



Bhaktivedanta Manor Newsletter

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



Srila Prabhupada:

The philosophical truth of simultaneous oneness and difference was propounded by Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and it is known as acintya-bhedabheda-tattva. Brahma, Narada and all others are simultaneously one with the Lord and different from the Supreme Lord. We are all one with the Lord, just as the gold ornaments are one in quality with the stock gold, but the individual gold ornament is never equal in quantity with the stock gold.

Srimad Bhagavatam, 2.6.13

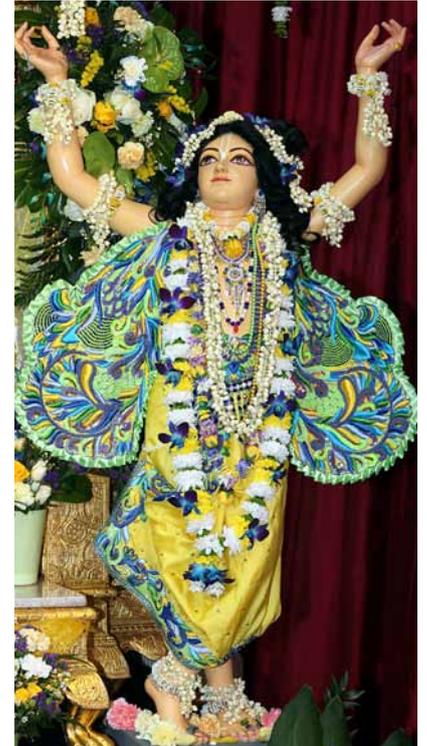
The Golden Avatar

Gaura Purnima, the festival celebrating the birth of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Krishna's 'Golden Avatar' or incarnation for the present age, is one of the most important days of the year for devotees in the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486 – 1534) took his followers onto the streets of West Bengal 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 chant is a spiritual sound composed of the names of God taken from the Kali-santarana Upanisad. The ancient texts describe that one who repeats this mantra quietly, as a meditation, or one who sings together with others in congregation, will gradually attain love of God - the ultimate aim of human life.

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A Royal Engagement

In February Sutapa das brahmacari had the opportunity to meet Her Majesty The Queen as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury. A multi-faith reception was held at Lambeth Palace, one of the first public engagements to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. Her Royal Highness paid tribute to the spiritual contribution of all religions in the UK and showed continued support for the free practice of faith in this country.

The Queen expressed how spiritual traditions provide critical guidance for the way we live our lives, and for the way in which we treat each other. Sutapa das spoke to the leaders of various denominations, discussions revolving around making spirituality applicable and dynamic in the modern world.





Avanti Schools and Bhaktivedanata College Announce Plans for Collaboration

Nitesh Gor (Director of I-Foundation and Avanti Schools Trust) and Yadunandana Swami (Principal of Bhaktivedanta College, Belgium), have been discussing possible partnerships between the College and the burgeoning number of I-Foundation/Avanti Schools Trust schools. The prospects look promising. After fulfilling postgraduate requirements, College graduates will be well-equipped to apply for teaching and leadership posts in Avanti Schools. This collaboration primarily aims to help the I-Foundation meet the unprecedented demand for qualified teachers, underscored by the government's recent

approval of a fourth, 'all-through' (Primary and Secondary) school, scheduled to open this September.

Bhaktivedanta College offers young people an opportunity for achieving a UK-validated Bachelors degree, while living in or near the Radhadesh ISKCON community in Belgium. Located in the scenic Ardennes region of Belgium, the campus is an ideal setting for study and contemplation. By promoting professional achievement, the College offers ISKCON members realistic, positive career prospects, as well as opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.

in 'Educational Studies, Theology and Religion'. This pioneering programme nurtures a broad critical awareness of education, especially in the diverse contexts where it interacts with faith, spirituality and ethics: a sound foundation for the aspirant Primary or Secondary teacher. The award also opens up many other career possibilities, in public, voluntary and corporate sectors, such as in school leadership, tertiary education and human resource departments.

Anyone interested in pursuing an unusual and fulfilling educational career should contact one of the following:

Yadunandana Swami:

yadunandana.swami@pamho.net

Ananta Rupa Das:

boise_temple@yahoo.com

Rasamandala Das:

Rasamandala.acbsp@pamho.net

Bhaktivedanta College will be teaching an exciting new degree accredited by the University of Chester: a BA



Avanti House School

Avanti House is a new free state school for pupils aged 4 to 18. It is another project of the I-Foundation and will be the UK's first ever Hindu state funded secondary school. The School will be based in Harrow but be open to students from any borough. There will be a dual specialism in Mathematics and Performing Arts. The School will open this September, starting with two Reception classes and going up to six Year 7 classes.

For more information, visit:

www.avantihouse.org



A Living Fence for Wildlife

Bhaktivedanta Manor’s access road was planned as part of the scheme that would plant a double hedge row and plant trees every 15 metres. The bank that the hedge sits on was the spoil that was moved to make way for the road.

As the hedge is now established it is being laid in a traditional fashion. In England there are many different styles of hedge laying and HRH Prince Charles is President of the National Hedge Laying Society.

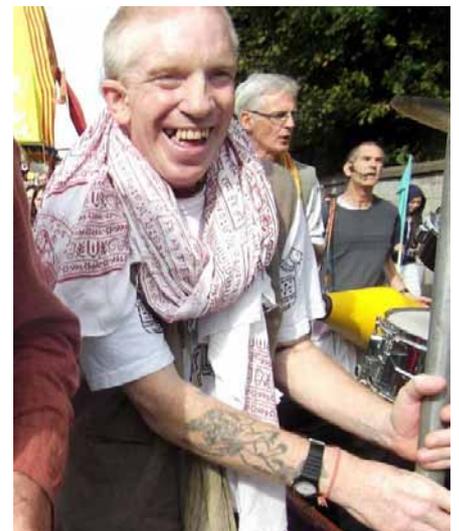
There is a style unique to Hertfordshire and the Manor has assigned the local Hedge laying Champion Donato Cinicolo to the job.

The hedge is cut near its base and pulled over in one direction. There is a small section of trunk that remains connected to the base. The branches are laid at about 30 degrees for the sap to flow upwards and overall this will create a labyrinth of branches and shoots.

There are also stakes placed along the hedge line with supple branches twisted along the top to form a neat finish as well as a structure to keep the hedge in place. A basket weave effect is produced which makes the hedge strong and thick, making it ideal to attract wildlife: in essence it is a form of living fence.

Bhakti Chris - known for his brilliant smile

We are sorry report the sad news that Bhakti Chris passed away recently. Well known for his brilliant smile and willingness to take up any service, he helped with Rathayatra, the Manor farm and gardens and Food for Life in India. His initial encounters with ISKCON including joining in Hari Namas in 1977. Despite going through many difficult times in his life, Chris always remained strong and sincere on his spiritual journey and passed away in the most Holy place of Sri Mayapura Dham.



Solar Panels for New Gokul

The roofs of the cow and hay barns at the Manor’s New Gokul farm have recently been fitted with solar panels. It is a 50 kilowatt system and it is expected that it will produce about 50,000 kilowatts of electricity a year. “This is

a further step towards self-sufficiency at Bhaktivedanta Manor,” explained Farm Manager Shyamasundar das. “There is a government incentive to reward those who produce their own electricity. Electrical companies will be

paying us for doing this!”

A kilowatt is equal to one thousand watts, a unit used to express the output power of engines, machines and heaters. A typical household light bulb has a power rating of 25 to 100 watts.



Manor awash with colours of Spring



On Sunday 11th March Bhaktivedanta Manor staged it's most colourful of festivals: Holi is a celebration of the coming spring and as part of an ancient tradition revelers were granted the opportunity to throw powdered colours over each other, to emerge multicoloured from head to toe!

The traditional Holi bonfire was ignited ceremoniously by the Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere, whose clothes were thankfully spared the full brunt of festival frivolity!

The bonfire is to remember the great saint named Prahlad who was taken

into a huge blazing fire by Holika, by order of his demoniac father. However, by divine providence Prahlad was not burned. Prahlad is therefore the symbol of faith and purity and the fire represents the burning away of all our impurities, such as egoism, vanity and lust, through the fire of devotion and knowledge.

The festival is also to remember Krishna's playful pastimes of Krishna. Young Krishna would run around and shower the local villagers with colours, drowning them in an ocean of divine love.



"Thank you for a very enjoyable day. It was interesting to learn about the Manor and see it's extensive grounds. I was pleased to join in many events and went home with a coloured face!"

Cllr Mrs Bren Perryman
Deputy Mayor for the Borough of Broxbourne



"The Temple welcomed devotees, friends and pilgrims to share in a great occasion. The Temple is a credit to the community and a beacon of openness."

Mike Freer MP

It was an absolute delight in starting the Holi bonfire and seeing the enthusiasm and enjoyment of all those who attended the Festival of Colours. It's always a privilege to be invited to the Manor and I always leave with a feeling of warmth and love."

Cllr Peter Knell, Mayor of Hertsmere



Gaura Purnima 2012

...continued from page 1 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu introduced the mantra whenever He travelled, preaching the sublime philosophy of Krishna consciousness through the chanting of the Holy Names. His appearance was striking. Very tall and dressed in the flame-coloured robes of a mendicant, he had the complexion of molten gold and eyes that would melt the heart of all who saw Him.

In the Bhagavad-gita Lord Krishna explains "Whenever and wherever there is a decline in religious practice and a predominant rise in irreligion- - at that

time I descend Myself" (4,7). When the Lord descends, teachings relevant to the people's needs are taught, and a new opportunity is provided to know and love God. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is that same Krishna who took birth during an age of huge spiritual decline. Now his message is taught in every city of the world, causing a spiritual renaissance in the hearts of all those who chant Hare Krishna.

Just as the people of 15th Century Bengal and other parts of India were startled and enlivened by the devotees' public chanting , on Thursday 8th

March (this year's calendar date of Gaura Purnima) the shoppers, business people, revellers and tourists of central London were thrilled to witness hundreds of devotees in a blissful Hari Nama procession, dancing, singing and playing musical instruments to the accompaniment of the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra. Those who returned straight back to the Manor were then treated to a great dramatic performance by ISKCON Pandava Sena about Lord Caitanya and the Chand Kazi.



Bhagavad Gita

A Short Summary in Acronyms

by Sutapa das

Based on *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Chapter 1- Observing the Armies on the Battlefield of Kuruksetra



The spiritual journey usually starts with a doubt. Over the years, our friends, family, society and the media paint the perfect picture of "success" and we subsequently shape our lives in determined pursuance of it. At a certain point, however, we begin to doubt whether that "perfect life" is achievable or will actually make us happy. We begin to question the materialistic goals, aspirations and milestones of success that have become deeply ingrained within us. Could there be some deeper purpose to life? While this initial doubt can often bring great uncertainty and confusion, it can also bring us to the start of our spiritual journey. It is this very doubt that Arjuna expresses at the onset of this sacred conversation.

D - Dhritarashtra & Duryodhana (Verses 1-12) - Innumerable soldiers have assembled on the battlefield of Kurukshetra due to the obstinacy and deep-rooted material aspirations of these two characters,

bent on usurping their cousins' kingdom. Sitting in his palace, King Dhritarashtra inquires about the latest events on the battlefield, while his son Duryodhana is busy firing up his army as it prepares for fratricidal war. Dhritarashtra is physically blind, but he and his son are also blinded by greed, envy and material desire. When the individual starts to think in terms of "I, me and mine", primarily interested in selfish gain and personal aggrandizement, then anxiety, frustration and disappointment are inevitable. Unfortunately, one who is materially entangled becomes oblivious to the ill-effects of his actions.

O - Ominous result (Verses 13-20) - Despite Duryodhana's boastful words, the ominous result of this confrontation is made clear from the onset. Too many signs indicate his inevitable defeat. Those who stand on the side of purity and righteousness are always victorious, regardless of whether the worldly odds seem stacked against them. One who is a carrier of goodness is never overcome by evil.

U - Uncertainty (Verses 21-27) - Despite knowing that he defends virtue, Arjuna is still uncertain about fighting his opponents, who are also his relatives. The chariots are readied, arrows are drawn, battle cries are sounded, but Arjuna wants to take a final look at the armies. He orders Krishna, who assumes the role of his charioteer, to drive to the middle of the battlefield so he can satisfy his curiosity. To his credit, despite the intensity of

the situation, Arjuna takes time to reflect. Life may be crammed with responsibilities and pressing issues, but attendance to such demands should not be at the expense of quality spiritual introspection. Unfortunately, the chronic disease of modern man is the excuse of "no time" when it comes to such soul-searching.

B - Bewilderment (Verses 28-30) - Foreseeing the imminent suffering and death that is the inevitable consequence of war, Arjuna begins to analyse his predicament. At this stage, bereft of broader spiritual vision, his uncertainty intensifies and he becomes bewildered. When one lacks an understanding of his spiritual identity, his relationship with God, and the critical purpose behind this world, one inevitably becomes disturbed and frustrated by life's challenges.

T - Turning point (Verses 31-42) - Arjuna justifies his decision to retreat from fighting: 1) It would be cruel and heartless to prematurely terminate the lives of so many soldiers; 2) Even an unrivalled kingdom would bring no happiness, since he'd be bereft of the company of his near and dear ones; 3) One would surely accrue bad karma as a result of such brutal violence; 4) The wholesale killing involved would destroy the family unit and social structure, causing havoc for future generations. Thus, his mind overwhelmed by grief, Arjuna sets aside his weapons and resolves not to fight.

<http://sutapamonk.blogspot.com/>

The Manor Planning Brief

Over the last two years the Temple has engaged consultants to assist Hertsmere Borough Council in developing a comprehensive Planning Brief for the estate. As part of the Local Development Plan review, the Brief seeks to address the current and tangible needs of the temple while setting parameters for any development over the next fifteen years.

The request for the Planning Brief exercise was made by the Council's Planning Committee in 2010 in response to various applications being submitted by the Temple. We are pleased that the council has recognised the difficult circumstances we face here at the Manor. On March 15 the Brief was presented to the Planning Committee for comments and it is now expected to move on to local consultation. It is important to note that this is not a planning application. The document identifies how to meet current demand, within the constraints of our rural setting and the Grade II listed status of the Manor, as opposed to plans for future intensification.



Let there be a Temple

A message from the Campaign Chair of the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, Ambarisha das:

Dear friends, supporters and well-wishers

The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium is one of Srila Prabhupada's most dear desires. He wanted to build an amazing and wonderful Temple in Sridharm Mayapur [ISKCON's headquarters in West Bengal] to attract people from all over the world to the holy dharma and ultimately to the lotus feet of Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

We know there are many worthwhile ventures to support in the world. Please consider the unique benefits from supporting this project. It is a rare opportunity to touch countless souls

from across the globe and help place them on the path of salvation. It is a rare opportunity to be part of something truly historical.

Take a once in a million lifetime opportunity and join me on this incredible, historic journey. Hare Krishna.

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The Temple's construction work is going ahead on schedule and is expected to be complete in 2016. It will be home to the stunning Deities of Sri Sri Radha Madhava, the Sri Panca-tattva and Sri Nrsimhadev and will include models of the universe, educational displays and classrooms.

www.tovp.org



ISKCON Leadership Sanga

During the annual meetings of ISKCON's Governing Body Commission, over 300 international leaders gathered for a week of workshops, presentations and networking. The gathering which took place in Sridham Mayapur, West Bengal was organised to facilitate a dynamic and informative discourse between leaders, and specifically to

bring together the Governing Body Commission with ISKCON's middle tier of leadership who are highly responsible for major projects throughout the world. The task in coming together to create a coherent strategy for a world movement is certainly not an easy task. Talks were translated into over thirty languages and covered topics such as: the culture of

leadership, developing a constitution, methods for strategic planning and communications. From Bhaktivedanta Manor, Srutidharma das, Gauri das and Pranabandhu das attended and made several presentations on fund raising and sustainable economies for temples.



Rabbi Relations

Srutidharma das joined Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, James Clappison MP and the Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere in celebrating the induction of Rabbi Leo Dee at the Radlett United Synagogue. Lord Sacks was delighted to meet Srutidharma das again and Rabbi Dee expressed interest to learn more about Bhaktivedanta Manor.



Will you be a winner?

Over 100 Students attended the “2012: Will you be a winner?” University Retreat on a sunny February day at the Manor.

At the Olympic styled Retreat, students from across England experienced ‘Power Yoga’, a multimedia presentation on the theme of the Bhagavad Gita, and a hands-on session of milking the cows, while ‘Veggie Steady Cook’ had all students competitively flip pancakes and create their own unique fillings!

An energy fuelled workshop followed, called ‘Mind Games’, which included a challenging team-based activity on the front lawn. The final Mantra session had everyone on their feet and was voted the best activity by over 95% of students!

Get Involved! www.krishnasoc.com | events@krishnasoc.com



Making Friends in St Albans

As a follow up to chanting processions in St Albans, Sukadev das, Ananta Purushottama das and Atmeshwar das have been organising local get-togethers. “There’s devotional music, an interactive class and a vegetarian meal. The whole thing is informal and friendly,” explained Ananta Purushottama das. “In January we had a turnout of 14 people and we hope for similar numbers in the future. During last month’s meeting we invited members of the Quaker group to join us for dinner. It was a pleasurable experience.”

The meetings are at the Friends Meeting House on 7 Upper Lattimore Rd, St Albans AL1 3UD, from 7pm- 9.30pm on the first Friday of every month. Contact Ananta Purushottama for more details: ananta@krishnatemple.com



This is the Olympic year of getting fit and healthy and The Lotus Trust wants you to join in. Why don’t you mark this historic year by either choosing to walk, run or cycle the 8 London Bridges for 6 km to find sponsors and raise money for the UK’s first Slaughter-free Milk campaign?

Sunday 15th April

for more info please visit:

<http://www.thelotustrust.org/>

April 2012
 Fri 6th Sri Balaram Rasayatra
 App of Sri Hanuman
 Mon 16th Varuthini Ekadasi
 Sat 21st App of Sri Gadadhara Pandita
 Tues 24th Aksaya Tritiya
 Mon 30th App of Srimati Sita Devi
 App of Srimati Jahnava Devi

May 2012
 Wed 2nd Mohini Ekadasi
 Fri 4th Disapp of Sri jayananda Prabhu
 Sat 5th App of Lord Nrsimghadeva
 fast till twilight
 Wed 16th Aparas Ekadasi

Bhaktivedanta Manor
Dharam Marg · Hilfield Lane
Aldenham · Herts
 (for sat-nav only, please use
 postcode WD25 8DT)
01923 851000
www.krishnatemple.com

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

**HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA, KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE,
 HARE RAMA HARE RAMA, RAMA RAMA HARE HARE**