

# Yellow car



- 1 Tourists from around the world flock to the picture-postcard Cotswold's village of Bibury to take souvenir snaps of the mediaeval cottages on Arlington Row. The 14th century National Trust-owned cottages – the oldest inhabited properties in the UK – are also the most-photographed 'ordinary' dwellings in Britain. Iconic Arlington Row was built around 1380 from local stone and its image features on the inside cover of the British passport.
- 2 But the picturesque village that attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists a year has been spoiled by a photo-bombing yellow car. The bright yellow Vauxhall Corsa is owned by local resident Peter Maddox, 82, who claims he has nowhere else to park his banana-mobile. Peter, who has lived in a cottage near Arlington Row for the last 12 years, has no garage. He bought the bright yellow Corsa a year-and-a-half ago and uses it to do his shopping in the nearby town of Cirencester. He added: "She's a lovely car. I saw it and went 'Ahh'. I love it here. It's very nice. The tourists don't bother me – I don't hear them."
- 3 However, photographers have taken to Twitter to complain about the setting, and photographs, being ruined by the yellow car. Photographer Lee McCallum sparked a debate on Twitter: "Bibury's elephant in the room. The picture postcard street photobombed by the ugly little yellow car – every day." However, Lee does not object to the car being parked there and claims it reflects the "weirdness of the Cotswolds".

- 4 Residents of Arlington Row described the Twitter spat as a “storm in a teacup” and sprang to Peter’s defence. Pensioner Francome Robinson has lived in one of the National Trust cottages for the past 23 years. Francome, 71, said: “Tourists should stop complaining. They must realise that we live here. These are our homes. Peter has every right to park there and there isn’t anywhere else he can park. There are plenty of places people can take photographs from without getting the yellow car in.” Arlington Row resident Christine Charlton said that tourists open her door if it is unlocked and peer in the cottage windows. She said: “This is not Disney World. There’s nowhere else to park and Peter is quite elderly. I think it is totally ridiculous.”
  
- 5 The National Trust said that they had no influence over where Peter parked his car as he is not an Arlington Row tenant. Spokesman Allan King said: “He is, we believe, parking on the highway which he is entitled to do. Because he is not our tenant or parking on our land, we wouldn’t comment on the car. We look after the appearance of Arlington Row and try keep modern intrusions to a minimum.” Although the National Trust paints the houses on the famous street in colours based on historical evidence, they have no say over what colour cars residents are allowed. Residents have a car park at the rear of the row that does not obstruct the view of the cottages.

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