



Watsonian Sidecar Museum Run

Words by Roger Jackaman

Photos by Lesley Smith

Date: 8th October 2025

'This England' quarterly magazine is a standalone publication aimed at anyone with an interest in the true value of the heritage of our beloved country. Within this magazine I have found endless reasons to visit places not previously considered. In reality they begin as an excuse for a ride.



Hence the above. People of my generation all too well remember sidecars as everyday transport for both families and small businesses. A well-received phone call to Ben, the boss at Watsonian Museum, a date fixed and a group from Southern Section put together for a run up through the Cotswolds to his place, near to Stow on the Wold.

We gathered together at Popham, a favourite, more so as Lisa opened a few minutes early to accommodate our start time. The weather was kind for our ride up through Lechlade and Burford to the trading estate in Blockley.

This was truly in the middle of nowhere and proved slightly tricky to find but revealed other premises which could be interesting for another day.





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We were all in need of a coffee so an early lunch made sense, especially taking advantage of their in-house café in a double decker London bus, known as Mr. Watson's Café. This has become a destination with the locals, Robin, Ben's daughter, making us most welcome. Plenty of room for motorcycle parking within view.



Ben had said that half an hour would be enough time in the museum. We easily ran over this finding plenty to interest us, including the caravans next door (his other business).

Time was trickling by so we bid our farewells and began our route in reverse out of the business park and back to civilisation. The roads back towards Banbury via Shipston-on-Stour and Bloxham had previously not been highlighted on my map. They are now.



For geographical reasons we spilt near to Bloxham, the lucky ones riding the famous route down through Bicester, Thame and Stokenchurch. Both time and common sense suggested the last stretch to be covered on the M40. The traffic was building up by now. A lovely day, all round, putting a purpose into the day makes a difference.