



MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
INTERLOCKS  
SURVEYS LIMITED

# December 2020

## FOLLOW US!

We're on social media, are you?

We have created 3 new social media platforms in order to keep you all updated as often as we can.

Follow us on the below:

Twitter: @InterlocksSurv

Instagram: @InterlocksSurv

LinkedIn: Interlocks Surveys

## STAY UP TO DATE

Don't want to receive our updates?

To opt out please email:

[Kate.Young@Interlocksurveys.co.uk](mailto:Kate.Young@Interlocksurveys.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Our office will be closed from 2pm on Thursday 24th December.

We look forward to returning on Monday 4th January 2021.

## SANTA SPECIAL!

How does Santa get from the North Pole to the UK? Read on and all will become clear!

Whilst preparing Santas work room, making space for all of his presents, we came across the below, an old brass Tribrach, it can be used for sitting over the OS trig pillar plate or more conventionally on a set of legs, from approximately the late 1930's.



The Ordnance survey mapped the entire UK from 1936 to 1962 using 6,500 trig pillars with over 30,000 co-ordinated points in total. The modern network performs the same function with just 110 points!

Now this got us thinking how does Santa navigate? After all he is one of the original aviation pioneers. Historically he would have used the stars relying mainly on the celestial poles. This worked quite well in the norther hemisphere, as Polaris or the north star is quite bright and easy to find using the big dipper. However, he had to remember to change over to the south pole when crossing the equator.

The south celestial pole lies in the dim constellation Octants, Sigma Octantis being identified as the south pole star, barely visible to the naked eye, it is obviously not ideal. Santa was an early adopter of the global positioning system having a prototype GPS Santa navigation fitted in the late 1970,s and helping the U.S department of defence develop the full constellation of 24 satellites that became operational in 1993. Recently he has had the sleigh retrofitted enabling him to use Galileo BeiDou and Glonass.

Santa has had an association with U.S military since the 1950's, having had a few near misses over the years, so to help calm the reindeer he had a transponder fitted, with the North America Aerospace Defence Command or NORAD giving him up to date collision avoidance data.

The Urban legend of Rudolph and the Myth of the Foggy Night, you may be surprised to know that Rudolph was not added to the flight team because of the Foggy Night, that's just romanticized fiction. In fact he was made part of the team when Santa agreed to voluntarily comply with the 1939 Civil Aeronautics Authority mandate that all aircraft flying at night display a red "anti-collision" light.

You can even track Santa on his journey this Christmas following NORADS link:

<https://www.noradsanta.org/>

