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Hello....

Welcome to our festive Relay with pictures from the Christmas lunch, a look back at the year courtesy of Pam, a test for your compass skills, feedback from the AGM, and congratulations to Wendy for her Lifetime Achievement Award...



Out and about....



Christmas Lunch



Continuing the Christmas theme, we thought you might like to revisit Pam's light-hearted review of the year, in the form of her poem from the Christmas lunch:



REVIEW OF 2022

Hello Rushcliffe Ramblers, we're so glad you've come
To enjoy all the chat and, of course, fill your tum.
The venue is new, as is the Social Secretary to her role,
I think you'll agree Louise has exceeded her goal.

This year the Ramblers with fresh colours re-branded,
A new leaflet to Rushcliffe locations was handed.
But when I review the past 12 months the main theme is clear -
We've got back to normal with things we hold dear.
Walks, holidays and social events are properly restored,
If you're a Rushcliffe Rambler you shouldn't get bored.
Admittedly, seven walks were cancelled but we can't be blamed -
Too rainy, too fiery, too stormy, Nicky's thumb was inflamed.
Some of those we did do weren't always as planned –
Eg through a nudist beach, where interests were fanned.
And Alan, when told 'We're short of a walk',
Understood 'Alan, please lead a short walk',
A concept at which he would usually baulk.
But Hazel's Memorial Walk would have pleased her no end,
Full of sunshine and laughter, friend chatting to friend.
14 enjoyed our London walk, spiced with saucy titbits I hear,
And guess where our autumn speaker could balance 5 pints of beer!
On our Burton tour we learnt about the fun of beer-brewing,
It was more fun using the beer tokens, but what was our Chairman doing?
Surely not printing extra to try out at his locals?
Maybe West Bridgford landlords need varifocals.

cont..



Cold beer also became a keen treasured treat
For those in Croatia where there was much searing heat.
Especially on one long ascent where they couldn't keep cool,
So they were super-glad for the hotel's salt water pool.
The treat in Bridlington was spotting a bay full of seals,
And this year we didn't have to join a retirement home for our meals.
Some members in Keswick had a tough climb up Scafell Pike,
Ben Nevis beckons in August with a similar hike.
We're also off to Malhamdale and Leamington Spa,
And later to Alnmouth, plus more trips near and far.

Congratulations to those who have proved to be a whizz -
Mike for being Superman, Linda for winning our quiz,
And Steve, who was a champion curler on the day,
Not hair, but the Scottish game, played when we were away.

And I'd like to say thanks to our wonderful committee,
Without which we'd have nothing, so no Christmas ditty.
Special thanks to Lorraine, Programme Secretary down the years,
Now bequeathed to Morag with some sweat and some tears.
But we can't do anything without you, you and you,
So we thank everyone here for the things that you do
To support Rushcliffe Ramblers and keep the group going,
Happy Christmas to you all, may your cups keep on flowing.

Pam Duesbury
Christmas 2022

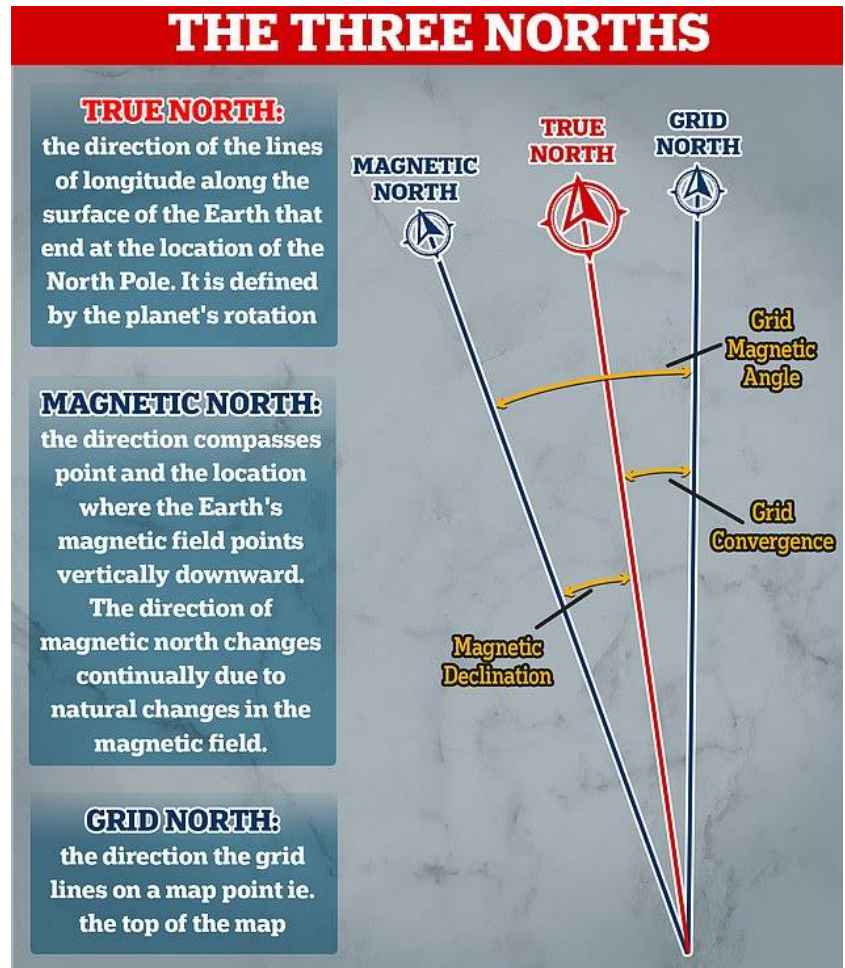


Three Norths Combine

Here is something for you avid map readers and navigators.

Early last month, geospatial history was made when true north, magnetic north and grid north all combined at a single point in Great Britain, for the first time ever!

You may be aware that there is a difference between magnetic north (where your compass points) and grid north (the vertical blue line on OS maps which points as close as possible to the North Pole). There is also true north, which is the direction of the lines of longitude that all converge at the North Pole.



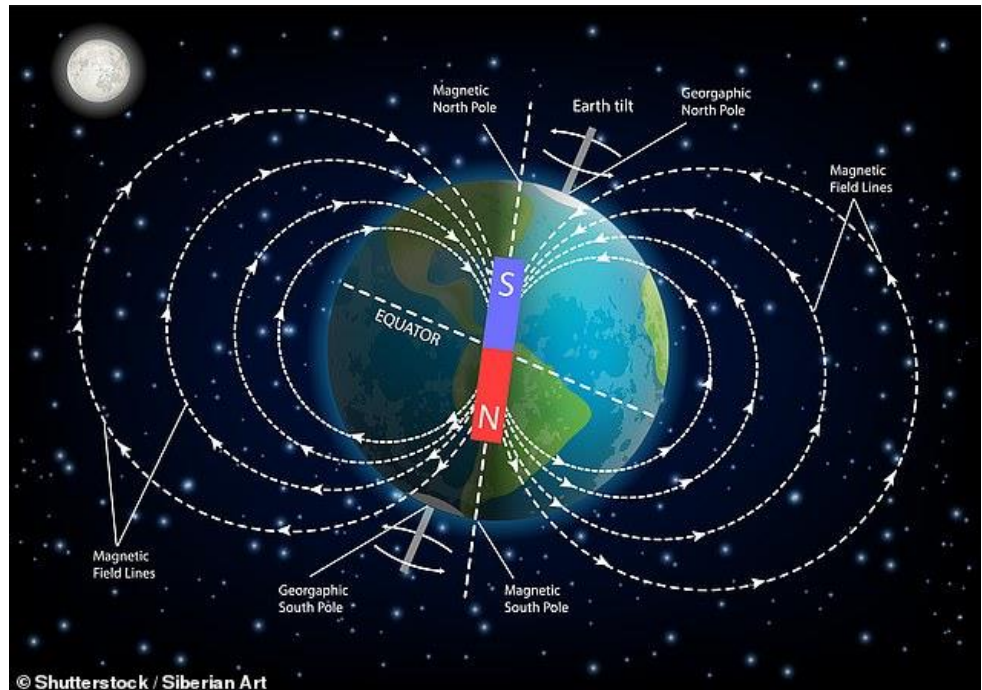
Across OS maps true north varies from grid north since it reflects the curve of the earth, except on one grid north line, which aligns with longitude 2 degrees west of the zero Greenwich meridian line.

Anywhere on this 'special line' grid north and true north align.

Three Norths Combine

Magnetic north marks the northward line to the magnetic North Pole. The position of the magnetic North Pole and the direction of magnetic north moves continually due to natural changes in the Earth's magnetic field (caused by changes in the flow of iron in the liquid outer core).

After always being to the west of grid north in Great Britain the last few years have seen magnetic north move to the other side of grid north. The change started in 2014 at the very tip of Cornwall and is slowly moving west to east across the country.



It has now reached the 'special line' and will converge with the other two 'norths' for the first time in history.

The triple alignment will pass northwards through Poole by Christmas and then Chippenham and Birmingham before reaching Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire in August 2024. It will pass through the Pennines before leaving the English coast at Berwick-Upon-Tweed a year later in August 2025.

For map readers the same rules apply as always - the need to take account of the variation between magnetic north from your compass, and grid north on your map.

Dr Susan Macmillan, of the British Geological Survey (based at Keyworth) said: "This is a once in a lifetime occurrence. Due to the unpredictability of the magnetic field on long timescales it's not possible to say when the alignment of the three norths will happen again."

For more information from Ordnance Survey, click [here](#).

Congratulations Wendy!

Many of you will know RR member Wendy Fletcher who recently retired from the Fire & Rescue Service where she has given emergency medical training to firefighters for many years.

In recognition of this, last month she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fire & Rescue Service at their annual awards ceremony at the Albert Hall in Nottingham. Her award recognised decades of dedication and professionalism in training crews to a high level.

Wendy has run first-aid courses for Rushcliffe Ramblers too, so some of us have also benefitted from her expertise and experience.

Well Done Wendy!



News from the AGM, held on 20th November 2022

- ⇒ Alan led a very pleasant morning walk before lunch and cake in the village hall at Kinoulton.
- ⇒ Mike started by pointing out that this was our 34th AGM. What he didn't realise at the time, was that there were also 34 members attending.....
- ⇒ The full minutes will be published following approval at our next committee meeting in January, but the highlights were:
 - ⇒ Lorraine retired after 22 years as Programme Secretary, which has been a major role in the group, organising all of our walks and publicising them in the printed programmes and on the website. Mike presented her with a Rushcliffe Ramblers fleece in recognition of her outstanding achievement.
 - ⇒ The rate for volunteer expenses has been increased to 45p per mile.
 - ⇒ It was clarified that Risk Assessments are still required to be completed by Walk Leaders post the pandemic. This is a requirement of the insurers.
 - ⇒ Welcome to those on our committee who for 2022-23 are new - Hazel, Louise, Howard and Julie - and thank you, Morag, for taking on a different role:



Position	Member
Chairman	Mike Stock
Secretary	Julie Lloyd
Minutes Secretary	Pamela Duesbury
Treasurer	Keith Coxon
Footpaths Secretary	Howard Lloyd
Joint Social Secretaries	Hazel Lee, Louise Mitchell
Membership Secretary	Rob Turner
Walks Co-ordinator	Morag Hunter
Publicity / Webmaster	Trevor Griffiths
Autumn Weekend	Karen Lewis
Holidays / Spring Weekend	Angela Dobie
Delegate to Area Council	Mike Stock

Rob's Awards

Once again Rob searched through his extensive database to identify our award winners this year, and you may recognise a few familiar faces:



Walker of the Year:

Lorraine

who covered 302 miles on 39 walks this year



New Walker of the Year:

Howard

who covered 220 miles on 25 walks



New Walk Leader of the Year:

Steve

who led 3 walks over 23 miles with 19 people

Walk Leader of the Year:

Karen

**who led 7 walks over 55 miles with
139 people**

(and who was on holiday (again!) for the AGM)



(More of) Rob's Awards

Membership Secretary's Special Award:

Mike

For majestically handling
3 key roles of Chair,
Secretary and Area
Council Rep, for keeping
everything moving along
this year, and for making
cake for the AGM.



Check our website for up-to-date news including details of upcoming walks:

www.rushclifferamblers.org