



I.G.L.D.

N e w s l e t t e r

January 2015

Dear IGLD members, dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you all for your Seasons Greetings and your good wishes.

It is never too late for good wishes. And although even 1/12 of the current year has passed, I wish all of you and your family health and happiness for the rest of 2015.

I hope I will be able to find enough information from the affiliated Druid Orders in order to make the IGLD Newsletter interesting and well worth reading. And I ask you, dear Brothers in charge, please help me solving this problem by fraternal assistance.

I am very grateful that I have been informed of the negotiations at the meeting of the Scandinavian Grand Lodge of Druidism (SGLD), held on 4th of October last year in Copenhagen, and that I could receive knowledge about issues and problems effecting the 3 Scandinavian Orders. You will find details on the reports of each of the National Orders.

Sweden

As we know, there are many festivities in the Nordic countries arranged towards the end of the year, when the dark season is imminent. The origin of these festivities is generally rooted in the lack of light which is replaced by open fire or burning candles. The best known in this context is the ceremony of lights, called Santa Lucia, when young girls, dressed in white, wearing a crown of burning candles on their head are enjoying the people by bringing brightness and probably a little more enlightenment in this world. There is hardly one Swedish Druid Lodge which dispenses with this festivity. Actually we have to wonder that there is still time enough for other important druidic tasks. In any case, it has been possible to initiate 55 new members within the last quarter of the year 2014!

There was a change in personnel in the newsroom of the Druid Magazine *Svensk Druid Tidning* (SDT). Brother Henrik Enander will retreat after 14 years of intensive activity. In this time he has published an abundance of articles, often focusing on historical events. His successor is Brother Kari Aarnivaara who may make his expertise available which he acquired while working in the advertising business. He is well known by the readers of the SDT as the creator of cartoons marked with the pseudonym "*Karkatur*".

Related to new ideas of the Swedish Druid Order for advertising methods should be noted that increasingly principles of market research are coming into play. For example, some of the Lodges were represented at major trade shows or exhibitions in the form of information stands. There are numbers of other activities all of which have the aim of leading Druidism from anonymity.

The rather successful “Halmstadmodell” for recruiting new members has already been mentioned in the past. For this end, there has been a booklet for use in the Lodges. Recently the program can be downloaded on demand from the order`s homepage.



Norway

There has also been a change in the newsroom of the Norwegian Druid Magazine *Barden*. One of the editors, Brother Rolf Anker Eriksen, has retired from the editorial staff because of his age. He is grateful for an unforgettable time.

Despite a comfortable number of members the Norwegian Druid Order is dealing intensively with the advertising of new brothers. The sum of activities along this line is called “Brother care”. That has to say, the efforts to a new brother do not end when he has been initiated. Of equal importance is the treatment within the community of brothers.

Recently, the promotional activities are not limited to the place where a Druid Lodge is situated, but the surrounding areas are included, for example by improving the circulation of advertising material.



On Saturday, 7th February, “Lodge No. 1” in Norway, named *NORDSTJERNEN* in Oslo is celebrating the 80th anniversary of its founding. The honoree is glad and proud to expect a great number of guests, even fellow Druids from other European Druid Orders. The ritual Meeting will take place in the Odd Fellow Building, the festive Banquet will be arranged in one of the most attractive places with a fantastic scenic view over Oslo, named “Ekebergsrestaurant”. As a program for accompanying partners, a visit of the Astrup Fearnley Museum of modern Art will be provided. More details can be found in edition 6/2014 of the *Barden*.

Lodge *Nordstjernen* has been established on February 2nd, 1935, on the initiative and with the support of Lodge *Ad Astra*, Malmö, Sweden. At that time nobody could think of a Norwegian Grand Lodge and thus the only lodge in this area became a member of the Swedish Druid Order. It remained under the jurisdiction of Sweden until Norway was able to form an own National Druid Order on the 25th of March 1939.

Denmark

The leadership of the Danish Druid Order has apparently managed to lead its members the seriousness of the situation in mind. Not only the downturn of the membership seems to have been stopped, instead, considerable success in recruiting new members is to be seen, especially in the region of Jutland, the western part of Denmark. Clear leader in this respect is *Lodge Vitus* in Horsens. This lodge succeeded in initiating 20 new brothers within the last 2 years and is actually the biggest one in Denmark.

The executive board of the F.G.D.O. has announced a number of measures and recommendations for an effective improvement of recruiting new members and for the

general practice within the local lodges as well. It seems that there are gaps especially in the treatment of new members concerning their integration into the brotherhood. It is absolutely necessary to ensure that the “newcomers” feel home as soon as possible. For this purpose additionally a so-called “Godfather- or Mentor” system for meaningful accompaniment of the new member by an experienced brother has been created. Unfortunately there is currently little hope for a revival of the Danish Druid Magazine *Druiden*. Obviously there is a lack of well-informed brothers who are prepared to take on this work.

England

The last quarter of 2014 went quiet and peaceful in the A.O.D. Even more than in the bigger Druid Orders in Europe the Druid Order of the United Kingdom should be glad if the status quo of the membership could be maintained at the end of a year. Some of the lodges have very few members, indeed. But some of them try to compensate this shortcoming by reinforcing mutual visits and thus providing more participants in the ritual meetings.

The visit of competent brothers to Sweden, originally planned for autumn 2014 with the aim to get ideas for recruiting new members from the successful Swedish brothers, had to be postponed until April 2015 for personal and family reasons.

The grandson of Bro Barry Wood, 30 years old, has reported from an interesting observation concerning persons of the same age. He has told his grandfather that there is a “black hole” in the life of young men in their thirties, and many of them are looking for something extra in life. So he was asked to try and put something together – using the History of Druidism – which he believes is important for the promotion of his age group.

California

The joint reception together with Grand Arch Druidess Leslie Lewis and Grand Chief Knight Ross Gadeberg, held on August 10, 2014 in the home of *Harmony Grove* #38 in Petaluma with over 200 attendees, was likely to leave a lasting impression for Noble Grand Arch Peter Azevedo.

Here is a quote of his report, which is to be read in the last edition of 2014 of the *California Druid Magazine*:

“A special highlight were the flags of our country and the Druidic Order being presented by two of my sons Chris and Craig Azevedo”, and later on: “I was so proud and shed a few tears when my granddaughter Faith Proaps sang the National Anthem. This was Faith’s first performance of this song on stage.”

Among the participants was also Bro Bill Spaletta, with incredible 73 years of membership undoubtedly the senior Druid in California. He died only a little later, on September 16, 2014, at the age of 92 years.

Roger, the imaginary friend of the imaginary brother Stone E. Henge suggested that “we had better inform our membership about some of our structure in order to retain the interest our membership has shown.” And thus Bro Stone E. Henge explores some of the structural Elements:

“We shall hold our exploration to within the California Druidic Order, however, be aware that we are an affiliate of the I.G.L.D. (International Grand Lodge of Druidism). Our California Druidic Order consists of three separate Branches, bodies. They are the Groves, Circles and Chapters. The Groves are the brotherhood of the organization. The Circles are the sisterhood; both women and men are eligible to join. The third Branch of our Order is known as the Chapters. Members of the Groves and Circles are eligible to join the

Chapters. Chapters are known as the “Fun Branch” of our Order. A “Grand Body” governs each Branch. The Grand Grove governs the Groves; the Grand Circle governs the Circles; and the Grand Chapter governs the Chapters. The leadership position in the Grand Grove is known as Noble Grand Arch. The Grand Arch Druidess leads the Grand Circle, whereas, the Grand Chef Knight takes on the leadership position of the Grand Chapter. I trust that the above information is helpful to our membership.”

Not only for your membership, dear Bro Stone E. Henge. Your notes are also helpful for the elucidation of the members of national Druid Orders in Europe and elsewhere.

Germany

The National Day of Germany, called *Day of German Unity* on 3rd of October 2014 was a very suitable date to celebrate the 140-years anniversary of the *Columbus-Lodge* in Berlin. This day is especially for Berlin, the capital of Germany, because of the historical events in 1989 of paramount importance. May be this aspect has helped that so many Druids from several German Lodges have participated in the festivities. In addition to a well-attended reception on eve in the attractive Lodge Building, and the main event, a Ritual Meeting in the Temple of the Freemasons in which the President of the German Druid Order, Frank Graffenberger, has held a remarkable lecture, the guests were given the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of a special kind. An eye-witness and active initiator of the “Escape-tunnel 57” where 57 persons were able to escape to freedom about 50 years ago, lead the participants along the *Bernauer Street*, an important place for the younger history of Germany. The vivid description of his experience was a touching moment, indeed.

The annual Meeting of the “Knight degree” on 15th November 2014 was attended by 27 brothers, and 2 new members have been initiated in the 7th degree. This time it was a two-days event with plenty of time for good and useful discussions concerning different problems of our order. Among other things it is considered that the brothers with their vast experience should become more willing to be engaged in the active work for the benefit of the German Druid Order. Also in Germany is to be noted that in spite of all programs and suggestions to little new members have been recruited and introduced, at least not enough to compensate for the losses. There is nothing left to do but strengthening the efforts.



Welcome drink for the new “knights”

Foto: Bro Horst Alsleben

There is a good prospect for the establishment of a new lodge in Germany in the not too distant future. On the initiative of the *Harz-Lodge* in Goslar a lively connection to interested gentlemen in the town of Duderstadt is maintained.

Duderstadt is located in Central Germany southeast of the Harz Mountains. It is characterized by a medieval townscape with a lot of half-timbered buildings.

In 2012 a system of training in the form of seminars has been introduced by the management of the German Druid Order and carried out by the "Office of Internal Work", in order to enable interested brothers getting more familiar with the historical ethical principles, aims, values and ideals of Druidism. This program will be continued in 2015 by 6 or 7 regional one-day meetings in different parts of Germany.

The German Druid Order has suffered a heavy loss. The sudden death of Bro Alfred Japel, editor of the Druid magazine "Druidenstern", on 23th December 2014 tears a currently hardly replaceable gap in the editorial team. Brother Alfred died during a hiking tour on the isle of Mauritius in the age of 57 years.

The new Ladies Lodges are developing well and they were already able to win a great number of interested women. In 2015 several initiations can be expected.

Switzerland

The time for the foundation of a new Druid Lodge in Switzerland is near. On 28th February the *Salix Alba Lodge* will be installed in Arbon, East Switzerland, on the southern shore of Lake Constance.

The management of the Swiss Druid Order has decided that the Secretaries of the local lodges will receive a joint training which is headed by the Grand Secretary of the Order. In this way a better communication among the lodges and with the Grand Lodge and additionally a more effective administration shall be secured.

Australia

Unfortunately there is no further information from *down under*. This fact may be regarded as a good indication for neither essential changes nor new essential problems...



New Zealand

The members of the organizing Committee for the XVIII World Congress "Nelson 2016" are confident being able to finalize most of the planning during the IGLD Meeting in Wanganui on 7th February. The Registration Form which will additionally contain detailed information on the costs of individual events - and much more – is under preparation and will be distributed to the essential users (in order to be made available for all of the IGLD members!) by the end of February.

For those who wish to travel to New Zealand for "Nelson 2016": Be prepared for an enjoyable and memorable experience.

For those who wish to travel around New Zealand, there are several options: Organized Tour groups, Campervan/Motor Home, Hire-Car or Bus/Rail. There is little difference in overall costs between Campervan and Hire-Car. Your local travel agency should be able to help you realizing your trip to the other side of the globe.

On 15th February Grand President Bro Bob Stewart will meet the German Brother Dieter Eichmann, who is the owner of a travel agency, just on a Cruise Trip to New Zealand. If some open issues have been resolved Bro Eichmann will prepare offers for different ways of group tours, starting from Germany. Further information can be expected in March/April.

Let me quote the IGLD Grand Vice President of NZ, Sister June Stewart:

“Held over 5 days, the 2016 World Congress is a great opportunity to renew old friendships, make new ones, and generally re-vitalize International Druidism. If any brother has any queries, please contact us via email, and we will endeavour to answer your questions:

Congress Secretary June Stewart: juneshirley@in2net.co.nz

Grand President Bob Stewart: bobstewart@compassnet.co.nz or gp@igld.org .

Please note, this is the ONE AND ONLY TIME the IGLD World Congress will be held in New Zealand, so let us make it a most successful one. We will do our part, will you do yours?”

And, dear Brothers, wouldn't it be a very special experience to become a member of the IGLD during a World Congress in “under down under”???



Marlborough Sounds – NZ’s playground, great boating and fishing.



Aorangi/ Mt. Cook , from Lake Tekapo



New Zealand traffic jam...

Fraternal regards in Unity, Peace and Concord

Grand Secretary