

The Craftsmen

The Official Newsletter of the Province of Herefordshire

Issue 94 - July 2024

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Vitruvian Lodge - Andrew Moore
Eastnor Lodge - Nick Humphrey
Royal Edward Lodge - Geoff Wilding
Arrow Lodge - Tommy Santillo
Loyal Hay Lodge - Tony Mercer
Vaga Lodge - Vacant
Cantilupe Lodge - Michael Francis
Coningsby Lodge - Kevin Jones
Delphis Lodge - Vacant
Saint Peter's Lodge - Peter Hamblin
Dean Waterfield Lodge - Paul Sabel
Ariconium Lodge - Vacant

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Would I Know, Did I Know?

This month we look at measurements



Cathedral Service

A photo update from the Provincial Evensong at Hereford Cathedral.



Provincial Grand Lodge

A photo update from Provincial Grand Lodge in June.

Youngest and Oldest Initiates?

W Bros Geoff Wilding and Tim Fycun look at two candidates for Initiation. Could they be the youngest and oldest in the Province?

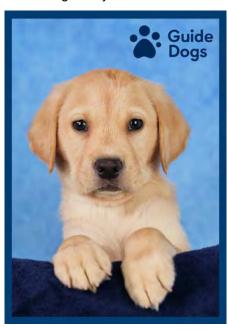
Assisting St Michael's Hospice

See how the Caeruleum Club are helping this important charity and how you can support too.



Bailey's first 'Pupdate'

A Pupdate and Pawtrait from potential Guide Dog Bailey.



Prostate Cancer Testing

Details on how to sign up for your November PSA test.



T@3 including this month's Word Search

This month's 'African Rivers' Wordsearch plus answers to last month's Wordsearch.

Together with the usual 'Out and About' and 'Upcoming Events'



Bringing you news from the Masonic Province of Herefordshire

Would I know the answer?

Did I know the answer?

By W Bro Dennis W. Roberts, PAGDC This month I was asked: Measurements?

Freemasonry has always appeared a bit of an enigma for me in its use of symbolism. None more so than its use of measurement. The references to measurement are numerous but not always congruent. Each represents some symbolism for a particular purpose.

Let's start with the 24 inch gauge, or rule. Convenient to represent 24 hours in a day followed by an explanation of its use, it is early on in our Masonic career. We would all be familiar with 24 inches in the past, but since we have gone metric, does it have the same meaning for newer members?

Moving on to the second degree, and King Solomon's Temple, we find that the pillars are seventeen and a half cubits tall, and the outer rim is four inches or a hand's breadth in thickness. So, we have inches, hand's breadth and cubit all in the same sentence. Even more confusing to the 'metric Mason'!

Much of this measurement is of course taken from references in the VSL. Mention is also made in Egyptian and Roman architecture, from Noah's Ark to the pyramids and Solomon's Temple. The word cubit appears to be derived from the Latin for elbow, and all measurements are based on a particular human characteristic; the cubit being the length of the forearm from the middle finger to the end of the elbow. The foot is an obvious explanation and the yard is one stride of a man, or two cubits. A foot is considered to be three palms in length, (4 inches for a palm), and therefore 12 inches. And so it goes on; not useful for those with a metric mind! But then, we still use miles when travelling the roads in the UK!

All of this is very confusing, but as a final point of interest I can tell you that a past member of Vitruvian Lodge, W Bro Berwyn Jones, holds one record which will never be beaten, In the Perth Olympics of 1960 he won a Gold Medal for 100 yards race. After this season it was decided

Perhaps we should just enjoy the stories and the history contained therein, and not think too deeply about specific

If you have not visited the 'Solomon' site lately, you should. There are now Videos, Podcasts and Webinars available for more in depth explanations. Facebook and Twitter also offer links for more information.

**There is also a new link to Royal Arch Chapter, which



Out and About

A round-up of events in and around Herefordshire Province





Community Engagement

Delphis Lodge put the Outreach Kit to good use at the Clehonger Village Fête on Sunday 23rd June.

They had talked to their first potential candidate within the first half an hour of opening, so a great afternoon and really good to see Lodges engaging with the community.



You can find the Outreach Calendar and how to book the kit on the members portal <u>here.</u>

Other planned community engagement events for the rest of the year include.

Date	Lodge / Event	
12 th July	Caeruleum Club - Venus Walk	
13 th July	Arrow Lodge at Norton	
28 th July	Arrow Lodge at Presteigne	
24 th August	Arrow Lodge at Kington	
26 th August	Eastnor Lodge Event	
14 th Sept	Arrow Lodge Event	
14 th Sept	Ross Masonic Hall Open Day	
16 th Nov	PSA Testing Day - Hereford	
23 rd Nov	Provincial Charity Day	



Royal Edward Installation

Pictured Right Royal Edward Lodge Installation

Pictured Left Delphis Lodge ready for the Clehionger Village Fête



Although it had been the warmest day of the year so far, the air conditioning in the Lodge room did an excellent job, and everyone was able to stay cool, calm, and collected as they produced a really good Installation of REL's new Master, W Bro Phil Welch. There were 69 in the Lodge room, including the Provincial Grand Master, 8 Grand Lodge Officers, and 15 active Provincial Officers, with 68 dining at the after proceedings, where they were served tomato soup, roast pork with seasonal vegetables, followed by roulade or cheese and biscuits. A raffle raised the goodly sum of £350 for the HMCA.









Did You Know?

- > 1 in 8 men will suffer from Prostate Cancer
- > 12,000 men per annum in the UK will die from Prostate Cancer
- > There are not always obvious symptoms
- > A simple blood test can help early detection, which increases survival rates
- > All men aged 40 years and over are recommended to have a regular PSA test

ACT NOW

Book yourself in for a £10 PSA test on 16th November 2024 in Hereford.

Open to all men.

Follow the QR code or use this link. https://pglh.mypsatests.org.uk



This could be the best £10 you ever spend



Supported by



Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company 02653887. Graham Fulford Charitable Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1109385). Registered company No 05285411

Caeruleum Club

Past, Present and Future Club Events

A new social and community focused group for all Masons, led by the "Light Blue" Brethren, to use the learnings and values of Freemasons to better our local communities and Freemasonry as a whole.



WORK

In the community

R.E.S.T

Represent, Educate, Support and Travel

PLAY Social Events

Further details of our events can be found on our website here.

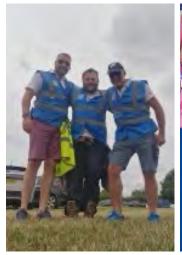
https://caeruleum.club/club-events/

In September we intend holding a Provincial Light Blues Lodge of Instruction at Kyrle Street where the First Degree ceremony will be demonstrated and will include a commentary explaining the points of interest.

It is intended that each Lodge will be represented by nominating one of their Light Blues to fill an active office.

Further details to follow.

Mike Hopkins - Learning and Development Officer





We will be providing support for the Venus Midnight walk on 12^{th} July.

KEEP THE DATE

LIGHT BLUES EVENT

UGLE are excited to announce our intention to hold a special meeting at Freemasons' Hall for Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons – so that they are able to experience the splendour and timeless tradition of a meeting in the Grand Temple.

We have provisionally chosen Saturday 31st May 2025 as the date for this special event and we are considering some light food options to follow the meeting. We are keen for less experienced Brethren to come along and there will be opportunities for them to tour the building, meet senior Freemasons and experience this unique event.

We will be suggesting that Active Grand Officers, as well as Metropolitan/Provincial/District Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents attend, if able.

We will get a delegation from Herefordshire.

More details will follow in due course.

Community Engagement

A highly successful weekend of support for St Michael's Hospice.

More Help Required Please!

12th July 2024 9:00pm to 2:00am, but volunteers will not be required to be present for the entire duration.









Please contact Jayme Bacon <u>sec.hfdlightblues@gmail.com</u> with any offers of assistance.

As you may be aware, several club members actively participated in supporting St. Michael's Hospice over last weekend. The event was a resounding success, and as a result, the hospice has requested our assistance for future events, with the next one scheduled in a few weeks.

While we have a few volunteers from the Club, we would greatly appreciate additional support.

One significant insight we gained from the event organiser was that while donations are undoubtedly important, our assistance in managing the parking arrangements helped them raise a fantastic figure on the day.

St. Michael's Hospice will be organising the Venus Midnight Walk on 12th July and has requested our assistance in providing volunteers to support the event. Our volunteers will be stationed at various points along the route to offer support, security, and peace of mind to the participants in this commemorative event.

The event will take place from 9:00pm to 2:00am, but volunteers will not be required to be present for the entire duration.

The hospice has requested a minimum of five stations, which means we need at least ten volunteers, although more volunteers are welcome. It would be ideal if we could have representation from all Lodges.

The purpose of this walk is to raise funds for the hospice, while also honouring the memories of loved ones.

We kindly request your support in volunteering for this event on a Friday evening to provide assistance and security to daughters, sisters, wives, mothers, nieces, and friends, allowing them to participate in this event that embodies the compassionate spirit of Freemasons.

While financial contributions are commendable, volunteering your time to ensure the success of the event has a far greater impact. As mentioned, during the Sue Perry event, if each of us had donated £100, the hospice would have received £500. However, by volunteering our time, the hospice was able to raise considerably more than that.

Introducing Bailey

The Guide Dog Puppy funded from money raised by Coningsby Lodge and match funded by MCF sends his first "Pupdate" and "Pawtrait".

The 'Name a Puppy Team' from Guide Dogs for the Blind have sent through their first "pupdate" for 'Bailey'.

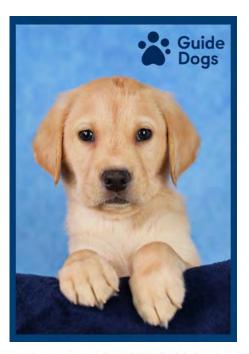
Born on 22nd April 2024 and named in memory of W Bro Dick Bailey. Bailey is a yellow labrador and has seven siblings.

Opposite is his first "pawtrait".

Soon after birth, each pup is weighed. The charity monitors the pups closely to make sure they are all gaining weight and they keep a very close eye on mum (Bernie) too.

In their first six weeks, the puppies grow and develop alongside mum, as you can see in the timeline below.

He is now settling in well with his 'Puppy Raiser' and has a big future ahead of him, filled with fun, excitement, and new adventures.





By the end of this week they are able to hold their body weight on their forelegs.



The puppies' eyes start to open and they become more aware of their surroundings.



The puppies start to sit, even if this is sometimes on top of their brothers and sisters!



With puppy teeth now in place, weaning is underway.



The puppies are mobile on all four legs, and are incredibly inquisitive and playful.



The puppies are exploring and playing but still sleeping and eating lots.



FOUR PROVINCE MASONIC CHARITY REGATTA 2024



SPONSORED BY
THE FOUR PROVINCES
HEREFORDSHIRE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Sunday 21st July 2024 Worcester Rowing Club WR1 3EJ

Headline Race

Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Sir David Wootton and crew v PGM's crew

This is a fun (if competitive) day and it is rowed in "Fat Boats" which are used to train people new to the sport and are more forgiving than the usual "fine fours" used at normal club regattas.

It is a short course – about 250 metres – but you really have to have some experience of rowing to enter. If you are a oarsman and unattached please let us know and we'll do our best to match you with a crew.

Herefordshire Province will have a number of teams competing - why not come along and support our crews?



Duck Race

The afternoon will conclude with a Duck Race on the River Severn. Hopefully recovery of the ducks and prevention of escape to the wild will be the most onerous task of the afternoon for our safety boat crews. Sponsor a plastic duck which will race downstream (hopefully) on the River Severn in Worcester before being shepherded by the official duck rescue service to ensure none escape. Entries will close at approximately 3:45pm, for a hopeful race start at 4:15pm.

PRIZES

1st Place £350. 2nd Place £100. 3rd Place £50.

Proceeds to

- Air Ambulance
- Acorns Children's Hospice
- SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association):
- Masonic Charitable Foundation



https://balloonrace.net/tluggw

Follow the QR Code or link to sponsor your ducks to enter the race.

Membership Matters

These are the in and around the Province. Details of how to book are on the Provincial Members website here.

PROVINCIAL EVENTS LIST - July 2024

Date	Lodge / Chapter	Event/Venue
2024		
Frid 12 th July	Caeruleum Club Venus Walk	Hereford
Sun 21 st July	Four Province Regatta	Worcester Rowing Club
Mon 26 th August	Eastnor Lodge Outreach Event	Ledbury
Wed 11 th September	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
Sat 14 th September	Arrow Lodge – Kington Show	Kington
Sat 14 th September	Ross Masonic Hall Open Day	Ross Masonic Hall
Sat 14 th September	Provincial Grand Chapter Gloucestershire and Herefordshire	Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
Sat 5 th October	Palladian Lodge	Ladies Festival (Venue to be confirmed)
Sat 2 nd November	Coningsby Lodge	Ladies Festival, Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
Wed 13 th November	Supreme Grand Chapter	FMH
Sat 16 th November	PSA Testing Day	Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
Sat 23 rd November	Charity and Service Presentation	Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
Wed 11 th December	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
2025		
Sat 31 st May 2025	UGLE Light Blues Event	FMH – more details to follow

FMH - Freemasons' Hall, London

LMC – Leominster Masonic Centre

Please notify any planned events to the Provincial Grand Secretary

provgsec@herefordshiremasons.org.uk

Never be without an apron!

The Masonic Season is nearly over, but the good news is that the BBQ season has begun!

Never be without an apron during the closed season and whilst BBQing.

£12 per apron, all profits go to the HMCA

Email Tim Bridgland Taylor here to order yours and make payment.





Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society

Provisiona	al Dates for 2024	
Date	Venue	Details
4 th July	Match against Gloucestershire Wormsley Golf Club	Home match at Wormsley Golf Club on Thursday 4 th July. Tee off at 1300hrs. The cost of golf and a two course meal is £40.
23 rd July	Ten Provinces Match Tewkesbury Park	Four Ball event. We are currently the holder of the trophy and I'm sure we will try and retain.
6 th August	Tri-angular Match against Worcester and Shropshire Burghill Valley Golf Club	Burghill Valley Golf Club. Tee off time of 1200hrs. The cost of coffee, bacon roll, golf and a two course meal is £48.

We will not be publishing a newsletter in August.

Please feel free to send in any pictures of events from over the summer and we will post them on our social media channels.

Don't forget to gain permission from any people in the pictures that we can post them!

Contact Us craftsmen@herefordshiremasons.org.uk



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A well attended Choral Evensong for the Province was held at Hereford Cathedral where the congregation listened to readings from the RW Provincial Grand Master, Michael T Holland and VW Bro Graham C King, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The Cathedral Choir were away at the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy landings and so the service was sung by the Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir.

The Sermon was preached by the Precentor, which was very topical revolving around the building of King Solomon's Temple and the core principles of Freemasonry.

Many distinguished guests were also present including the High Sheriff, Lord Lieutenant and many representatives from surround Provinces and Orders.

Pictures with very grateful thanks to W Bro Paul Cooper PPGSwdB















MEET ALBERT GAW THE OLDEST INITIATE IN HEREFORDSHIRE (POSSIBLY)

By W Bro Geoff Wilding – Royal Edward Lodge



So, this is Albert Chattell Gaw, he was born in Glasgow in 1924, and would have been 100yrs old this year. Chattell, his middle name, can be traced back to his ancestors who were some of the Huguenots driven out of France in the first part of the 18th Century, during the reign of King Louis XIV. It seems that Albert's line became boot makers to the Scottish aristocracy.

I first got to know Albert back in the 1960s, when Lesley, his daughter and I became boyfriend and girlfriend at school, but then later, after Lesley and I got back together and married in 1994, he became my father-in-law.

He had known that I was a Freemason for many years, and though he was interested in the fraternity he was concerned that if he joined it have might have jeopardised his position as an Elder of his church. However, following my serious illness in 2005/06, and after I was well enough to return to the fold, he approached me and said that he had been very impressed by the way that Freemasons had rallied round and supported both Lesley and me during my time in hospital; in his words, "Better than a lot of churchgoers do" and because of this he wondered if he might become a member.

As Albert was in his eighties, and not likely to play an active role in the Lodge, I did approach the Brethren of Arrow Lodge to see if there would be any objections; there were none. So, the process of Albert's application went ahead.

I was Installed as Master of Arrow Lodge in December 2006 and Albert was initiated into Arrow Lodge in February 2007, at the age of 82, which he told me afterwards was one of the best experiences of his life, and he went on to be Passed and Raised, with part of the latter ceremony having to be done with him sat in a chair, because of his mobility problems.

I used to collect him and bring him to Lodge meetings, and he used to thoroughly enjoy himself, particularly at the festive boards, where he would regale the Brethren with stories of his role in the top-secret work involving radar bases during WWII, and later, after the war, when he had helped with the early guidance systems of hovercraft. I well remember him taking me to the 'Great Hovercraft Show' of 1966, where I saw it being demonstrated.

Unfortunately, Albert broke his hip in early 2009 and later that year, died of a heart problem in Ludlow hospital, and although he had only been a Freemason for a short time, he told me, before his death, that he wished he'd joined Freemasonry years before.

MEET TIM FYCUN THE YOUNGEST INITIATE IN HEREFORDSHIRE (POSSIBLY)

By W Bro Tim Fycun (Senior) Ariconium Lodge



Having seen Geoff's piece about Albert, who was possibly the oldest Initiate in Herefordshire, I thought I would go to the opposite end of the scale for this story.

I had grown up with an interest in Freemasonry, but as I did not know any Freemasons I was at a loss as to how to join. Fortuitously, I started with a company owned by Richard Thomas and John Mayo Evans, working alongside a sales colleague, Mike Charles. Unbeknown to me at the time, all three were Herefordshire Masons. Sadly, Mike passed away not to long after I started with the company.

One day at work I was called into a meeting with Richard and John and asked about Freemasonry and if I would be interested in joining their Lodge which was Delphis. I of course said yes.

I was Initiated in 2007 and became a Master Mason in 2008 at the age of 35. However, not long after I joined, I moved with my family to Australia to work with my father, and whilst there I became an active member of the local Lodge in Glen Innes, in the state of New South Wales. It amazed me how far the Brethren would travel for a meeting, sometimes many hundreds of miles.

In 2009 I returned with my family to Herefordshire and started working as a foul drainage specialist. Keen to be involved, I rejoined Delphis Lodge and in 2015 I became Master. Sadly, whilst I was in Australia, Richard Thomas passed to the Grand Lodge above, but I was very much heartened to have my other proposer, John Mayo Evans, at my Installation ceremony.

Since 2015, I have joined Ariconium Lodge in Ross on Wye and was Installed as Master in 2020, and I have also been very lucky to have been awarded two active Herefordshire Provincial ranks as Grand Pursuivant and then Junior Grand Deacon.

Freemasonry has given me so much and allowed me to meet many Brethren from various professions, which has led to many friendships that will last all my life.

My eldest Son, also named Tim, was born in 2004 and was three when I joined Freemasonry and grew up watching his Dad mumbling words to himself and putting on a dark suit several evenings a month, and then his Mum bringing him, bundled in his pyjamas, to collect me after Lodge meetings.

I had spoken to Tim quite a lot about the benefits of Freemasonry, so I was overjoyed in 2022 when he came to me and said he felt he was ready to join. Because Tim was a Lewis, he was eligible to join at 18 rather than waiting until he was 21 and in 2023, he was Initiated into Ariconium Lodge when I believe at the time he was possibly the youngest Freemason in Herefordshire.

Tim has enjoyed his Masonic journey so far and will become a Master Mason in September 2024.

As for me I'm a very proud to now be able to also call my son, my Brother.



Provincial Grand Lodge

Around 150 Brethren attended the June Annual Meeting of Herefordshire Provincial Grand Lodge with a number of distinguished guests including RW Bro David Medlock the Assistant Grand Master and RW Provincial Grand Masters from sixteen surrounding Provinces.

A capacity attendance at the Provincial Grand Lodge with the Assistant Grand Master, sixteen Provincial Grand Masters, seven Deputy Grand Masters and nine Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and many other visitors and members of the Province in attendance.

The after proceedings were ably facilitated by members of St Peter's Lodge.

Congratulations for all those Brethren being invested for the first time, receiving a Past Rank or carrying on their active roles for a further year.













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MCF Grants In Herefordshire

From 1st April 2024 to 31st May 2024 we have received the following grants as a Province.



8Grants



£18,602
The value of grants awarded

These applications covered a wide range of uses.

Please see the link below to show what can be applied for:

https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities/



Over the last five years for the period from

28th June 2019 to 28th June 2024



in Herefordshire, we have received a total of

177 Grants totalling £463,491



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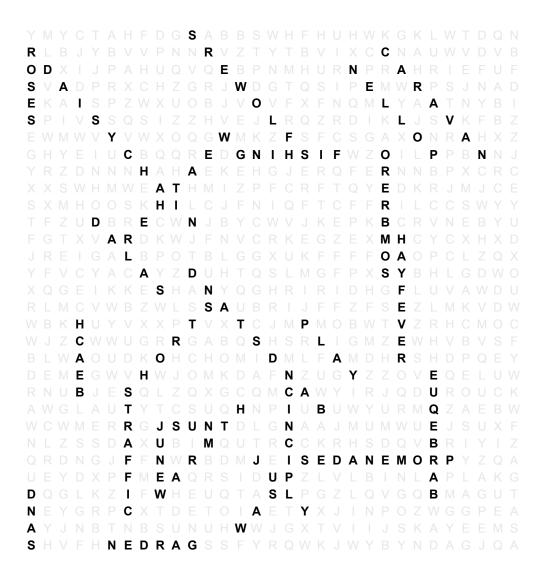
Last Month's Wordsearch Solution T@3 ==





Did you find the sunshine and summer themed words?

Sunshine & Summer



Sun Weather Warmth Traffic Sombrero Wasps **Shorts** Play Pollen **Picnic** Sand Salad Roses Promenade June July Hay Fever Garden **Flowers Fishing** Daisy Chain Caravan Beach Barbeque Bandstand

This Month's Wordsearch



Can you find the 'African Rivers' words?

African Rivers

WVPKIMDZSHEBELLERLOHYNRMEZJFOPT B S C G G Z O A G P Y B V L R V Y D Y W E H F K Q N K Z K I F U A Y R V V T N K M W U Q E O Q R K T W F N A L Z Y E J G I E M I M Q K V U D N C F O G A Y L D G F R Q G F M X E K N X D U G N O T F C P K V G Y I T E V U A B N P E Y B W Z Q R W U O W U T Q J I Y A C B F N U P T O C T J T R L B G Q N N U U Z K C B P S R T A M W O Y G L Y X L A O U A Z V E B U G O J A O G K X A E N G S B C G E K A Q N T V F B O K Q I H B M X G V O Y P RUGVJPXVLZTYTZAAJBCEYJLOBAFBPLB ULRUTNUASWJKPPBLEAVEZWBLNERNONL GNZUAHJCRLCCAZLLHFGEOMJAEUFHPNB GOAXCBFBJWOOSIAYNTLNOSZHHIWMFR H T C G W L J M I O G N C D A D A U L C R H F A W X G D I M F Q T J V S N R U L R O T F K N R V M I F O C K Y T O W E L I B E K P G W U W M Z C W U L C O U H Q T N N D E G J S O H T G G NFAOHNZJDYUMBFAULUHJWIRAHCGHYOM BHEXTBEIBVWJVAABBLSSAMXAUXTLKJO BNAQEYWUQPAWCZHADEDAOWGQYDNKASN V V Y R E U H J E W T Z E T U M X G G F L H F E T D U N X S U O U T E A G A M T O O S N O A T Y N A Z Z M J R R Y V U O K J K X C D N B O E G K G U Z A L D I N P P Y N J U F G W P L M D EIXRHUTUORREEOUREQOKYIWVNAEGQCZ M J O K J W L A S Y E A B R A C A L K N Q M T U L D X R K H D J M V L I Q S R P C P I M R V Y U A V B C X M T A V N U V B K U Z N F B D I Y G M W Z F Q X T L W J F P G A N P O E S O I RHMXCZKKOZOTLHYRSOSOTKGDIJVQHGB Z F D R E Z G C B C Z W F G R T C N W N V K B U A Z Y Z K U D MYRBXPTPGGLBZEUUOGZJEWPJKIDPZXX F H B M H B W P B R I X J U A A O A I J J A O G N O C X B H W STMBJLEAQCSQNQSFUKAONZSDJLDOPRN J Z V H Z Q F Y O H S W V I H Z S W M G V D V Y L K I D A Z Y

Swakop Chari Volta Tugela Shebelle Sanaga Saint Paul Ruvuma Oteghelli Orange Niger Mbomou Maringa Maputo Lulonga Limpopo Kunene Kagera Jubba Gamtoos Congo Cavalla Bou Regreg Atbarah Cuanza