

BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

October 2016

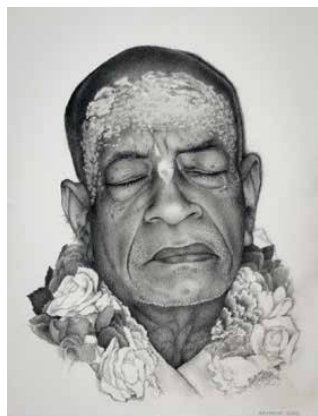


International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

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

Shree Krishna Janmashtami Celebration





Srila Prabhupada:

Take it from me that I am always praying to Lord Krishna for your success in Krishna Consciousness movement. You're very sincere devotee and if you simply stick to the principles, success is sure for your life. Krishna's Mercy is always bestowed upon one who is sincerely serving Him.

*Letter to Sivananda -
Hawaii 9 March, 1969*



6

Record no of Volunteers

9

Radhashtami

15

Kirtan at Hyde Park

16

Rathayatra in 15
UK Towns



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KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

Bhaktivedanta Manor's picturesque and peaceful grounds were transformed into a vibrant festival brought to life thanks to more than 1900 volunteers of all ages, observing ISKCON's 50th Anniversary.

As well as darshan of the beautiful deities in the shrine, the festival showcased unique interactive exhibitions, immersing devotees in a wonderful spiritual atmosphere.

In addition, visitors were treated to a wonderful array of interactive multimedia displays, traditional dance performances and thought-provoking dramas.

There was also an opportunity to try the serene art of japa meditation and discover more about the philosophy.

For those who wanted to indulge in the delights of exquisite vegetarian cuisine, 40,000 plates of free food were distributed throughout the two days.

In addition, there were a number of stalls selling books, music, hand-made jewellery and fresh organic produce

from the Manor's very own farm.

The farm produces 40 tonnes of milk every year from its 45 dairy cows.

The festival also provided children with a dedicated area called Krishnaland.

Yadurani Dasi, who headed up Krishnaland, said "I wanted to create an area where children could get lost in the stories of Krishna.

"Children of all ages were offered numerous activities, children's plays, face painting, games, henna art and even playing with baby Krishna."

Special features on the festival field included presentations on the "Science of the Soul" and a Journey through Vedic history by ISKCON Pandava Sena.

There was a tribute to some of ISKCON's heroes by Pandava Sena Alumni, "Veggie Steady Cook" workshop and a "Bhakti on the Beach" discussion forum.

As well as a myriad of dance and drama, the main tent stage program included kirtans and bhajans by Sirish



Kumar and Vaiyasaki das.

The highlight on Janmashtami day was a midnight ceremonial bathing of the Radha Krishna deities in front of thousands of onlookers.

To round off the two-day festival, the Babaji Reggae band got everyone dancing to the beat!

The Mayor of Hertsmere said: "Each time I enter its gates it's impossible not to feel the calmness of its splendid grounds and magnificent buildings wash over you. The calmness gets even better when you are greeted by one of its charming and constantly helpful devotees.

"We have been treated to the highest level of hospitality and warmth, which is a true testament to the commitment of its organisation.

"There are many people working behind the scenes to ensure visitors are treated

to the best there is to offer."

Visitors also learned of the Manor's future plans, including the forthcoming Shree Krishna Haveli - a new building extension project to be built onsite.

Gauri das, the Managing Director of the Temple said: "Demands on the Manor have grown over many years.

"This 2,000 square meter Haveli will allow us to look after our guests so nicely.

"We intend to build this most important development brick-by-brick and we are asking people to sponsor a brick.

"They can sponsor for themselves, or on behalf of or in memory of, a family member - this building is our legacy to future generations."





Record volunteer count makes Janmashtami huge success

The Janmashtami festival at the manor is only possible by the volunteers that devote their time and efforts.

This year over 1900 volunteers attended mandatory training sessions. The training covers a range of topics from hospitality, health & safety and the mood of service as demonstrated by Srila Prabhupada.

The volunteers serve by cooking, distributing food, entertaining, parking cars, cleaning, setting up, greeting guests, guiding, admin, gardening, decorating, organising, performing dramas and anything else needed to celebrate the Lord's Birthday.

During the 3-week run-up to Janmashtami, every morning and evening, volunteers are busy preparing for the festival. They made 22,000 samosas, 50,000 coconut sweets, 15,000 sealed bags of the popular and traditional Panjajiri. They set up

tents, transformed fields into car parks, cleaned the grounds and so much more.

The post-festival clean-up operation lasted a week. Although it's a 2-day festival, months of hard work made those days a success.

Our volunteers are integral to all aspects of the festival, ensuring all the guests get the best experience possible. They imbibe the mood of the 'servant of the servant' aiding the mission of Srila Prabhupada.

Kitchen volunteer Arti Patel said of her experience:

"The best time of my life. I started volunteering 20 years ago during the school summer holidays encompassing the Janmashtami festival.

"My main service was in the kitchen, which I came back to every year. Then one day, a devotee said the kitchen



is also open every Sunday to cook prasadam for the evening guests. Such a simple statement compelled me to maintain this service every Sunday for several years!"

The Volunteering department sends their sincere thanks to each and every one of the volunteers – for they are the true backbone of Janmashtami!



Grand festival celebrates anniversary of Prabhupada's appearance

In late August, devotees celebrated the auspicious anniversary of the appearance of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

On this day, known as Vyasa Puja, followers of Srila Prabhupada recite heartfelt readings of their homages to him, sharing fond memories of his association.

Dayananda das, who established the first ISKCON Temple in Los Angeles, as well as Gunarnava das, Vaiyasaki das and Vishalani dasi, were among the guests. The residents of the Manor felt honoured to again organise festival services. A beautiful cake showcasing the achievements of the 50 years was offered.

In Srila Prabhupada's rooms at the Manor, his seat was gorgeously decorated with flowers. The offerings of food and garlands were delightfully prepared by the community youth. The altar was elegantly decorated and the deities were dressed in an angelic new outfit.

It was the 50th year that a book full of loving written homages from the Manor community was offered to Srila Prabhupada.





Radharani's appearance anniversary celebrated with delicious cakes

In early September, the Manor celebrated Radhashtami, the appearance anniversary of Shrimati Radharani, who is Krishna's greatest devotee, His feminine aspect and His energy personified.

Srimati Radharani is the eternal consort of Lord Krishna. Five thousand years ago, when Lord Krishna came to this planet to perform His activities, Shrimati Radharani also appeared.

The festival began with a melodious rendition of Radhika-stava, prayers

glorifying Radharani. Followed by a class on the significance of this extraordinary day and the ceremonial bathing of the small Radha-Krishna deities.

16 beautiful cakes were elegantly decorated and offered to Krishna with love by devotees of the Manor community, following in the footsteps of Radharani Herself.

In the evening, the cakes were distributed, to everyone.





20th Anniversary of “Save the Manor” campaign

Former Councillor Frank Ward and Naresh Chadha (HKTDM) reunited during Janmashtami, celebrating the 20th Anniversary since the campaign to save the Manor from closure was victorious.

In 1996, The manor received planning permission to build an access road, keeping the temple open to the public. This vital achievement in the Manor’s history will always be fondly and gratefully remembered, as without it, the Manor would not be open today.



Manor school children’s interfaith presentation at Hertsmere Council

Manor schoolchildren joined faith leaders and children from local Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities to deliver a series of presentations on the subject of pilgrimage. The children charmed the audience with descriptions of their visits to holy places in India, and what it meant to them. Reverend Canon Richard Leslie noted similarities between all faiths on the subject of pilgrimage, and used the Manor School’s presentation as an example of that. The event took place in Hertsmere Borough Council’s Main Chamber and it was organised by the Hertsmere Forum of Faiths.



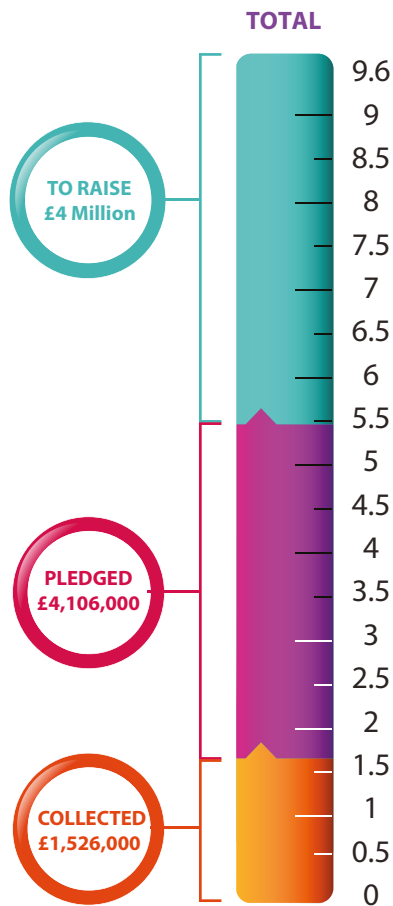
Evening honours Patrons' £2million Haveli building pledge

This summer the Manor community celebrated the service and contributions of Patrons in the annual evening gathering.

ISKCON's 50th Anniversary made it a special celebration, the temple giving an inspiring report of numerous ways this anniversary was being observed.

A moving drama was showcased with the theme of ISKCON's inauguration in New York, 1966.

Finally, the launch of the Shree Krishna Haveli building was reported to the Patrons, who pledged an incredible total of £2million.





Film group explores Hinduism at the Manor

A film group working for the Open University spent two days at the Manor to film an exploration of different Hinduism expressions in Western countries. Professor Gwilym Beckerlegge interviewed Sarvamangala dasi, Sri Radharamana das and Radha Mohan das, focusing on deity worship, Srila Prabhupada and ISKCON arts.



Narsingha Drama at Delrow House

Delrow House residents, who have a range of disabilities, created and performed a play on the story of Narshinghadev, the half-man, half-lion incarnation of Vishnu. The inspiration for this endeavour came from a recent visit to the Manor, where they were moved by a drama on Lord Narsinghadev's Appearance Day.



ISKCON Eco-Village receives international sustainability accolade

On behalf of the devotees based at ISKCON's Govardhana Eco-Village, Radha Mohan das attended the International Green Apple Awards ceremony.

During the ceremony, at The Crystal in London's Docklands, the Eco-Village won the Silver Award for eco-friendly projects and off-grid sustainability.



Sewa Pioneer Award

Bijal Majithia received a Sewa Pioneer award for Veda London's Food for the Mind, Body, and Soul project. This award was received to honour the 6-year project, involving a 65-strong team partaking in community-based projects. Initiatives include elderly care home visits, spending time with dementia sufferers, and cooking and distributing food at nine homeless shelters.



Manor College provides training for Avanti staff

Avanti Schools run annual Staff Ethos training events, led by the Manor's College of Vedic Studies, aiming to better equip teachers for their roles. Many improvements in teaching can be sourced from the wisdom and practical application of spiritual principles.

Janakinath das, Santonu das and Sutapa das deliver these sessions in the Harrow and Leicester Krishna Avanti Primary Schools, as well as the Secondary School.

Over 200 teachers, administrators and members of staff benefited from these.



Manor Monks attend Jain Parliament event

Navadvip Chandra das & Radha Mohan das met Matthew Offord MP and offered best wishes to Dr Natubhai Shah during Parliament's international launch of the Jain International Organisation (JIO).



Indian High Commissioner lauds ISKCON's contribution

Srutidharma das met the Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Navtej Sarna, at the Ram Mandir in Southall during a special Janmashtami function.



Hyde Park's 6-hour Hare Krishna kirtan

In July, 'Kirtan London' hosted another 'Barefoot in the Park' kirtan - 6 hours of music in the beautiful surroundings of the Hyde Park bandstand.

The attendance was very encouraging, as more than 400 people came and went throughout the day, with many passers-by stopping to listen.

The event was free of charge, and tasty vegetarian food was served to over 150 people.

In the same month, the team hosted their first Kirtan London retreat, on the South Coast near Eastbourne.

As well as kirtan and meditation, there were discussion sessions and delicious vegan prasadam meals every day.

The team is currently working on ways to provide long-term guests with more facilities to advance in their spiritual journey.

Courses, retreats and workshops are important ways to do this, tying in well with courses run at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

ISKCON London is also working on providing more 'kirtan-focused' courses. www.kirtanlondon.com





New destinations on youth Euro Bus Tour

The youth of ISKCON made a wonderful contribution in furthering Srila Prabhupada's mission by embarking on the latest Euro Bus Tour.

Organisers Kumari Kunti, Visvambar Caitanya, Sharanagati and Sandipani Muni decided to go to un-charted places in Europe and spread the holy name.

The 3rd annual tour saw 30 youth from the USA, UK, Italy, and even Mongolia travel over 5,000km, spanning Slovenia, Greece, and ending in

Switzerland.

The tour is a whirlwind summer trip for youth aged 16+, celebrating, exploring and enjoying Krishna consciousness for 5-6 weeks around various European destinations.

Tour participants stay at and do practical service at ISKCON temples, perform music and create street carnivals, while inspiring youth in the countries they visit.

www.youthbustour.com



Musicians entertain on cruise along the Thames

On Sunday 31 July, music enthusiasts chanted, danced and feasted on a cruise around famous London landmarks to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ISKCON.

Organised by the London temple, the cruise lasted over 5 hours, following the course of the beautiful River Thames, boarding and disembarking at Tower Pier.

Tickets sold out quickly for the 150-capacity boat, which included as entertainment some of the world's outstanding ISKCON singers, including B B Govinda Swami, Kadamba Kanana Swami, Mahatma das and Agnidev das.



Lord Jagannath had a non-stop itinerary of dates from July to September on His UK Ratha Yatra tour.

The biggest of these festivals was that of London in mid-July. The month also saw Ratha Yatra parades decorate the towns of Edinburgh, Birmingham and Reading. The chariot festival continued, gracing Cardiff, Leicester and Newbury in August.

September saw a debut Ratha Yatra for Kingston in Surrey, along with carnivals in Ilford, Brighton, Manchester, Plymouth, Glastonbury, Reading and West Bletchley.





‘Without Fear’ Book launched at the Manor

In observance of ISKCON’s 50th Anniversary, on the day of Radhashtami, Rupa Vilas das launched his new book about Srila Prabhupada. “Without Fear”, published by Torchlight, represents his memories of Srila Prabhupada during ISKCON’s early days in America.

Dayananda das, also present at the launch, explained the title’s appropriateness in light of how Srila Prabhupada fearlessly served Lord Krishna and his guru. Book Designer Sakshi Gopal das said: “Books about Srila Prabhupada are always welcome, because every memory and realisation about him is unique and valuable.”



Youth alumni reunite at Krishna Avanti School

This summer, alumni of Manor youth group Pandava Sena gathered at the Harrow Krishna Avanti School, treated to a lively seminar by Devamrita Swami.



European award for Excellence

Devaki dasi, the UK co-ordinator for ISKCON’s 50th Anniversary, has been given an award for Excellence, under the category for “Outstanding Service” at the ISKCON European Leaders Meeting. “Everything she does moves and moves fast!” explained GBC for the UK and Ireland Praghosa das.



ISKCON Leicester temple open after renovations

ISKCON Leicester has finally completed major renovation to their listed building in the city centre, allowing it to be finally used as a temple.

The renovations include a first floor temple room, kitchen, classrooms, and offices. On the second floor, a team of brahmachari monks are joining Bhakti

Prabhava Swami to take residency on the upper floors. Together, they have started work on outreach, supporting the congregation, and delivering a variety of educational programs.

Temple President Pradyumna das dedicated this to Srila Prabhupada on ISKCON's 50th anniversary.

Europe-wide youth event hosted at ISKCON Leicester

www.youthmela.org

Four days of excitement, workshops, entertainment, delicious meals and street carnivals: "Youth Mela – Connecting to Srila Prabhupada" was a Europe-wide event based in Leicester.

The late summer youth event was held to connect, re-generate and inspire the youth of the UK and EU in their spiritual lives.

Amongst the other special guests, famous singer Agnidev das led the singing at spontaneous street carnivals in central Leicester.





Mayor celebrates new deities at ISKCON Leicester

ISKCON Leicester has welcomed and commenced worship of their new deities, Sri Sri Radha-Madhava.

A special welcome ceremony took place to receive the beautiful brass deities, who have been worshipped in Belfast, Northern Ireland for the last 35 years.

The community performed a ceremonial bathing of the deities, 2.5 feet in height, to welcome Them to the heart of Leicester City Centre.

Devotees travelled from all over the country to witness the special event, celebrated with a fire sacrifice and a day packed with festivities.

Praghosa das, ISKCON UK Commissioner, said: "Having known Radha Madhava since 1983, I cannot remember a more blissful event for Them than today in Leicester."

City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby and Deputy Mayors Councillors Manjula Sood and Piara Singh Clair attended, sharing their appreciation for ISKCON on its 50th anniversary.

In an exchange of love, the Leicester temple members expressed their gratitude to the Belfast temple by offering their Panca-Tattva deities to the Belfast temple.





Culture Night feeds 5,000 in Belfast's biggest lunch

One of the world's biggest pots of curry was bubbling in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter as Culture Night fed at least 5,000 people. Belfast Harbour and the Belfast Food Network set the biggest dinner table ever transforming it into a unique, outdoor dining venue to help "Feed the 5000" with a completely environmentally sustainable meal.

This was prepared by ISKCON Food for All, using local surplus produce donated by local farmers and served on compostable plates and cutlery.



ISKCON monk invited by Ernst and Young

Bhakti Rasamrita Swami spoke at Ernst and Young for Veda London's latest event, the subject being "Failure is the stepping stone to success". The audience mainly comprised employees of Ernst and Young, a multinational professional services firm headquartered in London. Veda London brings to professionals timeless knowledge and practical wisdom for today's modern world through interactive events.



Lord Gadhia joins the House of Lords

Srutidharma das and Jitu Patel (Chairman of BAPs Swaminarayan) attended the innaguration ceremony of Lord Jitesh Gadhia (centre) joining the House of Lords. Lord Gadhia made history by pledging allegiance using the ancient Vedic text of the Rig Veda.

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**

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