

## YORKSHIRE

Although we're just coming out of the quietest time of year and looking forward to the days lengthening and the weather improving, not everyone has been hibernating in Yorkshire. There's been a few events that have encouraged people to put on their big coats and even start up old green machines. Numerous members went to the Stoneleigh Militaria event on a Sunday at the end of January where, it was reported, that trading was brisk and there was both variety and bargains to be had.

A week later it was the Belgian Military Vehicle Trust's annual winter rally in Houffalize in the Ardennes, the scene of the Battle of the Bulge during the winter of 1944. This year's event was the 33rd annual and attracted a good crowd of Brits including some from Yorkshire who travelled to Belgium on the ferry from Hull and among them was John Gray and his family. John was attending for the 22nd time while one of his sons, Matt, was celebrating his 30th birthday on the same weekend so it was special leaving Helen Gray to say, "had a great weekend with fabulous friends who made it extra special helping our second born, Matt celebrate his birthday. The rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday' as we pulled up in front of the hotel on Friday was brilliant."

Nearer to home and before both of these and immediately after Christmas was the Area's own Christmas cracker run that has been going for almost 20 years. Area Secretary Brian Slingsby reported from North Yorkshire, "The annual 'Christmas cracker run' was on December 27. We started at a slightly different venue that was new to us and also slightly further North than usual, in an effort to mix it up and make a change.

The Yolk Farm café and farm shop just outside Minskip is really nice and provided many of us with a good breakfast, before the run out through some beautiful Yorkshire countryside, a distance of approximately 40 miles.

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We managed to almost lose a couple of vehicles as one member decided he wanted to sneak off for a pee, turned down a minor road, and was duly followed by the rest of the convoy! It didn't matter too much as we managed to recover everybody, but I think the pee stop was abandoned.

We arrived at the 'under new management' Outside Inn on the A59 very close to Fylingdale Moor early warning station with its massive array of large 'Golf balls' almost perfectly on time, where the new owners were very pleased to have us and put on a lunch with hot food and drinks, having opened just for the Yorkshire MVT. We felt that this was very kind. In all we had 16 military vehicles, three civilian vehicles and 37 bodies. The whole thing, start to finish was organised by Simon Roberts, who is now our resident expert at the local runs and restaurants."

The lion's share of the photos that accompany this report are from the Christmas cracker run along with two lovely shots from Yorkshire member Steve Carr, who writes, "After the snow fall, I took the Dodge out on December 9 for its first winter drive since its repaint and also probably since its time in the Norwegian Army up in the Arctic Circle. A few days later on December 15, I took the Jeep out for some snowy pictures."

Hopefully the snow is behind us and looking ahead into the spring, the Area's own Crank Up is on Sunday April 16. It will hopefully take place in the usual place in York but this has to be confirmed at the time of writing. Also, last year we had a new event with a run out towards the east coast during May. The proposed date for this to be repeated this year is provisionally May 14. All details are yet to be confirmed, so watch out for further details once they are confirmed.

John Carroll

