

**V8****VICTOR SMITH**

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V8s sell well at auction

Keith Belcher spotted three V8s in an Anglia Car Auctions' catalogue and felt it is a rare auction when three chrome bumper V8s make the rostrum in mid-winter. The three V8s sold well in January when the star was a 1975 much restored but largely standard Tundra V8 with a distinctive registration number and modified with a walnut dash and full leather interior which made £17,010 against an estimate of £14,000 to £16,000. Next a very tidy 1974 Teal Blue V8, again with a walnut dash, leather seats and a very clean underside, made £12,075 against an estimate of £9,500 to £11,500. The third car was a 1973 Damask V8 with a low 65,000 miles with non-standard air cleaners but also a tow bar which only made only £9,450 against an estimate of £9,000 to £12,000. These prices include the 5% premium and VAT.

Adam Fiander, who did our V8 price guide update in February 2014, notes "certainly the Tundra car did very well at that price. Even with a non-standard interior (albeit presented very well), it proves that quality and overall presentation are worth the effort.

This price is even more surprising as it's higher than our current guide price for a standard specification Condition 1 V8 of £15,250 which I would normally have valued higher than one that had been dabbled with, such as this". Another member felt the distinctive registration might have been a factor contributing £1,500 to £2,000 to the price which suggests a comparative net price more in line with our guide.

Alan Rennie spotted a report from auction analyst Richard Hudson-Evans on the Classic Cars for Sale website saying "even before the ACA doors were opened last Saturday morning in King's Lynn, punters queued to check out an unprecedented 246 car entry which attracted by far the largest turnout ever seen at a provincial sale in the UK." In the report he adds "well presented, MGBGTV8s continued to purr upwards".

Keith Belcher recognises the V8 has been enjoyed for over 40 years by real enthusiasts who have owned and driven them as wonderfully understated and affordable classic cars which fortunately "chequebook investors" have not discovered. That could change in 2015 with

the V8 appearing in a new 13 part Channel 5 series on classic cars featuring the respected motoring journalist Quentin Willson. It's likely the series of one hour programmes which started in early February will encourage investment in classic cars but what may help fuel an investment surge is the substantial release of funds for some pensioners under greater pension flexibility measures due to start in 2015 in the UK.

Cars built in 1974 eligible for the rolling VED exemption

From 1st April 2015 cars built in 1974 will be eligible for the rolling VED exemption introduced in the Budget in March 2013 and made a 40 year rolling feature last year. The key date for eligibility is the "build date" and not the date of first registration. Enthusiasts with an eligible car need to apply for a tax class change from PLG to "Historic" and then for the NIL value VED at a local Post Office or direct to DVLA Swansea. Our updated guide and flowchart will help you through the process. See them at the "more" webpage: www.v8register.net/more.htm