

Newsletter

- brings Druids together



Dear IGLD Brothers and Sisters



Kay Hagby , Grand President

IGLD's executive officers Grand President Kay Hagby, Grand Secretary Geir-Kaare Jordheim and Grand Treasurer Per Arne Meijgren traveled to USA in April together with several European and Australian Vice Presidents and brothers to visit and reunificate with the UAOD lodges (or groves as they call them) in California. We have for many years known little about our druid friends there so it was important that the decision to visit them was made.

Francisco in 1906, the rituals were simplified and all degrees were put into one.

We, the visitors, had the pleasure of being invited to both a ritual meeting and several informal meetings. In addition all the visiting IGLD brothers held a ritual IGLD meeting where 36 Californian brothers and sisters were initiated. At the same time an IGLD Vice President for California was introduced.

We were positively surprised that 14 groves still exist with more than 1000 members, both male and female. They work today only in one degree, and have both separate and common meetings. The Californian order used to have a three-degree system, but after the loss of more than 30 houses and most of their equipment in the earth quake and fires In San

Our visit was highly appreciated and seen as a proof that IGLD was serious about the reunion with California and USA. The lodge in Alaska has been closed for many years, and there is no contact with the former Ohio lodges. The groves in California are mostly located in the San Francisco area (but none in the city itself since the 1980'es). We visited the groves in Novato,





Grand President Kay Hagby
blessing Frederick Sieg's
Monument

Petaluma, Occidental, Santa Rosa and Placerville, and met only positive and good minded brothers and sisters who were curious and eager to listen and learn.

Placerville is the birth place of the Californian druids where Frederick Sieg started the first grove in 1859 (the druids first came to New York in 1830). From California the druids came back to Europe when a lodge was opened in Berlin in 1871. From Germany druidism then spread to Scandinavia and Switzerland. So thus Placerville is actually also the birth place for druidism in our own countries.

The Californian brothers took very good care of us all week with transport to the meetings and for sightseeing in the Sonoma county. Many new contacts were made and we look forward to meet our American friends in Europe. The first main event being the Congress in Sweden next year.

Our visit to California was very successful and is just proving what we in IGLD talk about when it comes to change and modernize our umbrella organization. California is really worth a druidic visit, and brothers who want to go there can contact the Grand Secretary for addresses and information.





VISIT FROM THE IGLD



After a quarter of a century of little to no contact with the International Grand Lodge of Druidism (IGLD), in 2013 I began my research on how to make contact. After several failed attempts, I then utilized Facebook to search out international Brothers where I would discover Brother Heiko Jansch of Germany, also a fire fighter. Henry Baker and I would write him messages to ask questions and make a friendship connection. Heiko shared with us information on how to look up the IGLD website, connected with IGLD Facebook, answering questions for each other and later he would be the one to get myself in contact with the IGLD Grand Secretary Geir-Kåre Jordheim.



Frederick Seig Grove
Brother's welcoming
International Brothers &
Sisters to the Union
Hotel, Occidental

After the devastating wildland fires in October of 2017, 11 of our members would lose their homes to fire. Heiko would contact myself through Facebook messenger to get a status check and delivered an emergency message of the magnitude of this disaster to the German Druid Order (DDO) President Frank Graffenberger, then he would pass this onto IGLD World Grand President Kay Hagby advising of the California fires. The World Grand President informed the IGLD Grand Vice Presidents of the disaster requesting all nations to send financial aid to their brothers and sisters in California. The motto "United to Assist" would show its true colors when the largest international response for financial assistance due to a disaster affecting the California Druidic Order would take place, with donations of over half of the \$30,000 in distributed funds.

In the Fall of 2018, I was able to make a request to the World Grand President Kay Hagby for assistance in initiating new and current members for the first time into the IGLD, IGLD ritual meeting training, to share knowledge of our Orders operations, and more. To my surprise, this request was thankfully granted, and with dates set the list of brothers and



sister that wanted to attend would grow in size. The gift of reconnecting our international relations was set in motion. Totaling Eleven Visiting Brothers and Sister, would be as listed: Grand President Kay Hagby (Norway), Grand Secretary Geir-Kåre Jordheim (Norway), Grand Treasurer Per Arne Meijgren (Sweden), Grand Vice President (GVP) Wolfgang Gurtler (Germany), Rainer Michaelis (Germany), Heiko Jansch (Germany), GVP Ib Mathiesen (Denmark), Jan Moosmand (Denmark), GVP Rainer Hesselbarth (Switzerland), GVP Graeme Foulds (Australia), and Grand Guardian Pam Foulds (Australia).

Monday April 22nd to Tuesday April 30th the International Brothers and Sister would visit these Groves: luncheon at Frederick Sieg 94 (Occidental), dinner/meeting at Novato 113, social dinner at Harmony 38 (Petaluma), IGLD initiation and awards dinner at Santa Rosa 121, and dinner and breakfast at California Grove 1 (Placerville).

This visit being one of the greatest gifts the IGLD has given our Brothers and Sisters; providing California Druids with new

friendships, a fresh start to California IGLD, the ability to travel international, sharing of knowledge/operations/rituals. This will continue to benefit our Order for years to come.

Thank you to all the sponsors for the placemat advertisements whom helped make up a big portion of the budget for our visitor's transportation, meals, and awards/gifts.

Thank you to these groups who stepped up to make this possible: Grand Grove Foreign Relations Committee, Novato Grove, Santa Rosa Grove, Frederick Sieg Grove, California Grove. Special thank you to these brothers for all of their assistance with planning, preparation, driving, and logistics during the visit; the success of this week could not have been possible without your dedication: Henry Baker, JP, Tom Bertoli, John Zeni, Frank Kirby, Jim Uboldi, Jeff Uboldi, Jim Reilly, Bill Beretta, Ron Vela, John Rainwater. Truth Against the World,



Unity, Peace and Concord Fraternally yours,

Byron Wilson Noble Grand Arch, UAOD CA/USA IGLD VP PNA, Frederick Sieg Grove 94



New Officers in California

The newly elected Noble Grand Arch Frank Kirby.





29 Druid World Congress, Malmö, Sweden

5 – 9 august 2020

The preparations for "MALMÖ 2020" are on the schedule and more and more details will be concretized, such as the preliminary Congress Program which is shown on next side.

Registration fee as well as prices for individual events cannot be finally determined today but in the next edition of Newsletter you will have the chance to find out how much – or how amazingly little – money you have to spend when you intend to join the Congress in Malmö Sweden in august 2020, I hope you will find it attractive.

Congress Hotel will be: Scandic Triangeln Hotell Triangeln 2, 21143 Malmö. The hotel is in the heart of Malmö, everything is close.

In the same building a big shoppingcenter, lots of small shops around the square Triangeln, 10 min walk to the Operahouse and artmuseum and 15 min walk to the old town with lots of good restaurants.

Bus from Malmö airport stops just outside the hotel.

Train from/to Copenhagen airport, 10 min walk.

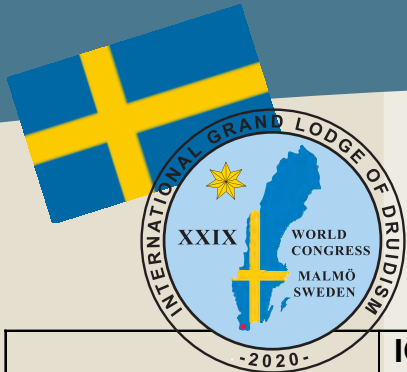
Large Parkingspace in the basement of the hotel.

Our prices for hotel bedrooms have been agreed to:

Double bedroom p/p 600 SEK (€ 58) Breakfast included.

Singel bedroom 1000 SEK (€ 97) Breakfast included.

Welcome to Malmö and Sweden 2020



World Congress 2020 Program

Wednesday, 5th August	IGLD World Congress 05th to 09th of August 2020	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Congressdesk Open for registration	All
9:30 am – 12:30	Executive meeting	IGLD Officers
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	IGLD Officers- participants
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Executive meeting	IGLD Officers
Thursday, 6th August		
11:00 am – 4:00 pm	Congressdesk Open for registration	All
9:30 am – 12:30	Business Meeting	IGLD Officers
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Officers/members
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Business Meeting	IGLD Officers
6:30 pm	Mingle Meet and Greet Welcome Buffet meal in Congress Hotel	All
Friday, 7th August		
9:30 am – 12 noon	Ritual opening of IGLD Congress Initiation of new members	Officers/members
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Officers/members
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Business Meeting	Officers/members
Evening free	Visit Malmö´s many Bars, Cafes and Restaurants or visit the hotelrestatrant	All meal and drinks at your own expense
Saturday, 8th August		
9:00 am – 4:30 pm	CONGRESS TOUR – LUNCH INCLUDED	All
7:00 pm	CONGRESS BANQUET DINNER WITH DANCE	All
Sunday, 9th August		
9:30 am – 12:30	Business meeting Election and installation of Officers – Ritual Closing	Officers/members
12:30	Lunch	Officers/members
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Executive Meeting	New IGLD Officers
	Rooms to be left by 1:00 pm	



Australian New Zealand Congress in Ballarat

The XIX Australian New Zealand IGLD Congress was held in Ballarat Australia on the weekend 19th – 22nd March 2019 with 6 Attendees from Western Australia, 2 from Victoria, 2 from South Australia and 10 from New Zealand. We also had Brother Wolfgang Groeger from Germany and his daughter bringing well wishes from the German President Bro Frank Graffenberger.



Brother Wolfgang Groeger (Germany) and Brother Jim Sutton (Western Australia)

The congress hotel was located in an old military barracks and attached to a historical village. We all gathered in the Quartermaster's Store for welcome drinks on Friday evening then it was off to a local hotel for a meal. On Saturday morning we held the opening ceremony and conducted business including a letter from the World President Bro Kay Hagby, finishing in time to explore the village before it was off again to visit a sporting club for Dinner.

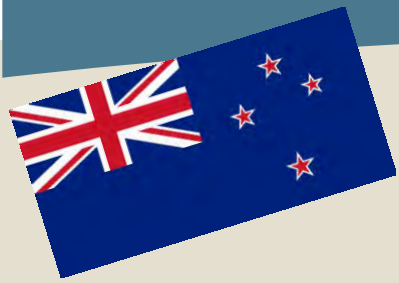
Sunday saw the group tour the local sites of Ballarat which is full of history as it was one of the places in Australia where GOLD first was discovered. Monday was the closing meeting with Christchurch, New Zealand nominating as the venue for next ANZ Congress in 2021.



Meeting room ready and using an altar candle brought back from the 2004 Hamar IGLD Congress.



Group photo at Woolshed in Ballarat



Dear Brethren

We have had a good turnout at our meeting over the past year.

We visited Turangi and had our Meeting in May 2018 on the Saturday afternoon, then all gathered at the local Hotel for a lovely meal & chinwag. Sunday we were taken around the area sightseeing. Just before the end of the day it started to snow so we went to our residence for the night and played cards. The weather cleared and our host cooked us a BBQ, watched on by his sheep in the paddock – I guess they were wondering whether they would be the next on the BBQ agenda. This was a fabulous meal with the odd drink to wash it all down.

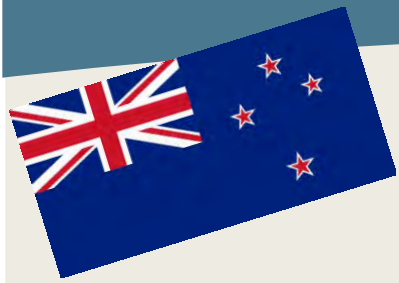
In March this year Bro B Cuthbert was installed as Grand President of Druids NZ and Bro Bruce Ayres and Sis June Stewart were given the Abel Award for their services to Druids and their respective communities. This is the highest award given to a Druid in NZ.

10 New Zealanders flew to Melbourne in March, where we were to be met by the Australians, however due to engine problems in their aeroplane, they were the last to arrive so the NZ contingent collected the bus that was being used and had a little sightseeing trip of our own then collected the others and drove to Ballarat for our Australian & New Zealand Conference. We did some touring around as well as the business that needed to be done. A great time and a lot of fun was had by all.

At the end of this month we will visit Christchurch for our next meeting, which will mean those in Canterbury that don't travel to the North Island or Nelson can join in.

Our Final meeting for the year will be in Nelson on the weekend of the 26th October 2019.





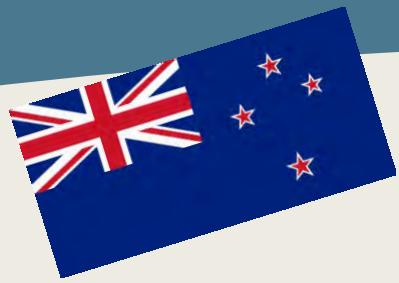
THE RISE AND FALL OF THE UAOD IN NEW ZEALAND.

Druidism spread from England to Australia, with the 1st Druids Lodge opening in Melbourne in 1851. With the finding of large Gold deposits in the district, membership and attendance fluctuated greatly, as men tried their luck in the great Australian gold fields. By 1861 however, a permanent Lodge was established in Melbourne, and from then on membership grew rapidly, and Lodges were started all across the southern half of Australia.

As people travelled around both Australia and New Zealand looking to settle in places where they could find permanent work and establish homes, so the concepts of Druidism went with them. On the 22nd April 1876, the 1st Lodge in New Zealand was opened in Christchurch. Pioneer Lodge No. 47. As with Australia, the benefits of belonging to a Lodge became more apparent, and by 1882 when the Grand Secretary Br. Brennan visited New Zealand, at least 8 Lodges were operating in Canterbury, and more throughout New Zealand. Following a further visit by Br. Brennan in 1884, a District Grand Lodge was formed in Canterbury, and more Lodges established in both the North and South Islands of New Zealand. Over the next 10 years both Otago/Southland and the North Island NZ also formed District Grand Lodges, under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Victoria Australia. It was also seen at that time that the Sick and Funeral Funds together with other benefits held by the individual Lodges could cause great financial burdens on the smaller Lodges if a large claim was made. These Funds were then centralised in their Districts, and eventually with each Lodge's respective Grand Lodge. This had the effect of protecting the smaller Lodges finances and ensured that all Members received a fair and equitable response to any claim. The Supreme Grand Lodge of Australia and New Zealand had been formed, and by 1912 there were 72,000 Druids in the two Countries, with well over 300 Lodges. At about this time, and over the next few years, the District Grand Lodges in New Zealand were given their own autonomy, and became the Grand Lodge of

Canterbury NZ, the Grand Lodge of Otago-Southland NZ, and the Grand Lodge of North Island NZ. It is worth noting that the Lodges in Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland all in the top and on the West coast of the South Island came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge North Island NZ. At the end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th Century, when the Lodges were formed, it was cheaper and much faster to travel by ship to Wellington from these areas, than to go overland to Christchurch. For example, you could sail from Nelson to Wellington in one day (overnight on the Steamer), whereas it took 4-5 days to travel by Stagecoach to Christchurch. Although New Zealand Lodges were now independent of Australia, close ties have always been kept between the two Countries, especially with the International Grand Lodge.

By 1920, most small Towns in New Zealand had a Druids Lodge, with the major Cities having several. These Lodges all participated in Community events, and provided much needed assistance to many, not only to their own Members. With Funeral Funds in place, Sick benefits and Doctor and Hospital assistance, the need for cheaper Medical Prescriptions became apparent. Together with other like-minded Friendly Societies such as Manchester Unity, IOOF, The Foresters, Hibernian Society, and other smaller Societies, the UFS, (United Friendly Society) Chemist was introduced to New Zealand. All major Towns and Cities had a UFS Chemist shop, and as these were owned by the participating Lodges, members had access to cheaper Prescription drugs, and other health and well-being products. In many cases, this was the only medical help that members could afford, especially during the great depression of the 1930's, and following the 2nd World War. It is also interesting to note that when New Zealand's 1st Labour Government introduced their Social Welfare scheme to the Country, it was based on the Druids benefits to their members.



THE RISE AND FALL OF THE UAOD IN NEW ZEALAND.

The 1st 50 years of the 20th Century saw a huge increase in membership and the opening of new Lodges. By 1950, there were over 200 Lodges under the jurisdiction of the 3 Grand Lodges, with a total membership exceeding 25,000. With a large rural population, most small Towns and Country Villages had their Druids Lodge, and all were very active in their respective Communities. Although adhering strictly to the Druids Ritual, these Lodges also provided much needed social times for not only their own members, but also the whole Community, with Dances, Picnics, Sports competitions and other fun activities. Competition with other Friendly Societies was also popular, and many a 'friendly' argument could be heard over who won what, and where, generally with a 'strong' lemonade in hand. This interaction continued right up to the end of the 20th Century, until most Friendly Societies began to close.

With the advent of mechanization in the farming areas during the 1940-50's, many people were forced to move to the Cities to seek employment. This caused a huge problem for the Country Lodges as their membership declined rapidly. Many Country Lodges were forced to close, or amalgamate with other Lodges so as to survive, and this trend was set to continue for many years. Although Country membership declined, the larger Town and City Lodges grew as the new arrivals transferred their membership to the Lodges closest to their new homes.

The 1960/70's heralded the start of the decline of the UAOD in New Zealand. There were several causes for this, notably the huge change to our working week, both Parents working odd hours, the introduction of computers and the IT revolution, the Social Welfare System, and mass entertainment. These changes to Society and our way of life were perhaps the fastest in the history of mankind. Prior to 1915 there were 89 Lodges in New Zealand, with approximately 5,000 members. In the early 1930's there were 95 Lodges under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the North Island, and around 15,000 members, and 58 Lodges in Canterbury and Otago/Southland Grand Lodges with a further 10,000 members. This was the height of the Order in New Zealand, and membership slowly declined from 1940 onwards. Another cause of the demise is of course human frailty. Sadly greed and theft took over, and some Lodges

and Grand Lodges lost large sums to this. The Grand Lodge of Otago-Southland closed in the early 1980's, together with all the Lodges in its jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge of Canterbury closed in 2015, also with all Lodges. This was a planned closure with the decision not to accept any new members being made some 12 or so years previously. Membership then was declining, as were most other organisations, and the present members were aging. There are now only two Lodges operating in the South Island, Maitai Lodge in Nelson, and Mistletoe Lodge in Blenheim. Both are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, Druids of New Zealand 1999 Northern Jurisdiction.

In 1990, the Grand Lodge of New Zealand North Island was placed into receivership, having lost millions of dollars of members funds to bad management and unethical (bordering on illegal) practises. Large numbers of members resigned over this, and many Lodges were forced to close as well. After some time in limbo, a working Committee was set up to work with the Registrar of Friendly Societies to reform the remaining Lodges and open a new Grand Lodge. This was finally achieved, and the new Grand Lodge of Druids of New Zealand 1999 Northern Jurisdiction was registered under the Friendly Societies Act with the Registrar in 1999, with 14 Lodges in its jurisdiction. There are now only 9 Lodges left in New Zealand, with a total of around 280 members.

Sadly the future of the UAOD in New Zealand is not good, and it is hard to see many Lodges left by 2025. This severe loss of membership has also affected most other organisations, and it appears that the era of Lodges and volunteer Community groups such as Jaycees, Lions, and even Sporting Clubs, who are struggling to survive, is coming to an end. What will replace them?, only time will tell. As the saying goes, when one door closes another door will open, so something else will replace the Lodges sometime in the future.

In Unity, Peace and Concord,

Bob Stewart, PGP UAOD, IPGP IGLD.



Sixty-one new IGLD brothers in IGLD meeting Porsgrunn



61 Brothers who received their Norwegian IGLD degrees at Myrica Lodge in Porsgrunn, Norway, represented no fewer than twenty Lodges. This gives an idea of the Norwegian Order of Druids' interest for our international Brotherhood. We are very pleased and proud to say that the 1100 Norwegians represent 40% of our worldwide membership.

The meeting in Porsgrunn was undoubtedly an international event as four representatives from The Swedish Order were present. Since 1908 we Druids have had international meetings. From the early days where a Brother had to have the Ringrade until now the requirements are the Chapter degree. Leaders have looked to the future and have reduced the requirements for membership in IGLD. After the next world congress in Malmö, Sweden in 2020 the requirements will be to have the Bard grade.

Many Brothers ask why it has taken more than a hundred years. From the very first day when we join the Order we learned that our highest aim is to try to influence Brothers to work towards a peoples ideal development based on friendship, charity, and Brotherly love. To this end it's only natural to invite the younger brothers to become members.

Brother Erik Kleiven, Old Archdruid of Albota Lodge was one of the Brothers who received his IGLD grade in Porsgrunn, and he had a few words with our IGLD Brother: He was asked how he experienced the ceremony

«How do you feel now Brother Erik?»

His answer was «I've always felt myself as an international Brother, but during the ceremony I felt even closer to International Druidism. I wondered why it has taken so long for it to develop. Scandinavia is very small in many other ways, but in the IGLD world we are not small in any way. I hope that Druids all over the world will work for the growth of IGLD, and I feel that international cooperation will strengthen our future. I must add that an arrangement as big as this meeting is very praiseworthy».



Noble Arch Druid Nils Steinar Sundbo, member of the same lodge as Brother Erik agreed with Brother Erik, and added «This was a surprisingly good experience. I have the feeling that I have become a member of a large international family,



and starting in the IGLD took place surrounded by a friendly and safe environment. On behalf of all of us new IGLD Brothers I would like thank Newsletter very much.»



Part V



The U.A.O.D. in Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and Tirol.

Some Swedish gentlemen were interested in Druidism first by the late Bro. Wolgast of Kiel (Germany), who handed his correspondence with these gentlemen to Bro. Fricke of Hamburg, then Most Noble Grand Arch of the German Order. Bro. Fricke's efforts resulted in the foundation -of the first Swedish Lodge, "Ad Astra," at Malmo by seven candidates, who met Bro. Fricke for this purpose on the 11th June, 1904, at Kiel. The ritual of the German Order was translated in to the Swedish language and the new Lodge placed itself under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Grand Lodge of Germany. After second and third Lodge, the "Stella Polaris" Lodge at Trelleborg and "Mimer-Lodge" at Malmo had been established, the Swedish Order founded its own Grand Lodge, after having been granted a charter by the Imperial Grand Lodge of Germany.

The Druidic movement soon became popular in Sweden, and quite a number of Lodges have been established in this country. By the united efforts of the Swedish Druids the Order was transplanted from Sweden to Denmark; the first Danish Lodge, the "Gral Lodge," was opened at Copenhagen on the 27th August, 1921, and two years later a second Lodge, the "Parsifal Lodge," followed, which was founded on the 29th September, 1923. The "Arthur Lodge," established the 27th February, 1924, at Copenhagen, is the third Danish Lodge. The

7 Swedish-Danish branch of our Order counts nearly 500 members; it did not extend as rapidly as some might have hoped or have expected, but its development has been marked by exceptional steadiness.

A stronghold of the Swedish Order of Druids is the city of Malmo, where three Lodges are established. These Lodges meet in a splendid Temple, which is their own property. To further the spiritual work of the Brethren, a High Arch Chapter was founded on the 27th January, 1918; this institution is the centre of the spiritual life of the Swedish Order of Druids; it counts 150 members belonging to the Swedish and to the Danish Order of the third degree.

On June 5th, 1916, the Swedish Benevolent Fund was founded; every brother has to pay a monthly contribution of one Swedish Crown. Grants of 300 to 1,000 Crowns are made to the dependents of deceased brethren. It is further to be recorded, that the brethren in Malmo and Trelleborg own a holiday home on the South coast of Sweden.

The relations of the Swedish-Danish Order of Druids to the other branches of our Order have always been of the very best; they are of a specially friendly nature to the parent Order in Germany.

Switzerland.

By the aid of the "Parsifal-Lodge" at Munich, the U.A.O.D. was transplanted to Switzerland. Bro. Fricke, the Most Noble Grand Arch at that time, opened the Arnold Winkelried "Lodge, the first Lodge on Swiss soil, the 1st October 1912. This Lodge belongs to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Bavaria. The new Lodge developed quite satisfactorily until the beginning of the Great War in 1914, when a great number of its members of German nationality were called to the colours.

Switzerland, being a neutral country, had business relations with all the combatant nations which, of course, impaired the good relations amongst the individual members of the Lodge, whose sympathies were partial to the country to which their economic interest tended most. During several years this Lodge was closed altogether and in 1921 several members filed a petition to the Imperial Grand Lodge of Germany to be allowed to leave the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge



Part V

and the Grand Lodge of Bavaria and to enter the jurisdiction of the American Order. Several brethren succeeded, however, in re-uniting the members of this Lodge and retaining the close connection with the parent Order in Germany. To-day the Arnold Winkelried „Lodge counts 33 members, who are a reliable foundation of the U.A.O.D. in Switzerland.

Tirol.

The first seed of the U.A.O.D. on Austrian soil was planted by several members of the "Monachia-Lodge," Munich, the "Hain-Tirol-Lodge" at Innsbruck, under co-operation of representatives of the whole German Order of Druids. This Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Bavaria and promises steady and good progress.



DRUID CUTTING THE MISTLETOE.

Visit our WEB page

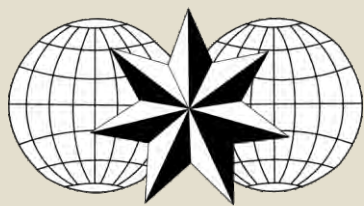
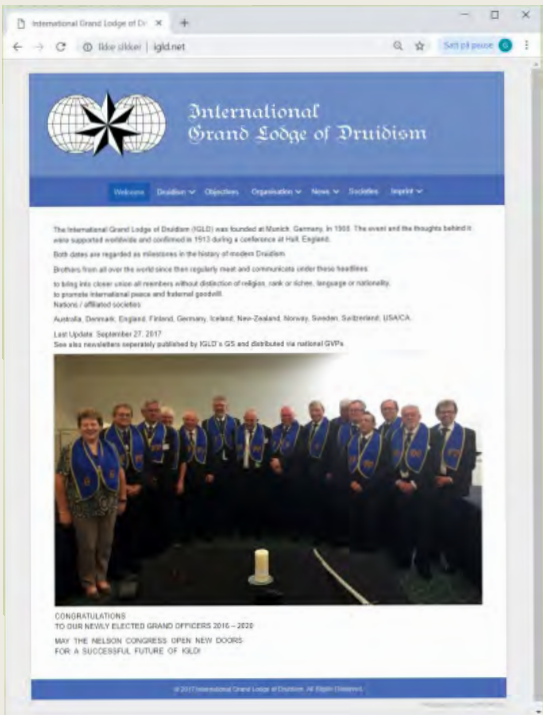
IGLD Calendar

Karlskrona, Sweden
7th Sept. 2019

Nürnberg / Füh,
Germany,
7th Sept 2019.

Gjøvik, Norway
11th January 2020.

Porsgrunn, Norway
21th January 2020.



IGLD

Mailadress:

igldnews@druid.no

IGLD Newsletter editors would like druid news from all over the world. It's important that you inform us about what's happening in your Lodge and your country.