pretences. There is a definite market for accurate, painted copies (rather than prints) of valuable pictures. There are many reasons such a piece may be required: one of the more obvious being to display where it may be considered too risky to hang the priceless original.

## Hard to spot

Should one of these copies ever fall into disreputable hands, even the experts could have a hard time spotting that the painting is a reproduction, let alone proving it. The forger's toolbox is ingenious and comprehensive. As well as using the same colour palette that the original artist would have used, and sourcing old canvases

and paints that would pass scrutiny for period authenticity, Henty has mastered a range of methods for ageing paintings. In the past he even went as far as to borrow a genuine 18th century smock to wear while painting a picture of that period. The smock ensured that any clothing fibres that may get into the paint as he worked would be consistent with the supposed age of the work. Using these and other methods means that even experts and carbon dating may struggle to reveal the copyist's role.

## Seems legit

Despite all this trickery (or artistry, depending on how one views it), Henty is now embraced by the establishment, albeit perhaps a little warily. He has written a book, appeared in documentaries, been interviewed by magazines and newspapers, inspired characters in novels and had art exhibitions of his own. David Henty's cheeky V9 OGH (Van Gogh) is

perfect for a man of his talents and with his fascinating history. Of course, obtaining his number from Regtransfers, Mr Henty could be sure he was acquiring the genuine article and not a forgery.

"At the time, I was painting quite a few Van Gogh paintings. I am a huge fan of his works. It made me laugh seeing the number plate and thought I may wrap the car wing mirror with a bandage! [A reference to Van Gogh's bizarre decision to cut off part of his own left ear.] I love the personal number plate: it draws a smile from people. I have been stopped by people to talk about it.

"I also acquired V90 GHS I often go on Regtransfers and have a browse!" A last tip for the aspiring art collectors who may now be worried in case they unwittingly buy one of Mr Henty's extraordinary copies by mistake: buy a Frida Kahlo; apparently, David Henty has not yet got the hang of her style.

*More masterpieces available now from Regtransfers:*

**ART 333R**

**BI66 ART**

**HH11 RST**

**B210 GET**

**MOO 23E**

**ERN 55T**

**B22 USH**

**P448 BLO**

**B357 ART**



**Jobs and interests plates**





## The Suit Guy

Ash Gangotra is an award-winning menswear designer born and bred in Nottingham. He has spent over three decades designing and manufacturing menswear and he has seen his creative pieces sold and worn around the globe.

### Heritage

Ash grew up in a family of tailors. His late grandfather was the first to master the craft and, after spending years developing his own skills, Ash's work pays tribute to both his grandfather and his family's broader, rich heritage. The Gangotra family name derives from their roots in the Himalayan northern Indian region of the same name.

The signature purple and yellow colours of Gangotra's label are derived from a flower that only grows in that part of Asia.

### Custom Tailoring

The Gangotra label has built a reputation for producing beautifully finished, made-to-measure garments, using luxurious fabrics and special attention is paid to every element of the design and detail. Getting a perfect fit is considered vitally important, whether the garment is for a groom's wedding suit or an everyday working wardrobe.

Modern technology combines with the finest traditional tailoring techniques to



ensure that the end result is second to none.

Fine tailoring is in Ash's family DNA and it is no exaggeration to say that his life is dedicated to his craft. It comes as no surprise, then, to see the thread extends even to his personal number plates.

"They call me the suit guy," says Ash. His registration couldn't really be anything but SU17 GUY, could it?

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

Marketing on a plate



[illegible]

"I purchased both 4 WTM and 5 WTM from you," says William. "My name is William Thomas Mitchell and I am the fourth generation: my dad, his dad, and his dad before him all have the same name. My son is the fifth generation William Thomas Mitchell."

William celebrated the four generations with 4 WTM about five years ago and updated the tally with 5 WTM when his son was born in 2021.

A photograph of three men and a baby in a living room. An older man with white hair is seated in a wooden armchair, holding a baby wrapped in a white blanket. He is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and dark trousers. Standing behind him to the left is a younger man with dark hair, wearing a black turtleneck and black trousers. Standing behind him to the right is another man with grey hair, wearing a grey zip-up sweater and dark trousers. The room has a patterned rug, a fireplace with a mantel, and a window with curtains in the background.



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

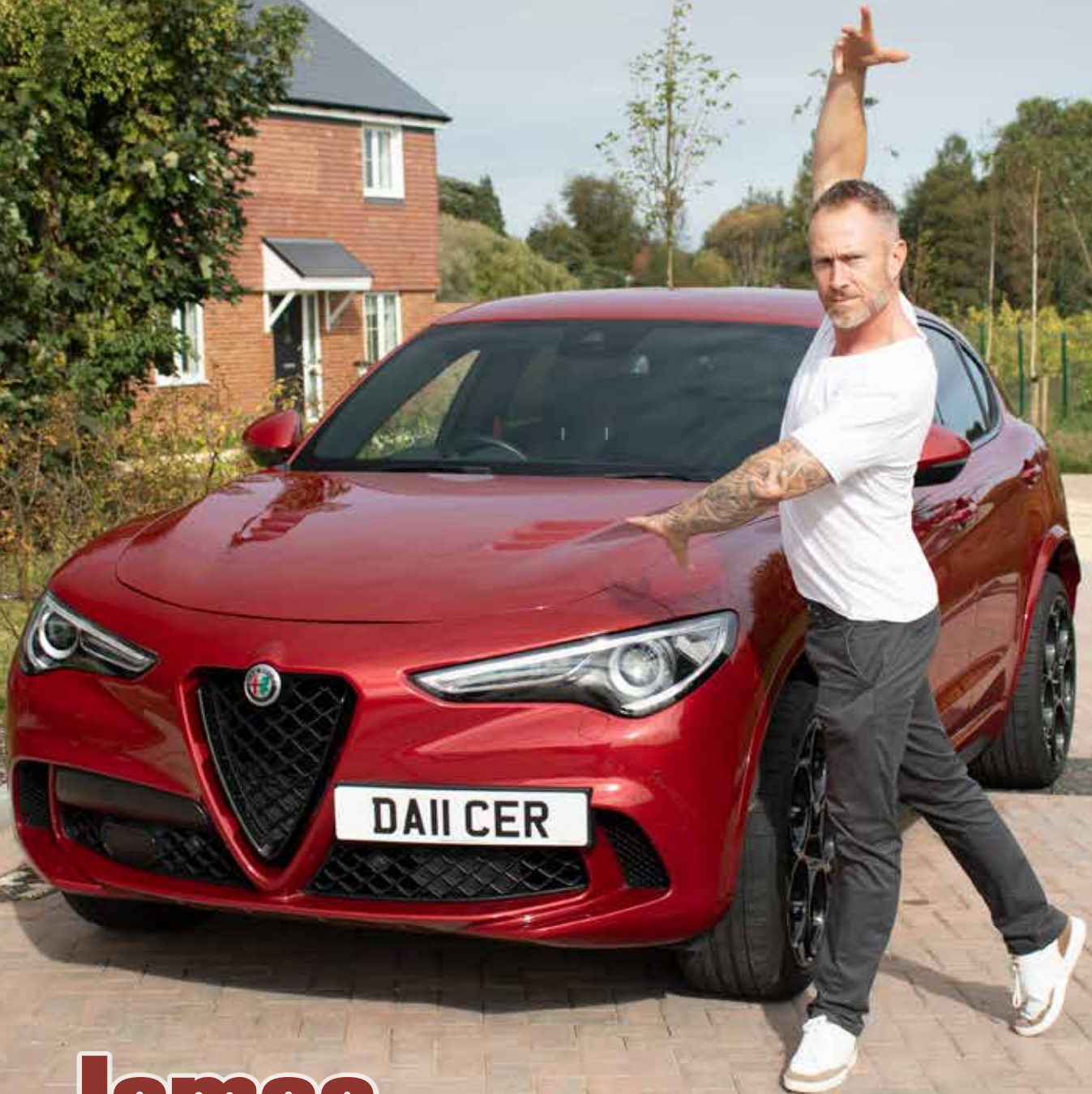


## Find your Initials plate



The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 57

# Regtransfers



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