



I.G.L.D.
Newsletter

III/2013

September 2013

Dear IGLD Members,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Meanwhile all of the National Druid Orders have finished their summer breaks, and nobody in Europe has reason to complain about the weather. After a hard and long winter and a following cool and rainy springtime accompanied by widespread flooding the unpleasant time has been compensated by some warm and sunny months. I am sure everybody enjoyed this time and is now full of power and good ideas for the upcoming period of druidic work.

And now please take note of that what happened since May – as far as I was aware of.

Norway

In the past has been mentioned that the Norwegian FGDO generously supports the research on prostate cancer. Recipient of the donations collected from the Brothers for this purpose is the Radiumhospitals Legater, an institution which is exclusively built and operating from donations and testamentary gifts from people and organizations.

The donation for 2012 amounted to 100,000 NOK (€ 12,675; GBP 10,620) and was handed over to the recipient by the President of the Norwegian Druid Order, Brother Kay Hagby and Honorary Druid Brother Arvid Jellum. The money is intended solely for research.

Sweden

The most important event of the last months, probably of the year 2013, was the General Assembly (Riksmöte) of the Swedish Druid Order from 1st to 4th of August in Lund. And the most important item on the agenda was definitely the election of the new Executive Board.

The previous “Chief” of the Order, Brother Björn Cederberg, retired after a successful term of office from 2009 to 2013, and consequently his former deputy, Brother Dag Wikman took over this high office. The new Secretary of the Swedish FGDO is Brother Bertil Svensson. There is a detailed report to be found in the August edition of the Svensk Druid Tidning.

The new Bureau is facing a major task: The celebration of the 100 years anniversary of the establishment of the Swedish Druid Order on 16th November 2013 in Malmö.

The celebrations, ritual meeting and anniversary banquet, will be held in the Town Hall of Malmö.

On Saturday 5th of October 2013 the Scandinavian Grand Lodge of Druidism (SGLD) will have a meeting in Ljungby, Sweden.

Iceland

The Grand Lodge *Ísafold* could increase the number of its local lodges. The 4th lodge in Iceland, named **Gaia** has been established in Reykjanesbaer/Keflavik, close to the Iceland International Airport, on 6th of September. In the Greek mythology Gaia is the name of Mother Earth, the sentience or soul of our planet. Gaia sentience animates the planet, gives it purpose and makes life on earth possible.



The new executive board of Lodge Gaia

Denmark

The 50 years anniversary of Lodge *Jotar* in Aarhus on 24th of August was well attended by nearly 100 participants from Denmark, Norway and Germany. And it was well organized. The ritual meeting was joined by 85 brothers from 11 Lodges (6 DK, 3 N, 2 D) and 2 Grand-Lodges, the Grand Secretary of IGLD and the complete Executive Board of the Danish Druid Order. The accompanying ladies visited the “Old Town” of Aarhus, which is a kind of “living Museum”. The banquet was held in the impressive Free-Mason Building.

The Danish Druid-Order has invited the Druids from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany for the “*Druidefræf 2013*” (Druid Meeting) to be held from 27th to 29th September 2013 in the German “Hotel an der Grenze” (on the border) in Flensburg. Actually 85 brothers have logged in for discussions about common issues and a get-together in pleasant surroundings as well.

England

Brother Barry Wood, Grand Vice President of the AOD has sent the report shown below:

“The year so far in England is still very quiet on the Druidic front due to holidays and some Lodges closing for the summer season but others have managed to keep going although some are not well supported.

We have our first A O D Conference for three years booked for the beginning of November at Margate where our main topics will be recruitment and the changes being made to the Constitutional Laws of the Order, we have no doubt that not all Brothers will be happy with the changes but we have to move forward without changing any of our Rituals and Traditions.

We have had visits this summer from Brother John-Ture Karlsson from Sweden who along with his Senior Brothers have been most helpful in helping with their promotional Halmstads model which is being passed to all our Lodges.

We also had a visit from six Brothers from the Eken Lodge in Tönsberg last month and they are always welcome among us. Another very pleasant visit which we hope to return in the New Year.

I am still in contact with a group in Wales who are interested in re-opening a Lodge there but there are a few problems, however we are still confident that it will come to fruition in the New Year and we hope some of you will join us.

Yours in UCP

Barry Wood “

Germany

A couple of years ago the legislative body of the German Druid Order, the *Druidentag*, issued an order to the presidency to undergo the long-existing druidic rituals for the 3 degrees in primitive lodges of a substantive and linguistic revue.

The working group, initiated for this purpose, has now presented the result. In 5 different German cities workshops have been offered in which the historical changes were discussed and the modified rituals were carried out in practice.

As a response to the devastating floods in different regions of Germany the Order had called the brothers for donations in order to give at least financial assistance in some cases. Many of the members followed this challenge. The total sum of more than € 20.000 could be used, for example, to assist the restoring of flooded buildings of a Kindergarten in Leipzig, a nursing home in Passau or the home of a needed older woman in Regensburg. In some cases the local lodges have increased the sum by own financial means.

Thus the Lodge “*Die Steinerner zu Regensburg*”, which was just founded on the 6th of June, got the opportunity to prove its druidic quality by helping the older lady saving her home.

The inauguration of the Lodge Building in Regensburg happened on the 17th of September and was attended by 80 participants. The festive act has mainly been dedicated by humanitarian aid.

Another donation was given on the occasion of the establishment of the “Monrepos-Lodge” in Ludwigsburg on the 29th of June. The local “Ecumenical Hospice Initiative” was grateful for € 1,500 as financial assistance for its humanistic mission.

The festive establishing session was held in form of an “open” meeting in attendance 80 guests, among them the Mayor of Ludwigsburg who praised the local connectedness of the *Monrepos* Lodge with his town.

The next meeting of the knights (7th degree) will be held on 25th of October in Kassel. Four qualified members (Past Arch Druids) will be initiated into the highest degree of the Druid Order.

Dear members, have you ever heard of Sir Hubert von Herkomer? Perhaps you know him as a famous British painter, or as a pioneering film-director or as a composer. But did you know that he was a committed and very active Druid as well?

Hubert von Herkomer was initiated in the Schiller-Lodge, Munich (now Bavaria Lodge), in October 1909 and although he lived mainly in Bushey, England. He was a member of this lodge until he died on 31st of March 1914. I would like to give you a short report about the life and work of this unusual man and Druid especially since he made great contributions to the connection between British and German Druids and thus is a role model for us members of IGLD:

Herkomer was born at Waal in Bavaria on 26th of May 1849. His family was poor, but his father was a wood-carver of great ability and his mother tried to supplement the earnings of the family by giving music lessons. The family left Bavaria for the US in 1851 but soon they returned to Europe and settled in Southampton in 1857 moving to a house called Dyreham in Bushey. After having received some money for his carving his father determined to take Hubert to Munich so that he could study art. In 1866 he entered upon a more serious course of study at the South Kensington Schools, and in 1869 he exhibited for the first time at the Royal Academy. He became a famous illustrator, was able to establish his position as an artist of high distinction and was elected an associate of the Academy in 1879 and finally a full member in 1894. In 1885 he was appointed Slade professor at Oxford, a position which he held until 1894. In 1896 he was knighted by Queen Victoria, and in 1899 awarded Pour le Mérite by Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Sir Hubert von Herkomer was unbelievably busy and left a great number of memorable paintings in oil and water color, among them several in relation to Druidism, like that one shown below.



Hwfa Môn, Arch Druid of Wales
Sir Hubert von Herkomer, 1896

But he was also an inspired wood-carver and illustrative draughtsman. He directed the Herkomer School for art education in Bushey, which was founded in 1883, without payment until 1904.

Despite being a prominent member of the Royal Academy of Arts as well as being on familiar terms with the royal family (whose druidic outfit he created!) Herkomer was never totally accepted by the British establishment. He was ultimately a victim of the deteriorating relationship between Great Britain and Germany where he shuttled in between. Most of the summers he spent in the town of Landsberg on river Lech, 70 km southwest from Munich. Here you can not only find the Herkomer Museum, but this historic town has its famous "son" honored in many different ways as there are the Herkomer Street, Herkomer Park, Herkomer passage and the Herkomer hall in the Town Hall. And close to the main station you can find the Mutterturm (mother tower) which Herkomer built for his beloved mother and in which he used to work in as often as he was able to.

With regard to the 100th day of death next year the Herkomer Museum is going to prepare a book with paintings in large size, also with relation to Druidism. Understandably the Bavaria Lodge in Munich feels a strong commitment to its former brother and the members decided to support the book project with a donation of 3.000 €. This prize was presented by brothers of the Bavaria Lodge to the director of the Herkomer Museum on 15th of June 2013 at a short ceremony in the Herkomer Hall of the Landsberg Town Hall in the presence of notables of Landsberg. The background of the photo below is a huge Herkomer painting showing the view out of the windows to the market place. It corresponds exactly to the reality. As a conclusion can be noted: Sir Hubert von Herkomer was not only a famous artist but also a Druid and a role model for all of us in all of the National Druid Orders and for the IGLD as well.



Participating Brothers in Herkomer Hall of Landsberg Town Hall
Photo: Bavaria Lodge

Switzerland

It was the Swiss Druid Order which hosted the annual bilateral Swiss-German IGLD Meeting. On 22th of June 2013 brothers from both of the national orders met in the lodge building of the *Camelot Lodge* in Basel. The meeting was organized as a one day performance in order to avoid an (in Switzerland extremely expensive) accommodation for the participants from abroad.

During a very impressive ritual meeting 27 new IGLD members (13 CH; 14 D) have been initiated in our international community. A highlight was the speech of the President of the Swiss Druid Order, Brother Oskar Gröflin. *“Internationality as globalization in context with the economy and with a regard to our Order”*.

The Swiss brothers have been wonderful hosts.

The annual “Day of Swiss Druids 2013” (Schweizerischer Druidentag) will be held on 16th of November in Solothurn. Prior to the ritual meeting a visit of the Cathedral St. Ursen is planned. And after the meeting the brothers will have a joint lunch.

Australia/New Zealand

There was no reason for the Druids in Australia and New Zealand to have a summer break in 2013 – it’s winter in the southern hemisphere!

New Zealand’s Vice President, Sister June Stewart, has sent the following Report:

New Zealand is in good heart. We had our meeting (North Island IGLD) in Hamilton over Queen’s Birthday weekend and those that attended had an enjoyable time. We enjoyed a pleasant evening meal then went back to the home of Grethe Rockhouse where we played cards and some members learnt a new game. Just shows one is

never too old to learn. Sunday morning we did a 'hop on the Bus' tour around parts of Hamilton, lunch at the Rockhouse homestead then off to the Rose Gardens. An enjoyable pot luck tea was had by those left. Then everyone travelled home to respective homes on Monday. We meet again over Labour Weekend at the end of October in Nelson.

After the South Island IGLD meeting there has been a little brightness on the horizon with 2 new members being initiated.

A couple of brothers had asked whether in the severe earthquake which shook New Zealand on 16th of August 2013 probably fellow Druids were affected. Please find below the answer of our Grand President:



Fraternal greetings to you all.

For those Brothers and Sisters who may be concerned about the recent earthquakes in New Zealand, do not be alarmed. The area white, to the right of the map, is where the earthquakes occurred. Seddon is a small rural township, and although some houses were badly damaged, the main quakes were in Cook Strait, 10 to 15 kms out at sea. There was some minor damage to Wellington and Blenheim, and areas around coastal Marlborough. Nelson was not affected, but we did feel the shaking. This is life in NZ (the shaky isles). NZ is on the major fault line between the Pacific and Tasman tectonic plates. In fact, there are many fault lines all over NZ, but most are like our many Volcano's, dormant, or extinct. The chances of being run over by a truck are greater.

Plans for the 2016 World Congress are progressing satisfactorily, and we are looking forward to meeting many Brothers here in Sunny Nelson. A more detailed program, and costs, will be circulated in the 1st Newsletter in 2014

I trust that you have enjoyed your summer break, and that your Lodges are going from strength to strength.

*My good wishes to you all, in Unity, Peace and Concord,
Bob Stewart, GP.*

USA/California

Brother Bill DeWitt, Deputy Grand Arch of the California Druids, reports regularly on the small and bigger events he experienced along with Noble Grand Arch Brother Paul Hess in the numerous visits to the local lodges in California. "Along the

California Druidic Trail” is the name of the report, and it is impressive how many visits the senior brothers are able to make during their term of office. If I counted correctly there were ten official visits during the first two months of 2013 over the whole area where Lodges exist in California.

The 2013 Druid Convention was held in Concord, CA, June 27th through 29th, 2013. The result is not yet available but some extracts of the resolution referred to the Committee of Legislation should be mentioned:

Any Grove failing to send at least (1) delegate to a Grand Grove Session, and such delegate must answer roll call on the opening and closing mornings of session, that Grove being absent, shall be fined the sum of four hundred (\$ 400) dollars as a base amount plus a \$5 (five dollar) per capita of grove membership as the fine for non-attendance. This fine shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

And another appointment:

It is necessary to have a 51% attendance of subordinate groves to legally open the Grand Grove Convention to conduct business.

Another permanent column in the California Druid Magazine is named “*Thoughts of Stone E. Henge*”. The Article in edition II/2013 is worth to be cited:

“There I was, sitting under the Oak Tree again the other day. I was visiting with some of my local Grove and Circle friends. We discussed the upcoming Convention to take place in June, some of the financial aspects of the Order and other interesting facets of the Order.

The conversation progresses towards the more detailed discussion regarding the local Units. I must say the discussion was very constructive. However, I did become concerned, when I was advised that there was no allegiance to the local unit. In the mind of the advisor that was a perfectly valid observation. But I did not provoke my thought processes.

The non-allegiance observation of my friend at the local Unit level was understandable. However, when applying the observation to the total Order, all Units of the Order, I find there is an equally valid approach of a more general nature. It becomes macro thoughts versus micro thoughts. When one becomes involved in the leadership of the California Druidic Order, macro considerations must be applied. Decisions and applications must be for the greater “Good of the Order”.

Upon the macro application of the “Good of the Order” it may appear that one is not being allegiant to their local subordinate Unit. However, that is far from a valid argument. Ascertaining that the full Order is operating in a proper and non-divisive manner is to the benefit of the individual (micro), subordinate Unit of our Order. Our macro body, the Grand Grove, is the cohesive umbrella for our individual subordinate Units.

Our great Country tends to have many divisive aspects in our everyday lives. The Super Bowl, and other sports activities, caused divisiveness when we supported either the 49er or the Ravens. But that is good divisiveness. We have no room for negative divisiveness. This is how predators divide and conquer their prey, be it in the animal kingdom, Countries of our World or our beloved Order. Our Grand Grove leaders must macro-manage our California Druidic Order. And sometimes that may lead to controversy.

My friend Roger stopped by the Oak Tree to inquire about what I was doing. I told him about the foregoing message, then asked him for his opinion on whether to publish it or not. He said the message is your opinion, your philosophy, so publish it! Once again Roger lead the way for me to relate my concern to you. That Roger, he is a smart one, that’s for sure.

Respectively submitted in U.P.& C

Stone E. Henge, Writer-at-Large

I think all of us will agree.

At the end of June 2013 the UAOD California had registered 121 of its brothers as members of the IGLD.

Dieter Hennecke

Grand Secretary