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As I sit at my laptop writing this quite a few Yorkshire MVT members are in Normandy for the 78th anniversary of D-Day. The upside is that there's be stories for the next Area Report as, judging from photos on Facebook, they are having a good time.

The Area has been busy since April despite the long awaited Crank Up in York City Centre being cancelled by the council because of sensitivities over the war in Ukraine. At short notice, Area Secretary, Brian Slingsby was able to make alternative arrangements and got permission to meet at the Motorist Hub, in Sherburn in Elmet. There were also lots of other cars, classic and sports cars, present so it was a big gathering as well as a good showing of military machines including a super rare 1941 Australian Ford Utility 11YF.

A couple of weeks later, Messrs Docherty, Hemingway and Roberts took their Jeeps - Land Rover prototypes - to the annual and popular Series One Land Rover gathering at Bolton Abbey Station in Wharfedale on the Drive-It-Day Sunday.

Then, a couple of weeks after that, Sunday May 8, a plan was put together by organiser Peter Whitaker for a run out from Tadcaster to the recently opened Motoring Cafe, NY500, just north of Malton took place. Peter reports that, "The owners were delighted to allow us a

designated grassed area to park up. The cafe, which included a small autojumble on the day, is always thronging with bikers and classic vehicle owners most days but particularly at weekends, is well worth a visit, was ideal and the collection of military vehicles on show did not displease the public present."

Protocol dictated that a convoy was not very apt under the circumstances and therefore members were asked to make their own way individually to arrive mid-morning. Peter reported that, "Well over 20 assorted MVs made the effort to attend, a quarter of which were Jeeps, along with a bunch of Land Rovers, a USAF crew bus, Dodge WC54 Ambulance and the Australian Ford Utility 11YF - that gained particular attention - as well as a Pinzgauer and a late VW 183."

With the warm weather it was no surprise to see the entire Gray family, John with sons Matt and Tom, each in their own Jeep, making

their way along the country lanes from Wetherby entirely with their windscreens down - great spirit chaps.

Two hours later, after lots of tea, coffee, bacon butties and cakes, arrangements had been made to visit the private MV collection put together by Andy Abbott nine miles away at Rillington. Peter reported, "We were warmly welcomed by farmer/contractor Andy who had taken great care to pull all his 'heavy metal' out for display. He fortunately has literally acres of space on his farm to store the, predominantly armoured, vehicles and a purpose-built building houses his Abbott, Sabre, FV432, and Stalwart with the rest of the collection, 1945 MB, a couple of M35 REOs and M10 ammunition trailers being housed in a large Dutch barn structure. He operates on site tank driving courses (www.tanks-r-us.co.uk) if you fancy a go, having constructed an almost one mile track in a coppice

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adjoining his crop land a quarter of a mile from the farm. Very well drained and undamaging it proved a great hit for the Jeeps, and anyone else who wished to have a 'play' on, later in the afternoon. Even the organiser's newly restored slat grille MB had to check it out if only to see that the transfer box worked properly after only 40 miles running!"

This event certainly caught members' imagination and Simon Roberts enthused thus, "The day started at the ungodly hour of 8am on Sunday. Matt Brookes and son Ryan met me at my home in Harrogate, my family and I took my Jeep and Matt took our newly-acquired Ford Jeep, recently purchased from the family of the late Maurice Clark.

We set off to Wetherby and met up with Gary Docherty and his better half Sue. Gary had a route all planned out, so off we went towards the York bypass, off at the Strensall turning and from there a very picturesque route through the Vale of Pickering and passing through many scenic views including Castle Howard and beautiful old villages. We arrived at NY500 which for those that have never been it is a cafe with a motoring theme.

We then met up with an old acquaintance from my Haworth '40s days Peter Whitaker. So once everyone had enjoyed the hospitality of NY500 we set off to Meet Andy Abbott. Andy had been quite busy to say the least and has found time to restore and renovate some nine or ten vehicles including an Abbot SPG, Alvis Scimitar, two REOs one GMC CCKW, Jeep, Series One Land Rover, Alvis Stalwart and another tracked recovery vehicle.

After a good hour of looking around and chatting our host then invited us to try out his very own off-road track in a nearby wood."

Simon said, "Well seven of us were not going to turn down an offer like that, so seven Jeeps with seven smiling faces took a ride around a well-made and very safe route, keeping our Jeeps and skills to a comfortable limit. No one got stuck and no one found how hard a tree can be!" He concluded saying, "Unfortunately all good things must come to

an end and off we headed back home and back though the picturesque scenery of the Vale of Pickering stopping off at Easingwold for a drink, a reflection on another smashing day out and, for most of us, a warm up for our trip to Normandy in the next three weeks."

That is where this report started so until next time...

Thanks again to all at NY500, Peter Whitaker and Andy Abbott. John Carroll

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