

YORKSHIRE

In Yorkshire, one of the surest signs that spring and a new season of military vehicle events has arrived is the Yorkshire Area's annual Crank Up. The weather was still a bit wintery but despite this, around 45 vehicles gathered in the shadow of Clifford's Tower in York's city centre. The tower is the largest surviving part of York Castle, northern England's greatest medieval fortress.

People arrive from all directions, some go straight into York, this from the west have the option of meeting near Tadcaster in an A64 lay-by and convoy in together starting at 10.30. The annual day is always a friendly event and is often the occasion that attendees meet up for the first time again after winter's hibernation. People come prepared for the day and make tea or bacon sandwiches on camping stoves perched on vehicle tailgates.

Others stroll into the nearby part of York to cafes and bars. In between such chatting it was possible to take photographs and shelter from a few sudden downpours. One wit commented that 'it was funny how the MVT exhibition trailer suddenly got busy when the rain started!'

The event is also about selection of military vehicles that turn up. This year, very roughly, it seemed that vehicles fell into one of three categories; Jeeps, Land Rovers and bigger stuff.

There was much of interest in 'the bigger stuff' ranging from a couple of Bedford MWs and a Morris Commercial of World War Two vintage as well as various M35-series REOs from later conflicts. Biggest of all though was the Ward LaFrance M1A1 6x6 Heavy Wrecker, another World War Two truck. The numerous Land Rovers ranged from the Half-Ton 'Lightweight' to a selection of different generations of 90/110 models that stretch across four decades.

The impressive selection of Jeeps included everything from a slat grille MB to a lone M38A1 while in between, as you'd expect, were MBs, GPWs and M201s. As someone who arrived by Jeep, I can report that it was great to get behind the wheel again and have a decent run out, we even got home without getting a soaking!

Area Secretary, Brian Slingsby, was busy all day answering queries and chatting to people but pronounced himself satisfied with the way the day had gone. He also added a timely reminder as vehicle owners start attending shows saying, "Don't forget too that now is the time to start keeping a note of your mileage when going to any UK MVT event, the Wilkinson Sword and John Keedwell trophy are both quite impressive. It's really easy to keep a track of your events and the mileage to and from, then at the end of the year send the summary to me and we can get you entered for them."

John Carroll

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