

## Bovington Tank Museum

by Roger Jackaman  
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Appropriately, held on mid summer's day. It was going to be a long day's ride, so an early start meeting at the BP Farnham for those of us living in Surrey.

By necessity, this was a straightforward ride using the A31, virtually door to door. Very much busier in the vicinity of Poole (it is always bad there). We arrived in good time to meet up with Tim Marshall and his mates from the western edge of the region. The usual introductions were made between the assembled parties: BMW owners, Airheads, and a few of my mates.

The temperature was beginning to rise so some chose to find shade for their motorcycles. We met up with our guide, Mark and paid our group discount entry fees. This was to prove excellent value. Another much appreciated touch was the offer of somewhere secure to store our kit. To the amusement of all, the kit was piled into a mega shopping trolley, labelled up and put away. Something of a jumble as we all left at differing times, but all worked out OK.



Mark proved to be an excellent guide (we have never had anyone who differed from this standard, they all come from special zone). The tour was excellent and went way past the allotted time – thanks again. My party from North Surrey had quite some distance home so made tracks after an excellent lunch in the

museum café. Those with less of a journey took advantage of continuing their tour of the outside exhibits, of which there were plenty.

First port of call on the journey home was Lawrence of Arabia's little cottage at Cloud's Hill, barely a mile from the museum. His story is a good read, the film with Peter O'Toole, four hours of modern history and fairly close to the truth, is a must on a wet winters evening. As we all know "El Laurens" was a motorcyclist of some renown, meeting his demise in motorcycle accident.

The ride home on the A354 and A30 was a joy, rounded off with tea and cakes at Houghton Lodge, near Stockbridge. Gone 6 pm by the time I arrived home, another top day in our museum programme.