

YORKSHIRE

You have probably heard that jocular fake travel warning, “Southerners are urged not to travel unless necessary as snow, ice and blizzards approach. Northerners, you’ll need your big coat.” As it happened big coats were the order of the day in Yorkshire on Saturday December 30 when the area’s annual Christmas Cracker Run took place. The weather forecast was pretty poor with lots of rain and low cloud on the horizon.

“Despite this,” Area Secretary Brian Slingsby reported, “there was a good turnout of sixteen vehicles; a mix of Jeeps, Land Rovers and the odd Pinzgauer, with a few civilian cars bringing up the rear.”

He added, “I actively encourage everybody to come along, even if it is in a car as the whole point of the event is a social one, not just for a run out, so a finale at a nice pub for lunch is worth sharing.”

There were two starts this year; the first at Wetherby sports centre from where we then journeyed to Yolk Farm Café, Minskip, just off of the A1 for the ‘grand depart.’ Simon Roberts, as usual, had done a great job of sorting out a different and varied route along some very scenic (when the cloud lifted!) roads and countryside. Brian said, “We even took in a couple of very wet green lanes, that were enjoyed by everybody. Eventually after a couple of hours we arrived at the Sun Inn, Norwood Edge.”

The pub should be congratulated on coping with the sudden influx of forty people all at once, standing at the bar wanting to be fed. All went well and everybody got their food which was really good. Simon should be complimented on his choice and management of the situation, he put a lot of work into touring the local pubs for Sunday lunch to make sure he got a good one, what a hero! The good food and beer seemed to satisfy everybody, before they pushed off home so well done, Simon another good job.

While I wasn’t able to join the Christmas Cracker Run, I did join another run out that saw four military vehicles have a run out in the SW corner of West Yorkshire between the bank holidays. The very wet day involved green lanes around Huddersfield and finished in the Last of the Summer Wine town of Holmfirth with cakes and hot drinks in the Oil Can Cafe.

Since the last report the annual Stoneleigh Militaria Fair has taken place and I hear that Yorkshire Area members were among those looking for bargains despite it being a bit of a trek for us northerners but very worthwhile. There’s always something on sale there for everybody including big coats and it’s a good place to meet up with old faces.

The annual Crank Up which, at the time of writing is the next big event in Yorkshire’s calendar, is scheduled for Sunday April 14 so immediately after the deadline for the next issue. As usual, if we get permission, it will be at the regular place, Clifford’s Tower in York City Centre.

Soon after that it will, for plenty of Yorkshire members, time for the trip to Normandy. We have heard that the Haworth ‘40s weekend has been cancelled but there’s plenty more to look forward to including the Yorkshire Wartime Experience near Bradford in August while the area’s regular meetings continue on the first Wednesday of the month at the Wetherby sports association from 8pm.

John Carroll

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