

YORKSHIRE

There's been three significant events for the Yorkshire Area in the last three months. In mid-April the Yorkshire Area's annual Crank Up event took place in York. In recent years, owing to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, it has been subject to cancellations so its return to the 'Eye of York' venue right in the centre of the historic city of York, that is only possible thanks to York City Council, was most welcome. The event tends to be the first major one of the season for many Yorkshire members. The smaller vehicles including Jeeps and Land Rovers, park on the grass while the heavier trucks park on the circular perimeter road.

This year around fifty vehicles arrived, I know there were fifty vehicles because Yorkshire Area secretary, Brian Slingsby delegated me to count them! Different models of Jeeps and Land Rovers including Hotchkiss and Perentie models, made up the lion's share of displayed vehicles but a WC Dodge, a Humber Box and a Morris Quad were among the smaller World War Two machines present while a 1944 cabover Federal tractor unit looked as if it was just back from Red Ball Express duties. Large post-war vehicles included a couple of M35 Reos - one an M275 articulated tractor unit - and a Kraz recovery truck. Most of the photos with this report are from the Crank Up.

Soon afterwards, in May, there was a road run that Brian Slingsby described thus: "We had a great day out; the day started off well, with a few meetings in Wetherby ready for a long run over to the NY500 motorists' cafe between Malton and Pickering. The four Jeeps had a great run on some very nice country roads, passing through many small villages, and the magnificent Castle Howard. The NY500 cafe was buzzing with all kinds of activity, from autojumbles to classic cars and motorbikes, and then later on an American hot rod group turned up.

Peter Whittaker who had organised our visit had managed to secure a top spot to display our small group with the Yorkshire MVT banner proudly on display.

There were fifteen vehicles of various types but mostly Jeeps and Land Rovers. Probably because the type of event suited those who prefer driving along the scenic country roads.

Just after lunch we convoyed to a local farm owner and run by an MV enthusiast Andy Abbey, who has quite a collection of military vehicles, both wheeled and tracked. He also has a small wooded area that can be used as an off-road track which was very entertaining for the brave ones who tried it. The journey home for those of us from further away followed a different route home. In total I covered 128 miles, which is a good day's driving in a Jeep!"

There was no area meeting in Wetherby during early June because a

big group of members were going to Normandy. Unfortunately, the deadline for this issue meant that as it was closing for press, numerous Yorkshire members - including myself - had just returned home from Normandy and the commemoration of the 79th Anniversary of D-Day, but I will provide more details about this in next time's report when there's been time to collect photos and information from the bigger Yorkshire group that I didn't manage to catch up with. For now, it's fair to say that there were plenty of MV enthusiasts and vehicles - predominantly Jeeps and motorcycles - to be seen in the sunshine on Normandy's back roads (a photo here shows a British Jeep in Arromanches).
John Carroll

