



Srila Prabhupada:

"...The incarnation [of Krishna] in the Age of Kali is Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who spread the worship of Krishna by the sankirtana movement (congregational chanting of the holy names) and spread Krishna consciousness throughout India. He predicted that this culture of sankirtan would be broadcast all over the world, from town to town and village to village."

Bhagavad-gita 4.8 purport

Krishna Consciousness in Norwich

On 21 January, ladies from Bhaktivedanta Manor's ashram organised a magnificent festival at the Keir Hardie Hall in Norwich.

Madhurya Gaurangi dasi and Chandra Mohini dasi, with help from others, are running a group in the area. They discovered there was considerable interest in Krishna Consciousness in the city, and this was confirmed when over 130 people attended the festival.

The evening began with the Lord Mayor of Norwich Cllr Tom Dylan being presented with a copy of the Bhagavad Gita and other gifts. There was an evening of drama, dance, music, philosophy and first class prasad (sanctified vegetarian food).

Around 25-30 people attend the regular Sunday meetings. Several events have been held in the last few months in Norwich.



Radha Krishna Deaf Association on BBC

A recent episode of "See Hear", a programme for deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK, included extensive footage of Bhaktivedanta Manor's Sunday programme, interviews with key members of the Radha Krishna Deaf Association (RKDA) and archive footage of Srila Prabhupada and George Harrison.

During the programme, Dayal Gauranga das (Dinesh Sejjal) explained that all his questions about life were answered when he came to Krishna consciousness and he wanted to share the experience with other deaf people. The programme focusses on the deaf community and covers a broad range of topics from areas such as education, deaf people's rights, technology and language. It is watched by nearly 9 million deaf and hard of hearing people across the country. The episode demonstrated that deaf people are able to access Krishna consciousness to the same extent that non-deaf persons are able to.



“A winning smile and positive mood” - Vaisesika das

Vaisesika das is the President of the ISKCON centre in Silicon Valley as well as the ISKCON Secretary of Northern California. He has implemented many innovative projects in the region which focus on the distribution of Srila Prabhupada's books.

In January Manor devotees had the fortune of hosting Vaisesika das at Bhaktivedanta Manor. He gave seminars and was Guest of Honour at this year's

Sankirtana Festival, which celebrates the efforts of all those who braved the elements to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books in December.

All those who had come in contact with Vaisesika das were left feeling uplifted. His winning smile and positive mood in Krishna consciousness won many hearts and we look forward to inviting him back to the Manor again later on this year.



Meeting The Bishop of St Albans



Srutidharma das was delighted to meet the Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith the Bishop of St Albans, the Leader of the Council Ron Spellman and other dignitaries at the Three Rivers District Council's Civic Service at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Rickmansworth.



Holy Name Weekend

Devotees joined together in celebration and immersed themselves in singing the Hare Krishna mantra in mid-January. The Holy Name Weekend kirtans were led by His Holiness Sivarama Swami and Madhava das. A wide range of community and congregation members participated. The Vishnu Purana explains the potency of chanting:

“What was accomplished in the Krita Age by meditation, in the Treta Age by ritual sacrifice, in the Dvapara Age by worship of the deity of the Lord is accomplished in Kali Yuga by loud chanting of the holy name of the Lord.”



Bhaktivedanta Players tour Mauritius

Early this year members of the Bhaktivedanta Players were invited to Mauritius to perform 12 devotional plays in 8 different venues, with paying audiences ranging from 400 – 1000. The island is known for its love of drama so the Players' arrival created a sense of excitement. The plays received extensive media coverage, including being shown on Zee TV and a national newspaper. Bhakti Caru Swami, who was present, particularly appreciated that experienced performers were engaging and training the local devotees. One of the highlights was when they performed in front of over 500 children who were mesmerised by what they saw.



Dwarka Puri, Jay Krishna & Rasacarya das with local school children



The Mauritian Minister for Arts and Culture particularly commended the Bhaktivedanta Players and expressed his desire to promote a future tour of the island.

Bhakti Bankers Return

The largest ever gathering of bankers and traders took place recently to explore the ancient Vedic culture. The newly formed Vedic Society at HSBC Headquarters in Canary Wharf launched its presence through a cultural fair. The aim of the Vedic Society is to help bankers at HSBC better understand the financial market philosophically and gain insights from the Vedas to grow personally and professionally.



Transforming Europe's largest corporate hall into a burst of colour and culture, over 700 bankers were greeted with colourful exhibitions and active demonstrations. Fellow HSBC banker Sri Radharamanadas, founder and chair of the Vedic Soc commented "An exciting chapter has unfolded with an overwhelming interest in the culture of Krishna in one of the most successful corporations in the world".

Vaishnava Arts Council launched

February 9th saw the launch the Vaishnava Arts Council UK (VAC), which aims to represent devotee artists. VAC founder Madhusudhana das made a presentation about VAC's aims and objectives.



The evening also included a track from the forthcoming album by Kripamoya das mixed by professional producer Jagannath Suta das and an Odissi dance by Keli-Chanchala dasi. ISKCON's Mayapur TV announced new developments, Ravinol Chambers gave a presentation about business and the arts, and artistic films made by Paramdhamananda das and another by Matt and Aradhana.

The VAC will organise Bhaktivedanta Manor's second annual Vaishnava Resources Exhibition in March, which will showcase the work of various departments and projects around the country. February's event was attended by writers, musicians, actors, dancers, film-makers, photographers, as well as graphic, web and fashion designers from the devotee community.

Krishna Avanti School to open in Leicester

I-Foundation is set to open its second state funded primary school, in Leicester. Recently it has secured a site for the school and has also received confirmation from the Department of Education that funding is in place for the school to open this September.



www.krishna-avanti-leicester.org.uk

The school site is the iconic Evington Hall (pictured), set in 5 acres of land and originally built in 1879 as home to the Sheriff of Leicester. Nitesh Gor, Chair of the I-Foundation says, "We feel privileged to have acquired such a beautiful site for our primary school in Leicester. The character of the building and the spacious grounds are just ideal for fulfilling our vision for the school".

The school will open with 60 children of reception age, and will grow incrementally to eventually provide 420 places for children aged 4-11 years old.

The school is being modelled on the hugely successful Krishna-Avanti Primary School in Harrow.

Exploring similarities with the Archbishop



Kripamoya das, Ganga dasi and Vishal Merai visited Lambeth Palace on 16th February to attend an event in which the Archbishop of Canterbury shared his thoughts on his recent visit to India. He described his dialogue with prominent holy men, including leaders of Vaishnava traditions. The head of the Anglican Church suggested praying for each other as a way of going beyond religious boundaries.

Working together for the greater good

Food for All and Our Lady of Hal, a Catholic Church in Camden, are working together to benefit the homeless and disadvantaged. Four days a week the devotees deliver a van load of cake and biscuits to the Church, which they use for their own charity food distribution.

"We are a member of Unleash, a Christian organisation who are helping the needy all over England," explained Food for All Director Parasuram das. "We receive loads of donations from them as well as others because we are known as the ones who can shift mountains of food. For example, we have recently been donated a year's supply of pasta and sugar. This

is a great example of how networking with members of different faiths can work together for the greater good".



Penpals unite

Bhaktivedanta Manor school children have been regularly corresponding with the children from Year 1 in St. Christopher's School, Letchworth after their visit to the Manor last year. Last month they finally got a chance to meet their penpals face to face during a visit to St. Christopher's, and the interaction between them was very heartwarming.

Manor School interfaith week

The children at Bhaktivedanta Manor School participated in an Interfaith Week in February, where they visited a mosque, synagogue and church. The school was also pleased to welcome Rabbi Meir Salasnick to the Manor School where he gave a presentation about Judaism. The children were inspired to ask many intelligent questions of the Imam Salim, Rabbi Salasnick and Reverend William Hogg and are using the information to compare and contrast the three faiths to our own Vaishnava tradition.



Jamia Mosque in Watford



Christ Church in Radlett



Bushey Reform Synagogue

The Appearance Day of Lord Nityananda



16th February marked this year's birthday of Lord Nityananda. Srila Prabhupada informs us of the identity of Lord Nityananda as follows: "Lord Sri Krishna is the absolute Personality of Godhead, and His first expansion in a form for pastimes is Sri Balarama...Lord Baladeva in Krsnaloka is Nityananda Prabhu ... That original Lord Krishna appeared in Navadvipa as Lord Caitanya, and Balarama appeared with Him as Lord Nityananda."

Thus Lord Nityananda is none other than Lord Balarama, the direct expansion of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself, Lord Krishna. Lord Nityananda descended in West Bengal along with Krishna's incarnation Lord Caitanya, and together They inaugurated the congregational chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra which would eventually spread all over the world.

In celebration of this blessed event, a wonderful community celebration was held at the Manor, which included drama, a multi-course feast and a congregational chanting procession through the streets of Watford.



Monthly Sankirtan Festival

On Saturday 26th February 50 devotees from the Manor congregation joined ashram members on the streets of Harrow for the latest Monthly Sankirtan Festival (MSF). The event included hari nama processions, the distribution of Srila Prabhupada's books and 200 pieces of prasad (sanctified food) were given out from a book table.

STAND UP FOR YOUR ETERNAL RIGHTS

by Krishna Dharma das

In the wake of the recent furore in Egypt the Foreign Secretary William Hague did the diplomatic rounds of Arab nations. While there he made the usual Western calls for more human rights with some fine sounding rhetoric. "Freedom of assembly, the rule of law, freedom of speech, and free and fair elections - these are inalienable rights that are the building blocks of free and open societies."

Well spoken sir. I guess we have all that here, although some may argue, and most of us would no doubt hold that it needs to be diffused more widely around the world, especially in certain eastern quarters.

I think I would also have to agree that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, based upon which such calls are made, could do with being a bit more universal. Especially when it comes for example to statements like the first article, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

A spirit of brotherhood has been notably absent from too many places in recent years. Unless it means the kind of brothers who like to knock hell out of each other.

Which brings us to the next article. "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Fair enough, but what exactly does that mean? Is it ever really achievable? Preservation of the body, even in those states where it is taken seriously, is never guaranteed. Our right to life is somewhat tenuous, with death our constant companion.

As for liberty, what does that entail? We may be free to walk the streets and say our piece, and I for one am grateful for that, but are we liberated from the many miseries that afflict the body? We all face illness, anxiety, old age and all kinds of pain as we strive arduously to keep body and soul together. Okay, we have our health systems and hospitals and the like, but these are never going to eradicate all of the above.

Our security of person is subject to powers over which we have very little control. We want to peacefully get on with life and suddenly civil war erupts around us, or maybe a neighbouring state or different ethnic group decides it is time we ceased to exist, and we are plunged into a nightmare. Or perhaps an earthquake, tsunami or typhoon suddenly rears its awful head. Or a loved one dies, or maybe just good old cancer gets its malignant grip on us. We are surrounded by dark possibilities.

Hence we are forever plagued by anxiety – 'what will happen?' The Vedas say this is rooted in the fact that we are eternal beings in a temporary world. Everything is always changing and under threat. The very fact that we need a declaration of rights demonstrates that they are not assured; we have to fight for them. That may just be by going out to work every day to achieve some kind of secure existence, or it might mean a whole lot more, but without some kind of endeavour we will soon lose everything. But despite whatever we may attempt, lose it we must, sooner or later.

Unless that is, we discover the real meaning of our human rights. All of us have the intrinsic right to eternal life, freedom from death and suffering, and the everlasting security of Krishna's

loving shelter. This has been declared by Krishna himself in the Bhagavad-gita. "The living being in this world is my eternal servant, a part of me. Only due to illusion does he struggle in material existence."

Really our demand for rights is about happiness. We don't want anyone to impinge upon our ability to enjoy life. But the most serious impingement arises from our own ignorance, from not knowing who we really are, where we belong and how to get there. Even if we do finally succeed in establishing the ideal of fairness and universal rights throughout the globe we will still have to face the inherent sufferings of this mortal sphere.

We therefore have to fight for true liberty, for real liberation, which means freedom from material bondage, or in other words illusion. The pains of this world are no more real than those seen in a dream. Everyone has the right to realise this truth and should waste no time exercising it. That is freedom. Until we achieve pure transcendental consciousness, no longer identifying with the temporary body and all its attachments, we are not free. And that means reaching Krishna, as he declares in the Gita. "One who attains my immortal abode never again experiences any suffering."





pservant

Siddharth Vachhani

Age: 21
Studying: BSc Actuarial
Science (City University)

Developing the community of care

Over the weekend of 12th and 13th February, over 100 members of IPS took part in the group's first mentorship retreat at Buckland Hall, nestled in the Brecon Beacons in Wales. Over the two days members of the group from Birmingham, Leicester as well as London benefited from the guidance of His Holiness Sacinandana Swami.

Vrindavan Bihari das, coordinator of IPS mentorship system, commented "The aim of the trip was to facilitate the development of relationships of members of the group whether they are relatively new or have been involved for many years, particularly those involved in the IPS mentorship system."

In London, the mentorship system has been running for around 10 years and currently has 132 participants. Involvement in the IPS mentorship system serves as a commitment to the group and therefore to development of Krishna consciousness. Based on this, participation of London members was limited to those that are part of the system. A more flexible approach was exercised towards those from Birmingham and Leicester as corresponding branches of the mentorship system are in the

process of being set up these areas.

The mentorship retreats vary from the summer trips in that the summer trips are to continental destinations, take place over a longer period of time and are aimed at those that are new to IPS.

Maharaj's seminars were based on theme of what is needed to have a successful community of care, which is essentially what the IPS mentorship system seeks to provide. Our warm-hearted, humorous and loving special guest opened his spiritual treasure chest and shared many secrets and realisations to help us become better carers. Speaking about her experience of the trip, Vrinda Kisori devi dasi, an IPS mentor and mentee, said "Through the guidance of Sacinandana Swami we developed better appreciation of the innate need of each person to love and be loved and that this can be displayed and felt to an unlimited extent if we're connected to Lord Krishna - the reservoir of love. This trip gave me the confidence and inspiration to look after others with real care and compassion without the fear of losing anything but instead having the opportunity to gain so much more."

What made you start attending IPS events?

I'm from Malawi (Africa) and living in the UK on a student visa. I came into contact with an IPS run society at my university, i.e. 'KC Soc', and so I got involved. Through this I made friends with Anand Dattani and Ghanashyam Priya das and got to know about Jammins, house programmes and many more activities - the rest is history!

What did you initially find appealing about KC?

Having always been interested in spirituality I had been searching for books on Vedic philosophy, but unfortunately there weren't any in Malawi. During a visit to SA, I visited an ISKCON temple during the Janmashtami celebrations and bought the Krishna book based on the recommendation of a devotee I met there. Everything just made sense.

What services are you currently involved in?

I help run the KC Soc at my university and assist with the running of Oasis as well, which is a weekly event run at our central London temple that provides a forum for students to meet and mix with like minded people from various universities.

Interesting fact about yourself

During my childhood, I had a Kendo instructor come to my home every week to teach me this martial art. As a result of the expertise I had developed, I won my high school's Kendo tournament.

jammin jammin jammin jammin

Jammin is a fortnightly dynamic youth event organised and facilitated by IPS

Forthcoming Jammins:

25/02 - Crawley - The Golden Avatar
25/02 - East - When God Comes to Play
04/3 - Crawley - A Prophecy Fulfilled
04/03 - Harrow - Who Did it?
11/03 - Crawley - The Age of Kali
11/03 - East - Astrology and the stars
18/03 - Harrow - Power of Sound
25/03 - East - Abortion, Euthanasia and the Death Penalty
For more details see www.psenas.com

Subject to change



The Appeal against Wedding Marquee Refusal

On 15th -17th February the Manor returned to Hertsmere Borough Council for an Appeal against the refusal of the summer wedding marquee. For over ten years the Manor has facilitated wedding services in the marquee, taking pressure off the small temple room and alleviating the conflict that occurs between public worship and private services. When asked to formalise the use of the marquee, an application was submitted for a two year period, allowing eleven weeks each year for weddings.

The Planning Officers welcomed the application and recommended it for approval, however some locals and Councillors opposed it. Thus the application was then refused. During the Appeal it was demonstrated that the wedding marquee has no noise impact on the local village. The Inspector's decision is expected to be published by the end of April.



Remembering the Victims of Persecution

Srutidharma das and Radha Mohan das represented Bhaktivedanta Manor at Hertsmere Council's Holocaust Memorial Service on 27th January. The event, which was attended by local Councillors, local school children and community and faith representatives, included prayers, the lighting of candles, a film and a performance by the Community Choir. Srutidharma das, who was particularly welcomed by the Mayor Cllr Linda Silver, read a prayer along with other faith leaders.

Holocaust Memorial Day is about remembering the victims of, and those whose lives have been changed beyond recognition by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and the ongoing atrocities today in Darfur.



March 2011

Wed	16	Amalaki Ekadasi
Thur	17	Disappearance of Madhavendra Puri
Sat	19	Gaura Purnima (fast till moonrise)
Sun	20	Gaura Purnima & Holi festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor
Sat	26	Appearance of Sri Srivasa Pandit
Wed	30	Papamocani Ekadasi

April 2011

Sun	3	Mothers Day
Fri	8	Appearance of Sri Ramanujacarya
Wed	12	Ramanavami (fasting till sunset)
Fri	14	Kamada Ekadasi
Sun	17	Ramanavami festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor
Mon	18	Balarama Rasayatra Appearance of Sri Hanuman
Wed	27	Disappearance of Sri Vrindavan das Thakur
Thur	28	Varuthini Ekadasi

Bhaktivedanta Manor
Dharam Marg · Hilfield Lane
Aldenham · Herts WD25 8EZ
 (for sat-nav only, please use
 postcode **WD25 8DT**)

01923 851000
www.krishnatemple.com

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