Welcome to my Christmas 2013 newsletter. This is a low-res version, designed for emailing. To see the graphics in all their glory, download the high-resolution version [here](#). It’s been a busy autumn with five presentations, and I have been getting a bit behind with creating new designs. I will be spending the holiday season catching up!

**Underground maps at large**

Stay in a hotel that is part of the [Intercontinental Hotels Group](#), and you might recognise one of the pictures on the bedroom wall. Curvy Tube Map and Circles Tube Map will be making appearances in hotel rooms round the world. Look out for them and let me know if you see one!

**Web page news**

My web pages finally have proper internet hosting. Previously, www.tubemapcentral.com, diverted you to University of Essex hosted pages at the address privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~mjr/underground. The University-hosted pages will continue to be accessible, but all of their links have been changed to divert you to the correct address. The old pages will no longer be updated, and will gradually fade away. If any of your links or bookmarks to my site start privatewww then please do update them. And, as always, deep-linking is at your own risk!

**In the media, on the web**

- My exhibition, *Underground Maps Unleashed*, is hosted by [Off the Rails, Wivenhoe](#). Their official website is [here](#).
- Some words about the exhibition in the [Colchester Evening Gazette](#).
- A report on my recent presentation, hosted by [GeoMob](#), is given by [SplashMaps](#).
- Continuing coverage of my New York circles design: amongst some very entertaining maps collected together by [BuzzFeed](#); and some words from [LemonadeNY](#), [Concrete Fancy](#), and [Infographick](#).
- Circles Tube Map is included in a compilation of “Quirky Tube Maps” by [Insider London](#). I could keep them supplied with suitable material for years!
- A modified version of Circles Tube Map is being used to publicise events held by [Hospitality Records](#). They contacted me show me their redesign, which I thought was stylish, clever, and thoroughly respectful of the original, and so I told them I was happy for them to use it.

**Dates for your diary**

**Presentations**

Exhibition
- Until mid-January 2014, Off the Rails, Wivenhoe. A small exhibition at Wivenhoe railway station, with some of my maps displayed on the platforms, and an embroidery by Elizabeth Newton and a Christmas design on display in the ticket hall.

Workshop

Map research
Another student project has commenced, this time comparing the Paris official design with a concentric circles version. We already have a lot of data for Paris, comparing the official map with an all-curves freeform Bézier design (the all-curves design always wins for rapid journey planning). The concentric circles design scores well for organising the network, but will this translate into a measurable usability benefit?

Map of the month: Tube Map in Tinsel
The familiar Underground map has been realised in just about every way imaginable. The earliest attempt must be the classic Tate Gallery by Tube poster by David Booth. Less well known, Frederick Abrams Great Brain realises the Paris Metro in stained glass, and is also an early example of renamed stations. The Underground 150 anniversary gave us the Underground map in Lego bricks, and of course there is the cover of my book, Underground Maps Unravelled, carefully embroidered by Elizabeth Newton. Tube Map in Tinsel made its first appearance three years ago, but a new, more enduring version has been created and is currently on display at Wivenhoe Station. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all my readers.

If you intend to give prints or books as presents, don’t forget to order early for Christmas. Place orders by 3rd December if you can, and no later than mid-December for the UK, USA and Europe. Do contact me for advice if a delivery is time-critical. Thanks to Lisa Friebel for the Illustrator tinsel brush used for this month’s newsletter. The January newsletter will look towards 2014, and include some highlights from 2013. You can subscribe via my web pages at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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