



I.G.L.D.
Newsletter

II/2013

May 2013

Dear IGLD Members,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Finally, the exceptionally long and cold European winter is over. Rarely have people longed so much for springtime and warmer weather.

The weather will follow the rules of nature and it will get more comfortable in the months ahead. But unfortunately there are no rules for the political situation in the world. People are still dying in Syria while fighting against a ruthless dictatorship. Another dictator, young and megalomaniac, juggles with a nuclear bomb and starves his people. Fanatical and blinded men turn a traditional sport event in a bloodbath. This list can be extended arbitrarily.

Hopefully the druidic life in all of our National Orders will be an oasis in a desert of inhumanity and it will be able to take courage facing new challenges.

Norway

The Norwegian Druid Order has lost a significant brother. The former President of the F.G.D O., Brother Arthur Tollefsen, passed away on the 2nd of March. He served his order in various offices for about 30 years, and he had knowledge of Druidism like few others.

It is just a year since the Norwegian Order bought a house next to the Lodge Building in Sandefjord. But by many helping hands and mostly voluntary work of skilled brothers the house could be prepared to be used for all druidic purposes.

Another Lodge Building, called *Druidenes Hus*, Parkveien 47 B, in Oslo is a couple of years older. On the 14th of February this house with its 4 distinctive pillars in the entrance area became 100 years old. The building is situated close to the Royal Palace and it has an interesting history. Among others it was the residence of the personal physician of King Haakon VII (1872 – 1957). His wife has been a close friend of Queen Maud. Today it is the home for 3 Druid Lodges: *Nordstjernen*, the oldest lodge within the F.G.D.O. Norway and the lodges *Pythagoras* and *Fraxinus*.

In order to make it easier for the members to communicate with the officers of the local Lodges, Grand Lodges and other institutions of the Order, the Norwegian F.G.D.O. has introduced a uniform system of email addresses. It is adapted to the office and not to the name of the incumbent. For example: To communicate with the secretary of a local Lodge just use *Office-name of the lodge@fgdo.no* (skr-solvstjernen@fgdo.no).

The German Druid Order has recently introduced the same system.

Iceland

Here is the proper way to give a lodge a center of life before its future has even begun: Just build an own house for the brothers!

The 4th Druid Lodge in Iceland is going to be installed in Reykjanesbaer on the 7th of September 2013. It has not yet a name – but a house.



Foto: Br. Hörður Olsen

The installation might be connected with an inauguration of the new Lodge Building in Keflavik. The building itself is an evidence of the efficiency and the idealism of the Druids in Iceland. Well done, dear brothers!

Sweden

Brother Bertil Carlsson, one of the brothers who are responsible for the Swedish Druid Magazin tried to make an issue of the Swedish FGDO with regard to its position within the international Druidism. He asked the National Druid Orders a couple of questions concerning this matter in November 2012. Except the report of the German Druid Order the reactions of the other affiliated societies of the IGLD have been very poor and thus his efforts ended in fact in a comparison between the Swedish and the German Order and the knowledge that both of them seem to have the same problems.

Concerning the “superordinate” organizations IGLD or SGLD brother Carlsson found out that there is no strategy for a satisfying “recruiting” of new members to be seen.

In his opinion the joyful expression of the Grand Secretary shown in Newsletter 1/2013 about the initiation of 61 new members during the last IGLD/SGLD Meeting in Hønefoss (Oct. 2012) seems almost to be a little naïve. Dear brother Bertil, believe me, the Grand Secretary would have been as glad as it would have been less than 61 new members, important is that they are serious. To give you an example of the relation between quantity and quality and that the importance of great numbers is relative I would like to remind you of the attendance of Swedish IGLD members at the Copenhagen World Congress in May 2012: Sweden has 1011 IGLD members and 17 of them were participants of the World Congress at a place close to their home country. There is no doubt about the quality, 15 of them have been delegates or members of the extended board of IGLD.

An important event for the Swedish Order casts its glow. From 1st to 4th of August will be the General Assembly (Riksmöte) in Lund with a lot of important items on the agenda and an interesting social part as well. The leadership of the Order is expecting a great number of participants. At the same time (1st Aug.) the very popular National Druids Championship of Golf will take place.

But one can argue about if the following event is more important or not. On the 7th of November 2013 the Swedish National Grand Lodge – **Riks Stor Loge** – **will be 100 years old**. The Order will celebrate this event on 16th of November in Malmö.

Please mark this date in your calendar.

The beginning of Druidism in Scandinavia is very interesting. Actually Druidism came to Sweden 9 years before, when the *Lodge Ad Astra* in Malmö was established on the initiative and with the support of German brothers from Kiel on 11th June 1904. And during the following 9 years all of the new founded Swedish lodges were under jurisdiction of the German Druid Order until the Order became strong enough to establish an own National Order. Meanwhile it is the biggest National Druid Order in the world with approximately 5,000 members.

Finland

There is still one Druid Lodge in Finland: Lodge *Kronos*, Helsinki.

This Lodge has been established in 2001 on the initiative and with the support of the Swedish Druid Order and it will remain under jurisdiction of Sweden until an own Grand Lodge in Finland can be founded.

At the present time *Kronos* has 41 members and is growing on average of 2 – 5 brothers per year. The middle age of the brothers is about 40 – 50 years. Most of them are living within the catchment area of the capital of Finland.

Except for a summer break the brothers use to have ritual meetings on every first Monday of a month. In addition to regular druid meetings a couple of annual events will be arranged, some of them together with the families.

Druids travelling in Finland are cordially invited to join the meetings. For further information please contact the secretary of Lodge *Kronos* (kronos.skr@gmail.com) or petri.lindgren@consista.fi.

Denmark

The Danish Druid Order has given itself a new official logo. It has been designed by the heraldic expert of the Norwegian Druid Order, Bro Erik Eriksen.



A couple of months ago it seemed as if the Danish Druid Magazin would have to cease, but fortunately Bro Ib Mathiesen as the editor of the *Druiden* has found some brothers who are willing to support him. Thus, the further appearance is secured.

In April 2012 the Lodge *Sirius* in Horsens had established a committee for public relation which obviously did a very good job. Meanwhile nine new brothers could be initiated.

England

Brother Barry Wood, IGLD Grand Vice President of AOD, has sent the following report:

This year so far in the U.K. has been very quiet on the Druidic front due to some very bad weather conditions for travel but all Lodges seem to have managed to keep going although some are not well supported.

We have our first I G L D (U.K.) meeting of the year on the 20th April and once again our main topic will be recruitment not only into the Order but also into I G L D where the number is only about 10% of the total of Brothers in the Order.

In U.K. the Ancient Order of Druids we have started the work of changes to our constitutional laws. The Order is now run on a day to day basis by The Executive Committee which has been formed by Brothers from each Grand Lodge area. Of course it is not be an easy task as we do not wish to interfere with our tradition and ritual.

We are also arranging a Conference this year after a lapse of two years in the hope that we can stimulate some new ideas.

I am still in contact with a group in Wales who are interested in re-opening a Lodge there but there is a lot to do and recruiting is proving a problem; however we are still confident that it will come to fruition in the not too distant future.

Germany

The leading members of the German Druid Order have no reason to complain about a lack of employment. There are a couple of important events within the first 6 months of 2013 which require the presence of the leadership:

On 13th April one of the oldest German Lodges, named *Zur Burg Hohenzollern* in Nuremberg could celebrate its 125 years anniversary.

The Lodge *Reinholdsburg* in Rendsburg is 25 years younger and had its anniversary on the 26th of April.

There were 2 events on the 11th of May: Installation of the *Oberschwaben* Lodge in Ravensburg, situated close to the northern shore of Lake Constance, and a celebration of the 20th birthday of another lodge. Normally 20 is not a real anniversary but the lodge *Zur Hoffnung* in Guben, close to the Polish border, is one of the 2 still working lodges which have been installed in the eastern part of Germany after the reunification. And that is a reason to celebrate, indeed.

On the 8th of June another new lodge will be installed, the name is *Die Steinerne zu Regensburg*. This town in Bavaria has a long and very interesting history. As year of foundation is 170 AD to be seen when the roman Emperor Markus Aurelius ordered to set a Legion`s camp named Castra Regina. But long before that point of time Celtic tribes must have been living there. In 2002 a couple of cult objects of the Celts were found which have been dated to the time of 400 BC.

And a third new lodge will be installed on the 30th of June: The *Monrepos*- Lodge in Ludwigsburg, a town with 89.000 inhabitants, situated in southern Germany close to Stuttgart the capital of Baden-Württemberg. Mon repos (French: "my rest") is the name of a nice castle close to the famous Residential Palace of Ludwigsburg.

Switzerland

The Swiss Druid Order has invited for a bilateral Swiss/German IGLD Meeting in Basel on the 22th of June 2013. It is to be seen as the mutual annual IGLD Meetings together with the German Druid Order. The last one had been arranged by the German Order in 2011 in Flensburg. There was no meeting in 2012 with regard to the IGLD World Congress in Copenhagen.

While an old lodge, the *Jakob-Burckhardt-Lodge* in Basel, unfortunately had to be closed at the beginning of 2013, a new lodge is in preparation. The *Salix-Alba-Lodge* in Widnau will be the first Druid Lodge in the eastern part of Switzerland.

Australia/New Zealand

The number of participants of the AUS/NZ IGLD Congress 11 – 14 March in Mandurah, Western Australia, may be referred as manageable, but all of the AUS and NZ IGLD Branches were present. And – you can see it as a coincidence – it was the second time in succession that the Grand President and the Grand Secretary of IGLD joined the meeting. However, their names have been changed since Copenhagen 2012!

Obviously the Australian summer season seems to be over in March. With the exception of the Druids there were not many other guests living in the Congress Hotel *Atrium Ressor*t in Mandurah – not a drawback. The facilities of the hotel provided opportunities for all needs of the Congress. Unfortunately the reports about the current situation of the IGLD branches have not been more optimistic than 2

years before in Wellington. There is a very serious situation in Australia. In fact only 3 or 4 Druid Lodges deserving this name are left. It is mainly the memory of old times when Druids meet at private occasions and try to keep the druidic thoughts in mind. A suggestion was made that the 3 remaining jurisdictions of Australia merge in one jurisdiction and thus the affiliated body for IGLD in Australia shall be the *Grand Lodge of Australia*. As a result the number of Australian delegates for the IGLD Congress would decrease to 2, 1 for the Affiliated Society and 1 for the first 100 IGLD members. But this issue cannot be directed by the IGLD members and it is to be seen as a recommendation for the decision to be made by the 4 Australian Grand Lodges.

The situation in New Zealand seems to be more hopeful. The last IGLD Meeting took place last February in Te Puke, situated at the Bay of Plenty Region on North Island. The average age of the NZ Druids is high and recruiting new member is very difficult, but the IGLD World Congress 2016 in Nelson could be suitable to give the Order a boost. The preparations for the Congress are in the pipeline, and you will receive more details in every Newsletter during the next years. You find an update on the last page of this edition.

Elected President of the IGLD AUS/NZ for the upcoming period is Brother Max McCready from Melbourne.

Wednesday, the 13th March 2013 was a wonderful warm and sunny day, just made for a boat trip to South Gunderup on the other side of the Mandurah lagoon. Dolphins jumping out of the water and “surfing” on the stern wave accompanied the boat and enjoyed by all of us. The official part of the Congress was finished with a Barbecue in the nice hotel garden.

But this was not the end of the international meeting. Pam and Graeme Foulds, members of the *Bunbury Lodge* and busily engaged in IGLD matters, had arranged a 5 days bus trip in the southern part of Western Australia which has been joined by 14 Druids – 14 friends as well – 5 from Australia, 7 from New Zealand and 2 from Germany. The first stop was made in Bunbury, where we got the opportunity to join a 1st degree meeting of the *Jasmine Lodge* which is a mixed one while the other lodge in Bunbury, named *Bunbury Lodge*, is reserved for male members. The Arch Druid of the *Jasmine Lodge*, Sister Rona Williams, gave the guests a warm welcome and she directed sovereignly the meeting.

Bro Graeme Foulds was our drive-guide, and he left no doubt that he loves his country which is understandable when you get to know this area. It is the opposite of the cliché of Australia, mostly seen as a hot and dry continent. Wonderful Karri forests, wine growing and lovely beaches form this area. Travelling in this group close together for several days was a wonderful experience. And it was IGLD at its best!

A permanent participant of the AUS/NZ IGLD Congresses was missing in Mandurah. The family doctor of Sister Dolly Dyer from Hamilton, NZ North Island, had recommended her to give up the 8 hours flight from Auckland to Perth. At that point of time it was just a precaution. On 25th of April Sister Dolly celebrated her 100th birthday in good health and mental acuity. But the course of life is unpredictable. On 10th of May Dolly got a stroke and was rushed to hospital in a serious condition. Unfortunately she did not wake up again and died on 17th May. No doubt, she was the oldest active member of a Druid Lodge in the world. And not just the local Lodge in Hamilton is missing an amiable member.

Dieter Hennecke

Grand Secretary



Prepared for the Ritual IGLD Meeting in Mandurah



Druids from three nations on tour in Western Australia



Dolly Dyer. 25th April 1913 – 17th May 2013; Joined Druids in 1939
Past District President, Past President IGLD (NI) NZ.

This is the photo of Dolly taken on the 27th April 2013 still active to the end.

Loved friend of many fellow Druids

IGLD WORLD CONGRESS 2016 NEW ZEALAND

Fraternal greetings to all our Brothers and Sisters,

Here is some more information on the 28th IGLD World Congress in Nelson, New Zealand 2016. The Congress will take place after the 1st weekend in March 2016. Registration will take place on the Sunday, with the Congress ending at Lunchtime on the Friday. These dates will be confirmed at the next IGLD Meeting in NZ on the 1st June, and firm dates and times will be confirmed in the next Newsletter. There will be an opportunity for those Brothers who wish to attend the Annual General Meeting/Conference of Druids of New Zealand, Northern Jurisdiction, in Wellington, on the Saturday prior to Registration in Nelson on the Sunday. It is only a 35minute flight from Wellington to Nelson. More details on this later.

For those of you who wish to travel around New Zealand, it is worth noting when you plan your itinerary, that for every week spent in the North Island, 2 weeks should be planned for the South Island. Only one third of NZ's population is in the South Island, with Cities and Towns further apart. The scenery in the South Island is also more spectacular, with Mountains, sparkling Lakes and Rivers, and beautiful Countryside.

It is also worth noting, that there is little difference in overall costs between hiring a Campervan, or hiring a Car and staying in Motels/Hotels/B&Bs. You have perhaps more freedom in a car, but that is a matter of choice. Please contact us if you require further information, or talk to your Travel agent. The full Program for the 2016 Congress will be available early in 2014, subject to availability of Speakers.

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In Unity, Peace and Concord

Bob Stewart

Grand President