



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 Katha Upanisad 2.2.13 [says] “Amongst all the Eternals there is one chief Eternal Being and he is engaged in supplying and fulfilling the desires of all the others.” Therefore our conclusion was that the real problem is not over-population or pollution, malnutrition etc, but the actual problem is Godlessness. So you are all intelligent boys and girls—therefore my request to you is that you study this science of Krishna Consciousness.

*Lecture Bhaktivedanta Manor
27 July 1973*



Future plans for Bhaktivedanta Manor

We all know how overcrowded the Manor can be sometimes; it’s not just on festival days that people have to sit and eat in the corridors. So we are pleased to say that Hertsmere Borough Council is putting forward proposals that could help us expand our facilities in the future.

The Council has produced a report, called a Planning Brief, which accepts that additional space is required to reduce the stress on the Manor building. It sets out a number of options for introducing a Haveli community building on the site.

As Councillor Harvey Cohen, portfolio holder for planning at the Council, has said:

“Bhaktivedanta Manor is an important site for ISKCON and the borough of Hertsmere with huge cultural, religious and historical significance. This planning brief aims to forge a path forward that will meet the needs of ISKCON, residents of Letchmore Heath and the wider community of Hertsmere, and ensure that all future development on the estate is sustainable and suitable.”

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Krishna Eco Farm opens in Scotland

In 1987 ISKCON devotees moved into a humble property in Lesmahagow, not all that far from Glasgow. With the motto ‘simple living, high thinking’, they began to develop an ambitious program to turn the site into a state-of-the-art Eco Farm.

25 years on, that ambition has now been realized, and devotees celebrated the 25th anniversary of the project in the company of dignitaries.

Michael McCann, MP for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow, opened the Farm and was guest of honour at the event, which was also attended by Margaret Morton and Susan Haughey, Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Lanarkshire, local councillors Alec McInnes and George Greenshields, and many local and national guests. *...continued on page 3*

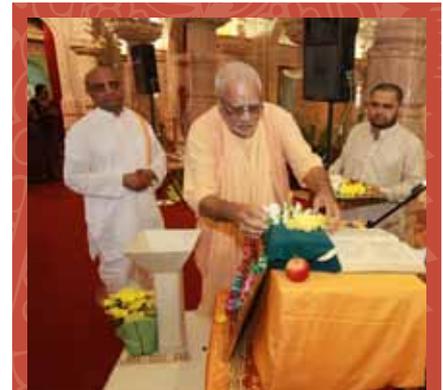


Near Neighbours

Atmanivedana Swami and Srutidharma das joined Dr Rowan Williams the Archbishop of Canterbury and Rt Hon Eric Pickles Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with local dignitaries at the Shri Sanatan Mandir in Leytonstone. The event was to observe the launch of the government funded Near Neighbours scheme which

encourages faiths to work together on a variety of projects.

Eric Pickles MP was very interested to hear about the interfaith and community related work Bhaktivedanta Manor does in its locality, and in that light he has accepted an invitation to visit the Temple as well as the Krishna Avanti School.



Atmanivedana Swami and Srutidharma das were specially invited to the Bhagavat Katha at the Sanatan Temple on the Ealing Road in Wembley, marking the first anniversary of the opening of the beautiful new building.

Footballer Visits Manor

World-class professional footballer Anthony Gardner (former Tottenham Hotspurs and England player, currently with Sheffield United) and his wife. Visited Bhaktivedanta Manor. Vishvambhar das showed them around the estate and then invited them to his home where they met his family and spent the rest of the evening together. They are planning to return to the Manor for the Janmasthmi festival.

Appreciating Srila Prabhupada

Nandan Ray, of Bengali parentage, will be regularly giving classes based on Srila Prabhupada's Bhagavad-gita As It Is in the new Kalibari Centre which is aimed at the Bengali community of north London. Organised by the former Mayor of Harrow Cllr Mrinal Choudury, the classes will attract many guests who are fascinated by the unique achievements of Srila Prabhupada and the Gaudiya tradition as a whole, to which ISKCON belongs.



Anthony Gardner with Gauranga, son of Vishvambhar, at their home.

Shree Krishna
janmashtami
FRIDAY 10TH AUGUST &
SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST

Krishna Eco Farm opens in Scotland

...continued from page 1 Environmentalists along with devotees from Bhaktivedanta Manor and community representatives also attended the event and saw demonstrations of various sustainable technologies including Solar Thermal Panels, Air source Heat Pumps, Wind Turbines, and a Biomass Energy Centre. The site also includes a walled garden where the devotees grow vegetables and fruits, as well as greenhouses for cultivating ceremonial flowers, and a play garden for children.

The site has received a loan of £100,000 for the two turbines, funded by Energy Saving Trust Scotland, and a Scottish Government Community and Renewable Energy Scheme grant of nearly £87,000. The eco developments provide around 40% of the community's energy requirements.

Scots born head of the centre Prabhupada Prana das said, "In our temple we try to live simply and in harmony with nature. The technology can be used to reduce your carbon footprint, and that's part of our philosophy. We are committed to helping people find peace, through meditation and taking care of the earth—and it's all here at the Eco Farm".

Speaking about the official opening ceremony, Prabhupada Prana added, "It has been a rewarding day, we had traditional Indian dance and cuisine

blended with Scots bagpipes and banter. The level of interest in our environmental technologies and the presence of the various dignitaries has been inspiring."

"I was extremely proud to be the guest of honour at the opening of the Krishna Eco-Farm," said Michael McCann MP. "The devotees live in the Lesmahagow community in the heart of my constituency in peace and harmony, not only with nature but with the local community.

"The work that they have done on this Eco-Farm has many lessons for us not least of which is that with proper planning, renewable energy sources can make a valuable contribution to our communities.

"Most importantly, as a member of the International Development Select Committee the Krishna Eco-Farm project demonstrates how local communities in the developing world could benefit from this type of project.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my visit. It certainly won't be my last because after the trials and tribulations of my work in the House of Commons and



the constituency office, visiting the Eco-Farm and meeting the wonderful people there was a great opportunity to stop, take a breath and enjoy an alternative style of life," Michael concluded.

Soon after, the Scottish devotees invited devotees from across the UK to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's one and only visit to Scotland.



Future Plans for Bhaktivedanta Manor

The Council's Planning Brief is not a planning application. It deals with the principles of development rather than the specifics. But it should set a framework within which we can expand the facilities and reduce overcrowding in a sustainable way. We are grateful for the support of the Council in bringing the proposals forward.

A public consultation on the proposals will now run from 9 July until 10 September.

We urge you to respond to the consultation; to explain in your

own words why you feel we need to improve the facilities on offer at the Manor. You might give examples if you have experienced overcrowding at the site, and make clear how important the site is for people from the local area. Unless our community responds to the consultation, Councillors might not get to hear how important these proposals are to people.

There is no intention to intensify our use of the Manor and any future planning application would simply be designed to meet current demand from our community. This is an exciting opportunity to ensure our important spiritual site can meet our needs while recognising the constraints imposed by the listed manor building and our green belt location.

To view the planning brief visit:
<http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/planning/news/>

You can also respond to the planning team by emailing planning@hertsmere.gov.uk or calling 020 8207 7558

East London Panihati Festival

Devotees had a great experience celebrating the Panihati festival on June 2nd in Tamil Sangam Hall, East London. On that day they distributed more than 50 of Srila Prabhupada books and distributed sacred chipped rice to more than 400 people on the local streets and in Hindu Temples.

That evening Panihati community devotees made 35 items of different chipped rice preparations with milk and yoghurt in different nicely painted mud pots and distributed them to locals. Proceedings were rounded off nicely with a play about Lord Caitanya.



Vrindavan Day

Rasa lila dasi and Alison Appiah organized a wonderful community day out at the Manor for devotees of all generations. Whilst the children took part in a variety of games and other activities, Sakshi Gopal das took the adults on a tour of the premises, focusing on memories of Srila Prabhupada.



Festivals in Greater London

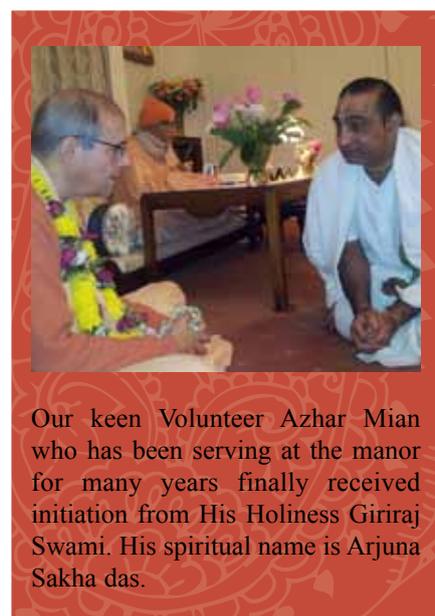


The Festival Team and friends have been putting on lively shows around Greater London this summer. The quality of the devotional entertainment and overall presentation at the Harrow Arts Centre was second-to-none and although the venue was quite small it lent to the intimate and friendly atmosphere of the evening.

The most recent festival was in the Ilford Town Hall, promoted by the devotees of the ISKCON Redbridge Centre. The huge hall, with a capacity of at least 600, was filled to the brim and the event was a resounding success.

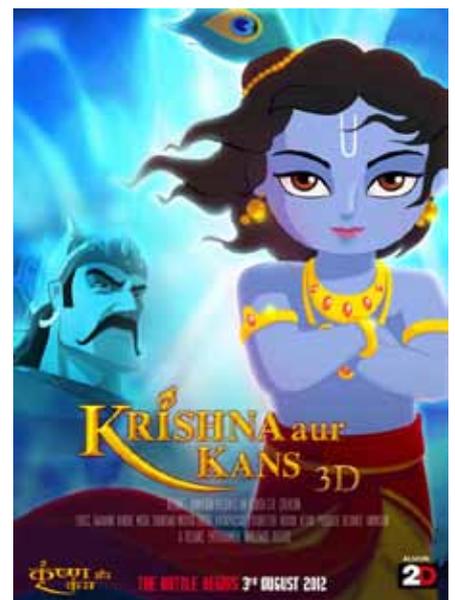


The 24 hour kirtan held at the Balaji Temple in Dudley near Birmingham took place on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of June this year.



Our keen Volunteer Azhar Mian who has been serving at the manor for many years finally received initiation from His Holiness Giriraj Swami. His spiritual name is Arjuna Sakha das.

India's first stereographic 3-D animated film



India's first stereographic 3-D animated feature film is being released worldwide on August 3rd. "Hey Krishna" (Krishna Aur Kans in India) is coming to the UK soon.

If the film is successful, the producer will be able to fulfill his desire to make a sequel about Lord Krishna in his adulthood in the city of Dwarka.

Pulling the strings of tradition



Independent filmmaker and Manor visitor Vicky Hart is making a documentary exploring the daily lives of six female puppeteers in India.

The film will show puppet making and manipulation, with the aim of protecting and promoting this ancient cultural heritage, and helping to develop this artistry.

For more information visit:

www.facebook.com/magicinourhands

Saffron Ceremony

After completing a successful sabbatical, six temple residents graduated and made a long-term commitment to ashram life by donning the sacred saffron cloth. A special ceremony was orchestrated by Atmanivedana Swami and Bhakti Rasamrta Swami. The saffron cloth represents a monastic lifestyle where one focuses on study, sadhana (spiritual practice) and full-time preaching.



Record numbers at the Borehamwood Carnival

Devotees from Food for All, the local community, the Manor School and those attending a Brahmachari Conference at the Manor joined forces at year's Borehamwood Carnival, making it the largest devotee turn-out for at least ten years!



Master of the Universe's Ratha Yatra festival

A huge crowd of devotees and well-wishers, with beaming smiles on a sunny day, pulled the three giant chariots that carried the deities of Their Lordships Jagannath, Baladeva and Subhadra through central London from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square, accompanied by chanting and dancing, in the annual Rathayatra Festival of the Chariots.

Over the years this festival has grown to be a major event for both devotees and tourists, with more than a thousand devotees pulling the three giant chariots through the streets, and many hundreds of tourists and sightseers congregating at Trafalgar square to take part in the festivities.

There have also been Ratha Yatras in Croydon, Glastonbury and Birmingham and on 28th July and 29th July it will take place in Cardiff and Leicester respectively.

The London chariot festival is a replica of the ancient Rathayatra festival held for thousands of years in the sacred city of Jagannath Puri in Orissa, India, and which still continues today. Lord Caitanya, Krishna's incarnation for the modern age, took part in the Rathayatra festival more than 500 years ago.

Now a major sight throughout the world,

the Rathayatra festival was brought to western shores by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. ISKCON devotees in the UK have a great affection for the London Rathayatra festival since Srila Prabhupada himself immortalized it in the sacred pages of the Sri Caitanya-caritamrta.



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 3 - Karma Yoga

A tree produces many fruits, but selflessly offers them to others. All year round, the tree dutifully offers shade and shelter regardless of mistreatment by man or animal. Even when a tree is cut, it grows back with determination and strength, ready to serve the world again. The life and qualities of a tree give us profound insight into the art of living in this world while simultaneously remaining completely aloof. Chapter Three defines the practice of *karma-yoga* - the technique of achieving spiritual connection with God through our daily work. Describing the life of a true *karma-yogi*, the Bible also affirms, "Be in the world but not of it."

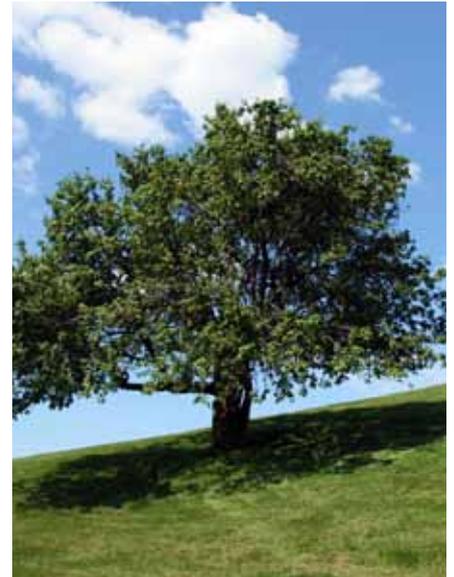
T - Tyaga (Renunciation) (Verses 1-9) - At first, Arjuna displays the typical confusion of an immature spiritualist. He thinks spirituality means retirement from active life and the adoption of asceticism in strict seclusion. Often, the easiest response in times of difficulty is one of escapism. Worldly life entails awkward dealings with money, possessions, people and career to name but a few. How can such a lifestyle be compatible with spiritual goals? Krishna explains that true renunciation does not entail a mere abandonment of worldly duties. True renunciation is to give up the mentality that one is the "controller" and "enjoyer" of all his deeds. Thus, by offering the results of one's daily work (money, knowledge, influence etc.) to God, knowing God to be the ultimate enjoyer and controller, one achieves a real state of renunciation.

R - Rungs (on the Yoga Ladder) (Verses 10-16) - To work without

any selfish motivation whatsoever is undoubtedly an advanced stage of spiritual realisation. Thus, Krishna explains how to progress to such a level. He describes a "yoga ladder" with different rungs which represent progressively higher levels of understanding. On the lowest level an individual is solely interested in materialistic enjoyment and has no spiritual inclination. One stage higher is *karma-kanda*, where one still desires materialistic enjoyment but now tries to achieve it via religious observances. When one realises the futility of material enjoyment they progress to *sakama-karma-yoga*, where one begins to offer a portion of his results to God but still maintains some selfish motivation. At the next stage of *niskama-karma-yoga* one accepts whatever necessities he requires to maintain himself and offers everything else to God. Those who progress to this level of spirituality break free from all karmic implication and become peaceful and liberated.

E - Exemplary (Verses 17-35) - Thus, *karma-yoga* is outlined as the practical process by which one overcomes his material attachments through working in the world. So what about one who has achieved perfection through *karma-yoga*? Do they need to continue working? Can they retire and simply meditate on God now that they are free of all selfish motivation? Krishna explains how perfected spiritualists continue working in the world for the sole purpose of setting the proper example for others to follow and be inspired by.

E - Enemy of the soul (Verses 36-43) - After hearing about this practical



and logical process, the natural reaction is an enthusiastic resolve to dedicate oneself to it. But Arjuna asks Krishna, "In life, even though I know the best course of action, what is it that impels me time and time again to act improperly and against my good intelligence?" Krishna then explains the root cause of this phenomenon is the eternal enemy of the aspiring spiritualist - lust! The inherent quality of the soul is to love; to selflessly serve without any personal agenda. However, when the soul descends to this world that pure love perverts into lust, and one ceaselessly tries to enjoy in a self-centred way without proper regard for others. The way of lust impels one to seek immediate gratification and abandon activities that actually benefit them. In this way, lust cheats one of a progressive and happy life and offers only meagre, instantaneous and temporary gratification in return.

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

IPS Over the Years

Bhaktivedanta Manor's growing youth group has developed over the years and recent changes have brought excitement to the new and older members of Pandava Sena. What makes Pandava Sena quite special is their new Chairman, Sahil Agarwal. Since last year, at the age of 17 he took upon this great service. Being the youngest Chairman that

and dynamic plays, presentations, films, music and dances. After the successful campaign for the Manor, they wanted to set a good spiritual educational foundation for all the youth in the forms of Sanga's, Jammins', University societies and annual retreats all over Europe. This has given the youth the highest philosophy and added modern



perspective values to each individual's spiritual journey. More and more youth are getting involved with services and many new friendships are being made. Current members are finding new inspiration and strength through Srila Prabhupada and the devotee's blessings. Last year's Janmastami presentation proved to be a success as they produced their very own series of 'The Apprentice'. For this year's Janmastami celebration, they are going to back to the originals to do what they do best. This year they look forward to serving you with a very exciting live play and hope to rekindle the seed of your heart, that is Krsna Consciousness.



Pandava Sena has ever had, brought about a new turning point with the youth group.

Pandava Sena was one of the main groups created which led to the successful campaign of saving Bhaktivedanta Manor from closure and injustice in 1994. Since then, every year the group has accepted challenge after challenge in their service towards Srila Prabhupada's movement and replicated all over the world. Pandava Sena is known amongst many leaders of Hindu communities all over the UK and is very popular in producing exciting

Price:
£345

Dates:
21st-28th
July 2012

C'est la vie
this is the life - make every second count



Devotee Awarded Queen's Medal

Hari-dhama das was recently awarded the official Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of the contribution he has made in the name of society and public service. He works for the London Ambulance Service as a Paramedic Student Practice Educator and as an Emergency First Responder. He is currently with the British Heart Foundation as a Community Resuscitation Training Officer, training members of the public in how to respond to a patient having a heart attack, choking or not breathing. Recently he trained Royal Household Staff at Buckingham Palace and soon he will undertake training at the Houses of Parliament. Hari-dhama das was also awarded the Shell 999 Bravery Award, putting his life at risk to save the life of a young woman who threatened to jump to her death



Assisting locals at the Diamond Jubilee Weekend

Bhaktivedanta Manor was happy to help out in the Diamond Jubilee Celebration extended weekend festivals in Radlett and Patchetts Green by supplying chairs and gazebos. A welcome contribution indeed, especially given that the weather was pretty wet!



Diamond Jubilee Service at St Albans



Srutidharma das and Radha Mohan das represented Bhaktivedanta Manor and the wider community at the Service of Thanksgiving for the County of Hertfordshire to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.

Faith leaders and representatives from across the County took part in a grand procession through the aisles of the historical St Albans Cathedral, where the event took place. The Countess of Verulam, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and many other dignitaries were also present.



Radha Mohan das, Roshni Thakrar and Naina Patel from the Manor's Communications Team were warmly greeted by the Deputy Chair Cllr David Hewitt and others at Hertfordshire County Council's Diamond Jubilee Garden Party.

Bhaktivedanta Manor
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Aldenham · Herts

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 postcode WD25 8DT)

01923 851000

www.krishnatemple.com

Please send your news, photos
 and comments to:

Radha Mohan das

newsletter@krishnatemple.com

August 2012

- Fri 10th Janmashtami Day
- Sat 11th App of Srila Prabhupada
- Sun 12th Janmashtami Festival
- Mon 13th Annada Ekadasi
- Sat 18th Purushottam Adhik Mas begins
- Mon 27th Padmini Ekadasi
- Summer Bank Holiday
- Sun 30th Shraddh (Pitri Paksha) begins

September 2012

- Wed 12th Parama Ekadasi
- Sat 15th Purushottam Adhik ends
- Thur 20th App of Srimati Sita Thkurani
 (Sri Advaita Acarya's consort)

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