MUGS MATTERS

HELLO FOLKS!

Pull that cracker **Meg** – the festive season is well and truly started.

Tis the season to be merry, merry, merry, Meg!.yes folks it's Meg and mine's most favourite time of the year and we are going to have some real fun I can tell you!

We love filling the garage with tinsel, crackers and of course turkey and all the trimmings and this year we are going to be fit to bursting, without space even for a spanner.

And for all you **New Year** fans, we haven't forgotten and have a giant party to plan with plenty of the fizz to spray all over our bonnets.

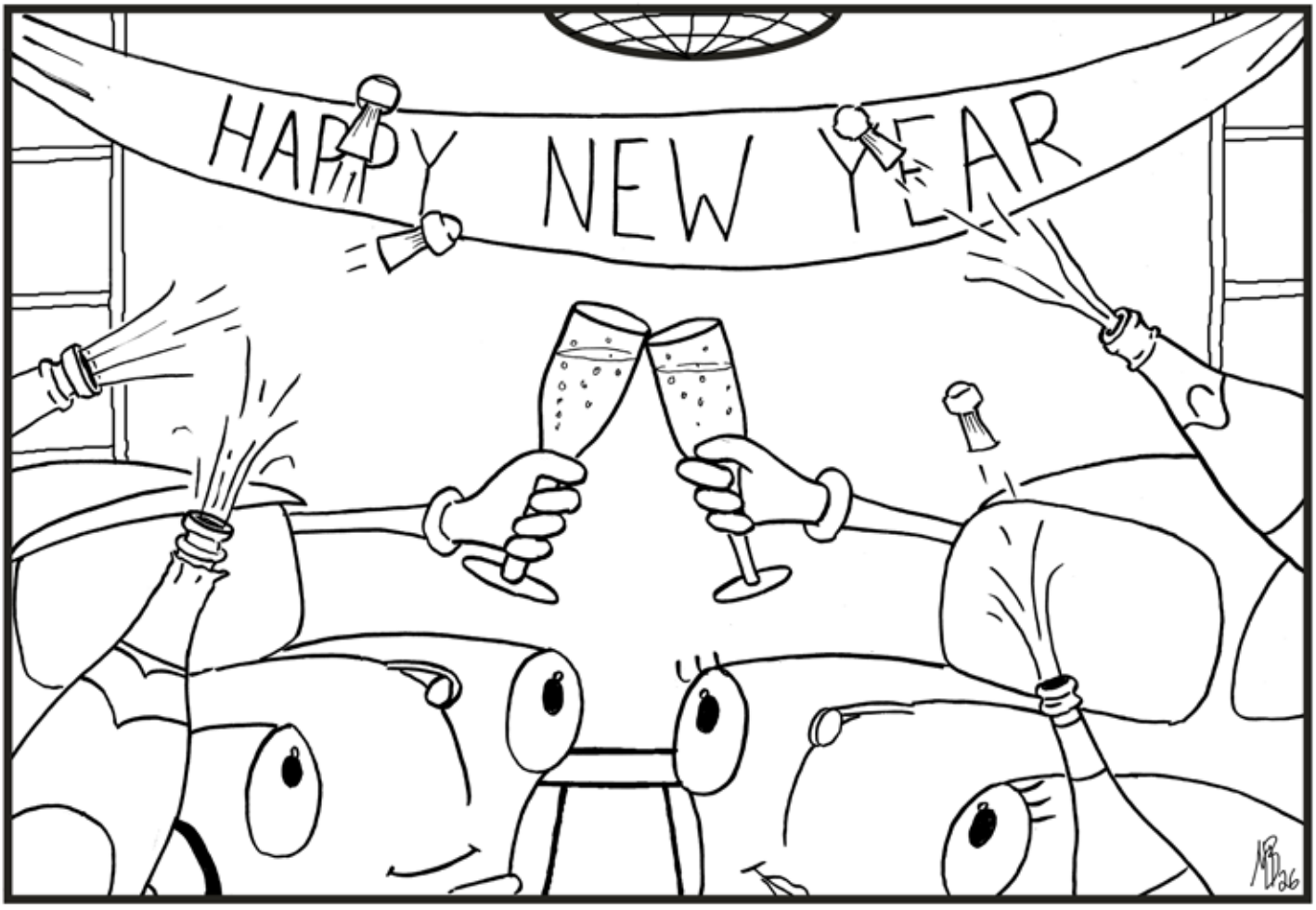
As it's such a fun time of the year, we thought we would come up with a super dooper colouring competition for this issue.

As usual, we will need your help. We have enlisted our pal **Michael "Clumsy Pickle" Barnes** and he has been out with his sketching pen at the ready.

He's created this lovely cartoon and all you have to do is dig out your favourite colouring pens and glitter and give the fine art a dash of panache.

It would be great to hear where you are going for your Christmas and New Year, why not drop us a note via **Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk** and tell **Meg** and I where you are off to, there might even be a wee prize in it for you.

MUG



COMPETITION

Pop goes the champagne cork as Meg and practice for the big day and a New Year!

We are so excited to be bringing in 2027 in style and have plenty of fun and games planned to mark the big event.

But we have been known to struggle to get the stoppers out of bottles, so we have been having fun making sure we know how to uncork them.

And our pal, Michael "Clumsy Pickle" Barnes has done the honours and drawn a superb cartoon for everyone to give a dash of colour and glitter to and we hope you agree that it's very festive.

It's all just for a wee bit of fun, but it would be great if you could send them in for the garage wall and who knows, there may even be a wee prize in it for you. Just whizz it off to **Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk**

COMPETITION CORNER

So you all like a wee glass of fizz – but who knows everything about New Year and its traditions?

Here's four teasers for you - page 3 has the answers with an explanation to help everyone remember

2027



1 What should you take in to a house after midnight as a symbol of good luck?

(a) Front door keys

(b) Coal

(c) A bell

2 What is wassailing?

(a) Baking

(b) Jumping up and down on one leg

(c) Singing

3 What should you do when faced with a straw bear?

(a) Run away

(b) Check you are not dreaming

(c) Drop some cash in a charity bucket

4 What are the goals in a game of Haxey Hood?

(a) There aren't any

(b) Four pubs

(c) Jumpers



MUG MIRTH

Ho! ho! ho! Let's have some Christmas mirth and merriment with Meg and all our pals.
We have picked the best jolly jokes we could find and hope you like them as much as we do.
So have a laugh at our latest offering and why not send in your own pearlers. If you do, we might send you a prize.
Send the howlers to: **Rebecca.hay@mmoc.org.uk**

WHAT DO YOU CALL A CAT SITTING ON THE BEACH ON CHRISTMAS EVE?
SANDY CLAWS!

WHAT DO YOU CALL A REINDEER WITH BAD MANNERS?
RUDE-OLPH!

WHAT DOES SANTA SUFFER FROM IF HE GETS STUCK IN A CHIMNEY?
CLAUSTROPHOBIA!

WHAT DO SNOWMEN EAT FOR BREAKFAST?
FROSTED FLAKES!

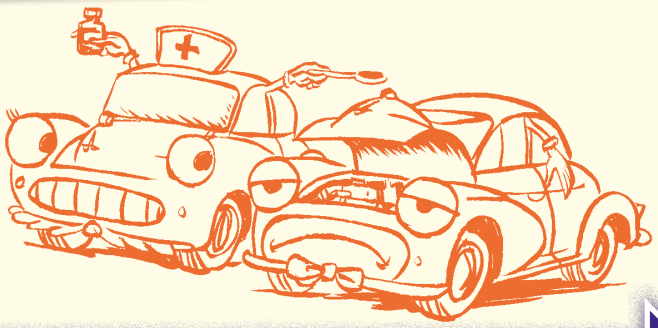
WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A SNOWMAN WITH A VAMPIRE?
FROSTBITE!

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN OLD SNOWMAN?
WATER!

WHY ARE CHRISTMAS TREES BAD AT SEWING?
THEY ALWAYS DROP THEIR NEEDLES!

WHAT KIND OF PHOTOS DO ELVES TAKE?
ELFIES!!

WHAT KIND OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT JUST CAN'T BE BEAT?
A BROKEN DRUM!



YOU CAN CHECK YOUR TEASER ANSWERS ON PAGE 3!

COMPETITION RESULT



Here are the 4 answers. How did you do?

1 **What should you take in to a house after midnight as a symbol of good luck?**

ANSWER (b)

Traditionally, the first person to enter your home after the bongs have chimed at midnight on New Year's Eve, should be a dark-haired man carrying a symbolic gift such as coal, bread or whisky.

A fair-headed male visitor stepping inside first was thought to be very unlucky, which some have put down to them resembling Viking invaders. Women were also considered an unlucky choice for 'first-footing'.

Although the custom is often associated with Scotland, where it takes place after singing Auld Lang Syne, records show it was also widely practised across England, particularly in the North, during the 19th and 20th centuries.

2 **What is wassailing?**

ANSWER (c)

If you ever see a beautiful orchard with trees laden down with apples then perhaps it's all down to the serenading they received the previous winter. On 6 January – or 17 January, which was Twelfth Night before the calendar changed in 1752 – wassailers visit orchards where they pour cider over the trees' roots and place toast in their branches. They then sing a traditional song calling for a good crop of apples.

In Bodmin, wassailers dressed in black bow ties and frock coats stick to the town's streets, where they go from house-to-house singing as they have since 1624.

3 **What should you do when faced with a straw bear?**

ANSWER (c)

Don't worry, straw bears are not dangerous. In fact, they're not really bears at all. Instead, a human being wears a costume made of straw over a metal frame and dances around collecting money for charity. It takes place in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, on the Tuesday after Plough Monday (which is itself the first Monday after 6 January). When this custom began isn't known but it was last recorded in 1909 before being revived in 1980.

Today, it is a much bigger event attended by around 250 traditional Molly, Morris, clog and sword dancers, as well as musicians and performers from around Britain. There is also a Little Bear, worn by a child. At the end of the day, the Straw Bear is taken off and burned.

4 **What are the goals in a game of Haxey Hood?**

ANSWER (b)

Haxey Hood, on 6 January, is no ordinary ball game. For starters, the 'hood' is a leather cylinder measuring about 60cm long, which is pushed or pulled by the gathered crowds towards one of four chosen pubs – which act as goals. Once it reaches the bar and has been touched by the landlord or landlady, the game is won and over for another year.

Meanwhile, the Boggins – men in red jumpers led by their chief dressed in a red hunting jacket and a top-hat covered in flowers – attempt to prevent any property from being damaged. Some years, fences have been knocked down and cars dented, and there is always a lot of mud.

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