

BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

December 2018



International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

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



Diwali Celebrations

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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



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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International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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

Bhaktivedanta Manor, Dharam Marg, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford Herts WD25 8EZ

Tel: 01923 851000 • info@krishnatemple.com • www.krishnatemple.com



Dear devotees

I have been serving at Bhaktivedanta Manor for almost four decades now. Over those years I embraced whatever services were given to me.

As you may know my health remains a challenge, it all came very unexpected and now it is taking most of my time and energy. As such I now have to resign as Temple President and Trustee of the temple. I ask for your prayers and whatever blessings I may have, I give them all with a humble generosity for the future.

I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the years of service you have performed, whether it be temple based or the wonderful projects outside of the temple premises. Without you all, Bhaktivedanta Manor would not be where it is today. We have an amazing family. Together we can preserve and build upon the fantastic progress we have made so far. Thank you all again for your cooperation and unity. Srila Prabhupada will be very pleased with the dedication and devotion of every single of you if we serve cooperatively together for Srila Prabhupadas's ISKCON.

The Manor has been my life, I await the completion of the Shree Krishna Haveli, along with the grand opening, which we will all enjoy together.

Your servant

Srutidharma das

Srutidharma das





High Sheriff's Justice Service

Alpesh Patel represented Bhaktivedanta Manor at the annual High Sheriff's Justice Service at the famous St Albans Cathedral. The event is attended by dignitaries from across the County, and this year, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire is Suzy Harvey.



Radhanath Swami leads Diwali prayers at Westminster

In mid-November, Radhanath Swami spoke alongside Phillip May, husband of Prime Minister Theresa May, at the "Number 10 Diwali Celebrations". The event was scheduled to be at Downing Street, but was relocated to the beautiful Durbar Court at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office because of Brexit negotiations. Radhanath Swami delivered the invocation prayers and spoke about the lessons from Diwali that we can all apply in our lives.



Diwali in Parliament

For the 17th year running the Hindu Forum of Britain hosted Diwali at the House of Commons. All parliamentary parties were invited to meet prominent individuals from the community.

Mitesh Vekaria, Radha Mohan das and Anant Jatania with famous news reporter, presenter and author, Angela Rippon.

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



Lieutenants of Hertfordshire

Vinay Tanna, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Hertfordshire, hosted the Lord Lieutenant Mr Robert Voss and five other dignitaries during a special visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor. Vinay's fellow Deputy Lieutenants included Lady

Verulam, Stuart Nagler, Akhtar Zamar, David Cansdale and the High Sheriff in waiting Sarah Beazeley.

Mr Robert Voss represents the Queen at various functions throughout Hertfordshire. The function of the Deputy Lieutenant is to attend any function on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant.



Interfaith presentation at Watford Boys' Grammar School

During the annual Interfaith Week, Watford Boys' Grammar School hosted an interfaith event for a Sixth Form assembly. Tulsi Seva dasi represented Hinduism on the panel.

The assembly theme was "What does your

faith mean to you?" Tulsi Seva explained, "I spoke about my Hindu upbringing and how the basis of my path was set by the example of my parents. The general thread with all the speakers was love and service to each other, so my explanation of Bhakti and Shri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was very appropriate."



A Spitfire Marks Letchmore Heath's Remembrance Day

The annual Remembrance Service on Letchmore Heath Village Green was of particular significance this year because it was part of the international observance marking 100 years since the end of World War 1.

At the outset of proceedings, a Spitfire Mark 11 flew low over Bhaktivedanta Manor and Letchmore Heath and performed acrobatics, to the delight and amazement of everyone.

On behalf of Bhaktivedanta Manor, Radha Mohan das laid a wreath at the War Memorial and also read ceremonial prayers.



Government's Head of Outreach

Oliver Dowden MP introduced Ms Amy Fisher, the Head of Outreach based at Number 10 Downing Street, to key members of Bhaktivedanta Manor's community. During the tour, which she found most memorable, Mr Dowden fulfilled one of his ambitions by taking the reins and driving a bullock-cart!

Zen Buddhist Monk

A Zen Buddhist monk was made welcome at Bhaktivedanta Manor during his two-night stay. Adorned in traditional Japanese monastic cloth, Rev Jitei White and his apprentice Samsun had walked all the way from Lancashire. They were on their way to the Cenograph in Central London for National Remembrance Day.



National Multi-faith Remembrance Service

A delegation of senior representatives of Bhaktivedanta Manor, including Gauri das, attended a special national interfaith remembrance service at the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple. All present paid tribute to the heroes of World War I. India contributed a large number of divisions to the European, Mediterranean and the Middle East theatres of war in World War I. Over one million Indian troops served overseas, of whom 62,000 died and another 67,000 were wounded.



Travelling Exhibit comes to Manor

Throughout last November people across the world were remembering the sacrifices of so many millions of soldiers and civilians who died during World War 1, which ended 100 years ago. On Sunday 18th November an exhibition bus came to the Manor to highlight the sacrifice of Indian soldiers during that terrible war.

It was one of the projects designed to increase awareness of the role of immigrants and how their ancestors sacrificed their lives to shape the UK.

World-renowned health



Vaishnava das and Radha Mohan das ceremoniously welcomed Dr Vasant Lad to Bhaktivedanta Manor, to mark the outset of the annual Ayurvedic retreat. The ceremony included the offering

of flowers to Lord Dhanvantari, who brought the science of Ayurvedic medicine to this world.

Students came from across Europe and as far as South Africa to attend the seminars delivered by one of the most famous speakers on Ayurveda in the world. There is also a growing interest in Ayurveda within the ISKCON devotee community.

Ayurveda is a system of medicine with historical roots in India. Today, Ayurveda therapies and practices have been integrated in general wellness applications and in some cases in medical use around the world.



On Sunday 4th November, thousands of people from all over the UK came together to celebrate Diwali at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Visitors were treated to a day of colourful dramas, traditional dance performances and music, face painting, henna and children’s devotional songs, with the festivities culminating with the famous annual Grand Firework Display.

“These celebrations are timeless,” said Managing Director Gauri das. “In the Bhagavatam, Prabhupada mentions that the residents of Dwarka celebrated Diwali, and in the Chaitanya Charitamrta he mentions that Lord Chaitanya and his associates did so too. And here we are, hundreds of thousands of years later, most

successfully doing the same here at Bhaktivedanta Manor.”

Diwali literally means “a row of lights.” It celebrates light and life on both community and personal levels. On the one hand, it is a time to rejoice and feast with friends and family. Homes are cleaned and decorated with bright earthen lamps in every corner, and delicious meals are prepared and shared with all. Old accounts are closed, and arguments are settled.

On a more personal level, however, Diwali is a time to turn inward and light the lamps of knowledge and truth in our hearts and minds so that we can dispel the forces of darkness and ignorance within us and allow our innate brilliance and goodness to shine forth.



Every year the community celebrates a wonderful pastime of Lord Krishna. It marks an extraordinary event in the small but sacred village of Vrindavan. Specifically, when Lord Krishna miraculously lifted Govardhan Hill to protect the villagers from thunderous storms, courtesy of the disgruntled Lord Indra! Celebrating the beautiful pastime included the opportunity to view a huge sacred mound of flavoursome sweets, arranged in a way to resemble Govardhan Hill. Participants were given the opportunity to circumambulate the

Hill and later taste it!

This was followed by Go Puja which is when the cows are venerated and honoured with beautiful music, arati ceremonies, decorations and lots of loving strokes, just like Krishna and Balaram did with their cows in Vrindavan.

The spectacle took place on the beautifully adorned temple room shrine, and hundreds of delicious delicacies were made for their Lordship's pleasure!



Dussehra - Celebrating Victory over Vice

As Ravana burst into flames following an epic battle, spectators were reminded of the ultimate victory of divine over demonic. The annual Pandava Sena drama brought to life a battle fought a very long time ago between the armies of Ravana and Lord Ramachandra.

“It was really exciting watching the fire” said 10 year old Kritika Dokarry, “I think it was a good way of teaching children that good wins over evil.”



A month of candle-light offerings of devotion

Mother Yashoda and baby Krishna joined the deities on the altar once again for one of the most beautiful times of the year. The month-long Kartik festival kicked off on 25th October and ran for four weeks.

During this time, pilgrims come to offer a candle to Mother Yashoda and Lord Krishna. The importance of this month is described extensively in the scriptures, especially in Shrilata Rupa Goswami’s Mathura Mahatmya.



‘Outstanding’ Grade for the Manor Pre-School

Jagadhatri dasi, the Head of the Manor’s Pre-School, was enthusiastic to share the results of the latest Ofsted inspection, wherein the Pre-School was graded as ‘Outstanding’. Only a small number of providers achieve this level, awarded to those showing ‘exceptional care, learning and development’ support to the children under their care.

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HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE**



Community devotees graduate in scriptural studies

The graduation ceremony for the latest cohort of Bhakti Shastri students took place at Bhaktivedanta Manor last October. Eleven students received the full degree and five received certificates of participation. Bhaktivedanta Manor is an approved Bhakti Shastri Degree Centre of ISKCON Board of Examinations.

The course is in its twelfth successful year and provides a wonderful opportunity to systematically study four of Srila Prabhupada's books in the association of devotees. Through a programme of interactive and dynamic lessons, students come away with a deep understanding of the philosophy and how to practically apply the science of devotional service to their lives.

For more information:
www.krishnacollge.com

Vedic Stories for Children- Volume 2



Volume 2 of the audio CD "Vedic Stories for Children" was launched on the Diwali and Annakut festival days. Over two mornings the Bhaktivedanta

Players performed interactive skits, and the day after Diwali, 'The Kid's Sankirtan Party' (a kids' play created by the Go Matsya book distribution team) performed a Ramayan drama.

"All who hear these dramas feel it's a great service to the community" explained director Jaya Krishna das. "One parent told me that her children won't allow her to put any other CD in the car except Vedic Stories for Children!"

Volume 3 is due to be launched by summer 2019. To obtain copies, text Jaya Krishna das on: 07808 166 779



SRILA PRABHUPADA REMEMBERED WITH INSPIRATION AND REFLECTION

The Disappearance Day of Srila Prabhupada is when devotees and well-wishers remember and honour the life of ISKCON's unique founder. Although in some respects it is a sad day, in many other ways it is an occasion of great spiritual inspiration and reflection.

This day is of particular significance for devotees in the UK, because it was the last country he visited before returning to India to live out his final days.

On 27th August 1977, Srila Prabhupada arrived at Heathrow Airport demonstrating miraculous strength to withstand the exhausting ordeal of a 24 hour journey from India.

He was met with prolonged ecstatic kirtan by devotees from all over Europe from the Manor gates and up to the reception room door. Despite his emaciated appearance, his eyes, which sparkled behind tinted glasses, told of a different situation. Those eyes were penetrating, warm and smiling, reaching out and touching the very core of each of his disciples.

Janmashtami at Bhaktivedanta Manor that year was particularly noteworthy because Vyasa-puja (the ceremony that honours the spiritual teacher) took place. It is no wonder that Srila Prabhupada's rooms at the Manor are held so sacred.



BOOK MARATHON 2018 – FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS, REACH THE DOORSTEPS

Every December the entire ISKCON world focuses all attention on distribution of transcendental literature, something we all know was so close to Srila Prabhupada’s heart. He was incredibly eager to hear the figures of how many books were being distributed. 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.”

This year, Bhaktivedanta Manor would like to follow in the footsteps of His Divine Grace – this year devotees are aiming to visit 50,000 homes on door-to-door, and distribute over 100,000 books!

You can get involved in the following initiatives:

- 1) Door to Door: c/o Keshava Gokulananda das
- 2) GoMatsya: Vrindavan Chandra das

- 3) Sacred Street Party: Rishi
- 4) Supermarkets: Harikirtan das
- 5) Gita Project: Radha dasi
- 6) Kids Sankirtana: Vrindarika-Ramaya dasi
- 7) Monthly Sankirtana Festival: Gurushakti dasi
- 8) Wisdom Sponsorship: Chandra Caitanya das

To learn more about how to get involved:

Contact Sutapa das on: 07957636283

Visit the Manor community book distribution Facebook group: “Flying Books”

“This, our book distribution, is the most important task in our society. Therefore I am giving so much stress and I am working so hard on this. Because this is my life and soul according to the order of my Guru Maharaj” (Srila Prabhupada, 1976)



Black Belts in martial discipline

Krav Maga is a self-defence and fighting system derived from a combination of techniques sourced from boxing, wrestling, Aikido, judo, and karate.

Abhimanyu das and Sada-Siva das both received a Black Belt in Krav Maga, with the latter also passing Instructor Level 1.

Their teacher was Master Dave Sealey who is a 6th Dan Taekwondo Master and an active 72 year old.

Abhimanyu said "Some of the techniques and disciplines I learned in Krishna Consciousness were useful during my training: respect for the teacher, attentive listening skills, self-control, perseverance and patience".

Food distribution and forest adventure in India

Parasuram das and his Food for All team went on Pada-yatra (walking festival) complete with oxen pulling a portable temple across the twelve forests of Vraj in India.

They distributed more than 40,000 books to the villagers and lots of Prasad (sanctified food).



Welsh Choir voices

Eight visitors from the Dru Yoga Society in Snowdonia, North Wales, visited the Manor last October. They are open to many kinds of Indian spirituality but have an affinity with Lord Krishna, hence have visited the holy town of Vrindavan a number of times.

"A few regular temple devotees were absolutely amazed when they sat down in the temple room and began singing the Damodarastakam and Nrsimhadeva prayers," explained Caitanya Jivan das. "Coming from Wales, they delighted everyone with their beautiful, harmonious Welsh Choir voices. They spent the rest of the time with us on a tour of the temple. They are looked forward to come again".





The long run for Krishna

Bhakta Deon, an experienced marathon runner and the head of Bhaktivedanta Manor's guest house, has been using his skills to raise funds to develop a yoga studio / seminar room there.

On 7th October he participated in the Virgin Sport Oxford Half Marathon. His next attempt is to run the Pisa-Marathon, Pisa, Italy on 16 December. It covers 26.2 miles, which is a full marathon. "This is a big challenge for me with so little time to prepare," explained Deon. "I will also be running to raise funds for the Haveli [the Manor's new community building] and Watford's Peace Hospice."

To learn more and to support Deon, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/deon-moodley2>



Tenerife Spiritual Rejuvenation Retreat

Young Balaram Nityananda, of the Krishna Wisdom team organised a fantastic 5 day spiritual retreat in picturesque Tenerife.

Participants spent some quality time with like-minded people, learned techniques of hatha yoga, enjoyed the scenery and learned from Kripa Moya das about how the Bhagavad Gita teaches that Bhakti is the culmination of all types of yoga.



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OVER 300 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS INSPIRED BY RETREAT

KCSoc, Pandava Sena's university outreach events, welcomed 300 university students to Bhaktivedanta Manor on Saturday the 17th of November. The annual retreat, of which this year's is the largest to date, is an opportunity for students from across the country to delve deeper into the practical aspects of Krishna Consciousness and learn about the history of the Manor.

The day started with insights into the life of Srila Prabhupada and introducing Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda to the crowd, many of whom were seeing and learning about deities for the first time. The morning sessions gave students a choice of choosing 2 out of 4 optional activities: Cow Care, Cooking, Yoga and Instrument learning. Each group were then shown a drama put on by the members of Pandava Sena, which subsequently led to a Q&A session.

Post-lunch, the attendees were led on a treasure hunt around the Manor, which included riddles and challenges in order

to proceed to the next stage!

The day concluded with everyone's favourite part: Kirtan! The temple filled with serenity and energy as the crescendo led everyone on their feet by the end!

The main presenters were Navin Krishna das, Sutapa das, Citi Shakti devi dasi and Abhishek Joshi.

"The KCSoc retreat was a day filled with love and inclusivity," explained student Anna Barton. "The energy and warmth of the Bhaktivedanta Manor is very noticeable upon arrival. Everyone is so accepting and helpful, I felt like I could be myself the entire time. I left the retreat filled with new loving conviction, friendships and knowledge to guide me through my spiritual path."

KCSoc currently runs at 30 universities and 3 schools in the UK, 1 university in Slovenia, 2 universities in Canada. To get more involved in the KCSoc project, visit krishnasoc.com, email info.krishnasoc@gmail.com



SRI KRISHNA HAVELI PROJECT UPDATE

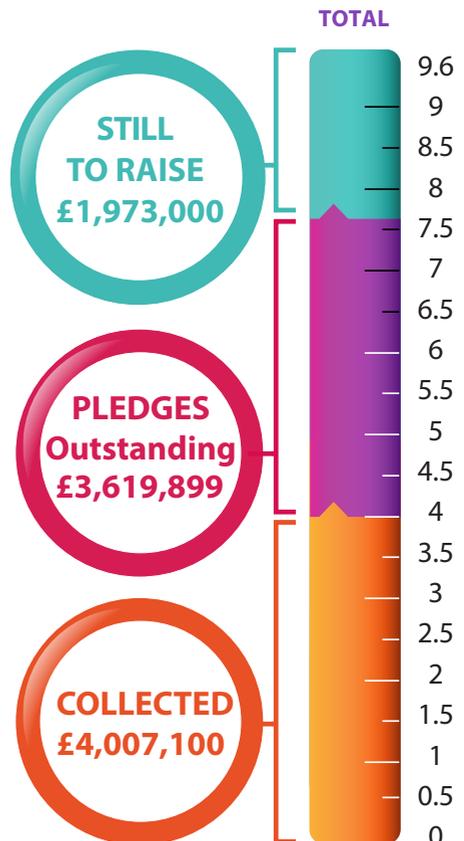


Construction work on Bhaktivedanta Manor's new Haveli has begun and is in full swing with a date of completion for Janmashtami 2019.

- Secondary steel work complete
- Waterproofing complete
- Pumping station installed
- Underground attenuation tank complete
- Brick work started
- Playground design/user consultation running

Works have also started on the

- Electrical substation
- Ladies ashram
- Roof and first floor slabs
- Base course around building
- Timber work





- Our Heartfelt thanks to all who have pledged their support for this historic project.
- A further £1.9 million is required.
- We need another 127 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





Bus from Stanmore

There is now a bus service every Sunday between Stanmore Station and Bhaktivedanta Manor, sponsored by Olympia Transport Ltd.

The winter service includes a 11.30am pick up from Stanmore, and 2.30pm return from the Manor. In the spring and summer the bus will be running until 8pm.

Please text Alpesh Patel on 07956907653 for more information.



NHS Hospitals Trust Award

The Hindu-Vaisnava chaplaincy team, headed by Haridham das, has won the Chief Executive and Chairman's Award for exceptional services to the Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Hospitals Trust. When receiving their award they were granted a standing ovation from the audience! Haridham das administers the spiritual care to the dying Hindu patients and bereavement counselling to family and friends.



Community member honoured by the Queen

Krish Raval, a member of the community at Bhaktivedanta Manor since childhood, has been awarded an OBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

It was for "Services to leadership education and interfaith cohesion in the UK".

Krish is the Director of the Senior Faith in Leadership Programme (SFLP), which enables current and future leaders to explore their own faith and the faiths of others in order to create partnerships that will make a difference for the common good.