



I.G.L.D.

Newsletter

September 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am quite sure that the most of you are wondering for the first Newsletter in the new period of the IGLD 2012 to 2016...

Here it is!

But before I give you information about that what happened in the National Druid Orders since Copenhagen please pay your attention to the statement of our new elected Grand President Brother Bob Stewart:

Fraternal greetings to one and all,

I trust that you have recovered from the Summer break, and are now back in Druidic mode ready for your Lodge Meetings. We in the Southern hemisphere are coming out of a rather wet and mild winter, and looking forward to some warmer and DRIER weather. Much more of this rain and we will be growing webbed feet. The Copenhagen Congress will be remembered for the friendly atmosphere, and the willingness of all participants to rebuild the bridges, and to further the aims and objectives of our wonderful Order. My congratulations to our Danish Brothers and Sisters for a memorable Congress and the warm reception given to everyone. I was asked in Copenhagen what my objective for IGLD for the next 4 years is. My objective during my term as Grand President is to consolidate the gains we made in Copenhagen in achieving the Harmony and Friendship that was lost in Munich, and to increase our Membership. Let us remember the charge in our Ritual Opening Ceremony which says 'May Unity, Peace and Concord govern the Nations'. I personally believe that IGLD should not be forming new Lodges in other Countries, that is the responsibility of our individual Grand Lodges. Once a Lodge/Lodges have been established, THEN IGLD has a responsibility to promote our benefits and encourage new Members. We must also remember that we have many Lodges with many Members in our own Countries, especially Scandinavia and Germany. Are we communicating enough with these many Brothers, and are they aware of the benefits of joining IGLD? We all know the friendships that have been made through IGLD, but do they? There is a huge base of prospective new Members, if we are willing to tap it. I ask you all to think on this, and any other ideas would be most welcome. IGLD (NI) NZ meets in October, together with Members from IGLD (SI) and Grand Lodge representatives to form an organizing committee for the 2016 World Congress. The response from our Members has been most positive, and a very efficient Team will be able to ensure a great Congress. As details of the Congress, together with estimated costs become available, they will be forwarded to your Vice Presidents for distribution to you. Please let me

know if this does not happen. Also, if any Brother has a problem, or a query, contact your Vice President, and if you get no satisfaction, let me or our Grand Secretary Bro. Dieter Hennecke know. Once the organizing Committee has been established, I will forward contact names and addresses to the VPs.

Thank you all for your endeavors in promoting our Order, enjoy all things Druidical, and I wish you and your families (a bit early) a very merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year. Keep smiling,

Regards in Unity, Peace and Concord,

Bob Stewart, GP.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, during the last 3 months I had the opportunity to communicate with several participants of the Copenhagen Congress. As well in this conversation as in the different articles in the Druid Magazines an agreement is to be seen that this Congress was something special. If the spirit of "Copenhagen 2012" had to be compressed in a few terms they would have to be worded:

Solidarity, fraternal Understanding and Friendship not regarding borders.

Besides of the ideal aspects the congress was very effective.

To say it with the words of Bro Kay Hagby, President and GVP of Norway: "Our international organization has got a new good wind in its sails!" And "The latest congress made a new platform for future work in IGLD".

This Newsletter is not the right place to give a detailed report about the XXVII IGLD World Congress. Please find information in your national Druid Magazines. There are reports and comments about "Copenhagen 2012" to find in the *Barden* of Norway, the *Svensk Druid Tidning* of Sweden, the *Druiden* of Denmark and the *Druidenstern* of Germany/Switzerland. All of them are absolutely positive and friendly.

The cover of the August edition of the **Swedish** Druid Magazine shows besides the National Flags of the participating countries a photo of the new elected Grand Vice Presidents dressed in white coats and wearing their Collars and jewels.

Regarding the Copenhagen Congress as an example of international cooperation in friendship and brotherhood - to be read in his comments in the edition No. 4 of the *Barden* - the President of the **Norwegian** Druid Order, Bro Kay Hagby, entertains a wish that more of his brothers might decide to become a member of our international organization in order to come in touch and to become friends with brothers from other countries, for example during IGLD Congresses. He recommends to start thinking of the next Congress in New Zealand in March 2016 and to start making plans for a trip to the other side of the world as well.

Dear brothers and sisters, I think this is the right place to thank our Danish brothers and especially the Organizing Committee for an excellent arrangement.

Brothers, you have done a great job!

The edition No. 2/2012 of the **Danish** Druid Magazine *Druiden* is going to become a historical one. It is probably the last booklet giving information to the brothers in Denmark in their mother tongue and thus it means the end of a long tradition.

Bro Ib Mathiesen as the editor-in-chief speaks in his leading article of decreasing interests among the brothers and a lack of serviceable articles. These two facts and

additionally the missing chance of recruiting a follower are the main reasons which make it impossible for him to continue his work.

In this edition the brothers can find a detailed report about the Copenhagen Congress written by the last Grand Secretary of IGLD and new Grand Vice President for Denmark, Bro Flemming Ib Pedersen.

The **German Druid Order** has entered a kind of “virgin druidic territory” by arranging two workshops – one each for the lodges in the northern and southern part of Germany- in order to discuss questions in connection with the *Personal Identity* of the Druid Order. The invitation was accepted by most of the Noble Arches of the local German lodges and their “second in command” and was regarded as very instructive useful, even for brothers with great experience in druidic matters. Main point on the agenda was the problem of recruiting new members which seems to be the same difficult question in all of the Druid Orders. Another point was the training for using the right arguments in discussions with journalists or other people interested in Druidism. It is very important that the leading brothers of the lodges become safer in using good arguments in talking to the public about the meaning of humanity as a basis for a modern Druidism.

There is a rather big event in advance in northern Germany: The local lodge in the town of Wolfenbüttel named “*Zur Bundestreue*” is going to celebrate two anniversaries from Nov. 30th to Dec. 2nd:

- 100th birthday of Lodge “*Zur Bundestreue*” and
- 50 years annual reception of a Christmas tree, called “Fir Tree of Peace”

bestowed by the lodge “*Bardstjernen*” in Drammen, Norway, as a gift to the citizens of Wolfenbüttel. The handing over of the tree to the Burgomaster happens during an official act on the Central Market Place with presence of many citizens and Druids from Norway, Switzerland, England and other German lodges as well.

For the festive evening banquet will the biggest banqueting-hall of the town just be big enough!

Before the new Grand President, Brother Bob Stewart, and his wife June, the new Grand Vice President of the UAOD New Zealand – and the first female GVP in the history of IGLD – returned to the other side of our globe they took the opportunity for a 2 weeks stay in Germany. Both of them joined a 1st degree`s meeting of the local lodge “*Holstentreue*” in Kiel and a week later the so called “Forest Lodge” which is annually held in a 16 years ago by the brothers laid out forest close to Kiel, every 3rd Wednesday in June. This is a ritual meeting with relation to the nature and a social event as well. Lodge “*Holstentreue*” is very happy and a little proud having been the first lodge the new Grand President and the GVP/ NZ has paid a visit to. During this time June and Bob have been shown some nice places in northern Germany but unfortunately the weather was not very good. Nevertheless there was no boredom and on the other hand good occasion for the Grand President to discuss matters of IGLD with his Grand Secretary...

One of our decisions was to publish three editions of the Newsletter every year (January, May and September) in order to give the National Orders more time for collecting “material” worth to be published and thus to be more interesting for the brothers worldwide.

Another question is how to find a way to be sure that all our members will receive the Newsletter. We urgently ask the Grand Vice Presidents, the Secretaries of the Druid

Orders, the Grand Lodges and the local lodges to act in concert in passing the Newsletter to those whom it is made for: To each and every brother!

Concerning news from the different National Orders we have to take notice of the summer break which is held during July and August by most of the European Orders. But in spite of this time where the brothers is given the chance of relaxing from druidic work there is a lot of activities determinable like Golf competitions, excursions and other outdoor events arranges by the Loges in Sweden and Norway.

Just a few days after the Copenhagen Congress, on June 6th, 2012, Druid Order of **Switzerland** (SDO) had arranged an assembly of its delegates. Depending on retirements of several leading brothers of the SDO some new brothers could be motivated to enter upon the most important offices. The Order has been striving for - and succeeded – in reducing the average age and in getting a better distribution within the Lodges.

When the summer break was over, on August 25th, the SDO has invited the Noble Arches and Vice Noble Arches of the Swiss local lodges for a conference. The main point on the agenda was the recruiting of new members. Some of the lodges have been able to present different suitable actions in order to fulfill this important task. The SDO is confident in succeeding to increase the number of Druids in Switzerland.

Sister June Stewart, IGLD Vice President for **New Zealand**, has given the following information:

Since returning from Europe at the end of June life has been full of interesting challenges, the main one being the very wet winter that we have had. Hopefully as spring approaches it will improve. The daffodils are in full bloom now.

The news that New Zealand is to host the 2016 World Congress has been very well received by our fellow Brothers and Sisters throughout the country.

Our 99yr old, Dolly Dyer, wrote congratulating Bro Bob & Sis June on their positions achieved and has booked her bed!! Her goal to achieve!

Bob & I will be visiting the South Island IGLD meeting on the 8th Sept so we can start doing some preliminary planning for the Congress.

The North Island IGLD will hold its meeting in Nelson on the 20th October. From this meeting we will get further direction from the members for Congress.

The Druid Orders of **Australia** and New Zealand are used to arrange joint IGLD Congresses every two years. The last Congress took place in Wellington NZ

(s. report in Newsletter April 2011) and following the rules the next one will be arranged by the Druids of Western Australia from 11 – 14 March 2013 in Mandurah, located 74 Kilometers south of Perth. The planning is well under way.

The Congress will be in two parts, first the Congress and then a 5 days trip through the South West of Western Australia, a region which is famous for its wonderful vineyards, lovely coastal areas and a lot of other attractions.

The organizers are very happy that strong interest has been shown from New Zealand - and at the Copenhagen Congress interest was shown even from Scandinavian and further European IGLD Members.

Report from Brother Barry Wood, GVP/ A.O.D. **Great Britain:**

This summer in U.K. has been very quiet on the Druidic front due to some Lodges being closed for the summer period but others do open all year round.

We have our first I G L D (U.K.) meeting since the Congress on the 27th October where the business will be given a great deal of debate, I feel confident that all our Brothers will agree that the changes we made were right and proper.

In U.K. the Ancient Order of Druids is about to undertake the biggest changes to its constitutional laws for many years in the hope that we can improve things which have delayed progress. Of course it will not be an easy task as we do not wish to interfere with our tradition and ritual

I am in contact with a group in Wales who say they are interested in re-opening a Lodge there but there is a lot to do and visits to make including initiating some of them into the Order before we can open it. However I am confident that it will come to fruition.

As you may all know our summer here has been the best ever (not the weather) it started of course with the Queens Diamond Jubilee and has just ended in the best Olympics and Paralympics ever which has certainly uplifted all our spirits and pride in our Country. The displays of unity shown I have only ever witnessed before at meetings with Druids from around the World.

Unfortunately we have to realize and to accept that the Branch *Midwest* of the Druid Order in the **United States** has been died out. There is no contact anymore since "Munich 2008" and there is not even a reply to several emails. This development was within sight before long, but in spite of this knowledge it is very sad for IGLD when one of the oldest Affiliated Societies disappears without making any declaration.

But probably there is some interest in IGLD growing up by the **California Druids**. The Californian Branch of the Druid Order in the US is not an Affiliated Society of the IGLD and in the past it has been a little difficult to get in touch with our "relatives" in the western part of the United States. But lately the Grand Secretary of the Grand Grove California, Bro Bill Koenig, has shown interest in the equipment used by the IGLD, like Membership Certificates, Collars (Regalia) and Lapel badges. Meanwhile our Grand President had contact with Bill Koenig who is planning a trip to New Zealand and Australia early next year and may attend the/AUS/ NZ IGLD Congress in Western Australia in March 2013. Let`s wait and see.

I myself am subscriber of the *California Druid Magazine* for many years in order to inform the brothers reading the German/Swiss Magazine "*Druidenstern*" and actually to use it from now on for the IGLD Newsletter.

The name of the current Noble Grand Arch is Bro Paul Hess; Grand Arch Druidess of the Grand Circle is Sister Bonnie Seni and the name of the Grand Chief Knight of the Grand Chapter is Lydia WhiteBear. I think this name is very interesting in an ethnological view.

If brothers – probably travelling in the US - are interested in addresses of the Lodges in California please do not hesitate to contact me.

Last not least:

Brother Peter Azavedo, *Harmony Grove #38* in Petaluma, Ca., asks a question:
Who is smart? Blonde? Over six feet? And probably the fastest Druid?

Answer: That would be the fastest man in *Harmony Grove #38*, Brother Steve Nelson.

Steve holds the world record at 196 miles per hour at Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah for driving his homemade "Lakester". The talented Steve built his "Lakester" with a modified 1932 Ford block 4 cylinder designed by Rem. It generates 250 Horse Power and qualifies the Petaluma driver for the vintage four cylinder "Lakester" class. Steve leaves in a few weeks for the "flats" to try for another record at or over 200 MPH. We wish Steve a safe and successful run!

With fraternal regards in Unity, Peace and Concord

Dieter Hennecke
Grand Secretary