

# BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

NEWSLETTER

February 2018



International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

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



A small school  
with a big heart



## 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*



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Please send your news, photos and comments to: Radha Mohan das  
[newsletter@krishnatemple.com](mailto:newsletter@krishnatemple.com)

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## BRAVING THE COLD TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE

The annual Winter Book Distribution Marathon is always a very special and magical time for the Manor and ISKCON as a whole. It's a time where devotees try their best to go against all odds to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books en masse to the general public. With consumerism on the rise and the coldest winter we have seen in years, it was a challenging time! However, due to the inspiration of our Founder-Acarya, over 400 devotees from across the Manor's large community popped on their winter jackets and took to the towns and cities armed with profound spiritual knowledge.

There were many new initiatives which took off exceptionally well and it is anticipated they will set the trend for book distribution for this year. These included:-

- Superstore Sankirtan (Book tables in local supermarkets)
- Monthly sankirtan (book distribution) festival with special kids Sankirtan party!
- Door-to-Door initiatives
- Travelling Sankirtan parties
- Go-Matsya (Srimad Bhagavatam set distribution)





- Gita Jayanti at the Manor (celebrating the advent of Krishna speaking the Gita)
- Bhakti Vriksha (congregational) Teams

Our Go-Matsya team have had a resounding success in distributing sets of Srimad-Bhagavatam far and wide, so much so that the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust in the UK temporarily ran out of stock!

In total, the great efforts of the Manor community devotees resulted in humongous distribution of over 73,000 books over just one month!

The efforts were celebrated at the National Sankirtan festival which was attended by hundreds of devotees from across the UK. Devotees from the Manor achieved top ranking positions on a national level in the following categories:-

### **Street distributors**

2nd place – Gaura Narayana das

5th place – Sutapa das

6th place – Gurushakti devi dasi (Top lady distributor in the UK)

7th place – Bhakta Arun

9th place – Sesa das

### **Street Teams**

4th place – Go-Matsya

### **Contact distributors**

1st place – Radha Gokulananda's book table

### **Contact team**

1st place – Bhakti Vriksha

3rd place – Bhaktivedanta Manor Foundation team

If you would like to get involved in any way, contact Nikhil:

[sankirtan@krishnatemple.com](mailto:sankirtan@krishnatemple.com)

## Distributing 18-volume sets of Bhagavatam

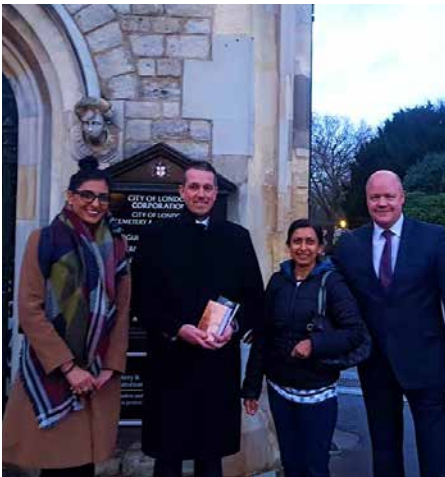


The new Go Matsya project started in the UK in August last year and so far 100 advocates have enrolled and no less than 100 set of Srimad Bhagavatams have being distributed.

At present Go Matsya includes a core team of 6 devotees from the Manor's congregation and they hope to expand the project to at least five other centres/ temples across the UK this year.

They are also planning to start a Go Matsya channel on Mayapur.tv which will include interactive sessions based around the Srimad Bhagavatam.

Go Matsya would like to hear from those who would like a set of Srimad Bhagavatams and those who would like to distribute them. For more information contact Davesh Kumar: [gomatsya.uk@gmail.com](mailto:gomatsya.uk@gmail.com).



## Gitas for City of London Crematorium

Laksmi, Chandhu Joshi and Saci Rani dasi delivered 200 copies of the Bhagavad-gitas to the City of London Crematorium.

The Crematorium Manager was very pleased and explained that he had been trying to obtain Gitas in the past, but didn't know where to get them from. The Superintendent of the Crematorium also came to officially receive the books from the devotees.



## NEW SITE FOR THE MANOR SCHOOL

The Manor School children participated in an inaugural ceremony to mark a new chapter in their school's history. The primary school has been situated at Bhaktivedanta Manor for the past 35 years. Due to various challenges associated with the building of the new Haveli on the site and the required demolition of two of the classrooms, the school has been relocated into a new temporary premises not far away.

The renovation of the existing buildings took over eight months to complete, and involved top architects, structural engineers, two major building contractors and a big investment from the temple. Kaushik Patel was hands on at every step and the Patrons Working Committee oversaw the entire development.

The new site gives extra facilities to the children and the teachers. The most important feature of the new site is the fact that the children are totally safe, protected and have lots of space of their own to let their imaginations bloom!

Temporary permission to house a school on the premises is only for 2 years. Let's see how the school develops in this time.

There was a wonderful gathering for the ribbon cutting and inaugural ceremony conducted by Kripamoya das. This also included the School Governors led by Vice Chair Kapila Monet, builders like Anand Kumar das, Vascroft, Nilesh Patel and Katie Begliey from architects Cottrell and Vermeulen. Gauri das represented the Trustees, while Temple President Srutidharma das, teachers, parents, well-wishers and of course the children were also present.

The kirtan was led by some of the past graduates - Jahnvi, Gita, Sita and the Student Council members helped to cut the ribbon. With all the auspicious prayers and the blessings of all assembled devotees and Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda we pray that the school will go from strength to strength!

*by Guru Charana Padma dasi*



## Honouring the Manor School leadership

Jagaddhatri dasi, Gaurangi dasi and many others decided to organise a special event in honour of Guru Carana Padma dasi and Moksha Laksmi dasi , for their dedication to the Manor School over so many years.

On New Year's Day community devotees witnessed a variety show in the Letchmore Heath's Village Hall, with the Manor School being the main focus.

Children had been working hard over Christmas to prepare a charming play. There was also a dance by Keli Cancala dasi and Jayadeva das kindly performed an interactive song in honour of Guru Carana Padma dasi and Moksa Laksmi dasi. The alumni children delivered a heart-warming speech and then Jagaddhatri dasi and Braja Gopali showed a slide show about the School's history. Paravyoma das and the Manor kitchen staff provided a wonderful feast.



## Sivarama Swami promotes religious and racial tolerance amongst children

A school from Hertfordshire, which had been experiencing religious and racial intolerance amongst its students, made a very special visit to the Manor recently.

The school's Religious Education teacher had been inspired by Sivarama Swami's online video blogs and he arranged for the Swami to address the children.

Students were very respectful and listened to Sivarama Swami with rapt attention while he spoke about tolerance, unity and diversity.



## Science and Philosophy Initiative at Oxford

The Science and Philosophy Initiative (SPi) is a growing team of devotees headed up by Akhandadhi das. The team has recently been involved in discussions at Oxford University with two eminent scholars - Dr Stuart Hameroff and Sir Roger Penrose. Hameroff is an American anaesthesiologist and Professor at the University of Arizona known for his studies of consciousness, and Penrose is an English mathematical physicist and philosopher of science. Talking amongst one another, they wandered through the strange world of quantum mechanics, out into the cosmos, and back to the inner workings of nerve cells. With new friendships formed, and a respectful level of debating mood maintained, both parties certainly benefited from the interaction.

The 'SPi-ers' returned to Oxford a few days later for their second internal conference. The question on the table was, 'how on earth are we going to tell the world about consciousness, and its tremendous import?'

info@s-pi.org

www.s-pi.org

## Sally Greenwood releases 'Bhaktivedanta Manor With Photography'

Sally Hedges Greenwood has visually captured the life and soul of Bhaktivedanta Manor and those that worshipped, celebrated, worked and lived there in 2004. Thirteen years later, in 2017, a collaboration with Radha Mohan das adds a further dynamic to the previously unpublished photographs, which succeeds in being both intimate and informative.

Sally was a mature student from Amersham College and was assigned to the Manor for her end of year project. Sally was previously the Managing Director of an exhibition company, so taking photographs was natural to her.

"Photographing at Bhaktivedanta Manor was an extraordinary experience for me in many ways", explained Sally. "There was always a lot going on and I was accepted by the community right from the very beginning. I considered myself an ideal person to capture their moments".

Available on Amazon at the following url [www.tinyurl.com/ycmplhlh](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycmplhlh)



## A sabbatical journey through historic India

by Nikhil Gohil

Last autumn, ten of us spent over two months in India as part of the Manor's annual Sabbatical programme. This programme is an opportunity to experience full-on spiritual life whilst also studying the Bhakti-Shastri, an in-depth course which covers key scriptures such as the Bhagavad-Gita.

We visited the holy places of Vrindavan and Mayapur; Kolkata, where Srila Prabhupada spent his childhood; Puri, home of the merciful Lord Jagannatha; and South India, where there are ancient temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu that were visited by Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Throughout our journey, there were several recurring themes. One theme

was that of effort and mercy: in any spiritual endeavour, we cannot achieve success without Krishna's mercy, but only through sincere effort on our part can we attract His mercy. Closely linked to this was the theme of surrender: surrendering to Krishna is the only way to overcome the obstacles that prevent us from making spiritual progress.

Another theme was the importance of devotional service: service of Krishna and His devotees are priceless jewels and should be treated as such.

The Sabbatical has exceeded my expectations, and I would recommend it to anyone who would like to fully immerse themselves in spiritual life and also learn more about themselves in the process. [ashram@krishnatemple.com](mailto:ashram@krishnatemple.com)



## Holy Name Day

On Sunday 14th January, Sivarama Swami, Jayadev das, Madhava das and Radhika dasi, supported by an orchestra of musicians kept the melodious sound of the Hare Krishna Mantra pulsating around the Manor to the delight of the community. The event is sponsored every year by the Mulji family of Kenya Jewellers in memory of their family members



## CELEBRATING LORD NITYANANDAS APPEARANCE

On Monday 29th January, the community of Bhaktivedanta Manor came together to celebrate the birth of Lord Nityananda. Born in 1474 in the village of Ekachakra, now in West Bengal, he became Caitanya Mahaprabhu's principal associate for spreading the congregational chanting of the holy names of Lord Krishna. It is said that his beauty was so enchanting and He was so full of ecstatic love for Krishna that, wherever He moved, crowds of people would follow and become lovers of God.

The day's celebrations included a devotional as well as very entertaining

drama by the Bhaktivedanta Players about Lord Nityananda's mercy upon the degraded Jagai and Madai. Jayadev das and children of the Manor School sang some beautiful interactive devotional songs. Special guest Janananda Goswami then delivered a special class and that was followed by the traditional abhikseka bathing ceremony of the forms of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda.

Whilst devotees were out on hari nama chanting procession in Watford, they tried to capture Lord Nityananda's mood of sharing the Hare Krishna mantra as widely as possible.





## Celebrating the song of God

On Sunday 17th December Bhaktivedanta Manor hosted its annual Gita Jayanti event. Main participants sponsored 2172 copies of the Bhagavad-gita and at least 700 community members came to the Temple to take part in the recital and hear commentaries about the 'Song of God'. In addition, nearly 1000 people

witnessed it online.

Navadvip Chandra das led the Sanskrit recitals, and Sutapa das delivered clear and concise purports.

The sponsored Gitas are now being distributed to crematoriums, hospitals, schools, and given as gifts to a variety of Temple guests.



## Krishna Wisdom kicks off New Year in style

2017 was a successful year for Krishna Wisdom as many newcomers from across the UK took up the practice of chanting Hare Krishna. The team decided to close the year and 'begin a new chapter', by inviting members to take part in a fire yajna, or as we named it: "A New Year's Blessing Ceremony." 80 participants sat around the yajna

kunda (the fire) as Kripamoya das led them into a space of 'auspiciousness and prosperity'.

More recently we invited them to partake in the first "Soul Expressions" of this year. We began with a delicious meal, a mindfulness drumming session led by Jayadeva das and finished with dancing and chanting by the Kirtan Scotland band!



## Keep it Spiritual!

Every year Bhaktivedanta Manor carries a different theme characterised by a motto, designed to enthuse and remind the Temple community of that particular year's focus.

Whilst continuing with last year's principle of Athiti Devo Bhava (affording first class hospitality to guests), this year's theme of 'Keep it Spiritual' was launched during the first Manor Monthly Updates session of the year, attended by staff and residents. The

session included devotees splitting into groups to brainstorm five different ways to ensure the spiritual atmosphere at Bhaktivedanta Manor remains strong.

Some of the points mentioned included the necessity of good team work, exemplary behaviour, to be welcoming, have good sadhana (study and chanting), befriending devotees of all levels of experience, encouraging and working together in harmony, as well as gratitude and humility.



## Is there a Doctor in the house?

Over 100 doctors, midwives and their families came to the Manor from Whittington Hospital, to bid a fond farewell to Vibhavari dasi, consultant obstetrician, who is moving to another hospital having spent 10 years at Whittington.



The doctors and department members were treated to a talk by Kripa Moya das, the shadow play by the Pandava Sena, a tour of the Manor, following by an evening dinner and an hour-long kirtan in the temple room. As they left they were each gifted with a Bhagavad gita, the Mantra Lounge album and cookies!



## Youth showcase drama ushered in 2018

The youth group Pandava Sena once again hosted their annual New Year's Eve kirtan night to celebrate the welcoming of the new year in the most auspicious way! The night started off in true Sena fashion with a hilarious drama, putting a humorous twist on the youth group's previous activities. This was then followed by words of wisdom from Srutidharma das. To conclude the evening, a kirtan band sang their hearts out into 2018.

Overall, it was an incredibly successful year for Pandava Sena, and we hope that this year will be even more so!

[www.psena.com](http://www.psena.com)



## Veda London

On January 18th HH Sivarama Swami was invited to keynote at Ernst & Young (EY) HQ for Veda London's collaboration event with the EY Hindu Network. The event was titled 'Finding your Purpose' and discussed the topic through the lens of the Bhagavad Gita. With over 120 professionals from across the city in attendance, Sivarama Swami explained how one can take lessons from Bhagavad Gita and apply them our daily personal and professional lives. The event was streamed live via the 'Veda London' page on Facebook where people from all over the world tuned in to watch the keynote speech.

[www.vedalondon.com](http://www.vedalondon.com)



## Parody Panto performed by the Players

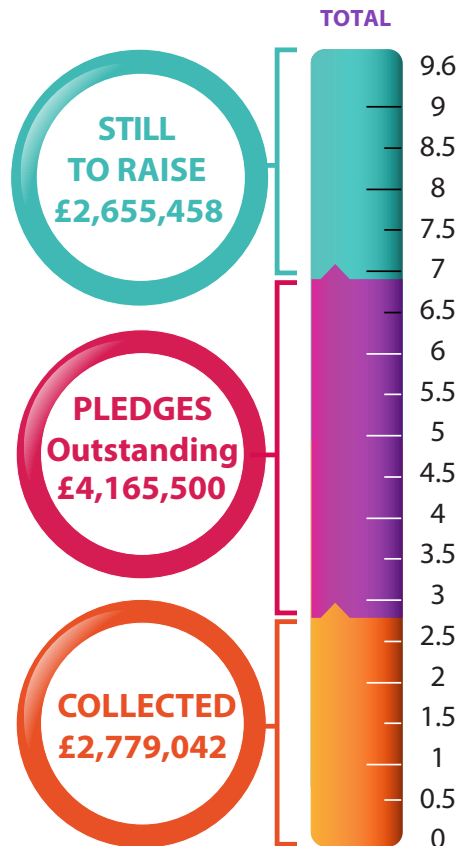
The Bhaktivedanta Players were full of seasonal cheer when they performed their premier panto, a hilarious parody of the famous fairy-tale 'Beauty and the Beast'. Devotees were amused by the 'Krishna conscious twist' to the story and laughter echoed throughout the Manor's packed theatre auditorium.

# SRI KRISHNA HAVELI PROJECT UPDATE



Now that the preliminary works have been completed, we are in a position to begin works on the Shree Krishna Haveli. To ensure the continuation of the works, we are looking to secure a loan which will be serviced by the donations raised through all your contributions.

- New access roads to the car parks are complete.
- The Manor Primary School has been relocated.
- New Tulsi Houses are complete, ready for Tulasi Devi to move in.
- Children’s Playground will not be available during the construction period of the Shree Krishna Haveli.
- The works to relocate Radharani’s Bakery and Gift Shop have begun.
- Final contracts have been signed with Vascroft Contractors for demolition and excavation works to begin.





- Our Heartfelt thanks to all who have pledged their support for this historic project.
- A further £2.66 million is required.
- We need another ~~265~~ 177 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](http://www.krishnatemple.com/haveli)





## Synagogue and temple form connection

The biggest ever local Mitzvah Day took place between members of the Radlett United Synagogue and Krishna Club.

The Synagogue also invited a number of elderly residents as congregants adopted the Mitzvah Day theme of inter-generational outreach. Hence children of both faiths served vegetarian snacks to their elders.

Sandeep Sidana, from Bhaktivedanta Manor, told the Jewish Chronicle: "Events like these are really important. It's great for the Jewish community here to invite us and it helps to show how similar we all are. We all have a spiritual connection and we both have practices which are quite similar."



## Prince of Wales lauds faith leaders at gala event

Kripamoya das, Guru Carana Padma dasi and Sita Ram das joined the Archbishop to Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi and leaders from across the private, public and voluntary sectors at a Gala event in London to commemorate Faith in Leadership's 10th Anniversary.

Founded and led by Krish Raval, a

congregational member of the Manor since his schooldays, Faith in Leadership is the UK's main leadership programme for faith communities. HRH The Prince of Wales sent a video message in which he described Faith in Leadership as an "essential" in "healing the world we share" and similar sentiments were expressed by the Prime Minister and other leaders.