

BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

February 2020



International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Founder Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



**PRIME
MINISTER
VISITS
TEMPLE**

CONTENTS



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

Prime Minister Visits Temple	1
Prime Minister praises Bhaktivedanta Manor.....	3
Coming Closer to Krishna	4
Gita Jayanti in the Shri Krishna Haveli.....	5
MP makes oath using Bhagavad-gita.	5
Initiation	6
Holy Name Weekend	6
A Christmas Carol with a kirtan	6
Radha Krishna Deaf Association's global reach	7
Mantra Crew scales US Dance Chart	7
Maha Mantra re-enters Abbey Road Studios.....	7
Winter Book Marathon	9
Following up on book distribution contacts	9
Smiling Souls	10
Little Avanti launched	11
ISKCON Law holds first Global Conference ...	11
The Manor School enters exciting phase.....	12
Pandava Sena Mentorship Retreat 2020	13
Shree Krishna Haveli project update.....	14
Omnom	16



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

© 2020, All articles & photographs
copyright of Bhaktivedanta Manor





British Prime Minister praises Bhaktivedanta Manor during visit

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson made an impromptu visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor.

He was taken through the £10 million Sri Krishna Haveli, a multi-purpose community facility, which is nearly complete. He was given a traditional welcome of Sanskrit mantra ceremony. Then, together with devotees, neighbours, local dignitaries and community representatives, the PM was led to the beautiful temple room. The Prime Minister spoke to the

congregation and guests of his respect for the community and its values.

“I am inspired by the work of this Temple and the community here. It is not only a place of great spirituality of course, it attracts hundreds of thousands of people and the Manor brings all sorts of people together. It is wonderful to see this Haveli, which is almost complete.”

“Bhaktivedanta Manor is place of worship and spiritual education,” explained Vinay Tanna, Head of Communications at the Temple. “Therefore is not affiliated with any particular political party. However we respect and honour all who want to visit here, at any time.”

Coming Closer to Krishna

Temple President launches this year's theme

Visakha Dasi has now been warmly welcomed as the new Temple President of Bhaktivedanta Manor.

She is well known in the international devotee community for the time she spent as Srila Prabhupada's photographer and as an avid writer for Back to Godhead magazine. In recent years, she has been assisting her husband, Yadubara Das, in producing the award-winning film, Hare Krishna! The Mantra, the Movement and the Swami Who Started It All. Her book, "Five Years, Eleven Months and a Lifetime of Unexpected Love: A Memoir", which depicts her time spent with Srila Prabhupada, has also received great reviews.

"The theme for the Temple community this year is 'Coming Closer to Krishna', " she explained during the first Manor update-meeting of the year. It was attended by residents and staff members.

She asked those present what they felt they needed and expected from a Temple President. "What came out overwhelmingly was their need for unity



in our large and diverse community," Visakha Dasi explained. "They would like to see devotees of all ages, nationalities, races, genders, and backgrounds overlook these superficial differences and serve Krishna together. With this devotional mood we can all come closer to Krishna and enhance our community's unity.

"I remember the first pandal [tent] programme that Srila Prabhupada's disciples organised in 1971. It was in Bombay, lasted 10 days, and was attended by 10,000 people each night and 20,000 on the weekends. On the final Sunday, an ISKCON devotee couple were married on stage - - one was from Australia and the other from Sweden. Srila Prabhupada remarked, "This is the real United Nations!" and in response 20,000 people cheered. It was incredible; the sound was tumultuous!"

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



Gita Jayanti in the Shri Krishna Haveli

On Sunday 22nd December, in the new Sri Krishna Haveli building, 600 people were seated comfortably in its function hall to celebrate the anniversary of when Krishna spoke the Gita. Almost 2,000 Gitas were sponsored

by the community. The event featured recitation of the Gita verses by Navadvip Candra das, with explanations given by Kripa Moya das. They were assisted by talented musicians.

Member of Parliament makes oath using Bhagavad-gita.



After successfully being re-elected for a fourth time in a row to represent Harrow East in December, Bob Blackman MP broke new grounds in the House of Commons debating Chamber.

During the ceremony where newly elected MPs make an oath to serve the people, Mr Blackman made a special request to hold a copy of the Bhagavad Gita As It Is, as well as holding the traditional King James Bible.



Initiation

Initiation means the beginning of something. In spiritual life, it refers to the beginning of a new stage of spiritual practice where one enters into a student-teacher relationship. Srila Prabhupada offered two initiations to his disciples; the first was given when they had reached a level of stability in their daily meditation on the maha-mantra; and the second when, through that chanting, they had become ‘spiritually purified.’



When devotees decide to receive initiation into ISKCON, it means he or she not only promises to follow certain regulatory principles, chant the Hare Krishna maha-mantra at least 1728 times a day, but they also commit to the mission and values of ISKCON.

So far this year, initiation ceremonies have been performed by Kadamba Kanana Swami and Kripa Moya das, which attracted candidates and well-wishers from across the UK and Europe to Bhaktivedanta Manor.



Holy Name Weekend

The annual Holy Name Weekend at Bhaktivedanta Manor was on 12th January this year. It was an evening of blissful kirtan with Sivaram Maharaj, Sacinandanda Maharaj, Madhava das, Jahnava Jivana dasi and others talented singers and musicians.



A Christmas Carol with a kirtan

For their winter pantomime, last December the Bhaktivedanta Players performed a hilarious parody of the classic Dickens’ tale, “A Christmas Carol”. Although it embraced the jovial style that is characteristic of the season, the script used the ethical teachings in the original story to promote Krishna.



Radha Krishna Deaf Association's global reach

Tatina Zlaya is a deaf person who began her journey in Krishna Consciousness six years ago. A friend encouraged her to attend an ISKCON temple in Germany. Despite many fantastic experiences there, she struggled to find a competent interpreter, so she went to Vrindavan, India, to pray for help. Very soon afterwards, she met three UK members of the Radha Krishna Deaf Association. She also met Samir Munshi, who set up the Hare Krishna Deaf Community India (HKDCI). Now Tatina is progressing nicely in learning Vaishnava Sign Language, and plans to reach out to deaf communities in Europe and Russia.

Twitter: @rkdaUK

Youtube: Hare Krishna Deaf



The Maha Mantra re-enters Abbey Road Studios

In July 1969, George Harrison produced the Radha Krishna Temple album with the first group of devotees in London.

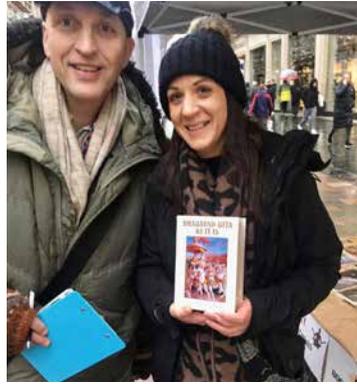
50 years later, in December 2019, a group of devotees are back in the iconic Abbey Road Studios to record the Maha Mantra once again. The producer is a highly accomplished, award-winning musician and producer, who shares spiritual interests and also works with Sir Paul McCartney.

The devotee kirtan group worked all day with youth and the producer's team on a colourful collaboration of styles and instruments, with the Maha Mantra in the centre. The tracks will be released to the public in due course.

Mantra Crew song scales heights of US Dance Chart

Following on from the number one dance hit "Ganesh" last year, the latest single released by Jayadev's Mantra Crew is "Let's Go!" The catchy track stood at number one in the US Dance Chart for the first two weeks of the year. The chart is compiled through votes.





Rise Above and Go Beyond Winter Book Marathon

Every December, the entire ISKCON world focuses fully on the distribution of transcendental literature, something we all know was so close to Srila Prabhupada's heart. Indeed, he said it gave him life. When a new book was printed, Prabhupada felt as though he had conquered an empire. He told one disciple – "the best of me is in my books."

The theme of the Winter Book Marathon is "Rise Above & Go Beyond" (Every Home, Every Soul, Make That Our Goal).

Within the Bhaktivedanta Manor community, no less than 270 adults and 120 children got involved in one or more of the following forms of book distribution:

- Door to Door
- Supermarkets

- GoMatsya (distributing the multi-volume Bhagavatam)
- Sacred Street Party (high streets)
- Wisdom Sponsorship
- Children's Sankirtan
- Shop to Shop
- Travelling Sankirtana Party

Bhaktivedanta Manor community distributed a grand total of 71,075 books in just one month. "Our meditation was to build relationships with people through Srila Prabhupada's books, thus connecting them to the wonderful process of Krishna Consciousness," said head of Manor book distribution Divyanama das.

Get involved, contact:

divyanama@krishnatemple.com

antaranga@krishnatemple.com

Facebook: [flyingbooks108](https://www.facebook.com/flyingbooks108)



Following up on book distribution contacts

Antaranga das, organised a special day to receive first-time guests. The guests included those who had met devotees during the winter book distribution marathon, and were eager to learn more.



Smiling Souls

Smiling Soul is a newly-formed not for profit organisation inspired by Janakinath das' battle with cancer. It uses principles from the ancient Indian scriptures to create a practical toolkit that can be applied to overcome personal difficulties.

The most recent retreat organised at Bhaktivedanta Manor attracted over 50 enthusiastic participants, many of whom were there for the first-time.

The retreats will be run monthly at the Manor and at OmNom in Islington - with the aim of building a close community of people from diverse backgrounds.

janakinathdas.cms@gmail.com





Little Avanti launched

Little Avanti day nursery was established to nurture children (aged 2-5) physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually, so they can enjoy the wonders of childhood, immerse themselves in nature, and flourish as joyful and eager learners for life.

It will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework; however, to ensure that learning can truly be unconstrained and child-led, Little Avanti is not restricted to any specific pedagogy or curriculum.

Little Avanti already has two local branches in beautiful settings: in Aldenham Country Park and Stanmore Recreation Ground.

More information: littleavanti.org.uk



ISKCON Law Department holds first Global Conference

In January, thirty devotee attorneys, jurists and law students hailing from around the world attended the 2020 ISKCON Global Conference of Devotee Attorneys in Gainesville, Florida. The term “devotee attorney” refers to any devotee or friend of Krishna, who is an attorney, jurist or law student.

The dual purpose of the Conference was (1) to enable devotee attorneys from around the world to get acquainted in an atmosphere of collegiality and devotion to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna, and (2) to develop an integrated network of legal service providers, capable of meeting the 21st century needs of ISKCON and its devotees. The ISKCON Law Department is intended to make sound and timely legal advice available to ISKCON decision-makers at the temple, zonal and GBC levels.

Vinay Tanna, from Bhaktivedanta Manor’s Communications Team, represented the UK.

The Manor School enters exciting new phase

The Gurukula, the Manor's Primary School, has been formed by the selfless sacrifice of many devotees like Mother Guru, Mother Moksha and Mother Dantasya who have given countless years and commitment to establish it. Now 30 years on the Gurukula is taking on some changes in order to keep on thriving. One of the most fundamental of those being that it is transitioning to becoming an independent charity, while still remaining in partnership with the Manor, by doing so more energy and resources can be committed to developing the school further.

This past academic year the students achieved the best results in the history of the school and all the students typically go on to very good local schools to carry on with their academics, while still engaging and developing their Krishna Consciousness.

The Gurukula is unique in that the classes are small and as state schools do, they follow the National



Curriculum, however they have a focus on developing the children's relationship with Krishna. This is done by having a faith and nurture curriculum and having teachers who are qualified and who are devotees.

www.bhaktivedantamanorschool.co.uk



SCHOOL of BHAKTI

This year marks the launch of the "School of Bhakti". Previously known as the College of Vedic Studies, it has entered a new and exciting phase with

a growing and diverse team, enhanced facilities and fascinating new courses. Based in the new classrooms within the Sri Krishna Haveli, their friendly, down-to-earth tutors will be sharing empowering wisdom and impactful spiritual techniques with modern-day seekers.

Through practical philosophy, lifestyle, culture and spiritual activity, the School facilitates a journey that will inspire and transform the student on every level.

www.schoolofbhakti.com



Pandava Sena Mentorship Retreat 2020

The Pandava Sena held a four-day Mentorship Retreat in Buckland Hall, Wales, which attracted 150 devotees of all ages from across the UK.

It was an opportunity for devotees to relish each-other's association, engage in workshops, seminars learn how to engage in Krishna Consciousness in a practical way, enhance the community,

chant and dance together, and take in the Welsh countryside.

Extra special guest Sacinandana Swami provided tips and a deeper understanding of the topic "building a stronger community" and Sutapa das spoke on understanding how to be sensitive within the community. The retreat was concluded with an incredible dance drama organised by Vrinda Kishori and her beautiful daughter Nayika Gopi



SHREE KRISHNA HAVELI PROJECT UPDATE



The Haveli is almost complete - just the final touches are left. The new Krishna Lila Playground is also almost complete. The pathways and pavements surrounding the main Manor building have been relaid with traditional clay brick-paving in keeping with the character of the Manor building and estate as a whole.

We would like to inform you that the festivities for the grand opening of the Sri Krishna Haveli will take place from the 7th till 9th of March. The opening is scheduled as a three day event concluding on the Monday 9th of March, the appearance of Lord Chaitanya and Holika Dahan, with a fireworks display.



YOUR INVESTMENT NEEDED

PROJECTED COST £9.6 MILLION

**DONATIONS
RECEIVED
£5,524,820**

**PLEDGES
OUTSTANDING
£3,738,164**

**SHORT
FALL
£337,016**

WE ARE ALMOST THERE

ONLY 23 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 | haveli@krishnatemple.com | 07907 809 006



Members of Pandava Sena Alumni undertook a momentous project over four years ago, with the vision to promote wellbeing, through healthy eating, authentic yoga, mantra meditation and mindfulness on the high street. With tremendous support from the wider community, the OMNOM restaurant has been designed, built and delivered to an incredible standard. Set up as a charity, OMNOM will also feed a needy child abroad for every meal served.

Opening its first UK flagship branch, a 4,500 sq ft unit in Islington, OMNOM is dedicated to harmonising mind, belly

and soul. The OMNOM brand presents a unique collaboration for wellness, encapsulating a modern-day approach to eating and wellbeing, whilst building a community of change which appeals to yogis and foodies alike.

OMNOM will hold daily yoga classes, wellness events, workshops, and drop-in sessions, that enable guests to gain a greater understanding of the self and their divine connection.

Find them: Omnom, Unit G5, 116N Upper St, Square, Islington, London N1 1QP

www.omnom.com