

Always a hard one this, everything is a bit gloomy, poor weather, post Christmas work blues, interest rates going up, no MV events for a few months yet, and despite all of that I was down at Stoneleigh over the weekend and it was absolutely buzzing, I think everybody was desperate to cheer themselves up in some small way or other, and in fact some weren't doing it in a small way at all. It's quite a revelation when you consider the amount of money that changed hands and the work that went into those two days, when you consider it is all in the name of fun, everybody there was buying for their own pleasure it really is a case of big boys and their toys. Does it matter? Not at all we are all in this hobby with the same aim in mind, and that is to enjoy ourselves. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that this is what our hobby is all about..... fun, lets keep it up and hope that the coming year is lots of good old fashioned fun for all of us.

Looking back, not a great deal has happened since our last area report, we had a very good crank down at Nev's, the usual excellent hospitality by Nev and his amazing wife, who just gets on with looking after all these 'friends' and keeping Nev under control at the same time. We had a great night in Nev's field under the cover of his giant outdoor catering device; he has now added a cricket pavilion (at least that is what we christened it) to his outdoor empire where the barbecue takes place. A good late night was had by all (as always) with a small but hardy band having a run out in the local countryside the following morning. Thanks again Nev, you are a real star.

Later in October, there was the Pickering wartime weekend, which for a change was held in lovely dry sunny weather. This of course made all the difference, and everybody was having a great time. we even managed to drive the Jeeps with screens down around the local countryside, try that on a normal day late in October! The event seems to get bigger each year, I suspect due in part to the lovely countryside of the North Yorkshire Moors, but the link up with a steam railway always adds an extra dimension for everybody, which of course attracts more people, which in turn makes it even better. I can recommend it for this year if you are free in late October.

Early in December we had our Christmas party, same format as last year, very simple affair, we hire the same room we have our meeting in, put on a buffet (very nice too, thanks to Sue Waterhouse for organising that) hire a disco and put on a raffle. A good night was had by those that came, we were slightly down on numbers this year, but I will be pushing to alter that for the next one, it is a good way of getting together with your MV pals and socialising. Just after Christmas but before New Year we have our Christmas Cracker run. We met at Lotherton Hall (a local stately home owned by Leeds CC) for a cup of tea at 10.30, then a quick 35 mile run out in convoy on the back roads to our spiritual home of Elvington, where we had a warm welcome from the NAAFI where Carol had kindly put on lots of hot food for us to get our circulation back. A good look round the museum yet again, but always something new to look at before our run home.

I really enjoy these winter runs, it really makes you realise what people had to put up with when using these old vehicles as everyday transport, and also I like to give them a run out in the winter as it always feels like such a long time between events in the dead of winter. We had 15 military vehicles this year and five civilian vehicle with bodies in that wanted to come along for the social but didn't have a vehicle they could bring. Well done to all, you made it a splendid day.

What have we to look forward to? Well tons and tons, it can be quite difficult at this time of year as all the events come flooding in, you have to choose which to go to and balance out how many you can get away with at home and work. Most important for us as a club is our second year of running our WHEELS AND WINGS event at the Yorkshire air museum, Elvington, last year it was very well received by those that came, and so we are under pressure to perform again this year. It takes place on 11/12/13th May and if you want any more information or an entry form see the ad in this magazine or look on the web site at www.wheelsandwings.co.uk or our new club site at www.yorkshiremvt.co.uk both are linked so you can get to either from the other if you see what I mean. A small group of us are going to the BMVT winter rally once more, and are looking forward to that immensely, those

Belgians sure know how to party! Finally we have a small group that are hoping to go to Normandy in June, so if you fancy joining up with us get in touch.

Of course the big thing to look forward to is Tony Paling finally out and about in his DAF, yes you remember them the old variomatic/rubber band driven things. Well Tony has a military version, which he bought from Holland, but it has never run properly, the intricacies of the transmission escaping most of those local to him. Out goes a call to international rescue, and help comes in the form of Howard Smith of the North East MVT, owner of a DAF and traveller of great distances. Howard has a friend in Holland called Mark Methorst who is an engineer and guru as far as these cars are concerned.

Arrangements were made to fly Mark in from Holland, Tony's good pal Gordon Trousdale offered to get involved and picked Mark up from the airport, he was back on site by 11.00am and before lunchtime the problem was solved, two very simple things, the vacuum switch had the pipes on the wrong way round so it was blowing when it should be sucking etc etc. Secondly the micro switch on the carb was connected up wrong. The little DAF now flies like a good un. Many thanks from Tony (whose role was to provide bacon butties and corned beef hash at lunch time, very technical!) to all involved, especially Gordon, Howard, and Mark the genius!

The good news for all of Tony's fans is that he can now get out and about in earnest all year, so you can look forward once more to his roving reports from the Yorkshire area.

Brian Slingsby