

AREA *reports*

Members of the Yorkshire Area MVT were out in force in the centre of York for their annual 'Crank Up' event and took along a number of military vehicles to display in the shadow of the old York Castle tower.



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"What have the Romans ever done for us?" They built this city on rock and roll... Well, maybe not rock and roll but definitely on the banks of the River Ouse. Roman Eboracum, later Viking Jorvik, and latterly English York is a northern city where there's history around every corner. Once a year there's some 20th century history in town when the Yorkshire Area of the MVT stages its annual Crank Up within sight of Clifford's Tower, once part of York Castle that was northern England's greatest medieval fortress.

This year, the MVT's mobile history ranged from the early days of World War Two, through the post-war and Vietnam War eras before finishing with a selection of relatively modern Land Rovers that served the British Army though recent conflicts. There was also a Transatlantic divide with plenty of Jeeps on one side of the grassed area in front of York's Castle museum, and plenty of Land Rovers on the other. The edges of this division were blurred by the presence of Dodges and Reos and a Bedford MW, an RB44 and a Hotchkiss M201 with French Army markings. The passing public, of whom there were many in such a public place, could see what was happening due to the presence of the MVT's show trailer and its associated information. The annual Crank Up is undoubtedly a favourite one-day event in the calendar.

To someone who has attended this annual event previously, it perhaps looked the same as usual and, I heard people joking that "we're all parked in our usual places." That might be so but that doesn't mean we didn't enjoy it. As Area Secretary Brian Slingsby said, "It was nice to see everybody relaxing and catching up with pals from many years of MVT-ing." That summed up the day because the topics of conversation in almost every group centred on winter maintenance and restorations and plans for the 2025 season ahead. Some

people have already made plans to go to Normandy and there was chatter about the various imminent UK military vehicle events.

For the Yorkshire Area these include the Yorkshire Wartime show at its new venue but also an event being revived after a ten year gap. Brian Slingsby explains, "It's finally happened, the military vehicle show that we all enjoyed so much, and ended in 2015 is going ahead once more. We are once again hosting a military vehicle rally at the Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington and going back to the old style of event that many of you seemed to really enjoy. It will take place on the August bank holiday weekend from Friday, with the show formally starting on Saturday and running to Sunday evening with free camping within the museum grounds where there are showers and toilets. The NAAFI will be open until late on Friday and Saturday evenings with hot food and bar available. More information will follow so keep an eye open for it.

Other events in people's calendars include various VE Day commemorations that will all have happened by the time this issue is

published. Also being anticipated is the attendance of military vehicles at the 58th Masham Steam Fair over the weekend of July 19-20. This steam rally has been running since 1965 and is a popular fixture in this North Yorkshire brewing town's summer calendar. Over the years there's been numerous military vehicles to be seen on site but this year, there's a dedicated military vehicle section. In addition to this, Yorkshire Area members have been invited to numerous other events but a lack of space precludes mentioning them all.

Back in York, the Crank Up took place just yesterday at the time of writing and right on the Windscreen deadline. Many vehicles had benefitted from winter maintenance but I can't close without mentioning one that made its public debut in York. Simon Bromley, the MVT's General Secretary gave his recently completed Jeep a first run out from Lancashire to York. He arrived after a trouble free run and commented that, "this restoration had been 38 years in the making," and then joked that, "he didn't want to rush it!"
John Carroll

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