

YORKSHIRE

The biggest news from Yorkshire where are the leaves are now falling from the trees is that the annual Crank Down event was a great success. Simon Roberts reported saying, "The Crank Down took place on the weekend of September 9/10. The new venue for this yearly event was at the Black Swan pub and campsite in Fearby near Masham. The owner and our host for this event was Sean McCourt, a MVT member and military vehicle collector. He is the third generation of his family to run the pub and campsite and made us all very welcome. Most people arrived on Friday evening and enjoyed a nice meal and a beer or two in the evening sunshine. On the Saturday morning Sean very kindly gave us bacon sandwiches and tea/coffee before we set off on our Saturday run.

The run was approximately 35 miles mainly on green lanes with a lunch stop was at the popular How Stean Gorge. After lunch we headed over the Middlesmoor green lane dropping down into Scar House reservoir from where we made a return journey back to the campsite stopping off briefly at the Leeds Pals memorial that is at the site of a First World War training camp. Some beers and a good meal was enjoyed back at the pub.

Sunday was same format up in time for bacon butties and out on the second run of the weekend of approximately 30 miles. This time we headed north west to East Witton along some very scenic but very narrow country lanes arriving at a little village called Horse Houses.

From there it was four-wheel-drive and low box up over a green lane called 'Deadman's Hill' which eventually drops down the other side of Scar House Reservoir. Then back over Middlesmoor and How Stean again for a quick lunch break before returning to camp and packing up. We didn't have as many people and vehicles as we would have hoped, only four Jeeps and two Land Rovers. Alex Watts made an appearance in his newly purchased GMC truck but made his own entertainment on Saturday due to the

narrow routes we were using for the runs. A massive effort was made by Colin and Liz Parr driving all the way up from Southampton in their ex-army Land Rover 110. It was great to see them again, they have joined us Yorkshire lads many times before and I'm sure they'll be back next year. In short it was a great weekend with great weather great scenery and great people. We'll be back there again soon."

You can't say fairer than that, it sounds like a great weekend!

Prior to the Crank Down, as you might expect, numerous Yorkshire Area members were attending the Yorkshire Wartime Experience event near Bradford, a popular event that seems to be getting bigger every year.

Then a week after the Crank Down, Gary Docherty was the sole Jeepster competing against thirty-five Land Rovers in the Yorkshire LROC's Patina National Trial near Helmsley, although he was supported by his wife Sue, and Simon Roberts who came along to have a look at the event.

On a sadder note, Area Secretary Brian Slingsby said: "It is my sad duty to report that a very popular member of the Yorkshire MVT has passed away. Chris Cowcill, aged 62 passed away on September 6. Chris was a popular member of our club and came to many events for quite some years. He always had an interesting tale to tell and was a pleasant and humorous person to talk to at events. He will be sadly missed." John Carroll

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