

# BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

October 2018



International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)  
Founder Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



**Shree  
Krishna  
Janmashtami**



## Srila Prabhupada:

happiness of humanity at the cost of the lives of poor animals. That is not recommended herein. This verse clearly says that one should be compassionate to all living entities. Regardless of whether human, animal, tree or plant, all living entities are sons of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

*Srimad Bhagavatam 6.10.9 purport*



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



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

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# CELEBRATING KRISHNA'S ADVENT

Over two days at the beginning of September, Bhaktivedanta Manor hosted over fifty thousand people for one of the world's largest celebrations of Janmashtami, the advent of Lord Krishna.

The joyous festivities welcomed all and transformed the usually serene temple grounds into a resplendent festival site of colourful marquees, showcasing dance, drama, multimedia and music, both contemporary and traditional.

Visitors and pilgrims enjoyed complimentary vegetarian food and the opportunity to browse bazaars selling an eclectic array of culinary delights, books, handmade jewellery, music and organic produce.

The festival had something for the whole family, including a designated children's area full of fun-filled activities including face painting, henna, arts,

crafts and games. Children also revelled in visiting the New Gokul Farm, which provides sustainable living and cow protection, sheltering sixty cows, oxen and bulls.

Amidst all the festivities, one of the highlights was the walk through the re-creation of the beautiful Vrindavan forests where Krishna played as a young boy. The walk concluded with the majestic viewing of the exquisitely decorated deity altar in the temple room.

Many visitors commented that they experienced great peace sitting in front of the deities and listening to the melodious singing of mantras.

The festival promotes the importance of love and community in what is today a very diverse society. It could not have been staged without the help of 1500 volunteers. One such volunteer, Pavitra,











shared her thoughts: "The festival was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, contribute to the local community and was simply great fun!"

Guests were also able to see the progress on the Haveli (community building) construction site, including the foundations and a glimpse into its superstructure.

This year, the happening new London yoga and food initiative, Om Nom, hosted an exhibit for the first time. Om Nom are all about improving one's belly, body and mind, inspired by eastern philosophies and diets: a divine lifestyle in today's modern settings.

The Pandava Sena youth tent showcased a drama called 'Lost and Found', exploring identity through a conversation between a student and God.

The College of Vedic Studies also showcased "Bhakti the Future", an outrageous satirical drama where

the protagonist travels through time, constantly thwarted in his attempts to enjoy life.

In the main tent, the Bhaktivedanta Players brought back an old classic: "The Advent of Lord Krishna!"

Audiences were spell-bound by the beautiful depiction of this story portrayed by the talented actors.

"The George Harrison tribute band in the main tent was the highlight for me," said visitor Alex. "The renditions of his songs reminded me of how he was able to combine spirituality with contemporary music in a unique way."

As is customary, the soulful music continued in the main tent beyond midnight. Kamini, one of the many pilgrims, reflected: "I was transfixed by the beautiful singing and when I finally got home I realised what an incredibly nice evening of festivities I had witnessed."





## OFFERING OUR LOVE TO SRILA PRABHUPADA

The day after Janmashtami devotees celebrate the appearance in this world of Krishna's pure devotee – his Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. This day is known as 'Vyasa-Puja', meaning the appearance of the representative of Srila Vyasadev (the compiler of the Vedas), or more specifically the appearance day of the spiritual master who appears in the line of Srila Vyasadev.

Vyasa-Puja is regarded as a most sacred day in the ISKCON calendar, for without Srila Prabhupada we would not

even have a true relationship with Lord Krishna. On this day, the direct disciples and followers recite heartfelt readings of their homages to him. That is followed by a Maha Guru Puja, or grand worship of Srila Prabhupada, including flower petal offerings and abishekha (bathing of his image).

Meanwhile, the Gurukul Alumni (ISKCON school graduates) teamed together to prepare more than 108 food offerings, which were offered to Srila Prabhupada before being distributed to everyone.



## RADHARANI THE BESTOWER OF DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

Srimati Radharani is the eternal consort of Lord Krishna. Five thousand years ago, when Lord Krishna came to this planet to perform His pastimes, she also appeared. This year devotees celebrated her appearance, called Radhashtami, on 17th September with devotion and happiness.

In ISKCON, devotees carefully worship Srimati Radharani as the bestower of devotional service to Krishna, by attentively chanting Her name in the Hare Krishna mantra (Hare refers to Radha), by worshiping Her deity form, and by following the instructions of the most merciful Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who is the combined form of Radha and Krishna.

A team of no less than 15 dedicated and talented ladies made 21 exquisitely beautiful decorated cakes, with help from the Head Pujari Gadadhara das,

who baked them. The cakes were so well-made that photos of them were shared widely across social media.

The deities' clothes on the altar were adorned with hundreds of flowers, and it took 7 volunteers 10 hours to make.

"For the flower outfits alone we used three boxes of chrysanthemums, including 20 bunches in each box," explained head of Volunteering Krishna Purna dasi, "We also used 10 bunches of button flowers."

After the singing of the devotional song Radha Stava and an informative class by Kripa Moya das, the utsav (ceremonial) deities of Radha Gokulananda were bathed. There was also a large hari nama chanting procession in Watford, which was particularly special as many of the ladies wore their finest saris!





## THANKING THE PATRONS

Over 1000 persons attended the annual gathering of Patrons for an evening to remember. Patrons commit to making an annual monetary contribution to the temple, allowing it to conduct much of its respected work.

An army of volunteers allowed the hard-working Patrons to enjoy the evening's music, theatre, and culinary refreshments

A special feature of the evening included a three-course menu based on the preparations mentioned in the Raj Bhoga song by Bhaktivinoda Thakur.

Nila Madhava das delivered an up-to-date report on the progress of the

construction of the Sri Krishna Haveli. It was an exciting insight into the project's legacy and inspiration for future generations.

There was also a touching film about the achievements and friendships shared between Srutidharma das, Gauri das and Pranabandhu das.

The Bhaktivedanta Players rounded off the evening with one of their hilarious satirical dramas.

Meanwhile, a special party for children was arranged – meaning that parents had a rare opportunity to enjoy the evening peacefully!



## Ratha yatra along Brighton's promenade

The popular seaside resort of Brighton held its annual Ratha yatra chariot festival on Sunday 9th September this year. This event has a special place in the hearts of devotees across the UK because the Ratha Yatra festival originated in Jagannath Puri, itself situated along the coast of Orissa in India.



## World Holy Name Festival 2018

Devotees across the UK were out in full force for the World Holy Name Festival (17th - 24th September) this year.

The week kicked off with Kirtan Fest in Leicester, where the holy names of Krishna were chanted throughout the weekend. This year's festival was made extra special as the Grade II listed temple was able to welcome new guests as part of Heritage Open Day, where historic buildings in the city open their doors to visitors to get a glimpse behind the scenes.

In Newcastle, devotees dedicated their monthly Sacred Street Party in the city

centre. Over thirty devotees performed two hours of kirtan, distributed 54 of Srila Prabhupada's books, 180 prasadam sweets, and 900 mantra cards.

Meanwhile devotees from Bhaktivedanta Manor took to the streets of Surrey, where they visited Slough, Windsor, Staines and Kingston for harinam chanting processions. Despite the rain on the 22nd, the devotees had a great day, distributing about 350 bags of fruit and nuts, books and leaflets inviting people to the Temple.





## St Bartholomew's class of 1968

Bhaktivedanta Manor was owned by St Bartholomew's nursing training college from 1957 – 1972. From time to time, former students organise reunions and the Manor is a popular destination to help bring back precious memories amongst them. Last month we hosted a large group from 'class of 1968'.



Some attendees even brought along old photos of themselves at the Manor!

"Thank you for making our visit so interesting and for spending so much time taking us round the beautiful gardens and house," exclaimed Maggie, one of the organisers. "Everyone enjoyed it so much, it brought back many memories, some of which had been forgotten by most of us. It was the highlight of our reunion!"



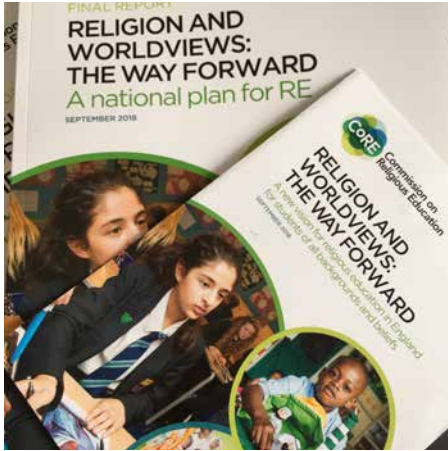
## New National Communications Director

Mina Sharma has been appointed as the UK National Communications Director, who will be working under the Governing Body Commissioner for the UK, Praghosa das. She will be coordinating ISKCON UK's 50th anniversary next year by encouraging, supporting, training, resourcing and facilitating services, activities and events.



## Strides along the sunny South-east coast

After the success of last year's event, the Padayatra team decided to continue for a third year, this time walking along the coastline from Ramsgate to Whitstable via the picturesque seaside towns of Broadstairs, Margate and Herne Bay. They completed the six-day event in the same place where they began last year, outside the famous gate of Canterbury Cathedral.



## The Commission on Religious Education

On the 12th September, Head of ISKCON Educational Services Tulsi Seva dasi attended the launch of the Commission on Religious Education at the House of Commons. It was preceded over by Luke Pollard MP, the Vice Chair of the All Parliamentary Group on Religious Education.

Both Tulsi Seva dasi and Narayani dasi of ISKCON Educational Services have also responded to the Committee's 'call for evidence' by attending a session organised by the Commission, who are in the process of developing a new vision for Religious Education in the UK. If you would like to know more about the Commission on Religious Education, the final report can be downloaded on their website:

<https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/>

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



## The Bhadra Campaign

Bhadra Campaign is part of the global initiative started by Vaisesika das, called GoMatsya. The mission statement of this project is "Preserving Vedic culture through mass book distribution and education."

The Bhadra Campaign was launched in the presence of Radhanath Maharaj at Bhaktivedanta Manor, and the large team is headed by Vrindavan Chandra das.

On the 24th and 25th September they distributed no less than 136 Srimad Bhavavatam sets, a huge effort with help from the Bhakti Vriksha teams.

Across the UK as a whole, no less than 183 Srimad Bhagavatam sets were distributed!

How they did it:

- Door to Door visits
- Placement of sets at care homes
- Placements of sets at libraries
- Many community devotees distributed sets to their friends and families.

If you want to get involved, please contact Vrindavan Chandra das:

[vrindavanchandra@krishnatemple.com](mailto:vrindavanchandra@krishnatemple.com)





## Avanti Nights

Pandava Sena Alumni are working with Avanti Schools Trust to hold regular events for parents and children of all ages to deepen their knowledge and provide a fun filled evening for children, called Avanti Nights. While children take part in dramas, magic shows, sports and other activities, parents are enriched with current and spiritual discussions. This month saw HG Citi Shakti Dasi talk about the impact of social media on children. The evening is rounded off with everyone taking prasadam together. This is only the second event and saw over 250 attendees. Pandava Sena Alumni is a community of over 25 year olds working together to spread Krishna Consciousness.



## The best ever Soul Expressions

Every month we have a welcoming Kirtan event for newcomers called Soul Expressions and this time we wanted to do something extra special for the passing of my late uncle Eduardo Perez. So with a month of planning and the tireless help of the community we managed to decorate the entire prasadam room into the forest of Vrindavan. Kripamoya Prabhu gave a talk on the 8th chapter of Bhagavad Gita and Jahnvi Harrison transformed people's hearts through her devotional singing. Thank you again to everyone that helped, you know who you are and we look forward to doing this all over again for Krishna!



260 devotees from Europe and beyond gathered at Radhadesh temple, Belgium, for an ISKCON school alumni convention. They were joined by 150 members of the local temple community for 5 days of celebration, including dances, workshops, and a chance to hear the recollections of disciples of Srila Prabhupada.

Manor community members Krishna Dharma das and Cintamani dasi delivered seminars on bringing scriptural study to life, while the

participants enjoyed incredibly delicious food cooked by Parasuram das. Festival attendee Niti declared, "This was the best food I have ever tasted at a festival."

Radhadesh resident Syamananda das facilitated a fun treasure hunt, while riveting dramas were staged by the Bhaktivedanta Players. Of course, no ISKCON school alumni festival would be complete without the former students showcasing their amazing musical talents.







Senagetaway 2018, titled Homecoming, took place in Almviks Gard, Sweden this year and left everyone enchanted with its serene mood and environment. With amazing guest speakers such as HH Sacinandana Swami, Visakha Devi and Gauranga Prabhu, the attendees of the retreat loved it and did not want to leave by the end of it.

Shivani has kindly shared her first trip experience: "This was my first Pandava Sena retreat and I can not wait for the next one! Everything about the trip was amazing. The classes and seminars

were really engaging; the people were so friendly; the kirtans were enchanting; and of course the prasadam was delicious! My highlight of the trip was having the association of such a senior female devotee, Visakha Mataji. Her presence was so empowering for all the girls and her devotion towards Krishna was inspiring. Almvik Gard had a beautiful and tranquil atmosphere. I learnt so much about myself and I will always treasure this experience. A huge thank you to the Pandava Sena trip team for organising an outstanding retreat!"

[www.psena.com](http://www.psena.com)



## **“Vigilance and bravery” during Hay Barn fire**

On Friday 21st September, the hay storage barn of the cow sanctuary (goshalla) unfortunately caught fire and was completely destroyed. All the cows, staff, visitors, the main farm building, the large barn and workshop areas were thankfully unharmed.

“We are incredibly grateful to the fire services for their speedy response and clear expertise and bravery in tackling the blaze,” explained Managing Director Gauri das. “They have been both vigilant, courageous and extremely well mannered. We are also grateful to an off-duty police officer and two other lads, for jumping into action to clear the buildings and securing the site.

“The fire was devastating, however we are full of thanks to Lord Krishna that no-one got hurt, including the cows, and we will rebuild the barn”

The entire community and beyond have been hugely supportive. After the story of the fire reached the media, many devotees and well-wishers contacted the Manor to offer their sympathy and support.

A touching correspondence came from St Helen and St Katharine School in Abington as follows:

“We told our students who visited you last year and our Year 7 students who will be coming in November what happened. The girls are forgoing one cookie they would normally buy at school for their break time snack and are instead donating that money to help you rebuild. It won’t be a huge amount but we hope it will nevertheless be helpful. We will bring the funds with us when we come.”

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



## Eastbourne

When encouraging his disciples to share the teachings of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu in the West, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur (the spiritual master of Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada) specifically mentioned the town of Eastbourne, envisioning it as a suitable place to have Ratha Yatra.

Eastbourne? London we can understand...but why Eastbourne?

Before the Second World War, the town was arguably the most popular seaside resort for the higher classes in Britain. With its broad promenade and beautiful scenery, it was naturally a good choice for a Jagannath-Puri style Ratha Yatra.

Indeed, back in 1933 Bon Maharaj spoke about Caitanya Mahaprabhu to members of the Eastbourne Theosophical Society.

When Radha Mohan das recently visited the town, he decided to track down the location of where some of his public lectures took place. "I think it's important to make a record of our history while we still can, whilst the buildings still stand," he explained. "I did some detective work and discovered a building called the Deerfold Centre. Various spiritual gatherings still take place there today."



## Consciousness in Science

In modern society, philosophy and science seem worlds apart. There is a serious lack of cross-pollination and collaboration. That's why Bhaktivedanta Manor's science department was created in 2017; with the aim to bring together the abundance of knowledge from both fields of enquiry. Recently, Akhandadhi das was invited to a high-profile conference on religion and artificial intelligence.

Then came the Manor's annual Janmashtami festival. The science team once again prepared something spectacular. In previous years they have delved into the question of consciousness, and this year about 1200 pilgrims were treated to an interactive presentation on science and reincarnation - with many expressing an interest to get involved in this fresh new endeavour.

The biggest news is that the team, along with the Bhaktivedanta Institute for Higher Studies, will be jointly hosting the first devotee science conference in many years, in Florida this January.

For more information:

Website: [s-pi.org](http://s-pi.org)

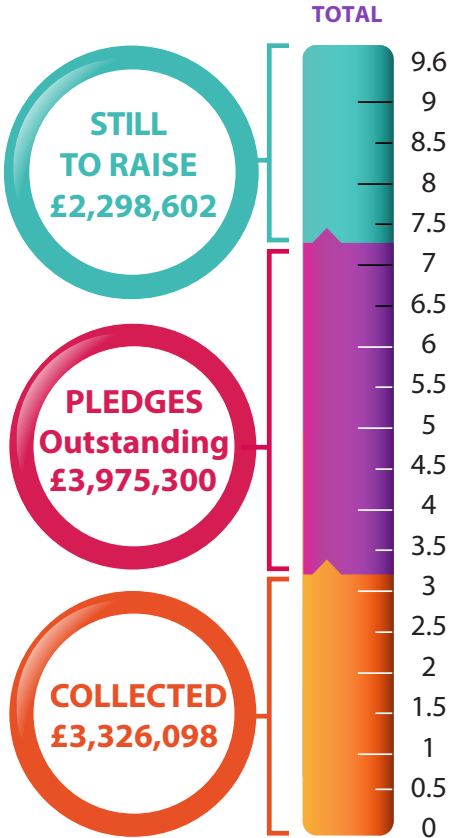


# SRI KRISHNA HAVELI PROJECT UPDATE



Construction work on Bhaktivedanta Manor’s new Haveli has begun and is in full swing with a date of completion for Janmashtami 2019.

- Foundations for the building have been laid.
- Steel structure of the second building now going up, first complete.
- Oak timber for reception now sourced
- Kitchen design and equipment finalised
- Audio video system and lighting design concluded
- Work on the ramps and stairwells leading from Haveli to the temple have begun
- Underground waste pumping station being installed
- New Power Station to be installed





- Our Heartfelt thanks to all who have pledged their support for this historic project.
- A further £2.3 million is required.
- We need another 154 families to give just £4 a day for 10 years.
- Alone we can do little, together with Krishna's grace we can do so much.

*Make a Difference*  
give £4 per day, to get us rest of the way

To contribute towards the Shree Krishna Haveli, Contact Vaisnava das:  
haveli@krishnatemple.com - 07907 809 006 - [www.krishnatemple.com/haveli](http://www.krishnatemple.com/haveli)





## THE GITA WALK WALK IT - TALK IT - LIVE IT

The vibrant community of Bhaktivedanta Manor underwent another exciting fund-raising project. A 7-mile "Gita Walk" took place on Sunday 16th September, starting from the Krishna Avanti School in Edgware and ending at the Manor.

The sponsored charity walk raised funds to take Bhaktivedanta Manor another step closer to fulfilling its dream. The Shree Krishna Haveli buildings will provide facilities to bring communities together for cultural activities, education

and spiritual rejuvenation for present and future generations.

Each participant in the Gita Walk represented a verse from the sacred text Bhagavad Gita As it Is. The aim of the organisers was to give all participants the opportunity to support the project by raising as many funds as they can, whilst also getting fit and having a devotional experience. The event raised nearly £130,000.