

The cipher in the May 2008 newsletter is a Polybius checkerboard, first used in Greece during the 2nd Century BC.

As with many encryptions, i and j are classed as the same so you just have a 25 character alphabet.

This is arranged in a 5x5 grid, where the message is encrypted as a two-digit number by reading down for the first digit, then across for the second.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	a	b	c	d	e
2	f	g	h	i/j	k
3	l	m	n	o	p
4	q	r	s	t	u
5	v	w	x	y	z

The message can then be broken down as:

12 15 21 34 42 15
 22 34 14
 52 15
 11 42 15
 11 31 31
 15 41 45 11 31 31 54
 52 24 43 15
 11 33 14
 15 41 45 11 31 31 54
 21 34 34 31 24 43 23

Which reads:

Before God we are all equally wise and equally foolish.