

Our run to the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Hartlepool started at the dog walkers car park near Strensall. Our small group consisted of Andrew, Rover 75/v6, Dave, B roadster, Dave and Kevin, MG TF, and myself and John in my TF. Dave and Kevin had difficulty finding the correct car park but once they were redirected they soon found the rest of us. After the usual chit chat we set off hoods down where possible. We didn't get very far when Dave in the B realised he had a front nearside puncture. So how many people does it take to change a wheel, all six of us on this occasion but our speed of operation was well behind that of a F1 team, probably thirty minutes behind. Once that was sorted we were off again and travelled via Helmesley to the transporter bridge in Middlesborough where we would cross the River Tees. Closed for lunch when we got there so we had the opportunity to look around the visitors centre, visit the little boys room and also inspect a Triumph motorcycle from the early 20s. This was one of the last belt drive Triumphs built with it's side valve, single cylinder engine, magneto ignition and bicycle type front brake. The gentleman riding it was on his way to Durham having left Oxford earlier in the week.

Our first stop on entering the museum was the snack bar where a light lunch was taken. Unfortunately all the outside tables in the sunshine were taken so we had our lunch indoors. The museum is one of a number of Royal Navy museums around the country and is home to HMS Trincomalee, the oldest floating warship in Europe and part of the National Historic Fleet. The frigate HMS Trincomalee was built in Bombay in 1816/17 and her maiden voyage was the six and a half month trip to Portsmouth. She had a complement of 315 officers and men and 46 guns. She saw service with the Royal Navy around the world and later became a training ship in Falmouth and Portsmouth and was also the subject of paintings by York born painter Henry Tuke. Around the quayside were a number of shops in the style of Kirkgate in York's Castle Museum showing the interiors of the chandlers, nautical instrument makers, officers uniform makers, map and chart makers and similar nautically themed establishments.

After an interesting day out it was time to head for home still with our hoods down as the sun continued to shine on us.