



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Krishna-Avanti: History in the Making



Srila Prabhupada:

“Increasing one's love for God is a gradual process, and the first ingredient is faith. Without faith, there is no question of progress in Krishna consciousness. That faith is created after reading Bhagavad-gita carefully and actually understanding it as it is.... One must have faith in the words of Krishna, particularly when Krishna says, ‘Abandon all dharmas and surrender to Me. I will give you all protection.’”

Teachings of Lord Kapila, 15.36, purport



Hailing the Krishna-Avanti school as a milestone in British history and an asset to Harrow, council leader David Ashton participated in a landmark ceremony on Saturday 7th June. The William Ellis playing fields, soon to be home to the country's first state-funded Hindu school, hosted a traditional ‘Bhumi Puja’ ceremony prior to commencement of building works.

Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Ofsted was chief guest at the Bhumi Puja. “I look forward to the Krishna Avanti School being a centre of excellence and a very positive contribution to the Harrow community,” she said.

At the site, politicians, community leaders and project donors joined priests from Bhaktivedanta Manor. Led by His Holiness Atmanivedana Swami, the priests, assisted by community children, poured offerings of clarified butter into a large sacred fire.

The Krishna-Avanti Primary School is the result of years of careful planning and discussion with the local authority and government. It will be UK's first Hindu Voluntary Aided state school, and as such will not charge fees. It will open in September 2008 with a Reception class, and intake of pupils will increase one year at a time.

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Draupadi the Miracle Cow

In the peaceful grazing pastures of Bhaktivedanta Manor, happy cows are cared for and are usefully engaged. The farm milkman Nodar reported this month that Draupadi has been providing milk for seven years - since she had her last calf!

Astonishingly, she continues to give more and more milk every year. Records show that she gives about 20 litres a day, with an annual yield increasing by 500 litres every year!

Bhaktivedanta Manor's unique farm regularly attracts interest from around the country. Recently BBC1 featured the farm on its Sunday morning ‘Countryfile’. Presenter Adam Henson spent a day at the Manor with a film crew, and captured traditional farming in action. The episode was broadcast on 25th May and featured bulls ploughing the land and cows being hand-milked. The programme highlighted the use of the farm's produce in worship and cooking.

Hare Krishna Street Festival goes to Ilford

One of the primary goals for the Manor's Year of the Congregation is to encourage every member to become a messenger by facilitating enjoyable and practical outreach activities in each neighbourhood.

On Saturday 31st May, over fifty devotees took time out to travel to Ilford in East London. The day started at 10am with sit down bhajans, distribution of Srila Prabhupada's books, and prasadam cakes.

The surprised locals asked whether it was 'a festival day' and wondered where all the 'Hare Krishnas' had suddenly come from.

As parts of Ilford's high-street suddenly transformed into what felt like a place of holy pilgrimage, over 200 books were handed out. The Pandava Sena's dedicated sankirtan team formed the core of the operation, supported by older congregation members from various sanga groups.

Manor brahmacaris and temple leaders including Kripamoya das and Srutidharma das joined the team. With the weather mercifully remaining dry, devotees enjoyed a sumptuous Ekadasi feast in the nearby Valentine's park. Rejuvenated they proceeded back into the main town centre for an ecstatic dancing street procession which ended at around 5pm.



Lord Caitanya personally introduced public hari-nama sankirtana to purify the atmosphere and to inspire devotees to continue chanting. With new seeds of bhakti (devotion) planted in Ilford, the team looks forward to the next event. If you would like to get involved with similar outreach programmes organised by the *Preach Petal* please contact ikh108@gmail.com

Heavenly music for Krishna's cows



Roxanne, a member of staff of the neighbouring Delrow centre has been visiting the Manor farm to share therapeutic methods she uses in care. Twice a week she has been playing her harp in the cowbarn. "The cows seem to appreciate the heavenly music" said farm assistant Bhaktin Katrina, "it makes them feel so relaxed that they have been known to drift into a peaceful sleep!"

A festive weekend

On the weekend beginning 10th May, enthusiasts flocked from around the country to the Radha-Krishna Temple in East London.

The weekend included workshops and a mini-Ratha Yatra (festive procession) in the local area. Special guests included Jayapataka Swami, Praghosa das, Gauri das and Vishvambhar das.



Honouring Soldiers

The Armed Forces Welcome Day was organised to honour soldiers and medics returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland. Marching in to a thunderous round of applause, the 254 General Support Medical Regiment was honoured in song, prayer and a wreath laying ceremony. Bhaktivedanta Manor assisted by providing ox-cart rides and setting up gazebos, in the joint-event hosted by the villages of Letchmore Heath and Patchetts Green. Organiser Brian Hyde said: "It is time to recognise the immense service to this country of the men and women of our armed forces around the world."



George Harrison Garden

George Harrison's life was depicted in a colourful way at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. His widow Olivia worked with designer Yvonne Innes, to narrate George's life story. Along a mosaic path, the surrounding plants change to depict George maturing through his childhood in Liverpool, then through his era with the Beatles in the 1960s. The next stage is somewhat more subdued, representing George's quieter lifestyle in his later years. The path turns green and crosses over a stream of water to another level. An ornate Indian pavilion represents George's focus on the spiritual side of his life in his later years.



Work has begun at Bhaktivedanta Manor to transform the sunken garden into a tribute to George Harrison. Richard Sneesby, the expert designer appointed by the George Harrison Garden Committee met Olivia at the Show. She expressed her enthusiasm about the upcoming garden at the Manor.

Religious Leaders meet at Lambeth Palace

On 23rd May some of the most significant faith representatives from across the UK were invited to Lambeth Palace, including Temple President Gauri das.

After meeting Prime Minister Gordon Brown, guests sat with the Dalai Lama. Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, led them into a meditation on World Peace and the Dalai Lama shared his thoughts.

The assembly spoke about the need to engage not only in the vocabulary of specific convictions but out of a recognition of a common humanity - a 'secular ethics' alongside the doctrines and disciplines of faith.

Yoga and Family Fun at Bhaktivedanta Manor

The relentless Bank Holiday rain proved no obstacle for eager visitors to the temple, who got out their umbrellas to attend the yoga-themed Open Day.

Over one hundred and fifty residents from surrounding areas flocked to enjoy the day's events, which included tours, philosophical discussions, yoga, pranayama, and Indian head massage classes, and a delicious feast.

Mothers and daughters (plus a few lucky sons!) were treated to makeovers as they tried on saris, and had gopi dot decorations and mehndi applied.

Children were especially catered for, as Ekachakra dasi, a qualified children's yoga teacher, led a class of almost thirty

in learning traditional animal poses, and even making up some new own!

The day proved to be a wonderful success, and visitors got a real taste for the spiritually refreshing atmosphere of Bhaktivedanta Manor. As late afternoon approached, and the last guests left the building, one commented with an affectionate and grateful smile, "It's so lovely here! You wonder whether love really exists in the world, but I've certainly felt it here today."

Of course, the day could not have been possible without the sincere and dedicated efforts of all the volunteers involved, including the cooks, cleaners, pujaris and tour guides.



Taking local responsibility



Information engineer by profession, and author of a recent fiction book, Arjunanatha das joined ISKCON in Liverpool in 1989.

Since his early 20s he has been an active member of the Green Party, campaigning in many local and parliamentary elections. Recently he stood for Bushey North and collected 100 votes! He is currently the Green Party Parliamentary Candidate for Hertsmere.

He is now a member of Bhaktivedanta Manor's Environmental Committee and was involved in drafting an environmental policy for Bhaktivedanta Manor.

"I see the Krishna Consciousness movement providing vital philosophical, political and practical skills within a new world," said Arjunanath das, "In my view devotees should be at the forefront of numerous green initiatives and the New Gokul Farm Project could not be more timely."

European Cow Protection

Syamasundar das, head of the Manor farm and ISKCON's European head of cow protection and agriculture joined representatives of ISKCON farm communities from across Europe.

The meeting took place at New Vraja Dham in Hungary, which is 80% self-sufficient. Community residents use wood to cook and heat their homes, and do not rely on electricity from the national grid.

Amongst the varied presentations was a scheme for selling organically produced salads to local people, by Dhirasanta das'. Dhirasanta runs a small farm in Cornwall.

"It was very enlightening to witness the presentations given by members of ISKCON farm communities across Europe," explained Syamasundar das, "many farms need to be developed but there is also much to be encouraged by."



Hungarian Connection

Since visiting Hungary last summer, the Radlett and Aldenham International Friendship Association (RAIFA) have held discussions about twinning Radlett with Dunaharaszti, a small town near Budapest.

Dr Laslo Szalay, the Mayor of Dunaharaszti and his colleagues were special guests of Aldenham Councillors and their tour of the local area included Bhaktivedanta Manor.

RAIFA is confident about Radlett's prospective partner, which is located near to the capital of Budapest. RAIFA Chairman Clive Glover said: "It has been a very enjoyable weekend for us and I am confident we will be able to establish links between Radlett and Dunaharaszti."

The visit was organised by Suzanne Connet, who lived in Dunaharaszti before moving to Radlett.



Safe Cycling for Gurukula Children

As part of the Manor School's policy of school sustainability, the children of the Rama Class embarked on a cycle training course organised through Herts County Council.

The pupils were taken through many aspects of safe cycling, bicycle maintenance and the Highway Code before venturing out onto the roads surrounding Bhaktivedanta Manor. The students were all tested and successfully reached level 2 proficiency.

The pupils and teachers' practices relating to the environment were also highlighted in the recent OFSTED inspection. The classrooms recycling all their plastic, paper, cardboard and tins and the school has recently been nominated for an award for its contribution to sustainability by the National Teaching Awards Scheme.



*Ready for the Road
- Safety First!*

Krishna-Avanti School - *continued from front page*

The School will be established as a one-form of entry, mixed primary school with attached nursery.

Pupils will have dedicated yoga and Sanskrit lessons and will grow vegetables, in line with the vegetarian principles of the school. A Hindu temple will take pride of place in the courtyard of the new school. When at full capacity, it will have about 240 pupils. Nitesh Gor, Chariman of governors and member of the I-Foundation, said there has been no Hindu state school until now because the community has not been ready. "It has taken the Hindu community the last few decades to establish its roots in this country...only now are we coming up to a level of expertise to say "we can deliver this'," he said.

Praghosa Das, ISKCON's Governing Body Commissioner (GBC) for Britain, France and Ireland, was a keynote speaker. He highlighted the environmental aspects incorporated into the design. "The school is being hailed as one of the most environmentally friendly ever built," he explained, "It will have solar panels to generate electricity and grass on the roof to keep heat in the building."

"Harrow is proud to have the first and only state-aided Hindu school in the country," said Leader of Harrow

Council, Cllr David Ashton. "It is also highly appropriate for Harrow to have this honour because of our ethnic diversity, in particular, a large Hindu population. This is about giving people choice. We look forward to the school being a focus of both academic achievement and community inclusion. This is history in the making."

Peter Hamilton, Headmaster of Haberdashers Askes school for Boys, is a Governor of the new school. He looks forward to bringing his experience of leading one of the highest performing schools in country to helping Krishna-Avanti to achieve excellent standards.

"This is a school where we will hold to high esteem that every child and adult matters", said the Krishna Avanti School's new Head Teacher Mrs Naina Parmar, "we will foster positive and lasting relationships within the school, with parents, the local community, the school's faith partner and local schools in Harrow. We will ensure our pupils are equipped with life long skills and attitudes essential to enable them to make not just positive but outstanding contributions to all aspects of contemporary British society."

Naina has been involved in various leadership and executive roles during her time as a teacher and Senior Leader



Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Ofsted, and Peter Hamilton, Headmaster of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys

within Primary Education. She is an Oxford Farmington Fellow and Advanced Skills Teacher for Religious Education. She is also a consultant for the Qualifications Curriculum Authority for Religious Education and the Primary curriculum.



Head Teacher Naina Parmar outlines her commitment to delivering a quality educational experience

KRISHNA-AVANTI
PRIMARY SCHOOL

For further information visit:
<http://www.krishna-avanti.org.uk>



Serenityand Success

by Devesh Modi

The beauty of the Welsh hills and countryside was breathtaking, as we drove through the winding roads on our way to Buckland Hall. The air was fresh and crisp, a contrast to my regular journey to work everyday through the concrete jungle of Central London. The saying "Man made the cities, God made the countryside" encapsulated the difference between Buckland Hall and my London way of life.

As we parked up outside Buckland Hall, I was happy to know that this was going to be home for the next 3 days, in this impressive historic mansion, surrounded by lush green hills and not more than a few minutes from a free flowing stream. Buckland Hall was the perfect setting for a spiritual retreat. The Manor congregation could rejuvenate themselves, inspire each other and laugh as loud as possible without the worry of the next door neighbours complaining!

The theme of the retreat was how to develop the congregation and to build on our successes both individually and as a community. At the beginning of the retreat I couldn't comprehend what the

'congregation' meant to me but hoped that as the retreat progressed over the three days this would become clearer.

Over the following days I had the pleasure of listening to a variety of world class speakers present aspects of building a more vibrant and stronger spiritual community. Both young and old attended the seminars and expressed a thirst for knowledge and wisdom that I had not witnessed before, even at University.

However, just as important were meal times and kirtan. During meal times, I had the opportunity to rekindle old friendships and to ignite new friendships for the future, and of course, enjoy the wonderful cuisine. During kirtans, I prayed, danced and sang in unison with fellow devotees, celebrating in a most profound way. All the way through the retreat, laughter and fun was integral to everything especially the drama, comedy show and a quiz on the last day.

As the retreat to Buckland Hall came to a close, it was clear that it

had energised the congregation and bonds between the devotees had tightened. At this point I thought of a quote that summarised concisely the lesson I had learnt over the three days:

"A family that prays together, eats together and learns together, will certainly stay together."

It is futile to intellectually try and understand what the Manor congregation means. The Manor congregation needs to be experienced and felt. My experience was that it's a loving family, which keeps on growing because of its affectionate members. It's a congregation that welcomes everyone and tries its best to nurture those who wish to be part of this spiritual family. On the last day, as I travelled back to the concrete jungle, I was grateful to have had such a wonderful spiritual experience in the serenity of Buckland Hall. I surely will be coming back.



Snana Yatra

This year, Lord Jagannatha's annual pastime of Snana Yatra was celebrated in style. Their Lordships Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra devi left their home in central London to be greeted at the main gate with a colourful, flower filled procession. Accompanied by uplifting kirtan, they were placed on a beautifully decorated bullock cart, and taken down to the main tent, where devotees eagerly waited to participate in the bathing ceremony.

Hundreds braved queuing for an hour or more just to have darshan of these wonderful forms of the Lord. The abhishek bath was performed using items such as honey, yoghurt, milk, mango pulp and fruit juice. Later, an enlightening class on some of the pastimes of Lord Jagannatha was given by Jayadvaita Swami and Devamrita Prabhu.

The kitchen was a hive of activity, with a great number of volunteers working together to cook a delicious feast for everyone. The Snana Yatra festival takes place two weeks before the grand Rathayatra procession, during which the Lord parades through the streets of London to give His mercy not just to His devotees, but to everyone.



Sunday 22nd June 2008

Celebrating London's 40th
Rathayatra Festival

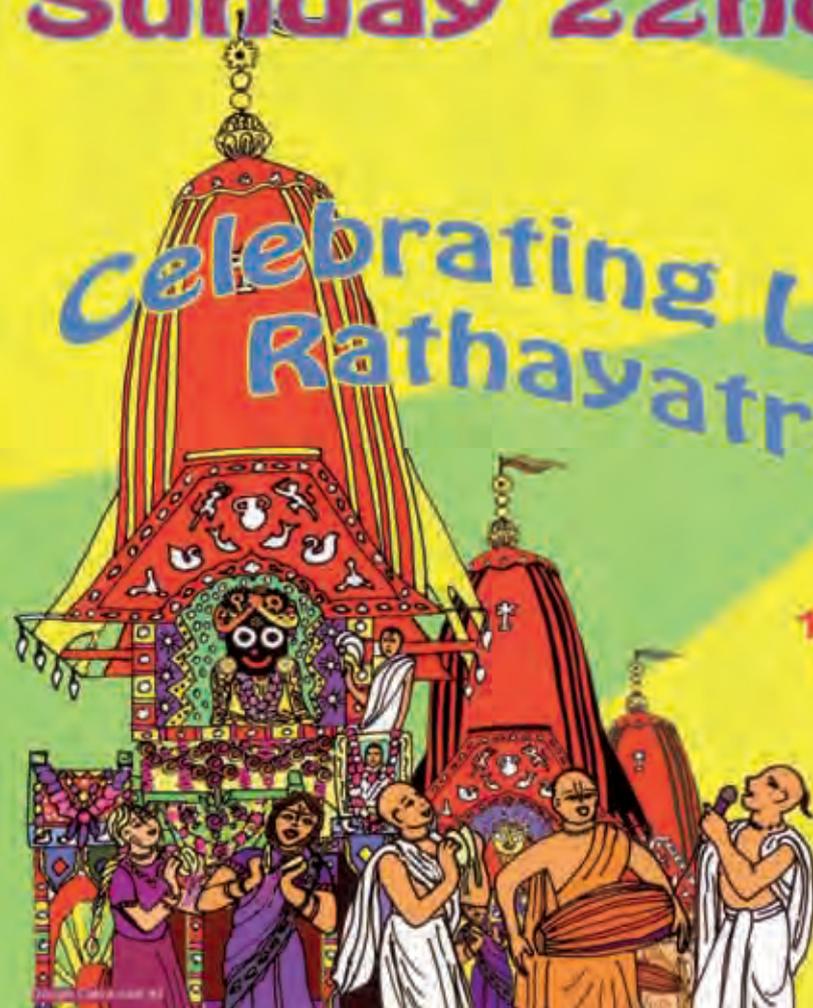


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International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder Acarya,
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Narasimha Chaturdashi

18th May saw the appearance celebrations of Lord Nrsimhadeva, the half lion, half man incarnation of Krishna who came to protect His great devotee, Prahlada. Lord Nrsimhadeva is glorified, described and explained in the Vaisnava scripture Srimad-Bhagavatam. Devotees pray to this form of the Lord for protection, not only from physical threats but also from the selfish attachments in our own hearts.

Signifying the great importance of Lord Nrsimhadeva in devotees lives, celebrations were conducted with great pomp and this year. Highlights of the morning programme at the Manor included an entertaining play by the resident brahmacaris retelling the story of Prahlada and his demon father, Hiranyakashipu, as well as a vivacious class by His Grace Gaur Gopal das from Mumbai, India. A special Nrsimha Kavacha fire yajna for the protection of the temple and devotee community followed, after which the devotees travelled by coach to the West End of London for Harinama sankirtan (public chanting), joining amongst others the devotees from the Soho Street temple. Fortunately the weather held up and the devotees returned to the Manor enthused and enlivened, having shared the holy name with so many thousands.

The festivities continued in the evening with some melodious bhajans/kirtans in glorification of the Lord. This was closely followed by a feast consisting of close to ten items. With many of the devotees fasting for the day this was much awaited and highly rated by all, bringing an eventful day to a close. Let us all pray that Lord Nrsimhadeva showers his blessings upon us and protects us from all forces that may be inimical to our devotional service.





Age: 23

Currently: Staying in the brahmachari ashram at Bhaktivedanta Manor

Studied: Economics at Cambridge University



HARROW JAMMIN'

Harrow Jammin' is ISKCON Pandava Sena's (IPS) flagship programme and has been running for over 10 years, attracting the youth from all over north London.

It all started in 1995, when some young, enthusiastic devotees, fired up from saving Bhaktivedanta Manor, set their sights on the London Borough of Harrow, with a desire to share Krishna Consciousness (KC) to an area known for its high population of Hindus. With an initial objective of giving the holy name, the first programmes would simply be kirtan followed by prashad in a small hall on Pinner Road, attracting senior personalities such as HH Lokanath Maharaja and HG Tribuvanath prabhu.

Over the next few years, numbers continued to rise, and newer devotees took up responsibilities. The format of the programme also developed to become more dynamic and thought provoking. However, after some time, a need was felt to revitalise the sessions and reintroduce the strict practices of Vaishnavas (devotees) to ensure that this did not become a mere gathering of young people, but rather that it gave a spiritual experience. In 2001, some visionary devotees took charge of the reigns. They went back to the basics of looking after devotees and nurturing their spiritual lives. As a result, the attendee numbers grew to such an extent that it became necessary to move to a new hall – one in the heart of Harrow with a capacity of 300.

In addition to attracting many senior speakers, Harrow Jammin' frequently now sees older members of IPS giving classes, having been through the system and averages an attendance between 60 and 80 youth at each session.

There are bi-weekly sangas (gatherings), which allow members to delve deeper and discuss practicalities of practicing Krishna Consciousness as a student. Harrow Jammin' continues to go from strength to strength and is an ideal starting block for young people who want to be part of a vibrant, fulfilling and enlightening youth group.



What made you start attending IPS events?

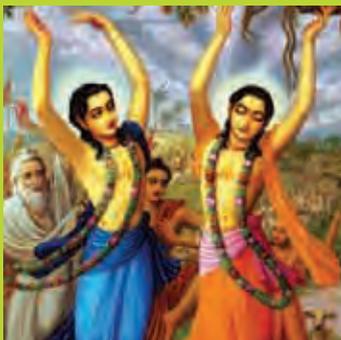
Having come into KC via the society at university, a friend there talked me into attending my local jammin' in east London. The event was more entertaining and informative than I expected and I found the other people to be very amiable. I also found the mood of the organisation inspiring, providing a realistic spiritual alternative to youth, giving them almost everything they got elsewhere, and more.

What did you find appealing about KC?

The list is endless. The first thing that struck me was that there were answers to all my questions. Growing up in a devout 'Hindu' family, there were lots of practices/ideas which did not make very much sense, but the philosophy was so complete that things quickly began to fit into place. It was then that I began to realise how much I had missed out on all my life! Then over time, the association, kirtans, prasad and missionary vision all grew on me and I realised that KC is the essence of life.

What services are you currently involved in?

Based at the Manor, my main services include book distribution and university preaching.



PSankirtan

Do you like the taste of the holy name? Talking about Krishna? ...or just relaxing with devotees? If YES PSankirtan is the place for you, whether it be distributing books, honouring prasadam or engaging in various services please call Kishan on 07889 921 114 to get involved or see www.psenas.com

We're jammin' in the name of the Lord

Forthcoming Jammins:

- 07/06 - South - Identity of the soul
- 13/06 - Harrow - The Matrix: how to get out
- 20/06 - East - Chariots - HG Jai Nitai Das
- 21/06 - South - Perfection of Yoga
- 27/06 - Harrow - KC - an economical perspective
- 04/07 - East - Demon Qualities - Vandna & Kanchan
- 05/07 - South - Inter-planetary travel
- 11/07 - Harrow - Religion: the ultimate retirement policy

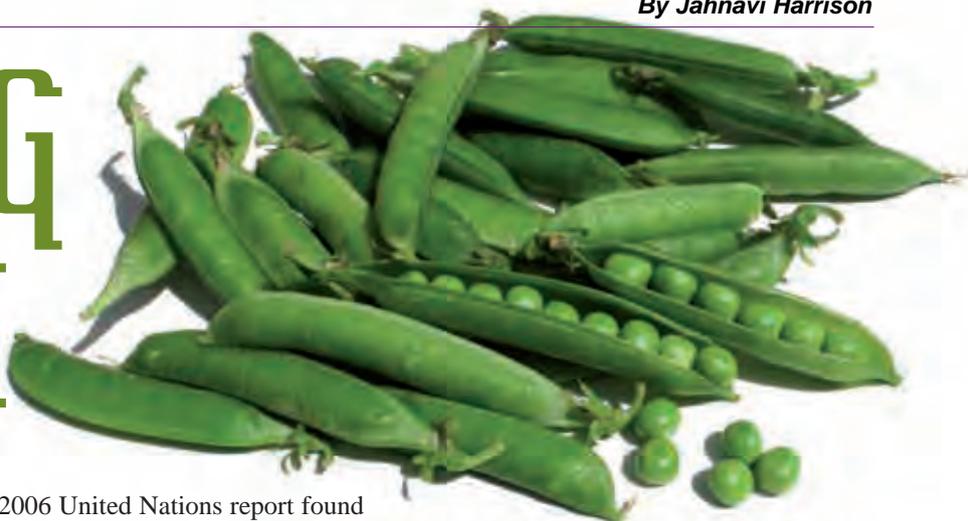
For more details see www.psenas.com

Subject to change

Vedic Perspective

By Jahnvi Harrison

EATING GREEN



If you ever watch TV, read a newspaper, or listen to the radio, chances are you'll have heard of the term 'carbon footprint' by now. In our increasingly green conscious society, it's the buzzword of the minute, and refers to the impact human activities have on the environment.

Of course, most of us like to think that we do our bit for the planet, and advertisers have been quick to catch on to this. Today, everything from washing detergents to hybrid cars are sold with the promise of reducing the heavy impact of our daily activities. These slickly packaged claims can be pretty convincing, but how much do these little things actually help, and isn't there a simpler way?

'refusing meat is the single most effective thing you can do to reduce your carbon footprint'

The answer, according to a huge number of environmentalists and those in the know, is a resounding yes. In the official handbook for the Live Earth concerts, organised by American politician, Al Gore, it is stated that 'refusing meat is the single most effective thing you can do to reduce your carbon footprint'. They've even enlisted famous faces, such as Paul McCartney to promote this message. Of course, some might say that this is just another form of propaganda, but look past the high profile events and celebrity endorsements, and the statistics speak for themselves.

A 2006 United Nations report found that the meat industry produces more greenhouse gases than all the SUVs, Hummers, cars, trucks, planes, and ships in the world combined. Here's an even simpler way of looking at it: eating 11lb of meat has the same effect on the planet as driving a Hummer 40 miles.

It's not just the air that's polluted either. The amount of manure produced by the meat industry is a problem that's near impossible to deal with. Even when a portion of it is used for fertilizer, the majority ends up dumped in fields and rivers, leaching excess minerals into the soil and upsetting the fragile balance of the earth's ecosystems.

Raising and feeding the livestock puts a major strain on the environment also. About 44% of all the grain in the world is used for animal feed. Therefore, most farm animals will, at any moment of their lives, have consumed more food-energy or protein than they can ever deliver in the form of meat. After reviewing the tens of millions of acres of agricultural land being used for animal feed and grazing in Europe, the European parliament commented last year, that 'European farming is capable of feeding Europeans, but not their farm animals'.

Even with all this land being used, it's still not enough to meet the demands of the commercial meat industry. Every year, large areas of forest throughout the world, are cleared, creating new grazing land, and ultimately often creating new areas of desert-like, infertile land, as a knock on effect of the deforestation.

This evidence is clear proof of the importance of vegetarianism. However,

it's not just about the effect on the environment. Giving up meat is also recommended for its positive effect on our bodies and consciousness. If it's true that out of sight means out of mind, then it's no wonder we don't always make the connection between what we eat and how it influences our thoughts and actions. We buy nicely packaged meat off the shelf next to innocuous foods like cheese and milk, but it is anything but innocuous.

When an animal is slaughtered, its feelings of intense pain and fear experienced at death remain within its body, and these have an effect on those who consume this flesh later. As these feelings arise in us, it also becomes harder to feel compassion for others, whether animal or human. Ultimately, this lack of compassion can be found at the heart of many major world problems, as well as many difficulties within our day to day lives.

The legendary mathematician and philosopher of Ancient Greece, Pythagoras, stated 'For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seed of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love.' This message has been repeated by saints, philosophers, and great thinkers throughout the centuries.

Krishna also tells us to only offer him vegetarian foodstuffs, and devotees will never eat any food not first offered to their Lord. By so doing the Bhagavad-gita tells us that we will avoid the "great sinful reactions" that are otherwise incurred.

If we follow Krishna's simple directions for our diet we will be healthier, happier and save our planet.

Washington DC - Traditional Hare Krishna Greeting for Pope



Radhika Raman das (Dr Ravi Gupta), a graduate of the Oxford Centre of Hindu Studies met Pope Benedict XVI at an interfaith gathering in Washington.

The Pope, the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church was in Washington as part of a North American tour.

The interfaith event was organised by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and included representatives from all faith traditions.

“It was a great honour to meet His Holiness Pope Benedict”, said Radhika Ramana das, “I was impressed by the intimacy of the gathering, and the Pope’s genuine interest in meeting us”.

“I greeted the Pope with our traditional Hare Krishna greeting,” he added.

“Then I said, ‘Your Holiness, you are well aware of the richness within Hinduism, including a strong tradition of monotheism and religious tolerance. I hope these can be a foundation for a strong and continued dialogue with the [Catholic] Church.’”

“It was an historic occasion,” said Anuttama das, ISKCON’s Minister of Communications and a Governing Body Commissioner. “The tensions on the world stage call for religious leaders to understand each other better and to teach their respective congregations to not only respect, but to learn from one another.”

Soldiers in Iraq take Solace in the Holy Name

by Partha-Sarathi das

It’s my fifth year on duty as an US army sergeant in Iraq. I still rise early and chant Hare Krishna as if I can die at any moment - which, here, is a reality. Twenty-two soldiers now come for the Krishna conscious programs I hold in the dormitories.

During one of these, a rocket impacted near- by, so I directed everyone into the nearest bunker, grabbing my drum along the way.

Everyone in the bunker started asking me questions about spiritual life, listening to my replies with rapt attention. As I taught them how to chant Hare Krishna, I could see that their minds were gradually becoming more peaceful. Soon everyone was singing. As we left the bunker some asked if they could come chant with me every day.

Once again I experienced the mercy and compassion that Srila Prabhupada has given us. In a place where

people see death regularly, for a time my soldiers forgot their troubles and were able to gain profound spiritual insights.

One night we were sent to help victims of a bomb attack which was reported to have killed 200 people. Upon arrival we were met with the horrific sight of ten dying children.

I grabbed one child in my arms, a boy who was no more than 5 years old. Immediately I tried to render first aid and as he passed away I softly chanted in his ear. As the day drew on I realised that amongst all the suffering in this world, much relief can be given by the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra.



Chanting on the Thames



Over 200 chanting enthusiasts climbed aboard a riverboat with international spiritual leader Indradyumna Swami, and sailed down the River Thames. The journey went from the Houses of Parliament right down to the Thames Barrier, and included music and talks. If the singing was heard by anyone in the House of Commons, no doubt they would have benefitted!

Indradyumna Swami organises one of the largest festivals in the ISKCON world: the Polish Woodstock Festival. The festival attracts over 300,000 youth every year. An area set up in the centre of the festival, the Village of Peace is one of the main attractions of the festival and hosts a non-stop stage programme of kirtan, drama and dance.

Unique new marriage website

Along with technical help from Sunder Govinda das, Jagannathesvari dasi heads a team who have recently launched a new UK-based website: www.krishnamarriage.com.

The site helps and supports members of the community, both locally and internationally, to find compatible partners, with a view to marriage. It is unique because it has been tailor-made by devotees, for devotees. The site includes a reference check system. Everyone who registers is obliged to provide names of devotees for character references.



“ISKCON is Srila Prabhupada’s family and, as in any family, the older members like to see youngsters well situated,” explained Jagannathesvari dasi. “The new site expands the pool of options available. Many devotees are quite shy but this service will be private and confidential at all times.”

www.Krishnamarriage.com

Calendar - dates for your diary

June

Sun 22	London Rathayatra
Mon 23	App of Vakresvara Pandit
Sat 28	Disapp of Srivasa Pandit
Sun 29	Yogini Ekadasi

July

Thur 3	Disapp of Sri Gadadhara Pandit & Bhaktivinode Thakura (fasting till noon)
Fri 4	Disapp of Swarupa Damodara Goswami & Sivananda Sena
Tue 8	Disapp of Vakresvara Pandit
Mon 13	Sayana Ekadasi
Fri 18	Guru Purnima Disapp of Sanatana Goswami Caturmasya begins
Wed 23	Disapp of Gopala Bhatta Goswami
Sat 26	Disapp of Lokanatha Goswami
Sun 27	Anniversary of the incorporation of ISKCON in New York
Sun 28	Kamika Ekadasi

Lakeside Walk restored

The grounds department have chalked out a number of phases which will further beautify the Manor’s grounds. Mick, with help from Bhakta Lior and new volunteer John have planted many trees, plants and bulbs around the lake area. They have also removed overgrowth around the lake, restored the Bhagavad Gita walk and seeded the soil with grass. The path around the lake has been restored with gravel and complements the extra work that has been done at the far side of the lake, including some special new features.



Saturday Harinam = Congregational Chanting *in a town near you*



Local areas:

- Meet at the Manor at 12 noon - return at 2pm

Central London:

- Minibus leaves from the Manor at 6.30pm - returns at 10pm

Free Temple Bus service in action

The new bus service has now started to run between Wembley and Bhaktivedanta Manor. Kath and Co bus service is a new initiative by the temple to go green.

“Many visitors have been waiting a long time for something like this” explained Radha Mohan das, “if you don’t have access to a car then the temple can be very difficult to reach from north-west London. Because of John’s initiative, new doors have opened and the prospects are exciting.”

The service is running every Sunday until 17th August inclusive and it is already growing popular. The route includes Wembley Central Station, Sudbury and Harrow Road Station, Harrow on the Hill Station, Kingsbury, Queensbury Station, Queensbury Circle, Canons Park Station and near Edgware Station in both directions.

The service is free but donations are welcome. For detailed bus timetables, visit www.krishnatemple.com

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Please send your news, photos and comments to

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