



Denmark 24. april 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters throughout the world

I wish you all a happy Easter - with good weather, as it is in Denmark just now - and some lovely holidays.

The president and I decided together with the Nordic countries, that we should visit the congress in NZ in February - and we had an unusually nice visit down there, where we learned many good brothers and sisters to know - and got a good insight into how druidism is understood and practiced.

A special thanks to June and Bob Stewart, who was our guide on the trip - which for my part, stretched over a total of 8 days - but it is too little time to visit perhaps the world's finest country.

We attended the local lodge meetings and also the IGLD meeting in Wellington where the former president of the NZ and AUS Ernie McClay ceded his office to Sister Pam Foulds - it was a wonderful experience:



I have received a full transcript of the Congress - and I have sent this to Sweden and Norway for information.

Economy

When we were in Wellington, we were also able to discuss further economic quarrel with Br. John - and subsequently, our treasurer Rolf Ström have worked hard to get any outstanding solved.

Br. Rolf has also noted - that the countries who have payed - very much would like a confirmation that payment has been made.

World President

Br. Mogens Petersson:

IGLD Regional meeting for Australia and New Zealand.

In February, 11 to 13 was an organized regional meeting for Australia and New Zealand. It was held in Wellington; it is a very pretty seaside town, which is the southern most major city on North Island.

All sessions were led in a highly professional manner by a skilled office staff from the two countries. At the meeting there were also visitors from Denmark and Germany, and by Grand President Mogens Petersson and Grand Secretary Flemming Pedersen, and partly by two German brothers with Past Grand President Dieter Henniche as the leader.

Regional issues were resolved in admirably and a ritual part of the meetings was headed firmly.

The big problem that exists for our druid order and for all other lodges in the world is members approach and a rejuvenation of the membership. Grand President said there will be a new strategy for discussion at the next World Congress in Copenhagen in 2012.

Grand President noted the very positive in the detail that the difference in the holding of meetings in Europe and the meetings in Wellington was that in Wellington all participating brothers and sisters have to speak (they was easily pushed to) and it means that everyone is heard and that no decisions was taken without all gave their contribution.

There were submitted reports on progress in all countries connected IGLD.

In Australia and New Zealand we has seen major structural changes in relation to the insurance-based system that has been the mainstay of druid order through the many past years. It is our hope that the druid thoughts and ideas continue to be developed in these areas.

As a special point that Grand President had looked forward to "as a little child", was the allocation of the newly established highest Award in IGLD to Vice President of Australia Brother John Butler, in recognition of his great work for IGLD through more than 25 years. Brother John is known to all and a very good support for IGLD and a good friend of the Grand President.



A wonderful journey

My wife Kirsten and I had a wonderful trip to New Zealand in connection with the Regional IGLD meeting in New Zealand. It was challenging and exciting.

We took off from Copenhagen on the 29.januar and came back home again on the 14.februar.

At the beginning we spent some days in Australia to see some of the places we had not done previously.

Then we went to New Zealand (where we've never had been before) and landed at Queenstown, a city with many interesting excursions. We chose a couple along the lake and the old gold diggers town Arrowtown. A very exciting trip was also to Te Anau and Doubtful Sound, where we had 24 hours of great sailing, beautiful and evocative and a great joy for us both.

After this fantastic voyage, we drove to Lake Tekapo, where we visited the highest mountain in New Zealand Aoraki Mt. Cook. It was hard for my old bones, but an immensely beautiful place.

Then we drove to Christchurch. It is a very nice city with many opportunities. For us it strange that when we lived in a distance of only 50 meters meant the violent earthquake just two weeks later that the beautiful church which we visited, was laid in ruins.

But we went free, and there met many of our Australian and New Zealand brothers and sisters. They had arranged a fantastic Pre Congress Tour, for all of us. We go by train, over the mountains from East to West, it was very beautiful. Because of the earthquake the last part of was on tour bus.

This last part of the tour was very exiting both on south isle and our wonderful trip on north isle. Along the way we had a good experience by visiting a local druid lodge.

As you can understand is was really well arranged tour we have had. We are also very much thankful of all we have seen and all the good work the New Zealand brothers have done.

It has not been a cheap ride, but I can assure all our brothers that by far the largest part is paid by our own personal finances. The lower part has been refunded had been previously cleared by the countries contributing the largest subsidies.

Australia

Br. Graeme Foulds has provided us with a lot of local news from down there - and I have decided to pass it all on (mostly) - so you all can see what is going on in Australia:

Annual Meeting 2010

The report of the annual meeting is now available if you require a copy please contact the Grand Secretary or your Lodge Secretary

Westralia Lodge

Please be advised that regrettably Westralia lodge held their last meeting during November last year with a Grand Lodge Officers visit.

The annual Cec Mosedale Dart Trophy was won by Bunbury Lodge.

Some of the Westralia members indicated that they may travel to Bunbury occasionally to attend a meeting.

Jasmine Lodge

As numbers of attending members had reduced, it was decided to turn the lodge into a dual lodge which attracted some of the Bunbury Lodge members to join.

Meeting fortnightly with entertainment after the meeting enjoyed by all. I

n February they had a Casino Night with visitors from Bunbury Lodge and played different games during the evening.

Last meeting history was made with both the Arch and Vice Arch Druid elect for next term both being males, then after the meeting Tom Rowe became the first male to win the Foulds Single Bowls Trophy, with Ron Lowe being the runner up.

International Grand Lodge of Druidism W A

5 Members and 2 Partners have just returned from New Zealand after the XVII Australian/New Zealand Congress held in Wellington.

We were on a pre-congress tour which started in Christchurch arranged by GS Bob Stewart of North Island NZ and we saw the damage from the first quake. Luckily we missed the devastating large one by two weeks.

Those members are currently putting together a picture show to be shown at the next IGLD meeting on Saturday 2nd April 2011 @ 5.00pm which will be followed by a social. Details attached.

At the meeting in Wellington NZ, Western Australia was selected to hold the 2013 Congress and planning has already started to make sure that it is as good as the two previous congresses held here

Forest Royal Arch Chapter

Had our last meeting outside at Brother & Sister Foulds's property at night, under stars and moon, assisted with Kero Lanterns. The new Officers were installed with PDP Sister Carol Lowe taking over as Secretary. Next meeting is to be held before the IGLD meeting on the 2nd April 2011 starting at 3.00pm.

The Len Holtzman Games Trophy for 2010 was won by Jasmine Lodge.

Bunbury Lodge

The year has started out as previous years with the members enjoying a BBQ evening to get the year off to a good start.

The sponsors of the annual Euchre night have suggested that the night be called Jack's Euchre Night in memory of Jack Triat and Jack Bucknell two very staunch players of the game. This was played on the 24th March with Bros Ron Lowe and Graeme Foulds winning.

Denmark

In Denmark we have the 24th March held a local IGLD meeting where a total of 17 brothers have joined IGLD - we had a lovely evening in the premises in Horsens.

There are now 136 brothers who are members of IGLD - which we - all things considered - think is really good.

Work is currently underway to prepare the Scandinavian IGLD meeting in Copenhagen in early October - the 7th, 8th and 9 October - and I must here point out that Sunday 9 October is held an executive meeting for all VPere (Bob Stewart from NZ has sent his apologies).

England (Great Britain)

New Zealand

Br. Bob Stewart:

Our Canterbury Brethren are certainly getting all shook up, another BIG aftershock yesterday, and many more smaller ones, not only in Christchurch, but in other parts of New Zealand also. Now you know why we are called the 'shaky Isles'.

I am not aware of any damage or injury at this time, but it is certainly upsetting and traumatic for those suffering from these terrible natural disasters. Our South Island members have had to cancel a meeting as the damage from the February earthquake prevented not only travel, but also venues, as the damage to roads and buildings in Christchurch was too severe. Although many suffered severe damage to property and homes, none of our members were injured.

The North Island Lodge is not affected, and it is business as usual, and we are preparing for our meeting on the 4th June, We certainly enjoyed the the visit, and participation, of our Brothers [and Sisters] from Denmark and Germany, to the New Zealand/Australia Congress in Wellington in February. Their commitment and contribution to the Congress was very much appreciated, and they certainly left NZ with a better understanding of Druidism down under.

The Congress was very successful, as no doubt others will report, but I would like to thank personally, all Brothers and Sisters who attended, that the success was only possible because of YOUR commitment. It is at these Congresses, that new friendships are made, and old ones renewed. Who will forget the ride on the Buller River Jet Boat, and Elsie, from Adelaide, [the oldest Teenager in Australasia'] coming across the river on the Flying Fox. I will not disclose her age, but she won't see 87 again.

4 from Australia were in Christchurch when the earthquake struck, and it took them 5 hours to drive 30 ks south to find accommodation. Another experience for our fellow Druids.

Druidism Down Under, although our numbers are falling, remains in good heart, and we look forward to the future. See you all in Copenhagen.

Norway

In the weekend from 25. - 27. March was held the national assembly - which was settled in beautiful locations in Drammen, not far from Oslo.

Re-elected as president was Br. Kay Hagby - and one to many of us well known and famous brother - namely Br. Reidar Syversen - was elected as "Past President".

Congratulations to both of you and congratulations too to the other elected officials.

We look forward to continued good cooperation.

Schweiz

Br. Daniel Sommer:

15. July 2011 IGLD Golf Trophy in Erlen (Switzerland), more Information on our page www.sdo.ch/golf

24. September 2011 Installation of the new star of the swiss druid, Salix – Alba – Loge, Widnau

12. May 2012, 100 year celebration of the Swiss grand lodge on Lucerne (more information soon)

Schweden

Germany

Br. Dieter Hennecke:

Ten years anniversary of Lodge Kronos in Helsinki, Finland.

Ten years of age is not generally a reason for celebrating a big jubilee. But when the only Druid Lodge in a country has been existed for this space of time – this event is worth to be honoured. Lodge Kronos had invited the neighbouring Druid Orders to join the “birthday-party” on April 2nd, 2011 in Helsinki and this call has been heard very well by the lodges of the German Druid Order. No less than 24 visitors of 14 (fourteen) German Druid Lodges travelled northward in order to be present at this event.

We German brothers gratefully remember the visit of brothers from Finland on the occasion of the Munich IGLD Congress in 2008 and on 100 years anniversaries of Grand Lodges in Germany. And thus we were very glad having had the opportunity for a kind of returning these visits.

IGLD Grand Vice President Bro Dieter Hennecke brought compliments and fraternal regards on behalf of the President of the German UAOD and his leading members. He expressed best wishes for the lodge Kronos and for Druidism in Finland.

Visit from IGLD and the presidents

It is a great honour for the German Druid Order that the Grand President of IGLD, his Grand Secretary and the Presidents of the Druid Orders in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom and leading members of the Swiss Druid Order as well accepted the invitation and will be present at the IGLD Meeting on May 28th, 2011 in Flensburg, situated close to the Danish border. There are 20 brothers to be initiated in our international organization and there will be a big audience of brothers from Germany, Sweden and Denmark in the attractive lodge building of the Lodge Nordmark.

New lodges

The German Druid Order is very glad being able to inform that 2 new lodges have been installed in 2010: Lodge Concordia Algoviae in Kempten, Bavaria and Lodge Jan Wellem in Düsseldorf.

The Grand Lodge of Niedersachsen (northern Germany) could celebrate its 100 years anniversary.

USA

World congress 2012

In a few days is a new bulletin on the World Congress available on IGLD.org - an invitation to visit wonderful Denmark - and on a time of year when everything will be green and lovely - and hopefully when the weather shows its best with temperatures between 20 and 25 degrees Celsius (I know that our friends from Australia think it's cool - but up here in the beautiful north we are happy for such temperatures



Denmark is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe (43.094 km²). The country of Denmark, together with Greenland and the Faroe Islands, comprises the Kingdom of Denmark. It is the southernmost of the Nordic countries, southwest of Sweden and south of Norway, and bordered to the south by Germany. Denmark borders both the Baltic and the North Sea. The country consists of a large peninsula, Jutland (Jylland) (23.872 km²), and 1419 islands, most notably Zealand (Sjælland) and Funen (Fyn).

You will be visiting the largest island - Zealand (Sjælland) - where also the country's capital is located - and it is precisely in the capital Copenhagen you shall stay - and hopefully see a good part of it.

The Danish population is approx. 5.5 million inhabitants - including approximately 1.2 million in Copenhagen and its suburbs.

Danish is the official language - and is very similar to Norwegian and the Swedish.

Denmark is a Constitutional Monarchy with a parliamentary system of government.

Queen Margrethe is our current monarch - our crown prince (Frederik) is Australian married to Mary.



They all live in the center of Copenhagen at Amalienborg, and even if it is unlikely that you will see them (I have on numerous requests asked them) there will be ample opportunity to see the castle.



But there is obviously much more to see and do in Copenhagen - mention must of course Tivoli, an amusement park in central Copenhagen, Rosenborg castle with the crown jewels, Citadel (fort), The Little Mermaid, Glyptotek (art museum), Christiansborg Palace (government building) , Nyhavn (restaurants and city life), canal tours and the shopping center, and much more.

Everything mentioned above is not far from the hotel we have booked - and the central part of Copenhagen is not larger than you easily can walk around. If you want to and have the opportunity, you can easily get around in Copenhagen also by train, bus and metro. Most Danes speak English - so it's not hard to get advice and most Danes are sweet and kind so I do not see any problems ahead.

Did I mention that the world's best restaurant is located in Copenhagen (NOMA).

Also in the neighborhood - in North Zealand - there are several interesting castles. We will visit some of them on the arranged trip - and you will also get an impression of Denmark as a flat but also very green and fertile country.

Many have always understood that there are mountains in Denmark - it is not - our highest point is approx. 170 m. above sea level.

We look forward to showing you Denmark and Copenhagen - and look forward to seeing you here.

In Unity, Peace and Concord

Flemming Ib Pedersen
GS