

MUGS MATTERS



HELLO FOLKS!

Brr – it's still a wee bit chilly in the **Mug** and **Meg** garage and it's costing us a fortune to keep the place heated. Infact we are so grateful that for **Christmas** we were given the warmest and softest covers to keep us toasty. They were our favourite presents and we even have matching bobble hats and gloves to make sure there was no part of us that is not warm!

We would be interested to hear what great presents you all received, it would give us an idea of what to ask for next year too. So why not send in some tales of fun to **Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk** and you might even win a wee prize.

MUG



COMPETITION



Well, what a beautiful sight, a carpet of the finest and most beautiful looking snowdrops!

Yes folks, **Meg** and I are at a very special **snowdrop** festival and having a grand old time, enjoying everything from the wee flowers themselves, to snowdrop cocktails, biscuits and jewellery.

But it's the lovely white wonders which we really are fascinated with. You have to see to believe the rows and rows of snowdrops, they really are simply magical. So magical, we had to dip our headlights in respect and guess what, the little blighters reflected in our shiny big headlights, cheeky wee things.

We are having a wonderful time and this was made even more special with the arrival of **Michael "Clumsy Pickle" Barnes**.

As usual he had his art bag with him, with paints, paper and of course his bonnie beret in it and he drew this fabulous spot the difference artwork.

If you can tear yourself away from its beauty, why not try and work out what the differences are and put a ring round them.

It's all just for fun as usual, but, we have lots of space on our garage wall if you fancy sending the finished spot the difference to us. Send in your efforts via

Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk



YOU CAN CHECK YOUR 'SPOT THE DIFFERENCE' ON PAGE 3!



March is on its way and that means the appearance of the “mad as a March hare” is all set.

It's a great old saying and gives us all the chance to behave in an excitable and unpredictable manner, how fun is that?

It's such a laugh to watch, but has a serious side as it's the season for when the hares mate and make babies.

The whole subject is fascinating and Meg and I have been studying the little blighters to see what they get up to and here's a load of fabulous facts about them.



Brown hares are famous for their energetic behaviour, and during the month of March in particular they are known to 'box' frantically with one another.



These 'mad March hares' do this because they are in their mating season, with the males (bucks) seeking out any females (does) that have come into season.



The boxing usually occurs when a male is being too persistent with a female, chasing her across fields in an attempt to mate. When she's had enough, she'll turn around and try to fend him off in a fierce boxing match! This behaviour can go on for weeks.



There are three types of hare in the UK: brown hare (introduced), mountain hare and Irish hare (both native).



Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

The brown hare is the hare you're most likely to see in the UK. Originally thought to have been introduced by the Romans, more recent

radiocarbon dates for bones found on sites in Hampshire and Hertfordshire suggest brown hares (along with chickens) may have been introduced in the Iron Age.

Look for it on arable farmland and large, flat expanses of grassland. The open plains of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire are a stronghold for brown hares, as are the Marlborough Downs in Wiltshire.

Appearance: golden brown fur, a pale underside and long ears with black tips.

Mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*)

The mountain hare is native to the Highlands of Scotland but has been introduced to other parts of the UK including the Peak District and on some Scottish Islands including Hoy (Orkney), Mainland (Shetland), Mull and Skye.

Appearance: smaller in size than brown hares with shorter, more rounded ears and shorter legs. They are grey-brown in colour but in winter they develop their iconic white coat.

Irish hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*)

Found only in Ireland and Northern Ireland on undisturbed grassland, the Irish hare is a genetically distinct subspecies of the mountain hare.

Irish hares were once widespread and common, but have been declining since the 1970s. Threats include changes in farming practices, the increased use of farm machinery, high livestock densities and the decrease in the variety of grasses grown on farmland.

On Rathlin Island off the coast of Northern Ireland, there is an isolated population of **golden hares** that have striking pale blonde fur and bright blue eyes. These are Irish hares with a rare genetic mutation that results in a lack of pigmentation and leads to the distinctive golden colour variation.

Appearance: Irish hares similar in appearance to mountain hares but they're smaller and don't develop a white coat in winter



The best time to see hares is at dawn and dusk, out in open fields, farmland and woodland edges.

You are much more likely to see them during early spring, as this is the breeding season. Hares need cover to hide from predators, so can often be found near hedgerows.

As hares have excellent hearing, they are good at detecting potential danger through sound, so it's worth using a pair of binoculars to observe this mammal without causing a disturbance.

It's also worth being wary of where you step if you know you are in the presence of hares – some leverets (baby hares) are born as early as March and often appear in fields looking as though they have been abandoned. It's vital that you don't touch them – it's actually fairly common for leverets to be left alone for long periods of time (their mother will come back and check on them intermittently). Touching them will leave your scent on them which may lead to abandonment.

Hope you enjoy them and if you have any facts to share, then why not send them over to us, via Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk and before you know it, a wee prize might end up on your doorstep, just hope it's not lots of mad harey things!

JOIN US

I am sure there are plenty of Morris Minors out there. If you are under 16 then why not fill in the Join Us coupon so I can keep in touch.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

OK folks, you have filled in the Join Us coupon and sent it in. But before Meg and I get in touch we need you to do some work and send in your competition entries, jokes or letters to the address at the top of the page.

THANKS

MUG MIRTH

Tee hee, hee!, it's time for some Spring giggles to keep us all laughing! It would be great to hear some of your best smilers, so why not send some in, via Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk and you might win a prize!

**WHAT DID ONE RAINDROP SAY TO THE OTHER?
TWO'S COMPANY, THREE'S A CLOUD!**

**WHAT DOES A CLOUD WEAR UNDER
HIS RAINCOAT?
THUNDERWEAR!**

**WHY WAS THE WEATHER REPORT SO FUNNY?
BECAUSE IT HAD A HAIL OF A TIME!**

**WHAT'S A METEROLOGIST'S FAVOURITE
TYPE OF MUSIC?
ROCK 'N' RAIN**

**WHAT'S TORNADO'S FAVOURITE GAME?
TWISTER!**

**HOW CAN YOU WRAP A CLOUD?
WITH A RAINBOW!**

**WHY DID THE SNOWMAN CALL HIS DOG, FROST?
BECAUSE FROST BITES!**

**WHAT DID THE HURRICANE SAY TO THE OTHER
HURRICANE?
I HAVE MY EYE ON YOU!**

**WHY DID THE WEATHER WANT PRIVACY?
BECAUSE IT WAS CHANGING!**

**WHY DID THE SUN GO TO SCHOOL?
TO GET A LITTLE BRIGHTER!**

COMPETITION

**How did you do?
Did you spot them all?**

