

# BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

February 2019



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

**RECORD NUMBERS  
REACH THE DOORSTEPS!**



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



### Srila Prabhupada:

The duty of a brahmana is to culture the quality of forgiveness, which is illuminating like the sun. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Hari, is pleased with those who are forgiving  
*Srimad Bhagavatam*  
9.15.40



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## RECORD NUMBERS REACH THE DOORSTEPS!

The annual Book Distribution Winter Marathon, entitled “Following His Footsteps – Reaching the doorsteps” was a resounding success and reached the suburbs like never before!

Highlights over the month included:

1. Over 400 devotees took part
2. Over 100 children took part
3. 57 30-volume sets of Srimad Bhagavatam distributed
4. 32 such sets were distributed during a 3-day Bhagavatam lecture programme.
5. More than 4000 packets of prasadam (sanctified food) were distributed.
6. 70 new contacts were collected
7. Book Distribution results:
8. A grand total of 65,005 of Srila Prabhupada’s books were distributed
9. Devotees knocked on a total of 56,286 doors!

The top three scoring groups in the

community were the Bhakti Vriksha, Pandava Sena and the Bhaktivedanta Manor Foundation (BMF). The top individuals were Guru Shakti Dasi, Bhaktia Arun and Nishkinchan Chaitanya Das.

“These transcendental books were distributed door to door, shop to shop, street to street, phone to phone, school to school, business to business, prisons, care homes, hospitals, libraries and many more places,” explained head of Congregational Book Distribution, the enthusiastic Divya Nama das.

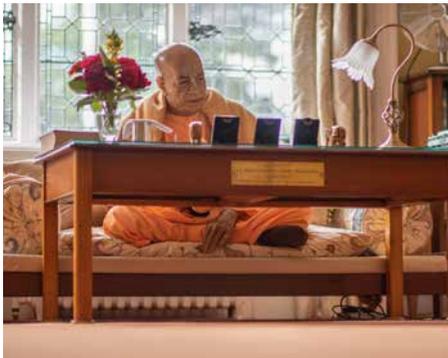
“We would like to express our gratitude to Visvambhar das and Sutapa das for their constant encouragement and empowerment.”



## Srila Prabhupada's rooms

After serious concerns were raised about the security of Srila Prabhupada's rooms at Bhaktivedanta Manor, the Temple Management have forged a new policy: when open, the rooms must be supervised, and everyone is asked not to cross the roped-off areas or touch anything that belongs to Srila Prabhupada.

There is now a weekly rota of devotees who supervise the rooms. The Temple would like to make the rooms as accessible as reasonably possible, and at present the opening times are:



Mondays 2:30pm to 5:00pm

Tuesday till Friday 10:00am to 2:00pm

Sundays from 7:30am for the whole day.

The rooms are also open every morning from 5:20am to 6:55am for chanting.

If you would like to offer some of your spare time and put yourself on the rota, especially on Saturdays, please contact either:

Trinadapi das:  
trinadapi@krishnatemple.com

Jagat Priya dasi:  
jagatpriya@krishnatemple.com

## Bhakti The Future Retreat

Krishna Wisdom collaborates with the directors of Jivamukti Yoga



Who could've imagined that in middle of the Christmas holidays over 45 inspired guests came to Bhaktivedanta Manor to learn how to live a more fulfilled life through Bhakti. Krishna Wisdom was absolutely honoured to collaborate with Emma Henry, one of the directors of Jivamukti Yoga and Radhika Ranjana das, the managing director of Kirtan London. Together we created an experience for people called "Bhakti the Future", which consisted of Yoga, a workshop based on Bhakti-Rasamrita-Sindhu, Krishna Prasad and of course lots of Kirtan, which everyone loved! Next year they won't have to book the village hall anymore as they'll be able to hold these retreats within the Shree Krishna Haveli. Exciting indeed!



## UN Advisor gives Environment Presentation

Gopal Lila das made a special presentation at Bhaktivedanta Manor about the global environment and the role religious communities can play in helping to tackle some major challenges. All devotees were welcome to attend, but Gopal's focus was the devotees of ISKCON Educational Services (IES). "Hinduism and the Environment are on various exam board specification for GCSE and A Levels," explained IES Manager, Tulsi Seva dasi. "The purpose of the presentation was to enhance our subject knowledge of the environment and ecology, and enhance awareness of projects surrounding the issue."

Gopal Lila das serves as Director of the Bhumi Project, an international



environmental initiative based at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and working in partnership with the US-based non-profit GreenFaith. He also serves as an Advisor to the Parliament of the World's Religions, and is on the Advisory Council of the United Nations Religion and Development Task Force.

## Harry Krishna!

The Sun, the most popular tabloid newspaper in the UK, featured Prince Harry and his wife Meghan on the front cover with the headline "Harry Krishna" after the Prince revealed that he meditates daily.

Whilst he is probably not chanting the mahamantra, it was nice for the British press to make the connection between meditation and and Hare Krishna.

The following day the Daily Telegraph followed up on the story entitled "Harry Krishna- - how meditation went mainstream, by Royal Appointment".

Prince Harry practises a form of Buddhist meditation. On a visit to a café and supermarket that sells discounted food to people on low

incomes, Harry & Meghan met a 69-year-old Buddhist monk. The monk gave Harry a copy of a book entitled 8 Steps to Happiness after the Prince told him that he meditates every day.





## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Anne Frank once said “No one has ever become poor by giving,” and the import of that is alive and well among the community of Bhaktivedanta Manor. Charity or dana is a fundamental principle in the life of every devotee, an act never to be given up, as stated by Shree Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita. So we owe thanks on this occasion for those in construction who have contributed their time and energy generously.

Thank you to Ethos Construction, along with Expert Electrical Dealers, Amazing Tiles, Klyn Stone, Vaspa Ltd, Sanjai Talsania, Karndean Flooring, St James Joinery and Pink Skips for the creation of a unique care facility annex at no cost to the temple. These facilities have

been created so that Sruti Dharma Das, and in future temple members who require care and respite, have a place at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Thank you to Jaysam Contractors Ltd who are presently upgrading practically all doors and installing new doorways in the main temple building to comply with fire regulations at no cost to the temple.

Thank you to RDG Electrical who are upgrading the entire electrics of the main temple building to comply with regulations at no cost to the temple.

Thank you also to Savita Kapoor, interior designer, for designing our Vaikuntha Guest Room at no cost to the temple.





## CONSCIOUSNESS IN SCIENCE 2019 CONFERENCE

The weekend of 18th-20th January marked the first Consciousness in Science 2019 (CS19) conference in Gainesville, Florida, hosted by the Bhaktivedanta Institute for Higher Studies (BIHS). The opening ceremony at the University of Florida's Harn Museum saw a total of 400 consciousness and science enthusiasts enjoying an inauguration by the Mayor of Gainesville, followed by keynote talks from eminent scientists, Professor Stuart Hameroff and Brenda Dunne.

After a remarkable start to the event, the conference retreated to the tranquil and historic Thomas Centre for two days of lively talks and breakout discussion groups. 20+ countries were represented from six continents, with some travelling from as far away as Australia, India and Russia. It included a broad array of highly esteemed guests, including 50 devotee scholars holding a PhD or MSc qualification.

The range of specialties presented by devotee scholars at the conference

was encouraging, providing attendees with a renewed enthusiasm to go deeper in connecting with sastra and science. Scientists, philosophers of science and Vedic scholars brought to their attention topics ranging from the gunas and consciousness research, to quantum physics and metallurgy, all the way to DNA, medicine, psychiatry and astrophysics. Tears, laughter and synergy abounded as they heard touching contributions from those devotees who were in close relationship with the late bedrocks of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Swami, and Sadaputa dasa.

The Science & Philosophy Initiative (SPi) - would like to extend an enormous thank you to Bhaktivedanta Manor for sponsoring Ramananda das to travel to the conference and present his paper on Biology, Life & Information. Visit <https://www.consci19.org/> to view the conference proceedings online, and please keep a lookout for news on how to connect and get involved.



## Huge Film Crew at the Manor

No less than 3 large trucks, 15 cars, 5 vans and a crew of 40 descended on Bhaktivedanta Manor to film around the neighbouring village and other local areas.

“None of the crew had been before and knew little about us,” explained host Devaki dasi. “Each one was given a book and explanations about our spiritual practices.

“Inspired by our hospitality and love, they left us a generous donation in return.”



## Charity album excels in the charts

Musician Jayadev das contributed to a charity recording in aid of the huge fires in California.

Both songs on the album included Krishna’s and Rama’s names. Album Tears Aren’t Enough reached number 2 on the American chart, Music Work.

This March he will be releasing his first Dance single entitled A Tribute to Ganesh. It includes a rap performed by his granddaughter Syama Gauri, explaining the hierarchical position of Lord Ganesh.



## Captivating Festive Panto

The Bhaktivedanta Players are quickly gaining a reputation for performing first class pantomimes live in the Manor’s theatre. In the middle of the Christmas season, they had their audience captivated by their ‘Krishna-conscious’ parody of the tradition tale of Aladdin.

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



## Retreats for cancer patients

Janakinath das organised and facilitated a wellbeing day retreat in December. The aim of this was to give Krishna Consciousness to corporate professionals and raise money to organise retreats for cancer patients to experience the joy of Krishna Consciousness as they battle with cancer.

The attendees were kept engaged throughout learning yoga, meditation, Krishna Consciousness philosophy and of course they enjoyed the sumptuous prasadam.

The event's success was exhibited through the positive feedback given and collecting £450 in donations. He is now planning to use this money to do another retreat for Cancer patients.

For more information:

[janakinathdas.cms@gmail.com](mailto:janakinathdas.cms@gmail.com)



## Living with Gratitude, Giving with Compassion

The temple devotees often gather to hear the latest community news, and take part in workshops, discussions and exercises based on developing various themes.

The theme for Bhaktivedanta Manor this year was revealed as "Living with Gratitude, Giving with Compassion"

Devotees broke into groups to discuss how they could imbibe these values into their lives and in the temple.



## Avanti Nights

Monthly events at Avanti House Secondary School, Stanmore hosted by the PS Alumni with the aim to connect the wisdom and values of Krishna Consciousness to the children and adults within the Avanti community and wider.

Our last Avanti Nights was another successful event with a presentation on Conscious Parenting by HH Sivarama Swami. The young kids were entertained with a magic show and party games and Govindas catering, provided a delicious

warm dinner for the 350 guests that came.

These events provide an ideal platform to network and make new friendships, or deepen those that exist. Our children will adopt the values and habits of those whom they associate with. Avanti Nights helps to produce an atmosphere of care, fun and creativity, from which children get a chance to find their full potential and become self-aware.

Our next event will be on:  
Saturday 9th March 4-7pm.

For tickets visit [avanti.org.uk/events](http://avanti.org.uk/events)

## 4 YEAR OLD RECITES THE GITA

A single, divine conversation transformed a devastating ancient war into the most enduring historical cases of the triumph of the human spirit.

The conversation subsequently became the Bhagavad Gita and the observance of its anniversary is known as Gita Jayanti. Two resident monks facilitated Bhaktivedanta Manor's annual event: Radha Govinda das conducted the Sanskrit recital and Sutapa das made the commentaries.

The highlight however was when 4 year old Vedant from Norwich recited the 12th Chapter by himself!

"Around 700 people took part on site, with another 500 people online," explained Vaishnava Sarvabhauma das, Head of the Bhaktivedanta Manor Foundation (BMF)

"And no less than 2000 copies of the Bhagavad Gita were sponsored from the event,"



## Pilgrimage to India

An opportunity of a lifetime pilgrimage to the Indian holy places of Vrindavan, Jagannatha Puri and Mayapur took place last December. The pilgrimage was arranged by His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami. Over 100 devotees from 15 nations worldwide participated, with almost 40 devotees coming from the UK alone.

The spiritual trip afforded everyone an opportunity to visit the many sacred places that depict the glorious and historical pastimes of Shri

Radha Krishna and Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

On arrival to the three holy dhams, every single pilgrim was greeted warmly by enthusiastic resident devotees singing the holy names of Krishna (kirtan) with folded hands. The pilgrims were also offered fresh garlands and refreshments. "The trip was so successful that a similar pilgrimage is planned in December this year, and is open to anyone!" explained Krishna Govinda das.

For more information: Ram Charan das: [rcdas.bcs@gmail.com](mailto:rcdas.bcs@gmail.com)





## Baby Bhagavatam Sanga

This baby/toddler group for 0-5 yr olds has been running at Bhaktivedanta Manor for seven years now.

The aim has been to nurture a love for the sacred stories of the cream of the Vedas - the Srimad Bhagavatam.

The children embark on a journey of sensory music, adventurous stories, singing rhymes, captivating philosophy and magical colours as they enter the world of bhakti.

It's a hub for mothers to bond with their babies, connect with a circle of other like-minded mothers, and most

importantly to develop a positive attachment to Lord Krishna and all the other characters of the Bhagavatam.

All parents with their little ones are welcome to join them every term-time Monday 9.30am-10.30am at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Contact Vrinda Kishori Devi Dasi for more info: 07951707206 / Vijayata.108@gmail.com

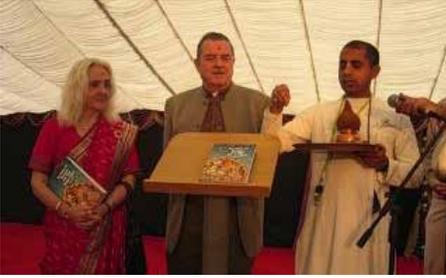
Also check out their SoundCloud recordings for a taster:

[www.soundcloud.com/vrinda-kishori-devi-dasi/sets/vrinda-lali-bhagavatam-stories](http://www.soundcloud.com/vrinda-kishori-devi-dasi/sets/vrinda-lali-bhagavatam-stories)

## Mauritian Radio

As people prepared for the New Year, Radha Mohan das spoke live on Mauritian national radio about Srila Prabhupada, Vedic culture and the support ISKCON receives from the Indian diaspora around the world.





## Manor campaigner passes away

We are sad to announce that Cathy Ward passed away at the end of November due to a stroke. Cathy was the wife of former councillor Frank Ward, and she accompanied him in successfully fighting to keep Bhaktivedanta Manor open for public worship in the 80s and 90s. Their daughter, Claire, was MP for Watford from 1997 – 2010 and was also a great supporter. Indeed, the Ward family have remained very close to the temple, attending festivals or dropping by with their grandchildren.



## Smita Passes Away

Smita Rao passed away on 25th January after battling with lung cancer and also pneumonia. She was a committed volunteer for Radharani's Bakery for over 25 years. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.



## “Hero of British Book Distribution” passes away

His Grace Kaliyaphani Das sadly passed away on 3rd January. He was born in Surrey and attended a respectable private school. He joined ISKCON in 1975 at the age of 22, being initiated by Srila Prabhupada in the same year. “At the time, England was one of the top book distribution countries,” recalls Adikarta Das. “He was the rock on which the great British book distribution army was built.” Kaliyaphani then served at Chaitanya College, always doing the needful as a true gentleman.

He had many talents: A wonderful orator, a great actor, script writer, a kirtan leader and he also had a big taste for harinama street processions.

In the early 1980s, Kaliyaphani went to New Mayapur, France, where he served as an ashram teacher at their school. In the early 2000’s he moved to the Alachua community in Florida. He was also an expert arborist and took care of all the hundreds of trees there, as well as at Bhaktivedanta Manor. He also often worked with the younger generation of devotees – from children, to teenagers, to young adults – many of whom saw him as a mentor and friend.



## SHREE KRISHNA HAVELI PROJECT UPDATE



Construction of the Shree Krishna Haveli is progressing steadily, and though the project is slightly behind schedule, the construction company, Vascroft, have re-assured us that the handover of the building will take place in August this year, just in time for the Janmashtami festival.

To complete the Shree Krishna Haveli, we have secured a £5 million loan to

cover the cost of construction. We have collected £4.2 million in donations with a further £3.7 million pledged, leaving a shortfall of £1.6 million. This will be the largest project in the history of Bhaktivedanta Manor. We need everyone's support to repay this loan for establishing the Shree Krishna Haveli at Bhaktivedanta Manor.



# YOUR INVESTMENT NEEDED

**PROJECTED COST £9.6 MILLION**

**DONATIONS  
RECEIVED  
£4,219,408**

**PLEDGES  
OUTSTANDING  
£3,750,716**

**SHORTFALL  
£1,629,876**

**WE ARE NEARLY THERE**

**ONLY 108 FAMILIES NEEDED**

**INVEST £4 A DAY - HELP BUILD SHREE KRISHNA HAVELI**  
for 10 years

**LEAVE A LEGACY TODAY - MAKE HISTORY**

**WE HAVE SECURED A LOAN OF £5 MILLION FROM THE BANK, AGAINST THE TEMPLE  
AND IT'S ASSETS, ENSURING CONSTRUCTION DOES NOT STOP**

Donate online at: [www.krishnatemple.com/haveli](http://www.krishnatemple.com/haveli) | [haveli@krishnatemple.com](mailto:haveli@krishnatemple.com) | 07907 809 006



## Royal honour awarded to Temple Trustee

Navin Krishna Das (Nitesh Gor) a trustee of Bhaktivedanta Manor and CEO of Avanti Trust was awarded an OBE by Prince William in Buckingham Palace, in acknowledgement of his services to education with the Avanti Schools Trust. The Trust now have about 2700 students and 250 members of staff across a family of 6 schools, with two more schools in the pipeline.

## Remembering the Holocaust

Guru Carana Padma Dasi and Kripa Moya Das joined local dignitaries and school children on a procession down Bushey High Street, carrying lanterns in remembrance of the World War 2 Holocaust and others acts of genocide in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The journey culminated at Bushey Academy where there was a function with readings, music and prayers.



## Delegation from the Israeli Embassy

Vivian Aisen, the Director and Public Diplomacy at the Israeli Embassy in London, and Christina Jones, the Assistant its Inter-Communal Affairs came to Bhaktivedanta Manor to gain a further understanding of our faith. As part of their role, they meet with other communities to develop a deeper understanding of other's faiths through knowledge and understanding and areas of mutual interest.