



The Street Aldermaston in the 1930s - a view which remains unchanged today

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

Another week, another heritage image from Berkshire featuring a car. As Jim's caption to the photo notes, this view is little changed [today](#). I wonder if we can identify the car this week? I must admit that last time, I resorted to asking for help from AI - more about that below - and I did so again this time. Gemini took a while to think about this one because the rear view limits the distinguishing factors. Nevertheless, our AI companion confidently asserts, '*The most telling feature is the way the spare wheel is mounted. The car in your photo has its wheel set into a distinct, pressed-steel "bulge" or panel on the rear of the body. This panel also houses the number plate below the wheel. This is a hallmark design element of the Ford Model Y saloon.*'

What do our resident car buffs think? I confess I have no idea!

NEWS



Remember this?

We often get 'Then & Now' feedback but this image of East Hanney generated more than usual. I had decided to ask AI for help with identifying the car in the photo and while it made a valiant attempt, some of you thought otherwise. Member, Ken Wheeler said, *'Thank you, as ever, for the lovely memories you evoke with your photos. Now on Guernsey, I lived my previous fifteen years in Clapton, near Kintbury. And yes, the car is Morris, not a Minor but an Oxford or the smaller-engined Cowley. Difficult to tell; five-stud wheels on the Oxford, three-stud on the Cowley. The model is a Doctor's Coupe, two-seater with the dickey seat at the back. I owned a 1928 Oxford Saloon from 1977 until I parted with it in 2006.'*

Jennifer Grant also chipped in with an identification, as did Pamela Gardner. Meanwhile another member suggested that the building in the background might still be there and is now a private residence called ['The Old Crown'](#) - the former public house. My apologies to the member, but in a rare bit of desk tidying I managed to discard the note with your name. Mea culpa!

Did AI do a better job of identifying the car in this week's photo? I'm sure you'll let us know!



Volunteer as a Research Assistant

Our brand-new Research Zone is opening in the New Year — and we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the team!

What's the role?

Help visitors explore their family history using:

- The best online genealogy resources
- Unique in-house data only available in the Research Zone
- Our extensive reference library

How it works:

- Volunteer for either a half-day or full day each week (or when it suits you)
- Most volunteers choose a regular pattern — the same day each week or each month
- You'll receive full support from experienced Research Assistants, plus access to the Research Assistants' Handbook (available as a handy booklet and online) to guide you through procedures, systems and resources along with access to our online Volunteers' Corner which covers all aspects of volunteering for the Society.

What you'll bring:

- A friendly, helpful approach and passion for family history
- Familiarity with family history subscription sites such as Ancestry, Findmypast, The Genealogist, and the British Newspaper Archive, but this is not essential.
- An understanding of how to record the results of genealogical searches

Why join our team of Research Assistants?

- Be at the heart of our exciting new Research Zone
- Get to know other members of the Society
- Gain access to exclusive data and resources
- Grow your research knowledge while helping others uncover their family stories

Ready to share your enthusiasm and support others in their discoveries? We'd love to hear from you. You can email Sandra at sandra.barkwith@berksfhs.org.uk to register your interest and arrange a visit convenient to yourself, or come along to one of our 'Open Days' to our new Research Zone (dates TBA) and meet us.



Witches and Witch Trials During the English Civil War

The video features a presentation by Dr. Danny Buck discussing the historical context and implications of witchcraft accusations and trials in England during the English Civil War, highlighting the societal fears, religious tensions, and the roles of various individuals, including witch finders, in these events.

[View online](#) (login required)



Important DNA news from MyHeritage

Family History company MyHeritage has launched the first whole genome sequencing product aimed at general consumers.

The tests will be processed at the Gene by Gene lab in Houston, Texas. All DNA test kits purchased from MyHeritage will now be upgraded to the new service with no increase in price, making the test the cheapest way for consumers to get their whole genome sequenced.

The upgrade will enable MyHeritage to offer deeper insights into ethnic origins, family connections and genetic genealogy. Customers will also be able to download their entire genome at no extra cost in CRAM format. Most current commercial DNA tests only read about 700,000 base pairs of nucleotides, looking for shared patterns. Whole genome sequencing will read around three billion base pairs giving unprecedented insight into our genetic code.

Customers who have previously tested with MyHeritage will not have their test reprocessed, although some recent tests have already undergone whole genome sequencing.

MyHeritage currently have a [limited time discount available](#) to anyone who wishes to purchase a DNA test through them.

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC HALL



New Music Halls Exhibition

Did your ancestors perform in the music halls of London? Music Hall was the dominant form of popular entertainment in London and Middlesex from the 1890s to the 1920s, far removed from its humble beginnings in pub back-rooms. Purpose-built venues sprang up along high streets and in every district, offering variety bills of comedy, song, dance, and spectacle to packed houses night after night.

Between 6 October and 5 February 2026, The London Archives is staging a small but striking display of some of the treasures from around the 1890s - 1920s held in the archives.

The exhibition is free to visit but booking is recommended. Find out more and check availability [here](#):

Find out more [here](#).

EVENTS



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 28 Oct 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Society. For ALL family historians. Facilitated by the Bracknell Branch.

[Find out more](#)



November Natter Group

Tue 04 Nov 19:00

Online

Members of Berkshire FHS can join an informal online discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen monthly by attendees.

[Find out more and book](#)



Look Up: An amateur's guide to architecture

Wed 12 Nov 14:00 - 16:00

West Berkshire Museum

This illustrated Newbury Branch talk is an amateur's guide to architecture, from pargeting to mansard roofs, with local examples, dating tips and signs of buildings' changes.



Drop-in Advice Session

Thu 13 Nov 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society. For all family historians wherever you are.

[Find out more](#)



Writing up your Family History Workshop

Sat 15 Nov 11:00 - 13:00

Online

Want to turn your family tree into a story but not sure where to start? This popular workshop shows how to structure and write your family history as research continues.

[Find out more and book](#)

[Find out more](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 17 Nov 14:00 - 16:00

Online

Just starting your family history journey or stuck at a brick wall? Need some help, so why not book a free 1:1 online advice session via Zoom—open to all, wherever you are in the world.

[Find out more and book](#)

That was just a small selection from our extensive programme



Events often sell out - book early to avoid disappointment

What's happening in your branch?

Abingdon

Bracknell

Computer

Newbury

Reading

Windsor

[View email in browser](#)

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