



Bhaktivedanta Manor Newsletter

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



Srila Prabhupada:

One should be very careful of these three enemies of human life: lust, anger and greed. The more a person is freed from lust, anger and greed, the more his existence becomes pure. Then he can follow the rules and regulations enjoined in the Vedic literature. By following the regulative principles of human life, one gradually raises himself to the platform of spiritual realization. If one is so fortunate, by such practice, to rise to the platform of Krishna consciousness, then success is guaranteed for him.

Bhagavad Gita 16.22 Purport

Celebrating London's 40th Rathayatra

Four thousand people joined the 40th Rathayatra festival in the streets of central London. Warm sunshine accompanied the crowd as the procession wound through the city in front of three magnificent chariots. Many commented how wonderful Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva and Lady Subhadra looked in their bright new outfits.

The fifty-foot high chariots were bedecked with hundreds of bright garlands and mirror decorations. The large wheels of the chariots were specially made by Her Majesty the Queen's wheelwrights, who employed traditional methods of steaming and bending wood.

About 20,000 people took part in the festivities at Trafalgar Square, at the end of the procession route. A feast was served free of charge to everyone. Trafalgar Square resembled an Indian bazaar, with free prasad distribution to all comers, exotic items for sale, and a main stage programme. At some of the stalls, tourists and others discussed philosophy from Srila Prabhupada's books.



Recycling Champions 2008: Food for All receives top prize

UK charity 'Food For All' was presented with the first prize trophy at this year's Novelis Community Recycling Project awards. The ceremony took place in central London and was attended by groups from all over the country who are pro-active in recycling.

Novelis, the largest recycler of aluminium drink cans in Europe, praised the charity's collection and distribution of fresh food from supermarkets which would otherwise be thrown away.

Parasuram das, director of Food for All, said: "The food business wastes so much. Millions of tons of good food are wasted every year in the UK and end up in land-fills.

"Often tons of packaged food is thrown away for relatively minor reasons. For example, over-produced products and items with incorrect packaging."

Food for All has been working with Sainsburys in Watford and Camden, as well as smaller businesses.



Manor School Provides “Outstanding Provision”

Last month’s OFSTED inspection of the Manor School gave the staff, management and pupils much to celebrate. The inspector was impressed by the broad range of subjects offered, brought to life by many outings and guest speakers. The curriculum was viewed as also having strengths in reading, writing and maths.

“Bhaktivedanta Manor has a good school with outstanding provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Relationships between adults and children are exceptionally good and as a result pupils behave very well and their attitudes to learning are good. Pupils behaviour is outstanding in and out of class.”
- *Ofsted Report, May 2008*



Into the Blue: Post-Exam Relief for University students

In June nearly 30 students came to Bhaktivedanta Manor for an evening of Hare Krishna culture. The event, entitled "Into The Blue" was a post-exam event for University students across the country.

The evening was kicked off by Bhakti Nrsingha Swami. Visiting from Africa for the first time, he spoke about the all-inclusiveness of Krishna Consciousness. He emphasised that spirituality is something people from every country and culture can participate in, using himself as an example.

Jayadvaita Swami gave the Krishna conscious viewpoint on the current "green" debate in society.



Students were then treated to dinner before heading out into the fields behind the farm for the evenings highlight – devotional songs under the stars. The students clapped, danced and sang around a campfire.

The evening was a great success and just what everyone needed after a hard year of work at University. The next such retreat is planned for mid-October, to coincide with the start of the new academic year.

Manor School signs on to Krishna

As part of the Manor School’s programme on Disability Awareness, children undertook a 10 week study of British sign language, organised through the Harrow Deaf Association.

Prema Pradip das teaches at the organisation and visited the Manor to give some lessons. He found the children responsive and quick to learn. Next term, the children are hoping to visit a deaf school in St. Albans to practise some of their new skills.



Connect... to Krishna

The monthly ‘Connect’ Programme, held at Bhaktivedanta Manor, went to another level in June when a special 2 day retreat was held. The theme for the weekend was 'Personal Resolution... Global Revolution' with a series of seminars by Govinda das, Gauranga das and Radheshyam das from Mumbai and Vrindavan in India.

The Connect programme is going from strength to strength, giving young men the opportunity to associate with each other, share experiences, and discuss Krishna Conscious philosophy.

The next ‘Connect’ programme is scheduled for Saturday 2nd August. A further event is planned in September.



Laying the foundation of Krishna Avanti School



Work has already begun on the site of the Krishna Avanti School on Camrose Avenue in Stanmore. Following the initial Bhumi Puja ceremony to seek blessings of Mother Earth, the subsequent rites involved installing a deity of Ananta Sesa at the building's foundation.

Nine bricks, bathed in five products of the cow and covered in coloured cloth were placed into the ceremonial pit. After sacred prayer, the form of Ananta Sesa was bathed.

The pit was then filled with sacred herbs. At precisely the right time during the ceremony the heavens opened and rain fell on the pit - an auspicious occurrence.

Participants included Bhakti Charu Swami as the special guest, members of the I-Foundation, Naina Parmar the Head Teacher of the School, Bhaktivedanta Manor Senior Management and Mansell PLC, the building contractors.

The Proud Merchant

The Bhaktivedanta Players entertained key members and supporters of the London Ratha Yatra team and Sunday congregation with their new play 'The Proud Merchant'. A wealthy and arrogant man enters the Temple in Jagannath Puri, Orissa, but is quickly humbled and becomes a great devotee.



Bharat Natyam lessons for Congregation



Jahnavi and Tulasi Harrison, Manor School graduates and members of a dance school, have been teaching the traditional Indian dance of Bharat Natyam to congregational children and adults alike.

Vegetarian Day Care Centre Opens

A new day care centre run by Shyamala Sakhi dasi has been operating for six months. Situated in Radlett, it is five minutes drive from Bhaktivedanta Manor.

The UKI day centre in Radlett works on the basis that there are young adults and older members of the community who, for various reasons, now find themselves less able to get out unaccompanied but still have the desire to enjoy a day out. They have the opportunity to share a cooked lunch and join in various activities with others.



UKI Day Centre makes an important contribution to community awareness by acting as a preventative measure for problems caused by lack of social contact and stimuli. It facilitates people in continuing to lead an independent life by allowing members choice, control, independence and dignity through various activities and events.

Members have many opportunities to contribute to the life of the day centre, through activities that encourage self-esteem and self-fulfillment. The centre can cater for upto 45 people.

Shyamala Sakhi dasi provides facility for users of the centre to visit the temple during darshan times. A pickup and drop off service is available for those unable to make their own way there. For further details contact Mayapur House on 01923 855856.

Radlett Festival 2008

Bhaktivedanta Manor supported the Radlett Festival once again with attractions, rides and a free feast.

Ron Worthy, Chairman of Aldenham Parish Council, said the 'fabulous' weather on Sunday 8th June had helped to attract a large number of people to Radlett's summer fair.

"It is a village fair," he added, "all the local societies come and even though they might not make that much money they raise publicity. That's what it is all about."



"On behalf of the Radlett Festival Committee, I am once again extremely grateful to the Hare Krishna Team led by Nila Madhava das who offered the festival some tremendous help with stewarding, stage, sound equipment, ox-cart rides and the food provided was also enjoyed by many people at the festival."

"What really makes the Hare Krishna helpers so special is that each and every one of them helps us with a smile on their face and it is so obvious to me to see the inner peace which you all have. My thanks just never seem enough."

Vicky Churchill, Chairperson of Radlett Festival Committee

Strawberry Fair is Cream of the Crop

More than 300 first-time locals enjoyed the sunshine at Bhaktivedanta Manor's Strawberry Fair Open Day on Saturday 28th June. An array of food including strawberry pastries, pancakes and chocolate strawberries and cream were sampled by local guests and the Manor farm's home-made strawberry ice cream was a particular success.

There was a variegated line up of activities: yoga, pranayama breathing workshops, head massage, mehndi, face painting, 'try on a sari', bullock cart rides and informative tours of the building and estate.



Special guests of the day included the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, Councillor Farida Turner and Patricia Strack, Councillor for Kenilworth.

"This is my first time to Bhaktivedanta Manor and I found it absolutely fascinating," said the Mayor, "The gardens were magnificent and the hosts were extremely hospitable and delightful."



A Carnival of Cows



On Sunday 20th July guests enjoyed a Cow Carnival open day! The event raised awareness of the sacred nature of cows and bulls and promoted ahimsa, (non-violence) towards all animals. There were cow-themed children's sports, opportunities to meet the Manor's cows and bulls, ox-cart rides, exhibitions, workshops and various

stalls. Home-grown organic vegetables were sold and local groups such as the North Hertfordshire Vegetarian Society also took part.

The Cow Carnival was organised by the Lotus Trust, an educational, relief and development agency seeking to transform lives and improve the environment. It aims to raise the quality of life of people throughout the UK and celebrates multiculturalism and diversity.



Passing the test: Bhakti Shastri students receive awards £15,000 for Midday Meals

The College of Vedic studies launched the Bhakti-Shastri course two years ago. Congregation members and resident devotees benefit from the opportunity to carry out scriptural degree studies at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

The course focusses on four key books: Bhagavad-Gita, Nectar of Instruction, Sri Isopanishad and Nectar of Devotion. The course is headed by Jivadoya das who has prepared an enlivening course full of interaction and humour.

The course follows the standard specified by the Vrindavana Institute of Higher Education and the ISKCON Examinations Board.

The first batch of students successfully completed their one-year course in April. Their achievements were celebrated at a special 'graduation' ceremony where they received official certificates.

The College of Vedic studies plans to run the Bhakti Shastri regularly every year, starting in September. It aims to assist devotees in their quest for a deeper understanding of Srila Prabhupada's books. If you are one of those devotees and would like to find out more, please contact:

courses@krishnatemple.com or phone Jivadoya das on 07788 078 4515.



"Until I enrolled on the course, I had no understanding of what devotional service to Krishna really meant. I would come to the temple and offer homage to Krishna, as a form of a ritualistic process that one simply carries out under the family traditions. Having completed the Bhakti Shastri course under the guidance of the authority, I am aware of who I am, and who Krishna really is, and how and in what mood I should serve Him. Any person who is serious about spiritual realization, MUST enroll himself on this course without delay."

Rajesh Amin

Dr Ghatak and wife, Head of the Lions Club, Enfield, donated £15,000 to the Lotus Trust as part of their charitable work.

The money will be used to support the Midday Meals project in Mumbai, which currently provides 100,000 hot prasadam meals to schoolchildren every day.



The Lotus Trust actively identifies international projects that alleviate poverty and distress, and seeks to provide assistance. To assist the lotus trust please contact:

info@thelotustrust.org

Stepping Down

On 14th July, Gauri das stepped down from his position as temple president, after six years of dedicated service at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

A recent decision of the ISKCON CPO means that Gauri das will not act in the capacity of temple president; instead the senior management team will continue to run the temple.

Obviously, this decision has come as something of a blow to our congregation. Gauri das' vigilance in overseeing Bhaktivedanta Manor's development year after year means that his leadership will be missed.

His contribution to the Manor's diverse activities has earned him much affection from those who have served under him.



Gaurav Sharma received the highest marks in Agra University for his Bachelors Degree in Commerce.

Gaurav, from the Goswami family of Vrindavan's

Radha Raman temple attended the ISKCON Gurukula in Vrindavan and felt he benefitted from the experience.

"ISKCON education gave me confidence and taught me discipline to focus my mind," explained Gaurav, "That experience contributed immensely to my successful result at Agra." Gaurav will be starting his Masters Degree in Commerce this September.

A Ratha Yatra in Ipswich



On 12th July the people of Ipswich experienced the Rathayatra chariot festival for the first time. The parade was held in conjunction with an Indian Mela, a local celebration of Indian arts and performance as part of the Ipswich Arts Week. Devotees paraded through the streets of the old town and up to the park where thousands had gathered for the Mela.

CUTTING THE ROOT OF SOCIAL ILLS *by Krishna Dharma das*

Exactly echoing a message found in the Bhagavad-gita, a senior judge recently declared that “almost all of society's social ills can be traced directly to the collapse of the family life.”

In a speech in Brighton to lawyers from Resolution, formerly the Solicitors' Family Law Association, Mr Justice Coleridge warned of a “cancerous” increase in broken families and said the government must take “comprehensive action”. He described his experience of handling increasing numbers of cases in family courts as being a “never ending carnival of human misery - a ceaseless river of human distress”.

almost all of society's social ills can be traced directly to the collapse of the family life.

The judge was not mincing his words; just as Arjuna in the Bhagavad-gita some 5000 years previously had not minced his words either. “With the destruction of family the eternal traditions of religious practises are destroyed,” he said to Krishna. And the ultimate end of such destruction would be “dwelling in hell.”

It seems such hellishness is already being experienced if the good judge is to be believed. Largely concurring with Arjuna's analysis of the problem, he went on to state that the effects of “family

meltdown” would be seen over the next twenty years to be “as destructive as global warming.”

The family unit is of course the foundation of any society. This is where we imbibe most of our values that take us through life. Therefore in the Vedic system family life revolves around spirituality. From an early age children are instilled with a strong sense of morality and habituated to regular spiritual practice. The great saint Prahlada said that this should start “from the very beginning of childhood.”

Translating this into a practical programme for today, Srila Prabhupada states in the Gita: “The best process for making the home pleasant is Krishna consciousness. If one is in full Krishna consciousness, he can make his home very happy, because this process of Krishna consciousness is very easy. One need only chant Hare Krishna, accept the remnants of foodstuffs offered to Krishna, have some discussion on books like Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam, and engage oneself in Deity worship... One should train the members of his family in this way.”

Most of us need to enter family life, at least we should. People want to liaise with the opposite sex, but increasingly the necessity of this being within the context of marriage is being seen as old fashioned. But the Vedas describe this as illicit sex, productive of so many other problems.

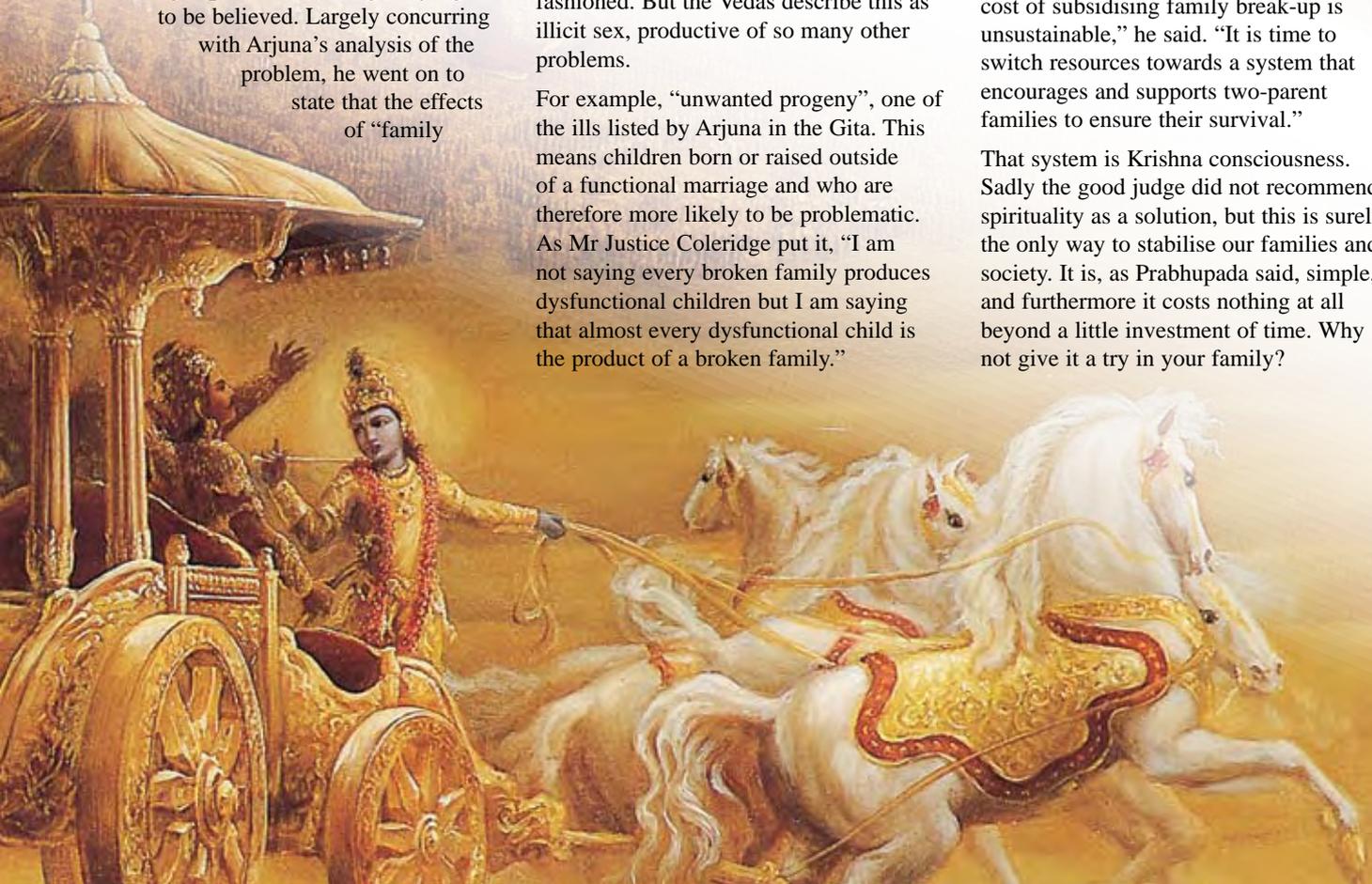
For example, “unwanted progeny”, one of the ills listed by Arjuna in the Gita. This means children born or raised outside of a functional marriage and who are therefore more likely to be problematic. As Mr Justice Coleridge put it, “I am not saying every broken family produces dysfunctional children but I am saying that almost every dysfunctional child is the product of a broken family.”

It should be obvious that a family where husband and wife live happily together is best for the children and indeed for society as a whole. And that is where the above spiritual practices are so helpful. As the old wisdom states, “A family that prays together, stays together.” Krishna consciousness certainly makes us peaceful and gives us a higher happiness beyond the flickering pleasures of this world.

This takes the pressure off of our relationships, which so often fail when one or other partner fails to give the pleasure and enjoyment they once gave to the other. When we become partners in a spiritual quest rather than in just an attempt to mutually gratify our senses we take our relationship to another level. And if we can set such examples for our children, while at the same time involving them in the spiritual practises, then surely things will improve all round. Peaceful people produced from peaceful families will mean peaceful societies.

It will even have serious economic benefits, as the cost to society and the taxpayer for dealing with the problems of dysfunctional families is astronomical. An expert on the subject, Bob Rowthorn, Professor of Economics at Cambridge University, has said that with one in three children expected to experience parental divorce or separation, the potential cost to the Exchequer runs into billions of pounds. “The long-term cost of subsidising family break-up is unsustainable,” he said. “It is time to switch resources towards a system that encourages and supports two-parent families to ensure their survival.”

That system is Krishna consciousness. Sadly the good judge did not recommend spirituality as a solution, but this is surely the only way to stabilise our families and society. It is, as Prabhupada said, simple, and furthermore it costs nothing at all beyond a little investment of time. Why not give it a try in your family?





Age: 21
Currently: Recently graduated having studied Nutrition at The University of Nottingham

Three fights, one love song and a bunch of diamonds



Three fights, one love song and a bunch of diamonds ... sorry - demons.

If asked the question, the average IPS member will usually start by saying that they cannot act, dance or fight on stage. A sentence like "I don't have the time" can sometimes mean "it sounds a bit scary" or most commonly "but I can't act!"

What's magical about IPS theatrical productions is that a bunch of unlikely guys get together in a family cast and somehow always manage to pull off a brilliant performance that delights the audience. It is the best thing ever to watch (sometimes shy) people with no acting experience grow into their characters and put on glittering performances. The play takes on a life of its own and we catch a glimpse of the Lord's transcendental pastimes - the stuff of heroism, adventure and excitement.

The IPS Ramayana has taken centre-stage during the Dusshera festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor for many years. We first took the show on the road in 2004 at the LSE Diwali show where we used the soundtrack by the Bhaktivedanta Players. Four years later, we

have developed our own 20-minute soundtrack with three fights, a love song and loads of modern music. We've seen the likes of Dina Krishna, Sunny, Anshu, Rupa Manohara ('Posh Raj') and Nandagopa (Chirag) play Lord Ram while Kanchan, Archana and Geeta have made beautiful renditions of Sita Devi. At least 30 guys have played demons and been so good that we've started calling them diamonds.

Srila Prabhupada said that theatre is a powerful means to preach and this is evident when you see the audience's imagination captured by the performance. Gasps of shock and sorrow still come from children when demon King Ravana rips off Jatayu's wings while most people also feel like somersaulting into action when the monkeys and demons thunder onto stage to fight.

These plays are a sure way to exit boredom and enter a world of spiritual action. The stories are peopled by devotees who sacrifice and surrender themselves to the Lord - and we put on these plays in the hope that some of their goodness and humility may rub off on us.

Recruitment for this year's play is on - contact Jay Shetty - j_psen@hotmail.com/07903 351 416

What made you start attending IPS events?

Having just graduated from Nottingham University and moved back home, I reached a stage in my life where I asked myself 'what next?', 'what's the purpose of my life?' I was then recommended through a friend to go to Harrow Jammin'.

What did you find appealing about KC?

The first book I read was 'Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers'. From there I wanted to learn more and gain a deeper understanding of Krishna Consciousness (KC). When I went to my first Harrow Jammin' I saw how friendly and dedicated IPS really are at spreading KC and it inspired me to learn more.

What services are you currently involved in?

Currently I am not involved in any services as this is all new to me, however I look forward to taking part in more events and helping to organise them in the future. I am planning to help out at Janmashtami this summer. I am excited about attending the PSummer retreat to Italy as well.

Interesting fact about yourself

One of the most diverse experiences I ever had was moving out in my first year of university to a farm in the middle of nowhere with a population of 200 students. It was a really big change from city life.

shree krishna janmashtami

join in with the fun

Have you ever wondered who and what makes the IPS Janmashtami extravaganza every year so successful? The aim is always to create a spiritual revolution of Krishna consciousness amongst the youth, by the youth. So please come and help us in this exciting and dynamic challenge. WE NEED YOUR HELP on none other than Lord Krishna's divine appearance day.

Come along from Monday 4th August to build, paint, decorate, innovate, motivate, and celebrate the festive mood. On the actual festival days, 24th/25th August, you can help in areas including promotions, management, membership, audio-visual, cooking, and even sales. Simply contact Jay Shetty on j_psen@hotmail.com/07903 351 416. We look forward to serving Lord Krishna in your company.



Hay-making

Every year the Manor grows over 100 tons of hay on 53 designated acres of land. Hay is the general name for a number of dried grasses, flowers and other plants used as food for cattle. On the fields, the hay was cut by a mower which was pulled by oxen. Afterwards the hay was turned, dried and placed in rows by equipment adapted for oxen. There were numerous happy faces along the local country lanes as people watched the oxen transport bales of hay from a rented field near to the Manor.



Janmashtami Begins!

Adi-vesa: prior to the start of any substantial project, blessings are sought through the performance of a special yajna. With Janmashtami just around the corner, team leaders and volunteers assembled in the festival field for a variety of activities. The yajna was part of a volunteer family fun day, complete with children's activities.

Health and safety training sessions have been taking place. Compulsory for all volunteers, they are seen as essential for the safety of volunteers and for the smooth running of the festival. Volunteers will be gathering from 4th August every evening upto the Janmashtami festival. Everyone is invited to come and participate during this period.



New Gokul report

The New Gokul project is ploughing ahead. Construction began in February this year and will continue for some months. The timber frames of the barns have been constructed and the structure can now be seen clearly. The roof is due to be completed soon.

During Janmashtami visitors will be able to walk through the site and see the progress.

The geo-grid car park is part of the landscaping aspect of New Gokul. The multi-layered creation is at its final stage; the topsoil has been seeded and grass is growing. The field will be used to park cars safely during busy periods.



Calendar - dates for your diary

August

- Tue 5th Disapp of Sri Raghunandana Thakura & Sri Vamisdasa Babaji
- Tue 12th Pavitropana Ekadasi
Jhulana Yatra begins (swing festival)
- Wed 13th Disapp of Srila Rupa Goswami & Sri Gauridasa Pandita
- Sat 16th App of Lord Balarama (fasting till noon)
Raksabandhan
Jhulan Yatra ends
- Sun 17th Srila Prabhupada's departure for the USA
- Sun 24th Sri Krishna Janmashtami
Appearance of Lord Krishna (Fasting till midnight)
Festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor
- Mon 25th App of Srila Prabhupada (fasting till noon)
Festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor
- Wed 27th Annada Ekadasi

September

- Thur 4th App of Srimati Sita Thakurani
- Sun 7th Radhastami (Fasting till noon)
App of Srimati Radharani
- Thur 11th Parsva Ekadasi (fasting till noon for Vamanadev)
- Fri 12th App of Lord Vamanadev & Srila Jiva Goswami (Fasting done on Ekadasi)
- Sat 13th App of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura (Fasting till noon)
- Sun 14th Disapp of Srila Haridasa Thakura
- Mon 15th Acceptance of sanyasa by Srila Prabhupada
- Sun 21st Srila Prabhupada's arrival in USA
- Thur 25th Indira Ekadasi
- Tue 30th Navaratri starts

**Janmashtami Festival
24th & 25th August**