

Every Town & Village

Newsletter for Front Line Preachers

Issue 2, 2005

Krishna Camp 2005

by Vasudeva das

This year's third edition of Krishna Camp met with yet unprecedented success as over 120 devotees gathered together between 8 and 14 August in a green field near the Forest of Dean, in Gloucestershire.

Dwelling in their tents, campervans and caravans, for a blissful week of rural satsang, the devotees started each day with a later than usual, yet full morning program, that included mangala arati and Nrisimha prayers in the Temple Marquee, Tulsi Puja out in the sun, and a well attended Srimad Bhagavatam class. After Prabhupada's guru-puja was the 'Morning Meeting', at 10 am, where the field's residents, mice, moles, and devotees alike, were briefed about the day's activities, i.e. workshops, discussions, and fun + delights at the on-site cafe.

At mid-week, a 12-hour continuous Hare Krishna kirtan was held from noon to midnight. This naam-yajna was dedicated to Ramai, a dearly missed teenager and Krsna Camp enthusiast who prematurely left this world last year; and to H.H. Bhakti Thirta Swami who passed on this year in June. His Holiness had inaugurated the very first Krsna Camp two years ago when he gave a seminar on community building.

Krishna Camp is a Srila Prabhupada-centred community



Harinam at Krishna Camp

project organised mostly by ISKCON devotees, whose desire is providing a place for all Lord Caitanya's followers to associate in a fraternal spirit.

As a family camp, there is of course a kid's area with its trampoline, a teen dome, and a 'tween' dome. Child minder Janaki kept the children excited just rehearsing and performing Krishna lila plays much of the week. Jamuna made sure the healing area had its daily acupuncturist, reflexologist, and other well being experts. Kitchen chef Saksi Gopal, despite technical delays in making offerings on time, managed to keep all campers more than happy with a daily prasadam far exceeding that of the previous year.

H.H. Mahavishnu Swami and the half-dozen preachers who came from London for a well deserved holiday ended up overstaying at camp, during which time two major isthaghosthis spontaneously took place.

The camp's now traditional cabaret went in full swing on Saturday night thanks to entertainment co-ordinators Sri Kama and Rasalila. Sunday, finally, was the camp's highlight for many, with presiding Deities Sri Sri Radha Campeswara's holy abhisheka ceremony, followed by Kripamoya Prabhu's fire yajna, in the Temple Marquee.



Prasadam at the Campsite

What an inspiring experience Krishna Camp 2005 was.

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Krishna Consciousness at Leicester University

by Gauranga Sundara das



Signing up for Membership

Devotees from the Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester took part in this year's Freshers Fair at Leicester University. It was a two day event during which dozens of students signed up for the newly established 'Krishna Consciousness Society'.

During the Fair devotees took to the stage and chanted Hare Krishna to hundreds of curious students. Everyone was much delighted that Krishna Consciousness has finally made its appearance at the University.



Hot Krishna Prasadam on a really Cold Day

Devotees arranged for one of Srila Prabhupada's books, the latest BTG magazine, the Centre's newsletter, the Centre's 'Follow Your Heart' audio CD and some delicious Krishna prasadam to be presented to students who joined the society. "What a

great gift!" exclaimed some enthusiastically.

Devotees regularly distribute hot Krishna prasadam at the campus via a converted Indian bicycle rickshaw. The 'Food for Life' programme has already found much enthusiasm amongst the homeless and needy.

Now the student community in Leicester can also take advantage of Lord Caitanya's mercy in the form of hot Krishna prasadam, which has been offered to Sri Sri Nitai Saci-Sundar, the installed deities at the Hare Krishna Centre.

One question is being asked

Consciousness is all about and if it has any relevance for them. Those who want to know more are invited to the Centre, which is only five minutes away from the University.

Krishna prasadam is wholesome, vegetarian and healthy. It is sponsored by a number of



Prasadam Distribution on the Campus of Leicester University

again and again, 'who is sponsoring that?' Another student exclaimed, 'this is free? You mean free? That is not possible!'

Prasadam distribution at the University also sparks off philosophical debate. Students want to know what Krishna

people and businesses. The rickshaw itself has been kindly donated by Parasurama Prabhu from the London based 'Food for All' charity.



This Food is Delicious and it is Free? You Guys are Great!

A Visit to the Gurudwara

Devotees from the Hare Krishna Centre visited the local Gurudwara in Leicester. They were invited as an Interfaith Initiative arranged by Satwant from GMW Ltd., who kindly helped the Centre with the 'Food for Life' rickshaw.

During the visit devotees were honoured with the orange shawl, the greatest honour one can receive in Sikhism. The shawl has been blessed by the *Guru Granth Sahib Ji*. After the ceremony the devotees were invited to a dinner in the great *Langar*.

During prasadam devotees had the opportunity to discuss the

philosophy of Sikhism with their host. It was explained to them that the Sikh chant of '*Vaheguru*' had the following meaning. The 'V' stands for *Vasudeva*, the 'H' for *Hari*, the 'G' for *Govinda* and the 'R' for *Ram*. Devotees also answered a number of questions from their host, some philosophical and some of more practical nature.

The visit was altogether very educational and has strengthened ties between the two communities.



Devotees from the Hare Krishna Centre are being honoured with the orange Shawl

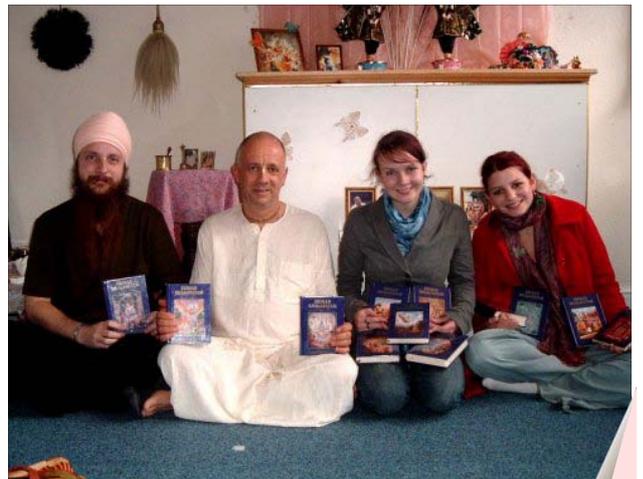
Srimad Bhagavatam for Regents College

Another 30 volume set of *Srimad Bhagavatam* has been donated to a school. Tirath Singh, head of Religious Studies at Leicester's Regent College gratefully accepted the sponsored set during an official visit to the Hare Krishna Centre.

Two of his A-level students from the College who came along to the Centre were much delighted

to visit a Hare Krishna Temple for the first time. During their studies of Hinduism at the College they had as project to study ISKCON, or the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

The students had many questions about the history and development of the Hare Krishna Movement as well as questions about modern day ISKCON.



Tirath Singh with two of his Students receives a Bhagavatam set

Annual Report

The Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester has produced its 1st Annual Report. We feel much has been achieved this year. Amongst other goals we have set out to involve the

local student community. By the Lord's mercy we have made a good start and students are starting to come to the Centre. Contact has been made via the 'Krishna Consciousness Society' at the university and in particular through 'Food for Life'

prasadam distribution at the campus. The programme has much potential for the future.

The report can be viewed by [clicking on this link](#).

A Festival Every Day

by Minaketanarama das

This year saw the 3rd Krishna Camp, and the best attended so far. More devotees are seeing the benefits of spending time with each other for a week in a relaxed atmosphere with morning and evening Krishna Conscious programmes and workshops in the daytime. Even if you haven't spent many years preaching at outdoor festivals, or going to them as a hippie before becoming a devotee as I have, it's worth a few austerities for the



A Fire Yajna at Krishna Camp



Abhisheka Bathing Ceremony

One day we had 12 hour kirtan in honor of Ramai (Rohininandan's son) who left his body shortly after the Camp last year, and Bhakti Tirtha Swami who had opened our first Krishna Camp. Anyone who has a taste for the Holy Name could experience ecstatic kirtans throughout the 12 hours.

There were a variety of workshops including Tulasi bead tree making by Muralidhar Prabhu and Bollywood dancing by Rasalila, fleece rug making, beading, and Krishna drama for the

pervised by Sakshi Gopal Prabhu) and was wonderful, and for daytime or late night delights devotees could go to the café run by Punya Sloka and Devaki Prabhus.

Janaki Prabhu and I looked after the temple tent with Radha Krishna, Jagannatha, Baladeva, Subhadra, Gaura Nitai and Srila Prabhupada with a full morning programme. Our service culminated on the last day when we had abhisek of Radha Krishna. These were Vasudeva Prabhu's deities, and everyone had the

mercy of being able to bathe them. Kripamoya Prabhu blessed us with the nectar of an ecstatic kirtan while the *abhisek* was going on. Afterwards he facilitated a fire yajna which was very popular with a full tent of devotees.



The Altar was Beautifully Decorated

Bhogini and Sri Kama Prabhus, who are the coordi-

young ones.

Prasadam was served every evening (the Kitchen being su-

nators of the camp, prompted the morning meeting every day to announce the day's activities, and clear up any problems, and

benefits you get.

This year as previously there was a range of devotees, some from different Maths and standards in their practices of Krishna Consciousness, but there were no politics, there were only devotees trying to associate with each other in a peaceful area of countryside 15 miles south of Gloucester. There was a range of different styles of kirtans going on from 8.0 am until the early hours, and we were very fortunate to have H.H. Mahavisnu Swami and some of the festival team devotees for 3 days.

were a mainstay in making sure the camp was running smoothly. Sri Kama also organized the evening entertainments.

Krishna Camp is becoming increasingly popular but not

every devotee's ideal is spending a week camping which is why ISKCON is organizing a large outdoor weekend festival for next year. I feel they will both compliment each other and I will support both. Srila

Prabhupada said that he could give us a festival for every day of the year as in the spiritual world it is like a festival every day.

A Wonderful Visit

Kantaben and fourteen clients from the Asian Day Centre in Kettering visited the Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester. The group have been longstanding supporters and a firm relationship has developed over the years. The Centre has helped the devotees to purchase a bread maker, donated towards the deities and made a range of other contributions.

The Day Centre is supported by Kettering's County Council. Its aim is to get the elderly out of their homes because they feel very lonely due to not having their grown up children living with them. The local Council provides transport for the group to go regularly on outings to the

Leicester Hare Krishna Centre, the Manor, the Swami Narayan Mandir in Nisden or just on a picnic.

Kanta mataji has been working with the group for the past ten years. She has introduced a pure vegetarian lunch which is offered to Lord Krishna. She also arranged for a prayer room where the elderly perform regularly Krishna bhajans, do arati or celebrate Diwali. The inspiration for all this comes from her contact with the devotees, which began some six years ago.

Kanta mataji brought the group again to Leicester after the installation of the deities. They were astonished and amazed to see the newly installed forms of Their Lordships Sri Sri Nitai



Kantaben with her Clients from the Asia Day Centre in Kettering

Saci-Sundar. Especially the beauty of the Lords fascinated everyone. After all had settled down the arati ceremony began.

Vedic Culture in Britain?

Yaduvendu Prabhu visited the Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester for a discourse on Vedic culture in pre-historic Britain. Many guests and devotees turned up for this extraordinary event.

He presented compelling evidence from his fifteen year research about a link between the culture of the Druids and Vedic culture, which had been

prevalent in Britain and over Europe according to his findings.

His presentation was detailed and scholarly and many of the academic guests were intrigued by his conclusion. Yaduvendu wants to present his research to students from Leicester University when he visits next. He plans to publish a book on Vedic culture in Britain in the near future.



Yaduvendu Prabhu in Leicester

Eternal Bliss

The new 'Eternal Bliss' CD Volume two and three have been released. Volume one has long been the favourite of the devotee community. Now two further volumes have been released. The recordings were made during an annual visit to *New Vraja Dham* in Hungary.

New Vraja Dham is a flourishing devotee community near Balaton Lake not far from Budapest. Besides the wonderful deities of Sri Sri Radha Syamasundara and Lal Giri Govardhana devotees have build a magnificent side altar for Lord Nrisimhadeva. The farm community is home to a great number of devotees who have built their own houses.

The 'Eternal Bliss' recording was made during a three day festival on the occasion of Nrisimha Caturdasi. The recordings feature H.H. Sivarama Swami, H.H. Bhakti Bringa Govinda Maharaja along with his Kazakhstani musicians, H.G. Madhava Prabhu and hundreds of enthusiastic devotees from Hungary and other places around Europe.

The CD is available at the Hare Krishna Centre's [Internet Store](#). The shop also stocks the live recording 'Rasa' from the Giri Lal Band, a well sought after item which features devotees from Leicester and the UK. All proceeds from the album go towards the Hare Krishna Centre's 'Food for Life' program.



Lord Nrisimhadeva at New Vraja Dham

Matchless Gifts

November 2005 saw a long planned visit of devotees from the Hare Krishna Centre in Leicester to 'Matchless Gifts' at Kings Cross in London. The Centre is run by Parasurama Prabhu from the well known London based charity 'Food for All'.

It is right in the heart of London being only five minutes from Kings Cross tube station. Devotees distribute regularly Krishna *prasadam* from their bicycle rickshaws and a van, thus covering two nearby universities (UCC, SOAS or LSE) and various other locations in central London.

The program is perhaps one of the most successful outreach

and preaching projects in the UK. It is therefore the flag-ship of Lord Caitanya's mercy in the form of bhagavad prasadam. The project is entirely funded by public grants and trust funds. With its many computers the Centre provides opportunities for the under privileged by giving training and free access to the Internet.

Devotees conduct regular morning and evening programs at the Centre thus providing a spiritual focus, good training and spiritual education in inner London.

Leicester's 'Food for Life' program has been inspired by Parasurama Prabhu and his 'Food for All' charity. He kindly provided the Hare Krishna Centre with its rickshaw. Moreover, he has given valuable

advice and guidance regarding outreach activities as well as funding. Devotees in Leicester feel very much indebted to him.



Prasadam Distribution