

The DVLA held its last ever in-person venue auction this October in Stratford-upon-Avon



The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) held its last ever venue auction at the Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon on 18 - 20 October 2023. Highlights of this sale include 812 A making £38,000, AMZ 1 making £31,000, 1 SSU making £25,000, 1 GVL making £22,200, VSH 1 making £19,000 and OHC 2 making £15,000, all plus auction fees and VAT.

The agency has held sales of cherished registration numbers at prestigious venues around the country since 1989 when Christie's held the first ever auction on behalf of the DVLA. The first lot sold at that auction was 99 MG which made £8000, rather a lot of money in those days 34 years ago. The highest priced registration was 1 A which sold for £160,000. Other interesting plates sold back in 1989 were MUS 1C, ANN 1E, MAR 10N, JUL 1E and C1 GAR.

Live venue auctions were paused in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and were restarted in a limited way in October 2022 along with the already successful online versions. Starting in November 2023 all DVLA auctions will be held as timed and online only, a decision probably made in view of the success of the online only offerings.

Over the last 30 or so years the DVLA has sold more than six million registrations generating over £2 billion for the UK Treasury.

