

I.G.L.D.

Newsletter

January 2016

Dear IGLD members, dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you very much for your season greetings and for the kind and fraternal comments regarding the information I was able to give you during the past 4 years.

I wish you all and your families a **Happy New Year**, good luck, satisfaction and well-being. It is my personal wish to express the same desire for the future of the IGLD and for the further existence of International Druidism. The upcoming IGLD World Congress 6th to 10th March in Nelson, New Zealand, might become a milestone in this context.

Dear brothers and sisters, this year I am looking back to 35 years of membership in the IGLD and 20 years of active participation in the Executive Board of our international community. My election as Grand Secretary at the Copenhagen Congress in 2012 has been one of the highlights in my 48 years as a Druid. But there is a proverb which says:

One should quit playing at its best!

Following this experience, you just are going to read the latest *periodical* edition of the Newsletter which I present you in my ending time of office. I hope, the Congress will succeed in finding a suitable successor, whom I can assure that this is a *first class job*.

And I hope that the new Grand Secretary will give me the permission to complete my set of Newsletters by a final edition showing a report about events and the outcome of the XXVIII World Congress in Nelson, NZ.



Sweden

For eight years Brother Johnny S. Anderson has been serving as a member of the editorial team of the Svensk Druid -Tidning (SDT). After his feeling he has spent exciting years in this position, and they were instructive in different points of view, as well. Now he wants to leave his computer open to other writing. One question has always moved him: How many of the Swedish fellow Druids read the SDT, and if, how do they read it? Do they only scroll down and throw it away afterwards? Do they read it at rest and relaxed at home? At least some of the emails he had received show, that in any case a part of the brothers attach great importance to information about what is going on within the Swedish Druid Order.

Dear Brother Johnny, I would like to ask the same questions concerning the IGLD Newsletter. But I am afraid it might be better for the peace of mind to avoid this experiment!

The Scholarship Fund of the Swedish Druid Order currently has a registered capital of 987,000 SEK (€ 106,600). This remarkable sum arose during the last two years. Nearly 200,000 SEK (€ 21,600) has brought a CD with typical pieces of Swedish folksongs. It is likely to continue once again to offer a similar CD.

The January edition of the SDT can regularly be used as an evidence for the importance of the annual Lucia celebrations in Sweden and in the local Druid Lodges, as well. On many richly illustrated pages of the magazine, young ladies can be found, wearing long white robes and a wreath of burning candles in their hair. But there are also photos to be seen which have been recorded when the young ladies had finished their duty and the social part of the Christmas celebrations were standing in the foreground.



In the last issue of the Newsletter I had presented the front page of a brochure in Finnish language and with a druidic content. Because there is currently only one Druid Lodge in **Finland** I concluded, that it must be the newspaper of Lodge *Kronos* in Helsinki. But this is not true!

In Finland there is another group of men who call themselves *Druids*, but they do not belong to our International Druid Organization or to the jurisdiction of the Swedish FGDO. They are the publishers and have, concerning the content of the booklet, vigorously grasped back to the content of our ideals.

Sorry, dear *Kronos* brothers, but the Finnish language is a bit tricky!

On 15th December, 2015, Lodge *Kronos* succeeded in initiating two new brothers.



Norway

The last meeting of the **Scandinavian Grand Lodge of Druidism (SGLD)** has been held on the 17th of October, 2015 in Sandefjord, Norway. On this occasion the leading members of the Druid Orders from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, came together in the *Druid Orders House* in order to hold their annual officer's conference. In a view to the IGLD World Congress in March, 2016 in New Zealand, the Vice President of the German Druid Order, Brother Wolfgang Gürtler and Brother Dieter Hennecke (as proxy for the prevented GVP) had accepted to take part in the discussions. They have extensively been informed of what the 3 Scandinavian Orders had decided at their meeting concerning the future of the IGLD. Unfortunately a mutual agreement in the conception of an altered organization of the IGLD could not be achieved.

During the previous Ritual IGLD Meeting in the local Lodge Building 71 new members have been initiated into IGLD, 64 from Norway, 6 from Iceland and 1 from Sweden. In a view to the limited room, the initiation ceremony had to be performed in 3 groups, and at the end of the ceremony the room was filled to the last seat. The same problem arose during the fraternal meal for more than 100 brothers in the banqueting room. As a result the capacity of the Sandefjord Lodge Building had been fully utilized.



“full house” in Sandefjord
Photo: Dieter Hennecke

The F.G.D.O. of Norway can be proud that among its 2,850 brothers 1,012 are members of the IGLD. At first glance this might be an indication of great interest in the international fraternity of Druids. However, this thesis is to doubt if we realize that only 6 brothers will participate in the World Congress Nelson/New Zealand in March. But that can also have very different reasons about which should not be speculated.

Since 14th November, 2015, there are two Druid Lodges in Fredrikstad. Lodge Druidborgen, founded 10th October, 1980, has got a “sister” named **Custos**. This is the Latin word for Guardian, or Protector.

Fredrikstad has 77,800 inhabitants and is the biggest town in the province of Østfold, situated in South East Norway, close to the Swedish Border.

The ending year is often used to reward deserving brethren who have done exceptional services for their lodge or for the national Druid Order. It must make the Executive Board happy to see that there are many brothers who are prepared to make their personal time available for their fellow Druids, and that is worth to be published in the Druid Magazine.



Denmark

The Danish FGDO has for the third time started a new plan for activating its members. In this way they intend to motivate the brothers for creating activities which are suitable for “outsiders” to arouse an interest for our druidic ideas. And it has already been achieved noticeable success, especially in Jutland, the western part of the country.

One visible expression of the success is the foundation of a new local lodge, named



Camelot in Vejle, on 28th November, 2015. The name of the youngest Lodge within the Danish Order is attributed to the court of the mythical British King Arthur.

The town of Vejle is situated at the end of the homonymous Fjord on the eastern coast of the peninsula of Jutland, and it is the administrative center of the Region Southern

Denmark. Nearly 54,000 people are living in one of the oldest sea trading cities of Denmark, first mentioned in the 10th century and “surrounded by history”. Vejle is situated in a hilly countryside which is rather unusual for Denmark and thus also attractive for tourism.

Different views on the methods of an intended structural improvement of the IGLD gave reason for another meeting of the leading brothers from Norway, Sweden, Germany and Denmark to discuss a consensual mode of decision on this matter in Nelson. The brothers met yesterday, on Thursday, 28th of January, 2016 in Copenhagen, and the discussing of different perspectives led by fraternal conduct to a mutually agreed solution.

The F.G.D.O. Denmark will be represented in Nelson/Z by 9 participants, headed by its President, Brother Ib Fønsskov Mathiesen. One of the 4 brothers is assigned for an initiation into the IGLD.



California

On the 4th Thursday in November in the USA and in Canada *Thanksgiving* is celebrated. This event is roughly comparable to “Thanks for the Harvest” in Europe. In combination with the following *Black Friday*, this appointment is a welcome opportunity for a long family weekend. Traditionally, the family and friends come together for a common dinner, as a general rule consisting of stuffed turkey with cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and vegetables.

There is probably not one Grove or Circle in California in which Thanksgiving will not be celebrated, more or less extensively, but never without a Turkey Dinner.

In a German newspaper you could read about the tradition that every year at Thanksgiving two turkeys are lucky enough to be pardoned by the American President. Also in 2015 two of them owe President Barak Obama their lives. But some 45 million of this species are not lucky enough to benefit from this tradition and then end up in the well-filled stomachs of the people in North America...

The Leading Officers of the Grand Grove, Grand Circle, and Grand Chapter of California, Brother Mario Cuevas, Sister Patty Jo Mayo and Brother Harry Pelletti are generally using the last edition of the California Druid Magazine of the year for some kind of balance of recent months of their term of office.

For all the enthusiasm for their task and rejoice over their visits to the brothers and sisters in the Groves and Circles, they always have a look to the future of Druidism in California. And this is backed up only if enough new members find the way to the local lodges. In this respect the greetings and good wishes for Christmas and New Year have been connected with the request to keep the circle of friends in the eye for suitable people to join the Order. The first edition of the following year is used by the same group of leading Druids to send good wishes for the New Year and for views and expectations for the near future.

Noble Grand Arch Mario Cuevas highlights the following events in the first half of 2016:

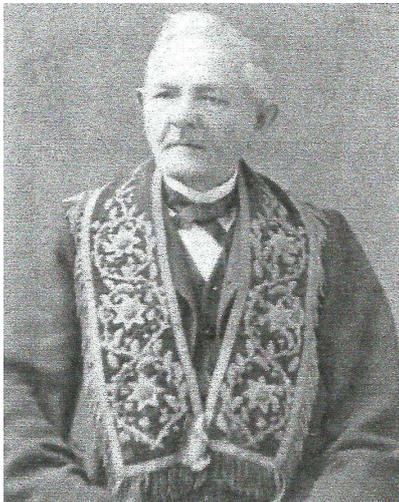
- April 23, 2016 **Area Reunion** & Druid Initiation Ceremony at the Novato Druids Hall,
- May 14, 2016 **Pilgrimage** to founder Fredericks Sieg`s Memorial and Monument in Placerville,
- June 23rd thru 25th, 2016 **Druidic Convention** at the Hilton Sonora Wine Country Hotel.

Invitations and details of the events can be found in edition I/2016 of the Druid Magazine: The **Area Reunion** is an important Druidic event for the Grove, Circle and Chapter Members, but a social event for all of them and their friends and guests, as well.

There is the following notice concerning the Initiation Ceremony:

The Druid Initiation Ceremony Team will be conducting the Degree in its entirety. All new Druids with in the last year are expected to go through the initiation ceremony, even if they have already been initiated at their grove. Groves can also choose to wait to initiate new members at this Ceremony on April 23rd.

Frederick Sieg is the founder of Druidism in California. He was born on October 10th, 1814 in the kingdom of Saxony, which today is a federal state in Germany, and he died on August 14th, 1888. Business reasons led him to California in 1858, and he had the druidic idea, so to say, in his luggage. In 1860 he succeeded in founding Grove No. 1 on a place named Old Hangtown, now known as Placerville, situated in the County of El Dorado. Besides his memorial shown on the photo below, there is another Druids Monument in the town center of Placerville.



Past National Grand Arch Frederick Sieg and his **Memorial** in Placerville, CA.
Documents: California Druid Magazine I/2016

Germany

The main events within the German Druid Order (DDO) during the past year will be summarized in a brief overview:

2015 has started with a scare. As a result of the death of the editor of our Druid Magazine *DRUIDENSTERN*, who passed away in vacation, a new editorial team had to be set up. This, however, started working quickly and successful, and it is doing its job by creating new ideas. The Druid Magazine has meanwhile got a *face lifting*, and has become even more attractive by a couple of drafting improvements.

The Executive Board of the DDO could not complain about a lack of work during the last year. The intensive care of a constant contact with the Grand Lodges and the local Lodges, and a more relaxed exchanged views, are considered as life-sustaining means for the further existence if the Order. This was also the reason for a two-days meeting of the leading members of the DDO with the Noble Grand Arches of the 7 Grand Lodges. On this occasion considerations concerning the upcoming *Ordenstag* in April in Frankfurt had to be discussed. This is the name of the four-year General Meeting of the Order to which the Grand Arch Druids, the Arch Druids of the local lodges and deputies of the Order, on the whole about 80 participants, are invited. As a result of an ending term of office for the members of the Executive Board, there will be new elections.

Our lodges do not necessarily tell very much about the ideological work they have done. But regarding many invitations to social events can be seen that in the local lodges quite a varied program is maintained. But also the voluntary obligations have not been neglected. Especially big events with nationwide spread invitations are extremely popular. Fortunately, Druids from neighboring countries could be welcomed. This, of course, led the German Druids to return visits, in keeping with the ideals of the IGLD.

With a certain pride the DDO views on a well-functioning archive. A very special treasure has a brother, who recently died at the age of 92 years, left for the archive. These are original documents from 1871-1872 which are related to the founding of the DDO. They are so valuable that they are in the meantime kept in a fireproof safe.

The establishment of one lodge a year is probably not enough to compensate the loss of members, but it helps to come closer to the goal, at least to keep the number constant. Although the number of members in 2015 has not been developed in a positive form, as hoped, (the Order has to say goodbye forever by many faithful and beloved brethren) it can be looked back on a successful year. A special joy is given by the development of the existing two Woman`s Druid Lodges. And the Sisters are about to start another one.

In 2016 a new (male) Druid Lodge is going to be installed in Bad Vilbel with the assistance of the Wilhelm-Meister-Lodge in Frankfurt. Bad Vilbel, a town of 32,500 inhabitants and a long and interesting history, is situated on the northern outskirts of Frankfurt. On 15th November, 2015, five new brothers have been initiated in the Frankfurt lodge, in order to form the cornerstone of the new one, which in the first months of its "life" will be reinforced by brothers from Frankfurt.

The German Druid Order will be represented at the Nelson Congress with 25 participants, headed by President Brother Frank Graffenberger and Vice President Brother Wolfgang Gürtler. That`s how it looks, the largest group of all participating Orders. Thirteen of them are participating in a joint trip through both islands of New Zealand, which has been designed by a German brother who is owner of a travel agency. Another group of three couples will explore the South Island forming a convoy of three motorhomes. The preparations are almost completed and have been replaced by an elevated voltage.

Switzerland

The new managing board of the Swiss Druid Order has long since started its druidical work, and a number of new ideas have been evolved and need to be implemented sequentially.

The national "Day of Druids" has been held in Lucerne under the leadership of brother Rolf Gasser and was well attended. Several brothers from German Druid Orders documented the close relationship between both of the National Druid Orders. The festive speech was held by the President of the German Order, brother Frank Graffenberger.

Brother Rolf Gasser and the new GVP of the Swiss Order, brother Rainer Hesselbarth will attend the Nelson Congress.

Australia

The Druids living on the 5th *Continent* don`t have it quite easy!

As can be gathered by the report of Grand Vice President, Brother Graeme Foulds, Druidism in Victoria and South Australia is unfortunately furthermore on the decline with only about 10 members left in each state and not meeting anymore. The number of Druids in Western Australia is not much bigger, but currently there are 2 persons interested in joining the Order.

Under these circumstances it is admirable that 8 members and 1 partner from Australia are attending the Nelson Congress in a few weeks. If you like, this is 27% of all members!

Western Australia members meet four times a year in the local Masonic Hall in Bunbury with a light supper in a restaurant close by. The UAOD members meet fortnightly and the Royal Arch Chapter meeting quarterly. In October the AGM (Annual General Meeting) was held and Brother Alan Grainger was installed as Grand President.

2015 was a year which will be remembered as the lodges had to find new accommodation as the Bunbury Druids Building was sold. The Grand Lodge was able to lease a Heritage List Hall and a lot of time was taken in shifting and they are still getting settled. One of the biggest challenges is that the kitchen area attached to the hall has to be repaired, so all hands will be required to do this. But *Joint work strengthens the bond!*

England.

Grand Vice President, Brother Barry Wood, has sent a **REPORT FROM U.K. FOR 2015:**

2015 was a year when we in the U K had to get down to the serious business of moving forward into the 21st Century with our recruitment. To which end Brother David Smisson and myself spent a very good working weekend with our Swedish Brothers and finalised a presentation which has gone to all Lodges.

There does appear that one of our Grand Lodges (Great Yarmouth) has had some success in recruiting into their Dining Lodge and there are more Brothers to join in 2016. Thanet Grand Lodge also has had a small increase in Brothers so we hope that this is a good sign for the future. No Lodges have closed this year but one is close to it, others get by with the help of other Lodge Brothers.

We have not paid any visits this year and this I hope will change in 2016 and we can further cement our ties with our Brothers abroad.

We also had a successful Conference this year and also had a presentation from my Grandson who is not a Druid (yet) on how we can use things like social media to promote ourselves, so of course we gave him the job and he will start with our website.

Brother Barry has had a contact from the Druid Order in Belgium and he is hoping to get more information on them and whether this Order and our Druid Order have anything in common.



New Zealand

Dear Brethren, Fraternal greetings to you all. I trust that you have recovered from the Christmas Festivities, and enjoyed quality time with Family and friends. While the Northern Hemisphere is suffering from the ill's and chills of winter, here in New Zealand and Australia, we are enjoying warm (sometimes very hot) summer weather. Sadly, the Druids Friendly Society of Canterbury, New Zealand has dissolved, with some Members transferring to the North Island Grand Lodge. This brings to an end a long history of Druidism in Christchurch and Canterbury, going back to the 1870's. During the early to mid part of last Century, nearly every small Town and Village had a Druids Lodge, with the larger Towns and Cities having several. These Lodges were an integral part of New

Zealand Society at the time, with much needed assistance available to the Members during hard times. Indeed, the New Zealand Government's Social Security System was based on the Lodges benefits to its Members, and continues to this day. This has been a factor to the demise of Druidism in New Zealand, along with the tremendous changes to Human Society over the last 30 to 40 years, with new IT technology, changes to 'traditional' Family and Employment opportunities, and dare I say it, a lowering of moral standards together with people becoming insular and 'too busy to care for others'. 'Society' has forced many changes on us over the last 30 or 40 years, perhaps as many, or more, than in the history of mankind. Because New Zealand and Australian Druidism is based on the benefits and care of our Members, we have been more affected by these changes than perhaps the rest of the World. However, not all is doom and gloom. Those of us who have 'survived' still have regular Ritual Meetings, continue with Druidic traditions, and continue to have an interesting and fun time in the Benevolent Bonds of Druidism. Spread the word, we are NOT a Secret Society.

Preparations for the 28th World Congress in Nelson are completed, and we only await the day. As has already been published, the Program is full and varied, and a great time will be had by all. A very warm welcome awaits you all, and we are looking forward to the time when we can renew old friendships, and make new ones. To those of you who are unable to attend, we wish you well, and maybe we will meet someday, in the Benevolent Bonds of Druidism. In U.P.C. Bob Stewart, GP

Dear brothers, to answer your question concerning the dress-code at the Final Banquet on 10th March: The Organizing Committee is not concerned about formal dress, and they do not stipulate to wear tuxedo, a black suit is most acceptable. "Festive dress" for our female companions does not necessarily mean long clothes. This is also thought to a reduction of the luggage.

It is certainly understandable when it is expected that Members wear dark suits to Meetings and formal occasions.

Fraternal regards in Unity, Peace and Concord



Grand Secretary



Dear members, attached please find a list showing names of the Grand Presidents from 1908 to 2016



List of IGLD Grand Presidents

Name	Nation	Amtszeit
Br. Francis Askew	England	1908 – 1913
Br. Heinrich Fricke	Germany	1913 – 1923
Br. Hugo Wiese	Germany	1923 – 1933
Br. Charles W.G. Green	England	1933 – 1938
Br. Alan J. Gray	England	1938 – 1941
Br. Carl E. Gulich	Sweden	1941
Br. Walter Neate	New Zealand	1949 – 1952
Br. Victor Denward	Sweden	1952 – 1955
Br. Swane Lund	Denmark	1955 – 1958
Br. Fred Churchard	England	1958 – 1961
Br. Willy Laurisch	Germany	1961 – 1964
Br. George Smy	England	1964 – 1967
Br. Nils Nordling	Sweden	1967 – 1970
Br. Otto Strøm	Norway	1970 – 1973
Br. Kurt Thomas	Germany	1973 – 1976
Br. Preben Christiansen (Congresspräsident 1979: Br. Otto Strøm)	Denmark	1976 – 1979
Br. Frederik J. Cooke (Interimpresident: Br. Robert W. Brooke, USA)	England	1979 – 1981
Br. Carl Erik Dittmer	Sweden	1981 – 1984
Br. Rudolf Köhler	Germany	1984 – 1990
Br. Erling Freitag	Norway	1990 – 1996
Br. Lennart Petersson	Sweden	1996 – 2000
Br. Hans Dürrenberger	Switzerland	2000 – 2004
Br. Tor Gjølvik	Norway	2004 – 2008
Br. Mogens Petersson	Denmark	2008 - 2012
Br. Bob Stewart	New Zealand	2012 - 2016

The Grand Presidents Preben Christiansen (1979) und Frederik J. Cooke (1980) passed away during their term of office.