



Bhaktivedanta Manor Newsletter

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

The Golden Form of the Lord



Srila Prabhupada:

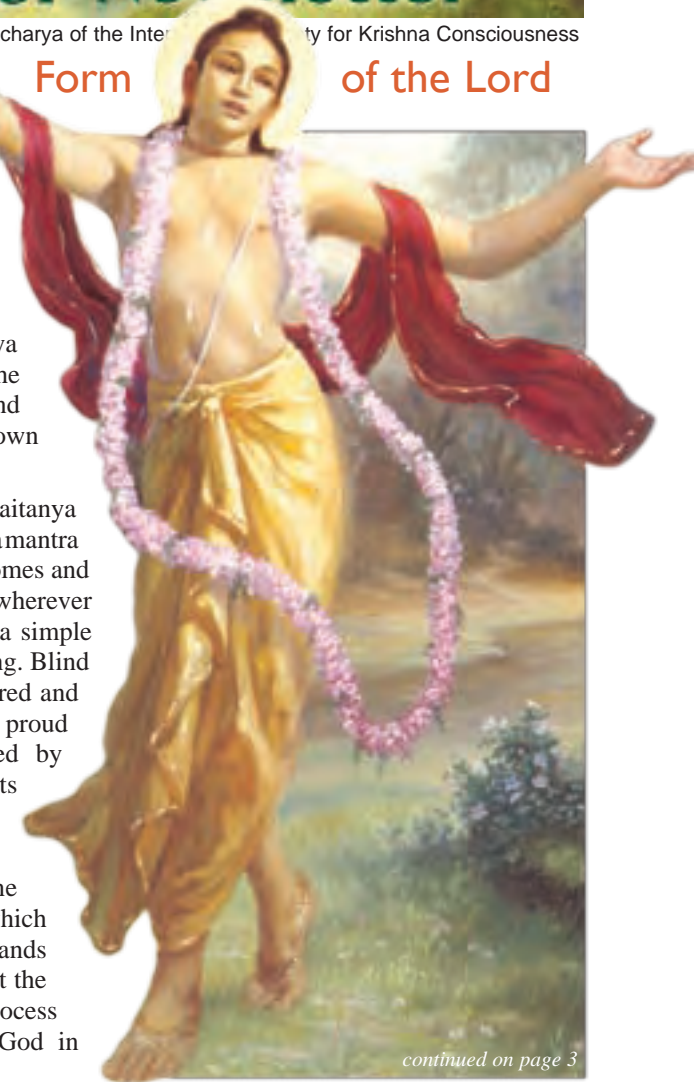
“Lord Caitanya is the most munificent bestower of love of Kṛṣṇa. He is the complete reservoir of all mercies and good fortune. As confirmed in Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, the Bhagavad-gītā, the Mahābhārata and the Upaniṣads, He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Kṛṣṇa Himself...Everyone can join in His saṅkīrtana movement. No previous qualification is necessary. Just by following His teachings, anyone can become a perfect human being.”

Caitanya Caritamṛta, Adi Lila, (Preface)

The full-lunar eclipse in March 1486 marked the most important event in the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition, to which ISKCON belongs. In West Bengal, Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu took birth, the embodiment of the male and female forms of God, known as Radha and Krishna.

In an ecstatic mood, Lord Caitanya took the ancient Hare Krishna mantra out of the confines of the homes and temples. He introduced it wherever he travelled, and preached a simple yet sublime spiritual teaching. Blind people had their sight restored and the sick were healed. The proud philosophers were humbled by him, and kings and peasants became his followers.

Lord Caitanya had no material wealth but shone with an inner radiance which attracted hundreds of thousands of people to him. He taught the path of *bhakti-yoga* - the process of dedicating our life to God in service.



continued on page 3



New life brings new hope

Amidst tears of joy, priests, farmers and congregational members witnessed the birth of a healthy female calf, who has been named Swasti Gangotri. This was no ordinary calf, but a symbol of reconciliation between the RSPCA and worshippers at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

During last year, the ‘Gangotri Task Force’ worked with DEFRA, politicians and legal experts in order to highlight the unlawful killing of an elderly cow, Gangotri. At the conclusion of the campaign, the RSPCA gifted ‘Aditi’, a pregnant cow, to the temple.

Swasti Gangotri is now happily residing in New Gokul, the largest Cow Protection Centre in Europe which is due to open later this year. Kapil Dudakia, the chair of the Gangotri Task Force said, “The whole community is delighted with the tremendous news. Only the previous

continued on page 2

Work Experience



Local school Bushey Meads sent three of its pupils to Bhaktivedanta Manor for a few days' work experience. As the children were from devotee families, it was considered an appropriate arrangement. Adi deva, Janaki and Gaura Hari helped out in a number of departments and their participation was welcomed.

Janaki and Gaura Hari shared their experiences:

"Not only did I really enjoy work experience day but I also learned a lot.

From working with young children to working in an office. I learnt about the different responsibilities and also how sometimes it can get tough but if you're determined enough then its always achievable. The devotees there were also nice and helpful, for example Radha Premi and Mother Deviyani who took care of me very well".

Janaki

"My work experience at the Manor is overall the best work experience ever. I took students on a tour around the Manor and I said out loud a speech about the cows and we got to stroke them and we went on the bullock cart ride it was so fun after that I did some office work. Then I went up to Prabhupada's room and watched how Indriyesh taught the students then me and Nikunja helped set up prasadam and then we ate. Overall I had a most lovely time at the Manor for work experience. It's the BEST!!!"

Gaura Hari

Temple of the Golden Goddess



A team of community devotees of all ages came together to perform Rupa Goswami's play Vidagdha Madhava.

"The play is the last of seven acts from Rupa Goswami's 1549 epic which was inspired by his remarkable dreams," explained script researcher Arjuna das, "Along with his *Lalita Madhava*, it became a major influence in establishing the cultural and spiritual significance of devotion to Krishna in the land where he was born. It ranks as one of the foremost works in the catalogue of classical Sanskrit dramas that were staged in a succession of performances over several days."

Japa Yajna das directed, Sri Kama dasi assisted him and Rasalila dasi choreographed.



Drama with an ancient message



Dina Krishna das gathered together Manor residents, sabbatical programme students and Pandava Sena to perform an original drama to promote the Bhagavad-gita's teaching about the soul.

"I have created a drama group called Sacred Vibes," explained Dina Krishna das. "Our mission is to perform contemporary dramas, particularly for western audience members aged 16 – 30. We have been performing in the Manor theatre on Sundays. At the end of each show we have a question and answer session".



New Life brings new Hope

... continued from page 1

... month we saw the arrival of Aditi at the Temple in all her splendour. Now the birth of the calf has brought in an auspicious era for all our diverse communities to celebrate life and a new beginning together."

Syamasundar das, the Manager of New Gokul said "it is a wonderful closure to a very traumatic experience. Both mother and calf are doing very well and are content."

Ramesh Kallidai, the Secretary General of the Hindu Forum of Britain

said, "When Aditi came to the Temple she had the hopes and prayers of the whole community with her. I am sure everyone in the wider community will rejoice with us. It is a very befitting conclusion to this saga."

Special thanks to all the Gangotri Task Force members who worked so hard to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion: Kapil Dudakia, Gauri das, Rickie Seghal, Raj Joshi and CB Patel.



Gaura Purnima & Holi

This year Lord Caitanya's appearance day, known as Gaura Purnima fell on Tuesday 10th March and it was also observed on the following Sunday. The Tuesday morning included a devotional drama by the Manor Youth, songs by Jayadeva das, class by Ranchor das and a bathing of the Deity forms of Lord Caitanya and his companion Lord Nityananda.

Then, hundreds of devotees gathered for a chanting procession through London's West End. Later the Bhaktivedanta Players performed a drama about the birth and childhood of Lord Caitanya.

Holi is one of the most popular festivals in India, marking the end of winter gloom and the beginning of spring. It was at this time that 5000 years ago the young Krishna and his friends had enjoyed squirting syringes of coloured water on one another, and today the tradition is to throw coloured powders and dyes in a similar fashion. This is notably popular in the town of Vrindavan, Krishna's birth place. At Bhaktivedanta Manor's Holi was celebrated in the safety of the fields!

Smiling faces of red, blue and green could be seen in the night, merging into a multi-coloured canvas. The evening ended with a bonfire on which a symbolic form of Holika was burnt. Holika had

"It was almost magical to be in a place where everyone was having such a wonderful time enjoying themselves but yet there was no rowdiness or disrespect. We both have so many vivid memories of the day, but I think the walk around the lake, albeit back to front, was the most significant as we learnt a little of the tenets of your belief."

Cllrs Mark and Elizabeth Watkins



Cllrs John & Joyce Nickolay, Mayor & Mayoress of Harrow

tried to kill the devotee boy Prahlad by carrying him into a fire, thinking she would not be burnt due to a blessing from Lord Shiva. However, when Lord Shiva saw she was attempting to kill a saintly person he withdrew his protection and the flames consumed her. Prahlad miraculously survived. The fire also represents the burning away of all impurities of the mind through the fire of devotion by igniting love, generosity and truthfulness.

HOLI



Vegetarian Rally in Trafalgar Square

At Trafalgar Square, Parasuram das and his team distributed free prasada (vegetarian food), sung the Hare Krishna mantra and spoke of the spiritual and ecological advantages of practicing a vegetarian diet. The event was a pro-vegetarian rally on 2nd February organized by the Ching Hai Association. One of the main purposes was to raise awareness of the effect that meat eating on a large scale has on global warming. A key guest was Nitin Mehta, founder of the Young Indian Vegetarians (UK).



Gopal Agarwal recollects Srila Prabhupada's arrival in America

On 19 September 1965, Srila Prabhupada dis-embarked from the Jaladuta steamship in America. One of his contacts in the was Gopal Agarwal, the son of a Mathura businessman who had requested his son to host Srila Prabhupada in America.

On a recent visit to ISKCON's temple in Juhu, Mumbai, Gopal Agarwal spoke of how Prabhupada happily lived on the couch his family offered him in their apartment.

At his wife Sally's request he would cook lunch for the entire family. "Later hundreds were ready to cook for him but at a certain time he lovingly cooked for us", he added.

Mr. Agarwal described that after a few days Prabhupada moved to the nearby YMCA where he would stay at night and visit the family during the day. Gopal and Sally arranged for friends to come every evening to their apartment and hear spiritual discourse from Prabhupada.



Gopal Agarwal and his son Brij at ISKCON temple in Juhu, Mumbai

Nityananda Trayodashi



Lord Nityananda appeared fourteen years before Lord Caitanya in the village of Ekacakra in Bengal. He is described as "statuesque, with the whitish complexion of Lord Balaram. His garments resemble a cluster of blue lotus flowers and his effulgence surpasses the grandeur of a rising moon at sunset."

On his Appearance Day, Saturday 7th February, there was a morning of festivities including an Abhikseka (bathing ceremony) of the deities of Lord Nityananda and his eternal companion Lord Caitanya. Then the brahmacaris (monks) of Bhaktivedanta Manor joined devotees from across the wider community to embark on a huge chanting procession (Hari Nama) in central Watford.

Two lives for God



Gopal Agarwal expressed "I feel fortunate that I could be helpful to Srila Prabhupada in a small way. I'm being honored doing something simple. I've not done anything big but it feels great to know Prabhupada".

"Two Lives for God" is a 60-minute documentary film directed by Jouko Aaltonen and Graham Dwyer and will be broadcast in Europe. The film focusses exclusively on ISKCON and features the lives of Radhanath Swami and his Finnish disciple Keshava Madhava das. The film will include footage shot at Bhaktivedanta Manor, Mayapur, Vrindavan and Finland.

"The filming experience was enormously successful" explained Graham Dwyer. "Not only did the devotees support me but most importantly, Radhanath Swami was profoundly inspirational for me and for all members of the film crew. It is an experience I will always cherish."

Bhagavad Gita Practical for University Students



Since the beginning of the academic year, the University Outreach Team at the Manor has been sharing the science of Krishna consciousness in universities in and around London, in conjunction with devotees from Soho Street Temple. Venues have included the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Cambridge University, Imperial College, University College London, London School of Economics, Kings College, City University, Brunel and Hertfordshire.

The team has been running courses carrying the following themes:

1. Lifestyle Management
2. Spirituality and Success
3. Vedic Perspectives
4. The Science of Self Realisation

The aim of the courses are designed to show the relevance of Krishna consciousness to students and professionals in the modern world.

On Saturday 7th March was the third university retreat of this year. A wide variety of fifty students attended and

the theme for the day was the Bhagavad Gita. Entitled "Story of a Spiritual Warrior" the retreat served as a means of taking their understanding of the Gita to the next level.

The day included tours, interactive discussions and workshops, a powerful drama and prasad (vegetarian food). Special guest speakers included His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami, Bhuta Bhavana das and Navina Krishna das.

"The general feeling was that it was a very insightful experience for the students," said organiser Ananda Caitanya das. "It really has some key messages that they could take away and apply in their lives. At the end of the day many took copies of the Bhagavad Gita and other books. Later I received some excellent feedback from attendees."

The next university retreat is planned for the summer.



Lord Caitanya

The philosophy of

It was the year 1498. Christopher Columbus was discovering bananas and mangoes in the West Indies, while Vasco de Gama was discovering black pepper, ginger and curry, in the East. Meanwhile, in India itself, a discovery of a spiritual kind was bringing about a revolution in the lives of millions of ordinary people.

It was in this year that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (1486-1534) first took his followers into the streets with the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra. With the sound of the drums and cymbals it proved so popular that it spread right across India.

The widespread availability of the teachings of Lord Caitanya is mainly due to the efforts of A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder and acarya (spiritual guide) of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu is a figure of great historical significance. However, conventional methods of historical research may not reveal this – but that is only because He is a personality beyond the scope of mundane scholarship.

He taught that God and the individual souls are the same in quality, but there is a difference in quantity. This philosophy is known as achintya-bheda-abheda-tattva, meaning ‘inconceivable one-ness and difference’ between God and the living beings. We as individual spirit-souls have a tendency to fall down into material nature, but God never comes under the control of anything.

In the Sri Isopanisad, chapter 15 we find the following verse:

“O my Lord, sustainer of all that lives, Your real face is covered by Your dazzling effulgence. Kindly remove that covering and exhibit Yourself to Your pure devotee.” In other words, once one has progressed from the stage of seeing only God’s effulgence, one can perceive Him as a person.

To acknowledge that God is great is a good start, but we need to go further. Lord Caitanya taught that we can enter

into a relationship with God and actually become his friend, parent or even lover. He came to earth to preach krsna-bhakti, pure love of Krishna.

Sri Caitanya composed eight Sanskrit prayers known as the *Siksastakam*. These prayers are accepted by Gaudiya Vaisnavas as the essence of all devotional moods and spiritual instructions. The eight verses describe the importance of chanting the holy names of Krishna, the mood of a sincere devotee, the consciousness required to chant purely and the importance of humility in chanting.

Bhakti is described as ‘exclusive and intense loving attachment to the Lord,’ and the philosophy of ‘offering one’s every action to the Supreme Lord.’ The very first book of the Srimad Bhagavatam defines Bhakti as *param-dharma*, or ‘the highest and most satisfying function of the soul’.

In the second of eight prayers that He composed, Lord Caitanya describes the glories of the Holy Name:

“Glory to the Śrī Kṛṣṇa saṅkīrtana, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This saṅkīrtana movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.”

We invite you to discover for yourself the immediate and practical benefits of mantra meditation.





Anand Dattani

Age: 20
Studying: BSc Investment and
Financial Risk Management
(City University)

The Revolution Continues

Following on from last issue's article on the 15 year history of ISKCON Pandava Sena (IPS), Jaanki Govindia looks at the recent restructure and the birthday event at which it was announced.

Saturday 15th February not only marked the auspicious occasion of the appearance of Lord Nityananda, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's associate, but the celebration of IPS's fifteenth birthday as well. Although this day was full of reminiscent memories, it served as an opportunity for communicating a much-improved structure.

During the event, several senior IPS members spoke about changes and new ideas that were to be incorporated into the restructure. Each area leader also shared the individual changes to be made in their respective region.

As part of the evening, video recordings of several senior members of ISKCON were shown in which they expressed their views and emotions about the activities of IPS. In one of the clips, His Holiness Chandramauli Swami commented "Pandava Sena in London is one of the few groups in ISKCON that really has a developed ongoing and successful programme..., combining education in such a way that is actually entertaining and interesting, focusing on the relevancies of people's experiences in their lives now and how they can apply that in day-to-day life."

The restructure sees a split in the management of the organisation into two arms, with one specifically responsible for cultivation and the other providing leadership in the more business-as-usual aspects of IPS. A UK wide youth board has been set up to govern IPS at a national level.

The cultivation aspect provides a support and care system for members and encourages the development of personal relationships as well as providing the means to delve deeper into the philosophy.

The core leadership team consists of representatives from the temples at which IPS is active (Bhaktivedanta Manor, Birmingham and Leicester), with the Soho temple team to be launched soon, along with individuals that lead national projects. It aims to oversee the activities and events that take place within IPS including Jammins, festivals, retreats, summer trips, university programmes (Krishna Consciousness societies), and areas such as the website and media promotion.

The new structure will make the organisation more durable and better facilitate the nourishment and growth of all those involved, helping IPS to live up to its name of being not just any army, but Krsna's army - infused with love, care, compassion, enthusiasm and vigour.



Above: HH Chandramauli Swami with HG Nandagopa das; below: members of IPS discuss the group's plans for the future



What made you start attending IPS events?

I stayed at the Manor when I was 15 and would go to Mangala Aarti and help with clean-up service without really understanding its benefits. As I associated with more devotees and volunteered to help at Janmashtami, I was introduced to the phenomenon of Pandava Sena and Harrow Jammin. The rest is history.

What did you find appealing about KC?

Prasadam is up there... and knowing it's made through love and devotion for Krsna makes it extra special. But it has to be the association from the first day. Mixing with people with similar questions and being able to find answers made me realise how fortunate I am of this opportunity to make the most of everything I'm given and hopefully open this chance to others.

What services are you currently involved in?

Currently I'm in charge of advertising and MC'ing at IPS Harrow Jammin...making sure the general bits and bobs of Jammin' run smoothly. Also Vice-President of City University Krishna Consciousness Society.

Interesting fact about yourself

I tend to randomly appear in media unknowingly. In primary school I was in the local paper for donating the largest easter egg to an African children's charity. I appeared in filming done at my secondary school for the BBC. And in last year's Asian Voice, there was unfortunately a picture of me for an article about youth at Janmashtami.

 **THE SIMPLE LIFE**
simple living, higher thinking
SAT 25th JULY - SUN 2ND AUGUST '09
Special Guests HH Kadamba Kanana Swami
& HG Kripamoya Prabhu

Callin' out all dynamic, enthusiastic and urban Brits, between ages 15 to 25.

Every summer, 100 youth hit sunny Europe for around a week to take in the sun and have fun at a spiritual centre. This year we're going to Germany from Saturday 25th July to Sunday 2nd August, for only £309 (all-inclusive). "The Simple Life" retreat will teach you how to fuse ancient eastern philosophy with modern western culture. It will change your perception of the world, whilst encouraging you to discover your true self and the real goal in life ... interested? Then try it out. See in you Germany.

For more info and videos, visit the website - www.psenas.com/senagetaway.
Deadline for booking is May 15th 2009.



Jammin is a fortnightly youth event organised and facilitated by IPS

Forthcoming Jammings:

- 27/03 - East - Question Time
- 03/04 - Harrow - Ramnavmi Special
- 11/04 - Crawley - Karma and Me
- 17/04 - Harrow - Martial Arts and the Bhagavad Gita
- 25/04 - Crawley - Reincarnation- Is it for real?
- 27/04 - East - Vedic Controversies
- 01/05 - Harrow - God on Trial
- 15/05 - Harrow - Soul Jam

For more details see www.psenas.com
Subject to change



Jayapataka Swami Returns Home to Mayapur

Four months after suffering a life-threatening brain hemorrhage, ISKCON guru and leader Jayapataka Swami has made a triumphant return home to Mayapur, West Bengal.

Waiting for him at the main gate of ISKCON's Mayapur complex was a chanting party comprising of 200 leaders, sannyasis, godbrothers and godsisters – and towering above them, the temple's ceremonial elephant.

Thousands of devotees danced and chanted the Hare Krishna mantra, while others showered the car with flower petals.

Referring to his brain hemorrhage on October 23rd, Jayapataka Swami said: "With such a stroke normally one doesn't survive. But devotees prayed all around the world, and somehow I survived. I have normal memory, but my right side of my face is very weak. But they said that by Krishna's mercy everything can be cured."



"I am doing therapy now so that I can be active again in preaching," Jayapataka Swami explained, before thanking Radhanatha Swami and Gopal Krsna Goswami for taking special care of him, and all the devotees for praying for his recovery. He also thanked the three doctors who watched over him around the clock at Hinduja hospital, and the devotee doctors at Bhaktivedanta Hospital.

Krishna Avanti School construction in progress

The construction for the first state funded Hindu school in the UK is well under way. The state of the art, eco-friendly school building is set to be a beacon



for spiritual and educational excellence. Next month will see the laying of further carved marble to the Temple area and the laying of weather tight roofing for the classrooms, office and nursery. Work will also commence on the all weather sports pitch.

Recruitment for teaching and support staff has begun and student applications are currently being processed for entry this. The School currently occupies classrooms in Little Stanmore School, a few hundred meters from the future site.

Calendar - dates for your diary

April 2009

Fri 3rd Ramanavami: App. of Lord Sri Ramacandra (fasting till sunset)
 Sat 5th Ramanavami Festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor
 Thur 9th App of Sri Hanuman Balarama Rasayatra
 Mon 20th App of Vrindavan das Thakura
 Tue 21st Varuthini Ekadasi
 Sat 25th App of Sri Gadadhara Pandita
 Mon 27th Aksaya Tritiya (Day for new beginnings)
 Chandana Yatra

May 2009

Sun 3rd App of Sita Devi
 App of Jahnava Devi
 Mon 4th Bank Holiday
 Tue 5th Mohini Ekadasi
 Wed 6th Disapp of Sri Jayananada Prabhu
 Thur 7th App of Lord Nrsimhadeva (fasting till twilight)
 Fri 8th App of Sri Madhavendra Puri
 App of Sri Srinivas Acarya

College of Vedic Studies For your spiritual nutrition

12 April - 17 May (6 sessions)

Prayers of Queen Kunti

by Rupa Vilasa das

13 April

Cutting Down the Banyan Tree

by Gaur Gopal das

Delve deeper into the Gita and disentangle from temporary material desires

18 July

Essential Teachings of the Gita

by Jiva Doya das

To book a place phone Nila Madhava dasi on 01923 851010 or email covs@krishnatemple.com

New Satnav postcode

For those who have Satellite Navigation in your vehicles, please note that the postcode which directs you nearest to the entrance gate of Bhaktivedanta Manor estate is:

WD25 8DT

Please do not use the postcode WD25 8EZ as this will lead you to the village of Letchmore Heath, from which the Manor cannot be accessed.



**Bhaktivedanta Manor
Dharam Marg · Hilfield Lane
Aldenham · Herts · WD25 8EZ**

01923 851000

www.krishnatemple.com

Please send your news, photos and comments to Radha Mohan das at: newsletter@krishnatemple.com