



Bhaktivedanta Manor Newsletter

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



Srila Prabhupada:

There are many devotees who are engaged in the propagation of Krishna consciousness, and they require help. So, even if one cannot directly practice the regulative principles of bhakti-yoga, he can try to help such work... Just as in business one requires a place to stay, some capital to use, some labor and some organization to expand, so the same is required in the service of Krishna. The only difference is that in materialism one works for sense gratification. The same work, however, can be performed for the satisfaction of Krishna, and that is spiritual activity.

BG: 12.10 purport

Spectacular Premiere

Jayadeva das and the local 'Community' choir lit up the main stage with the premiere performance of devotional songs from Jayadev's latest album From Here to Eternity. "This was east and west performing together for the glorification of God," said stage organiser Ravin Ganatra.



Sri Krishna Janmashtami



Bhaktivedanta Manor's most spectacular festival of the year took place over the summer bank holiday weekend. 50,000 pilgrims attended on Sunday 24th August, observing the birth of Lord Krishna on Earth. Bank Holiday Monday attracted a further 30,000.

Visitors walked through the partly-built New Gokul complex, making their way to the colourful festival site. The main marquee hosted a varied stage programme ranging from cultural dances to musical extravaganzas. Over 50,000 queued up over the two days to greet Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda in the temple shrine. The flowered walk-way around the lake lit up at night and depicted the stories of Krishna in His youth.

The Gifts of Srila Prabhupada

Commemorating the 35th anniversary of the installation of the Deities by Srila Prabhupada, the festival was themed 'Gifts of

Srila Prabhupada'. Inside a special exhibition ship, constructed by the resident monks, visitors appreciated the efforts of the glorious founder of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada.

Throughout the day kitchen staff worked solidly to prepare the 50,000 plates of prasada (vegetarian food) that were distributed freely to all the pilgrims.

A dedicated children's area featured numerous activities including a mini 'main marquee' where children performed their carefully prepared shows and dances.

An array of stalls displayed art, literature, while themed marquees provided ideas for improving lifestyle through a cruelty-free diet and reduced environmental footprint.

Dilip Patel, the Festival Coordinator said "the festival was so successful because of the devotion and dedication of the volunteers and the meticulous planning which started the day after the previous festival."

Lord Balaram

16th August this year marked Lord Balaram's Appearance Day. Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and Lord Balaram are both one and the same identity. They differ only in form, and Balarama assists Lord Krishna in numerous ways. In the narrations of Lord Krishna's activities in the 'Krishna Book', Lord Balaram is always somehow involved while a special pastime is being enacted.

Powerful Lord Balaram is full of the luster of youth and has a fair complexion likened to the color of crystal. He wears blue garments and a garland of forest flowers. His handsome hair is tied in a graceful topknot. Splendid earrings adorn His ears and His neck is decorated with garlands of flowers and strings of jewels. Splendid armlets and bracelets ornament His graceful and very strong arms and His feet are decorated with jeweled anklets.

At the Manor a special Deity of Lord Balaram graced the shrine on this day. Harinam, a special class and a feast formed part of the day's celebrations.



Polish Woodstock – A new direction



This year's Woodstock in Poland was billed as Europe's largest open-air music event with 52 rock bands plus Warsaw's Philharmonic Orchestra, to add a touch of culture. The fields are filled to capacity with an ocean of tents and more than 300,000 young people and, under the leadership of Indradyumna Swami, ISKCON had a large presence.

This year Jurek Owskiak, the main organizer of the event, decided to take the festival in a new direction in order to encourage the youth to achieve positive goals. Devotees were scheduled to speak about spiritual science, ayurvedic medicine, devotional yoga, and solutions to environmental problems.

When the Indian Ambassador to Poland, His Excellency Chandra Mohan Bhandari, heard about the new direction Woodstock was taking, he expressed his eagerness to promote India's culture among the youth of Poland. The Ambassador decided to spend the entire three days of Woodstock participating in ISKCON's Village of Peace.

At the opening ceremony on the main stage before a bustling crowd of 150,000, Jurek invited Indradyumna Swami and the Ambassador to the front of the stage as the crowd cheered. That evening the Ratha-yatra parade was featured on Poland's main television news channel. Viewers saw the Lord's smiling face and enthusiastic devotees loudly chanting His holy names.

Celebrating Rathayatra across the UK

The mercy of Jagannath, Lord of the universe, once again toured the UK as vibrant colours, singing and dancing filled the city centres of Cardiff, Birmingham and Leicester at the Ratha Yatra chariot festivals. In Leicester, the parade was bigger and better than in

previous years with three splendidly decorated chariots travelling from Leicester's Clocktower to Cossington Park in Belgrave, where 7000 people enjoyed the festival.

Ratha Yatra has taken place in Leicester for 14 years, but this year was the first time the event has taken to the streets with three chariots. Leicester is now the second city in Europe to host this festival on such a scale.

"ISKCON Leicester's Ratha Yatra has now become what Janmashtami is to the Manor," explained Pradyumna das, "The festival brought different community groups together to celebrate an historic day for Leicester. I am very happy Lord Jagannath has blessed us. He has a special relationship with this city."



Jhulan Yatra

Jhulan Yatra, the five day Radha Krishna swing festival, began on 12th August this year. It is one of the most popular events in the holy town of Vrindavan, India, where Lord Krishna took birth. At Bhaktivedanta Manor the small Deities of Radha Gokulananda were placed on an elaborately decorated swing and everyone was invited to participate by offering flowers and pushing Their Lordships on Their swing.



Thank you to all our volunteers



Krsna Purna dasi, Volunteer Coordinator, congratulates the team during the Volunteers' Thank You Evening

Rounding off the Janmashtami season was a grand celebration, recognising the efforts of around 1000 volunteers. Their combined efforts once again made Janmashtami a spectacular event.

Volunteers were thanked for their substantial sacrifices in the months running up to the festival and for their support during the (less-glamorous) post-festival clean-up operation.

Summer Marathon

As the summer fever hit the UK, Manor devotees caught their own type of fever... the enthusiasm to distribute Srila Prabhupada's transcendental literature. This year saw more devotees than ever participate in the Summer Book Marathon.

There were over fifteen full time distributors this year (including a full-time ladies team). Many congregation members joined the distribution teams at the weekends and devotees travelled far and wide from Norwich to Ipswich, and from Leicester to Guildford.

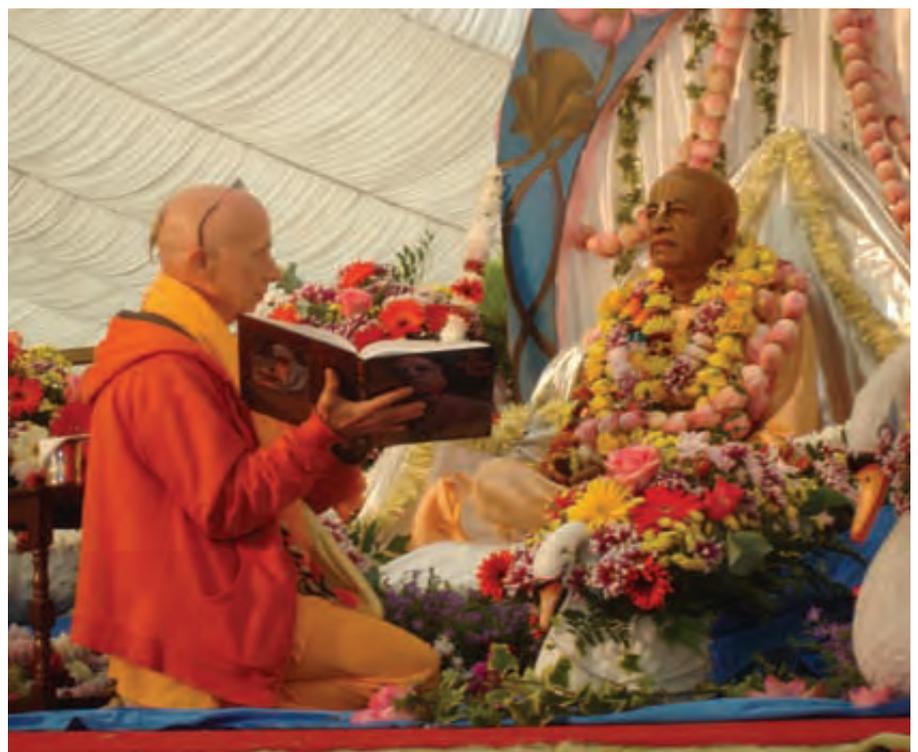
The Summer Marathon was very successful. Over 5000 books were distributed.



Srila Prabhupada's Vyasa Puja

This year's Srila Prabhupada's Vyasa Puja (the appearance day celebrations of ISKCON's founder), was overseen by Ranchor das. Disciples of Srila Prabhupada from the local community joined together with Janmashtami festival organisers to discuss a celebration that gave disciples, followers and the public an inspiring experience.

A major theme for the entire Janmashtami festival this year was "The Gifts of Srila Prabhupada", and this was reflected in the main festival drama and the tent exhibitions. Srila Prabhupada has deeply touched the lives of many devotees in the Manor community and this year his more junior followers also took the opportunity to publicly read their offerings to him.





JANMASHTI



“Pardes Weekly would like to congratulate Bhaktivedanta Manor for organising yet another outstanding and very enjoyable Janmashthami event. It was just bigger, brighter and better than ever. The dedication and welcoming atmosphere created by all the volunteers was just fantastic.”

Umesh Raichada, Pardes Weekly

“A fascinating day with such wonderful hospitality. There was such a feeling of peace, sincerity and goodwill.”

Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, Cllr Farida Turner





AMI 2008

“Bhaktivedanta Manor has put on a spectacular festival yet again. I was so impressed by the how over 1500 volunteers worked with dedication and all with smiles on their faces. It was an honour to be part of the celebrations.”

Cllr Sandra Parnell, Mayor of Hertsmere

“It was a spiritual journey that should be experienced by all.”

*Ishwerbhai Tailor,
President of the Hindu Forum of Britain*

“I salute all the volunteers, their team leaders and everyone who was involved in one way or the other, starting from the initial meetings, to the preparations and to festival itself. Fantastic.”

Cllr Harshabhai Patel, former Mayor of Brent

Srila Prabhupada in Britain

by Radha Mohan das

Britain has always been significant in the eyes of two very exalted and powerful saints: Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura (1838- 1914) and Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura (1874- 1936). Together they revived the mission of Vaishnavism: the teachings of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, a divine incarnation of Krishna born in Bengal in 1486.



Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, son of Bhaktivinoda Thakur and founder of the Gaudiya Math, established 64 temples across India. His mood was truly international in spirit, but his vision was not to reach its full potential until later.

Young Abhay Charan De was a supporter of the anti-British Gandhi movement, yet this was not to last. The first time he ever heard Bhaktisiddhanta speak, he asked him: "how can these teachings spread around the world when India is under British rule?" Bhaktisiddhanta replied that whether one power rules or another, that is temporary, and then added, "...Why don't you preach Lord Caitanya's message throughout the whole world?" Abhay was impressed with Bhaktisiddhanta and in 1933 he became one of his disciples.

After Abhay's family life came to a natural end, he took to the holy order of renunciation (sannyasa), dedicating the rest of his life solely to preaching Krishna Consciousness.

In 1965 Abhay, then known as A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, climbed aboard the Jaladuta cargo ship bound for

America. After braving a bitter winter and living in abject poverty, in the spring of 1966 he moved into New York's Bowery slums. Later, with the help of a few of his early followers, he moved into a relatively better part of the city. It was at 26 Second Avenue that the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) was established. After gaining a foothold

in New York, Srila Prabhupada (as he became affectionately known) went on the establish centres in other cities in North America. He then summoned three married couples and sent them to London.

Despite their austerities, eventually good fortune came their way. One disciple, Syamasundar das, managed to enter

the opening reception at the Beatle's famous Apple Studios. George Harrison was overjoyed to learn the devotees had come to Britain.

The service that George Harrison has rendered is well-known. News of the Radha Krishna Temple album hitting the pop charts was more than enough to encourage

Srila Prabhupada to visit Britain. The first ISKCON Temple in London, at Bury Place near the British Museum, quickly became over-crowded with devotees. George once again offered to help. In 1973 he purchased Piggotts Manor in Aldenham near Watford and donated it to ISKCON. Today that property is, of course, Bhaktivedanta Manor. Srila Prabhupada recognised the Manor as one of the most important temples outside India, and despite his

international mission he stayed for months in his rooms which are on the first floor.

35 years ago, on 21st August 1973 on Janmashtami day, Srila Prabhupada personally installed Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda at Bhaktivedanta Manor. Sakshi Gopal das, one of his disciples recalls:

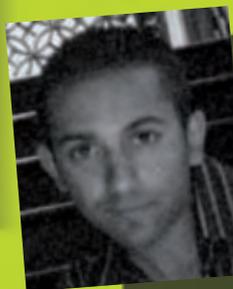
"We all knew it was Srila Prabhupada's mercy alone that allowed us to witness and participate in that transcendently intimate celebration. We were gleeful witnesses to his love for us and his beloved Lord – and the inescapable reality for our good fortune swept us up in a whirlpool of dance, kirtan, gratitude, gravity and joyous laughter as he beckoned us into the deity room to follow his lotus footsteps, circumambulating Radha-Gokulananda..."

About 250 people attended Janmashtami that year, so it is easy to recognize how the festival has grown over the last 35 years! The same year Srila Prabhupada declared that the Manor reminded him of Vrindavan and it should have a large farm called New



Gokul. Today, all the devotees of the Temple are thrilled that his desire will soon be manifest.

No doubt Srila Prabhupada is one of the greatest spiritual ambassadors of all time. One of the many legacies he has left behind is Bhaktivedanta Manor, a gift to people of all backgrounds to learn the techniques of spiritual life, associate with devotees and to share Krishna Consciousness with others.



Rikesh Chandarana

Age: 27
Studied: MSc Multimedia & Internet Computing & BSc Computing & Management at Loughborough University

Currently: Foreign Exchange Real-Time Systems and Data Analytics at a global investment bank

What made you start attending IPS events?

A chain of unlikely events brought me close to KC. In terms of IPS involvement, it's thanks to my cousins: Preeya, Avnish and Vinay for their nudge in the right direction! Av showed me an e-flyer for one of the previous PSena trips and it looked like fun so I decided to come along. I think 'The Italian Job' will definitely be a trip I'll look back on with a smile for years to come.

What did you find appealing about KC?

The aspect that appeals to me the most is the KC package as a whole. The deep philosophy that seems to completely hang together flawlessly and the perfect answers to many questions concerning karmic action/reaction and rebirth just make sense. KC seems to take us on a journey of real self-discovery and see the material world for what it actually is, especially in this age.

What services are you currently involved in?

I lend a hand in various situations whenever possible, but none formally yet. I'm open to suggestions!

Interesting fact about yourself

I've been training in karate for more than 12 years and got my blackbelt in 2004. I hope to be fighting in my second European Knockdown tournament in Germany later this year.



**PSummer 2008
The Italian Job
Florence**

**harrow
jammin**

This is going to be the first Harrow Jammin of the year and we're going to be kicking off in style!

We have a controversial topic, a dynamic speaker and much more in store for our flagship London event.

Friday 5th September 08
Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road, HA1 2JE **7:30pm**
(opp. Baskin Robbins)
Brijesh - 07946 339 372 / brij@psena.com



New Radharani's Shop “No Time to Slumber for the Hindu Tiger”



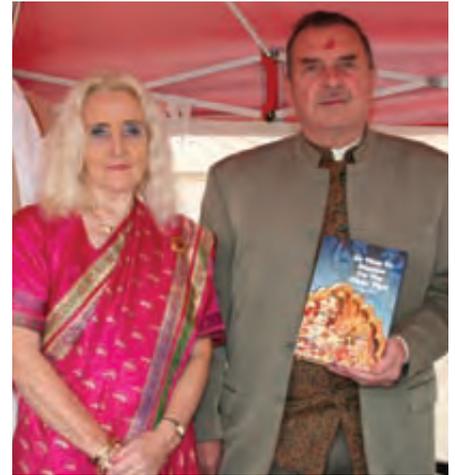
After months of hard work and preparation, on 1st August, Radharani's Shop and Bakery opened in a new location. Facing the children's playground the new shop includes its own kitchen facilities and eco-friendly heating system.

“The new shop is extremely popular with customers”, explained Acarya Sevaka das. “Staff were struggling to cope with demand in the old premises, and the newer facilities allow us to offer a better service to temple visitors.”

A new book entitled ‘No Time to Slumber for the Hindu Tiger’ by Frank Ward was launched and blessed during the Manor's Janmashtami festival.

The book is a personal and vivid account of the epic struggle to keep Bhaktivedanta Manor from closure during the 1980s and 1990s. Known as the Campaign, it was a painful and weary journey which lasted more than 10 years. In his book Frank Ward proposes that a written Constitution and a written Bill of Rights in Britain is necessary to ensure public right of worship for all communities, without bias.

“This is Frank's story,” explained former Temple president Akhandadhi das, “his recollection of the events that he was part of and the personal journey that he underwent throughout those years. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness remains



highly grateful to those who helped in the Campaign. In fact, the Society will never be able to repay all the volunteers, congregational members, politicians, business leaders, those of other faiths and general well-wishers who gave their support, help, time, money and devotion.”

Calendar - dates for your diary

September

Thur 4th	App of Srimati Sita Thakurani
Sun 7th	Radhashtami (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 Ekadsai)
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	Navratri starts

October

Thur 4th	Dussehra
Fri 10th	Pasakusa Ekadasi
Sat 11th	Disapp of Raghunatha Das, Raghunatha Bhatta & Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswamis
Sun 11th	Dussehra Festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor
Tue 14th	Month of Kartik begins
Sun 19th	Disapp of Narottama Das Thakura
Tue 21st	App of Radha Kunda
Fri 24th	Rama Ekadasi
Sun 26th	Laxmi Puja BST ends (clocks go back)
Tue 28th	Diwali
Wed 29th	Govardhan Puja, Annakuta, Go Puja



Fifty two very enthusiastic adventurous devotees from Bhaktivedanta Manor have taken up the challenge of conquering the 3 peaks in the Yorkshire dales - in a courageous bid to raise funds for the new 'Krishna-Avanti School' in Harrow. The goal of the participants will be to raise £108,000 needed to pay for construction of a play area, consisting of a themed Krishna Lila area, soft and hard all weather surface play area, wildlife gardens, pond area, and garden area adjoining classrooms. The challenge involves a grueling 26 mile trek across the high mountain terrain of Yorkshire to be completed in 12 hours. For the last five Sundays these devotees have been training for six hours in the Chiltern Hills starting at 7am come rain or shine and will continue to do so until the walk on 20th September 2008. Please assist if you can:

contact threepeaks@krishnatemple.com to pledge your support.

Bhaktivedanta Manor

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Please send your news, photos and comments to Radha Mohan das at:

newsletter@krishnatemple.com