

BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

April 2017



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



Music till Moonrise
for Mahaprabhu



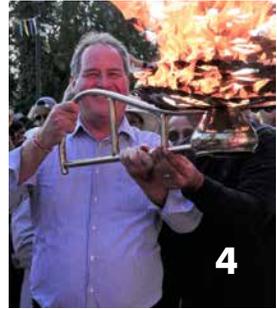
Srila Prabhupada:

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

8

Initiating the spiritual journey of life



10

Veda London Courses

14

Synthesizing science with spirit



19

Pandava Sena mentorship retreat



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



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MUSIC TILL MOONRISE FOR MAHAPRABHU

In mid-March, the Manor celebrated Gaura Purnima, the advent of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who inaugurated the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra over 500 years ago.

The temple was packed with enthusiastic visitors for the morning services, with many staying until the late evening. Considering the prime importance Lord Chaitanya placed on chanting the names of God, it was apt that the day featured 24 hours of musical chanting.

The deities were dressed in beautiful outfits and the altar was similarly decorated. Senior disciples of Srila Prabhupada delivered a moving sermon on the wonderful activities of Lord Chaitanya, a sermon that was broadcast live on the internet with hundreds of viewers tuning in.

As is customary on this day, the musical chanting was shared with the public in London's West End. The devotees enjoyed singing in the rain, and many onlookers smiled as the music brought some warmth to an otherwise dreary day of rain.

A marquee hosted the evening entertainment, with the resident ladies showcasing a charming drama

about Lord Chaitanya's life. Then the Bhaktivedanta Players exhibited lively and interactive narrations of the activities of Lord Chaitanya, accompanied with actors and live music.

Since Lord Chaitanya's advent occurred on a full moon evening, devotees fasted till moonrise in remembrance of the Lord and ended the day with a lovely feast.





SUNSHINE HONOURS RAMANAVAMI CELEBRATIONS

In early April, the Manor celebrated Rama Navami, the advent of Lord Rama, an incarnation of God in the form of an ideal king. The observance took place over two days, midweek we observed Lord Rama's exact advent date, and a Sunday festival so that everyone could participate on the weekend.

The midweek observance highlights included a beautiful new outfit for the deities, with colourful fresh flowers beautifying the altar, as well as the ceremonial bathing of the deities. Shyamananda das, a visiting guest from Mumbai, delivered an excellent sermon, and, on a sunny afternoon, devotees celebrated with the people of Watford,

with a joyful musical procession through the high street.

The Sunday festival highlights included taking the deities on an elegant flowered swan procession around the scenic grounds of the Manor, as everyone showered flowers upon them whilst the Temple monks led a melodious kirtan. It was the warmest day of the year so far and that simply added to the atmosphere! The stage programme showcased a drama by the Bhaktivedanta Players on the heroic activities of Lord Rama and the faithfulness of his wife Sita. MPs and local Mayors were among the dignities present.



The Mayor of Hertsmere, Cllr Peter Rutledge took the opportunity to thank volunteers at the Manor saying, "it is their tireless work each time that helps bring the Indian community together on important festivals."

Member of Parliament Bob Blackman, who has been coming to the Manor for the last 30 years spoke with pride about his pleasure that the "temple's future is secure" thanks to the Haveli. Much of the Manor's success in getting this far with the Haveli is thanks to support from significant members of society.





Letting the Cows out

At the beginning of every spring, the devotees of New Gokul farm take great pleasure in letting out all the cows and bulls into the green pastures, after been largely confined to their barns during the winter. Due to the significance of cows and bulls in Vaishnava culture, there was a delightful celebration for this occasion. The small utsav deities of Radha-Gokulananda were escorted on a decorated bullock-cart across to the farm, as devotees serenaded with the Holy Names. Then, just before the cows and bulls were released, there was also a puja ceremony which included offerings made from the milk of the cows.



Madhu Passes away

In early March, at the age of 16, Madhu one of the Oxen born at Bhaktivedanta Manor passed away.

He was a very strong oxen and could always be relied on for demanding work that was needed. Madhu was used during festivals to pull visitors cars out of the mud, or when there was a JCB stuck down at Holland farm, it was Madhu who had to be called upon. He was an extremely humble and compliant oxen who worked mostly alongside his father, Sahadeva. They were always a favorite team for the bullworkers because of thier soft, gentle, compliant nature and thier strength.



Welcome Nandi

It's always a precious and treasured moment when a calf is born into the family here at Bhaktivedanta Manor and the birth of Nandi was no exception. At 6:00pm on 24th February, the auspicious day of Shiva Ratri, Anasuya gave birth to a healthy and vibrant baby boy. This was Anasuya's first calf and it was evident from the outset that she was a natural in her role as a mother. Nandi is 5th generation in a line of protected cows born here at Bhaktivedanta Manor.



New Deity Kitchen

The Manor's Deity kitchen, where quality foodstuffs are cooked before being directly offered to the Deities on the shrine, has been ceremoniously reopened after a complete renovation with new facilities. The project was overseen by the Patron Working Committee (PWC), built by Raj Gandesha and Raj Thakore, and designed by Neha Agarwal.



His Grace Bhajahari das

Bhajahari das, one of the early British disciples of Srila Prabhupada, passed away earlier this year. He joined ISKCON at the Bury Place Temple in London and became Temple President of Bhaktivedanta Manor on two occasions in the 1970s. He was particularly known for his dedication to the study and distribution of Srila Prabhupada's books and taking part in hari nama street processions .

Supporting Others

Every year Bhaktivedanta Manor sets aside £10,000 to assist other ISKCON projects in the UK and abroad.

The projects supported this year include:

Renovation of New Mayapur's Deity kitchen: The temple community in the south of France is completely renovating their dilapidated kitchen facilities for cooking for their Lordships. (£3000)

Solar panels for New Vraja Mandala, Spain: Installing solar panelling on roofs in order to save energy bills and allow the Temple to focus in other areas (£1000)



Africa and South America preaching: Enabling senior preachers to teach, enthuse and build up devotional communities there (£1000)



Srila Prabhupada Time-Line: Creating a mobile phone application and interactive website which will make information about the life and teachings of Srila Prabhupada easily accessible and more widespread. (£1000)

Hare Krishna Festivals UK: To hold indoor festivals across the UK, as well as Ratha Yatra festivals and hari namas processions (£4000)



INITIATING THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF LIFE

This first quarter, Bhaktivedanta Manor has hosted four wonderful initiation ceremonies. Initiation is a rite of passage constituting a lifetime commitment to specified spiritual standards.

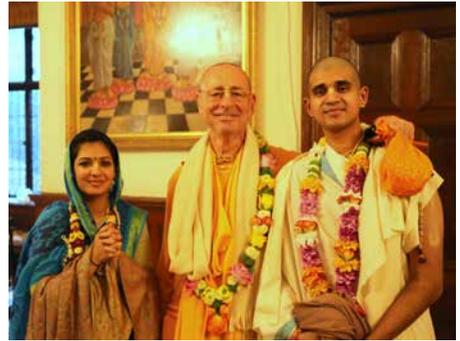
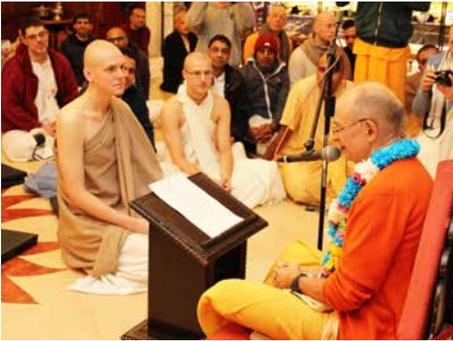
The commitment is made before a revered spiritual teacher, who, along with all visitors present, bestows blessings upon the initiate that they may be successful in their spiritual life. The spiritual teachers who graced these occasions were, His Holiness Sivarama Swami, His Holiness Bhakti Vijana

Goswami, His Holiness Saccinandana Swami, His Holiness Radhanath Swami and His Holiness Candramauli Swami.

Over 50 candidates, some from as far as Kuwait, took first initiation, which is a twofold commitment: first to daily chant the Hare Krishna mantra for around two hours, and secondly to follow the four regulative principles.

30 candidates also took second initiation, a commitment to strive to imbibe in one's life good qualities such as peacefulness, self-control and tolerance.







Avanti Court School officially opens in Redbridge

The official opening of Avanti Court Primary School in Redbridge was marked by the auspicious welcoming of Gaura Nitai deities.

A plaque signifying the occasion was unveiled by Srutidharma Das, Pranabandhu das and Jai Nitai das. After that there was a ceremonial cutting of a ribbon by the local Mayor Cllr Gurdial Bhambra and leader of Redbridge Council Cllr Jas Athwal.



Veda London Courses

Veda London brings to the workplace the secrets of how timeless spiritual wisdom can maximise the success of companies and employees. They organised an “Explore” course for city professionals, hosted at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The four-week course enables

professionals to enhance their spiritual practice and was taught by Chirag Ghelani LLB, a senior associate at a top city law firm.

Veda London also organised a seminar on the practical application of Vedic teachings for the present day. Hosted at the City of London office of finance company Schroders.



International Women's Day

In March, Bob Blackman MP hosted an event at the House of Commons to mark International Women's Day. The evening focused on celebrating inspirational women with a focus on the theme 'Be Bold for Change'. Representing ISKCON, Madhavi dasi and Braja Vadhu dasi attended the event.



MP lauds 40 years of community service

Bob Blackman MP and Lord Jitesh Gadhia organised an event in conjunction with Dr Lalit Sodha, celebrating 25 years of his chiropractic clinic. At the event, different awards were given to members of the community, with a focus on holistic healthcare, of which chiropractic is an important part.

During the function, Bhaktivedanta Manor's Temple President Srutidharma das received an award in recognition of his 40 years' service to the community. In his acceptance speech, Srutidharma mentioned how wholesome health requires three aspects: catering to physical, emotional and spiritual needs. He also explained that an important foundation for good health is some sort of personal spiritual practice such as meditation.



Holi celebrated at the Foreign Office

At the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Holi was celebrated for the first time. Alok Sharma MP, Minister for Asia, organised the festival at the famous Durbar Court. Other special guests included the Indian High Commissioner Mr Sinha and Srutidharma das. During his speech Srutidharma reminding everyone that Holi is a very important day, on which the advent of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is also celebrated.

Srutidharma then reflected on how for 79 years from 1868, important decisions about India had been made in that very place. At that time, little did the politicians know that 150 years later Holi would be celebrated in that very same building. More history was made, as the Hare Krishna mantra was heard and recited in the FCO for the first time during the Holi celebration.



SEARCHING FOR THE SPIRIT WITHIN

You've thought about taking out some time from your hectic lifestyle but don't know what to do or where to go? Well look no further, as the men's residence of Bhaktivedanta Manor's has got the perfect solution for you!

Sabbatical:

Brace yourselves, as you journey across the great land of India, in pursuit of spiritual awakening. Three months of inward journeys that can bring about transformation without the hassle of British weather.

Delve deeper into the exuberating loving atmosphere of Vrindavan where Krishna's activities come alive through in-depth tours of the holy place.

Discover the golden waves of devotion in Mayapur, as you move across the nine islands of Navadvip, where Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and His friends performed their activities.

Absorb yourself in the divine chants of the Jagannath Temple, where the delicious sacramental food will leave you wanting to return for more!

Bhakti Sastri:

A four-month course comprising teachings of the greatest saints that can help you dive into the depths of the Vedic scriptures. Experience 21st century monastic life and find your true self in an atmosphere bathed in spirituality. As

you familiarise yourself with the ancient texts, you will be able to share the knowledge to bring about transformations of the heart.

Veda Course:

Three astonishing months of profound knowledge from Vedic culture and education, allowing you to dwell in the ocean of spirituality. Go beyond the ordinary, as you focus on the secret gems of Eastern wisdom.





REJUVENATION AT UNIVERSITY RETREAT

100 students from 25 UK universities arrived for a day-long retreat at Bhaktivedanta Manor. Entitled 'Meditation 101', it was the second retreat of the year, helping students truly understand and find their inner spiritual potential through a mixture of seminars and workshops. Workshops included cow-milking, vegan cooking, yoga, kirtan, dance, and mantra meditation.

The cooking workshop demonstrated how vegan dishes can be both tasty and easy to make. Craig from The University of Nottingham said, "The best part of the workshop is that we can take what we have made back to university for lunch the next day."

Many students were given the unique opportunity to learn how to milk and take care of a cow. This was one experience during the day that no one had ever experienced before and certainly one that they were never going to be able to forget!

The kirtan workshop discussed the significance and power of mantra meditation, and how it differs from music they may listen to at university.

Students were given the opportunity to learn how to play the cymbals, harmonium and clay drum.

The highlight for many students was the play performed by the youth drama group, 'Something Spiritual'. Taking a light-hearted angle on meditation, the play was amusing, captivating and enlivening, leaving the audience in fits of laughter whilst conveying a thought-provoking





Krishna Consciousness and Science Synthesising Science with Spirit

By Ryan Bissett

Srila Prabhupada mentioned the word 'scientist' 206 times in his commentaries of the Srimad Bhagavatam. So what was his vision for science within ISKCON?

In 1974 Srila Prabhupada formed the Bhaktivedanta Institute to promote the Synthesis of Science and Spirituality. Today its Head Office is in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Now devotees are happy to announce that a new wing has been established in the UK, called Science-Philosophy initiative (SPi). Those affiliated so far include devotees from across England and Wales: Akhandadhi das (Philosophy and consciousness specialist), Kunal (Postdoctoral researcher in astrophysics), Vaishnava das (Postdoctoral researcher in cosmology), Yamini (PhD biophysics), Pradyumna das (PhD student in neurobiology) and Ryan (PhD parasitology).

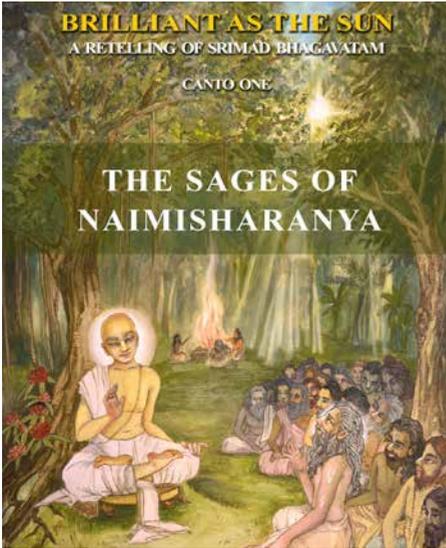
Their aim is to fulfil Srila Prabhupada's fervent desire to build a national- and international dynamic network of scientifically- and philosophically-

mindful devotees. They want to be in touch with those who are excited by the possibility of heading up their own part-time online research projects, or those who would like to keep up to date with our advancements, courses, educational materials, festival events etc.

If you're not a trained scientist and would like to help in another capacity, there are plenty of services involving website development, networking, festival- and event planning etc. SPi will be producing publications, video courses, apps, interdisciplinary communication systems. If you are already involved in a program to share KC with others, why not invite us along to add some science spice!

The late and great Sadaputa das, member of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, leaves us with some invaluable advice:

"...There exists a vast amount of evidence that supports the Vedic world view and contradicts the modern scientific world view. All we have to do is systematically gather this evidence and present it in a scholarly way."



The Sages of Naimisharanya

After giving us his popular retellings of Mahabharata and Ramayana, Krishna Dharma, along with his wife Chintamani dhama dasi, has embarked upon a similar treatment of the Srimad Bhagavatam. This time the work will be serialised into its separate cantos, and they have just published the first volume entitled 'The Sages of Naimisharanya'.

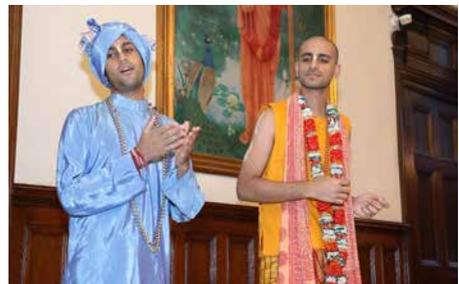
"Many people find the Bhagavatam challenging to read," says Krishna Dharma. "We have therefore tried to make it more accessible and hopefully understandable."

Like his other bestselling works, the book is a dramatic retelling which nevertheless adheres closely to the original text. Krishna Dharma explains, "We worked mostly from Srila Prabhupada's translation and purports, although we did also weave in some of the commentaries of other Acharyas."



New centre in Camden Town

Camden Town is arguably London's hippest part of London, attracting thousands of tourists daily. Food for All have been preaching there over the last 17 years and now they have managed to open a nice centre: A four story building just off the high street. They have daily prasada distribution, yoga classes and there are even plans to open a juice bar. The main thing feature however is the Friday evening gathering, which includes feasting, chanting and philosophy.



Nityananda Trayodasi

This year's Lord Nityananda Appearance Day celebrations included a drama by members of the men's Sabbatical and a huge Hari Nama street procession in central Watford.

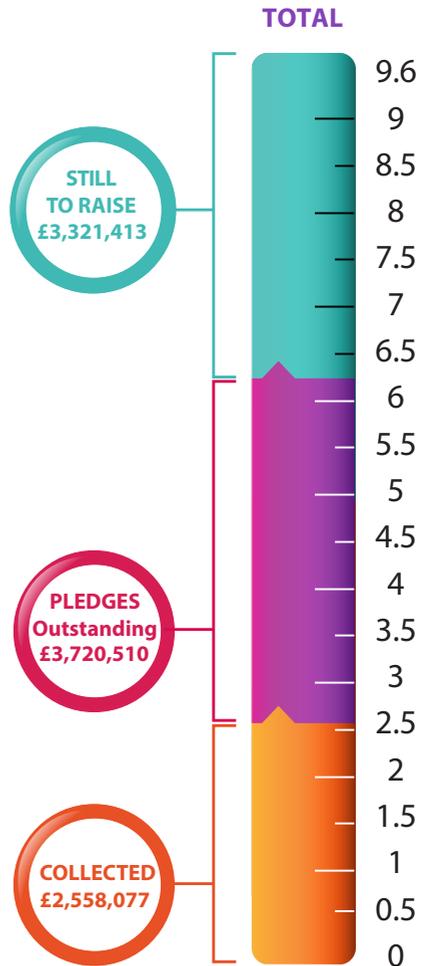
SRI KRISHNA HAVELI PROJECT UPDATE



Before site construction work on Bhaktivedanta Manor's new Haveli buildings can begin, some of our current services at Bhaktivedanta Manor's nursery, school, gift shop and bakery, to be relocated to different areas.

- The Primary School will be relocated to a temporary place while the haveli construction will be carried out. Building works for this is taking place at the moment.
- The Temporary nursery for the children is being fitted at the moment to house the children in the New Gokul farm.
- The new tulsi houses are also being fabricated and will be placed in the summer.
- The Poly tunnels used for growing Krishna's flowers have moved near the overflow car park.

We are receiving tenders from various companies and are currently looking through them. We should be in a position after finalising details to select one, to get the work on the actual Haveli buildings started before Janmashtami.





**Our Heartfelt thanks to all
who have pledged their support.**

A further £3.3 million is required.

**We need another ~~265~~ 222 families to
give £4 a day for 10 years.**

To contribute towards the Shree Krishna Haveli, Contact Vaisnava Sarvabhauma das:
haveli@krishnatemple.com - 07907 809 006 - www.krishnatemple.com/haveli





Soul Expressions with Radhanath Swami and Kirtan London

The Manor's Outreach team, called Krishna Wisdom, organised a special 'Soul Expressions' event with Radhanath Swami, which was a great success.

They were also joined by about 60 guests from 'Kirtan London' who visited the Manor on a day retreat. After various activities like milking cows, Q&A sessions with Kripamoya das, and seminars, they were joined by another 80 guests at the Soul Expressions evening.

The evening saw the temple room packed with over 140 new and regular guests singing along with Jahnavi and Ravi. The event MC was Radha

Govinda das who entertained the guests with wisdom and stories in between the singing. Radhanath Swami spoke wonderfully about the wisdom from his books 'The Journey Within' and 'The Journey Home'.

Feedback

"Radhanath Swami offered a joyful uplifting and insightful message and the kirtan [music] players Jahnavi and Ravi were awesome...kirtan for me works so naturally in the temple room. Best Wishes" - Lee

"I found the whole experience very overwhelming. Fantastic." - Debbie



Cooking Workshop

Krishna Wisdom, Bhaktivedanta Manor's Outreach program was back with another cooking retreat facilitated by cooking expert Mother Satya. During the workshop, guests got hands-on experience making tomato and tamarind rice, soya-mince samosas, cauliflower and pea samosas, cauliflower and pea curry, and puris. Satya also explained the importance of eating a healthy, non-violent diet that is favourable for spiritual practices.



Music Masterclass

It is a fascinating time for 'The College of Vedic Studies' (CVS) because several exciting new kirtan (music) training seminars have begun. It all started with a harmonium course last November, pioneered by Balaram Nityananda das, with about ten students. Sixty students enrolled on the Kartal (cymbals) course earlier this year, followed by a mridanga (clay-drum) course in March.

For more updates on kirtan training:
www.krishnacollege.co.uk



Pandava Sena Mentorship Retreat

The annual ISKCON Pandava Sena Mentorship Retreat, was once again held at Buckland Hall in the scenic mountains of South Wales. They were fortunate once again to be addressed by Sacinandana Swami, whom this year shared insights on the Srimad Bhagavatam and its ability to truly

transform one's life. This retreat was full of dynamic dramas, an entertaining quiz, as well as seminars and workshops on a range of subjects such as Ayurveda, mantra meditation and marriage. It's safe to say that the Mentorship Retreat is always the highlight of the year, bringing members together for spiritual nourishment, so they can subsequently share that wisdom and happiness with others.



Volunteers going the extra mile

Last year, as an offering to ISKCON's 50th Anniversary, over 85 volunteers offered an extra 50 hours of service at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The 50 hours were in addition to all the hours most of the volunteers already regularly perform.

As part of a special thank you evening, the Volunteers Coordinator Krishna Purna dasi and her team organised devotional entertainment for those volunteers who had made that special effort. Proceedings included a traditional dance, a drama about Srila Prabhupada arriving in America in 1965 and a song by Sakshi Gopal das.

Hertsmere Mayor Supports Gratitude

The Mayor of Hertsmere Cllr Peter Rutledge chose Gratitude as one of the local charities to receive Mayoral support, in the form of practical gifts. Founded by Japa Yajna das and Shantasya dasi, Gratitude works with locals to cook and serve free vegetarian meals at St Theresa's community hall in Borehamwood.



Atithi Devo Bhava

Honouring the Manor's guests and visitors

Last year Bhaktivedanta Manor was saturated with the theme of ISKCON's 50th Anniversary. This year the focus is the code of conduct known as Atithi Devo Bhava, meaning, 'An uninvited guest is worthy of the hospitality afforded to divinity'. It prescribes a dynamic of the host-guest relationship which embodies the values of service and hospitality. Devotees at Bhaktivedanta Manor are being reminded and encouraged to incorporate this principle into their everyday lives. There have been inspiring lessons during the monthly gatherings.

