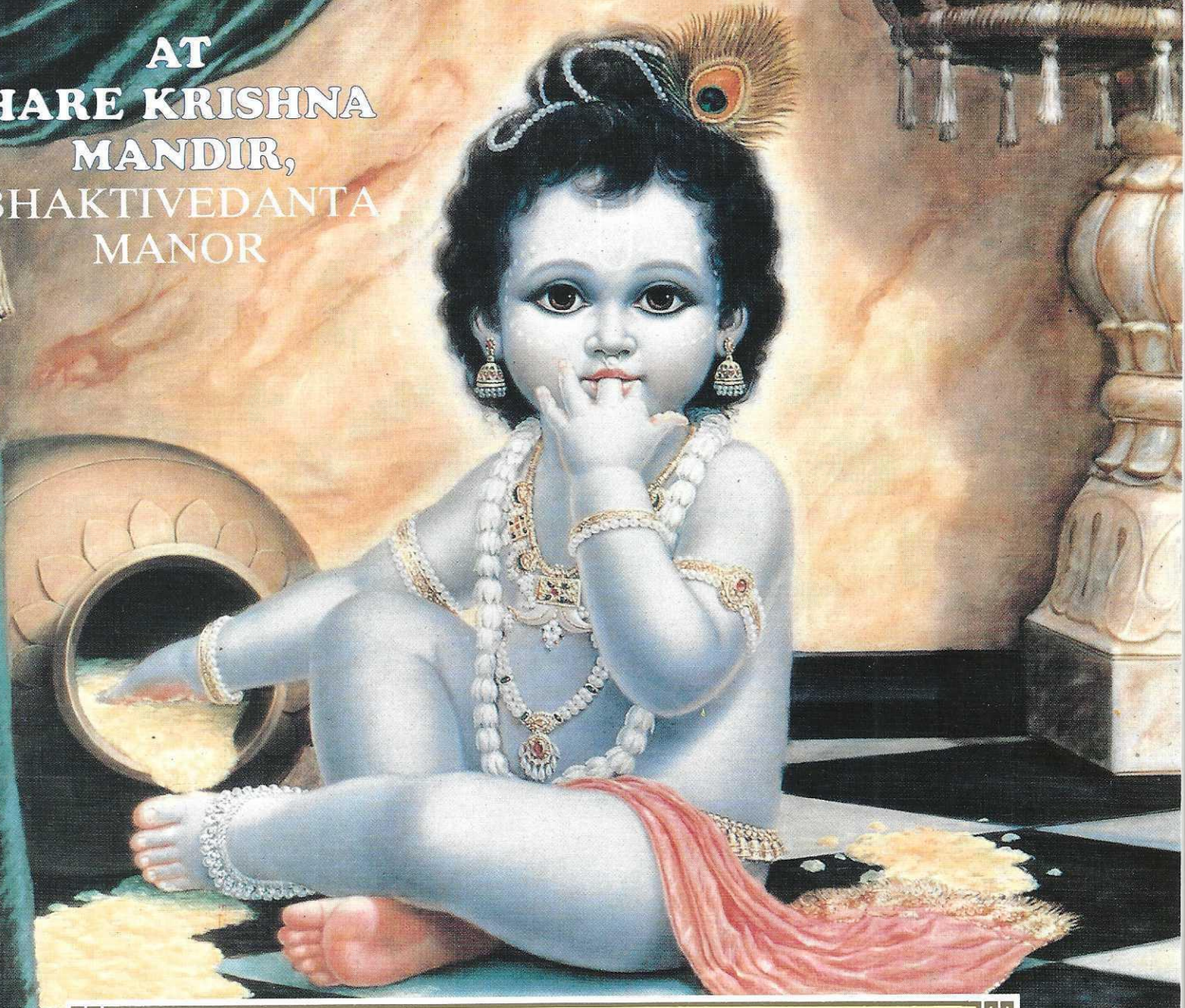


INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS  
FOUNDER-ACARYA A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA

# SHREE KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI 1989

AT  
HARE KRISHNA  
MANDIR,  
BHAKTIVEDANTA  
MANOR



With Best Wishes for Sri Krishna Janmashtami from M. R. Sandhu & C. J. Sandhu



## Roy Properties Ltd.

Roy's Corner  
Central House, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7PE



# **BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR SAVE THE TEMPLE CAMPAIGN**



**SRI SRI RADHA GOKULANANDA AT BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR**

# **THIS SHRINE MUST NOT BE CLOSED**

**HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Wants to Stop You Visiting This  
Shrine for Darshan,  
Arati and Festivals.**





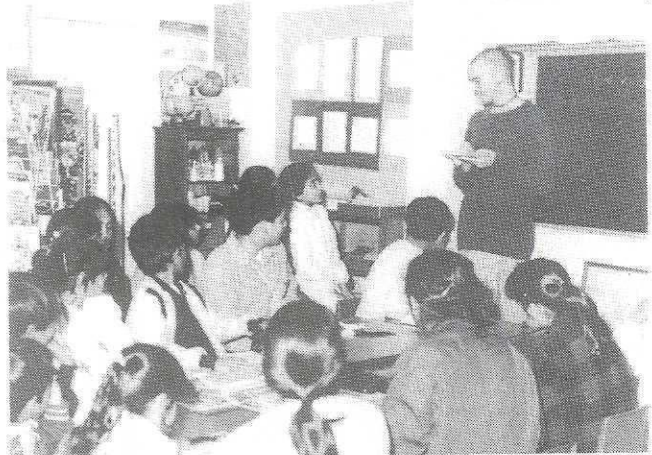
Special study classes on Bhagavad Gita.



The Manor's theatre group perform dramas depicting the rich tradition of India's Vedic culture.



Weddings are held at Bhaktivedanta Manor.



Sunday school each week teaches children about the religion and culture.



Summer Camps are held each year for boys and girls.





# HISTORY OF THE ISSUE

**1986:** Hertsmere Borough Council (H.B.C) issued High Court Writ. The judge at the proceedings ruled in favour of the Manor, dismissing the proceedings brought by the Council and awarded costs to ISKCON.

**Jan. 1987:** H.B.C. issued an Enforcement Notice on ISKCON, requiring the Society to stop the use of Bhaktivedanta Manor for the purposes of a religious community and public worship and public entertainment in connection with religious festivals. In other words: to close the temple for worship by members of the Hindu community and stop all the festivals.

**Feb.:** ISKCON appealed to Department of Environment (D.O.E.).

**May:** ISKCON suggested access road as solution.

**Summer:** D.O.E. announce public inquiry to be held in November to decide on ISKCON's appeal. ISKCON mounts campaign for public support.

Highlights of Campaign were petitions to P.M., demonstrations at H.B.C. and at Tory party conference in Blackpool, protest march in London, lobby at the House of Commons.

**Nov.:** H.B.C. suggested adjournment of hearing, if ISKCON would look for a new site for a temple to hold all public functions. H.B.C. also agreed to assist, even to the extent of identifying sites in the approved Metropolitan Green Belt.

**Nov.'87 - Mar.'88:** ISKCON started research for sites. H.B.C. identified several sites, including one belonging to London Regional Transport (.L.R.T.) in the Green Belt and entered into negotiations with L.R.T. H.B.C. planning officers enthusiastically encouraged ISKCON to make a planning application and also indicated that they would recommend the application.

**May:** H.B.C. wrote to ISKCON and suggested certain conditions for granting approval for new temple site. The main obstacle was H.B.C.'s insistence that ISKCON withdraw its appeal against enforcement notice. This was out of the question since it would leave ISKCON totally vulnerable should there be any action taken by H.B.C. Also H.B.C.'s suggestion of a period of 18 months to build the temple was absurd.

**June:** H.B.C. Planning Committee considered the following 3 applications.

1. For a new access road to Bhaktivedanta Manor.
2. For a new temple on 41 acres (submitted by ISKCON).
3. For a new temple on 41 acres and a business park on a different site of 11 acres (submitted by L.R.T).

In spite of all the endeavours, the cooperation in searching for a site, all the efforts of the H.B.C. planning officers and the considerable costs involved, the H.B.C. planning committee refused each of the applications out of hand.

**September:** Secretary of State for D.o.E. announced that he will make a decision on the three appeals.

**October:** Hertsmere make statement that they are now willing to grant permission for new temple at Elstree, but under unreasonable conditions.

**November:** ISKCON withdrew appeal for access road. Inquiry is divided into two:-

1st inquiry — to hear appeal against Enforcement Notice to close Bhaktivedanta Manor only.

2nd inquiry — to hear appeal against refusal for temple at Elstree, along with appeal by London Regional Transport for temple and connected business park.

**November/December:** 1st inquiry held.

**February 1989:** 2nd inquiry held.

Following both inquiries, the inspector appointed by the D.o.E. to hear the appeal writes his report and submits it to the Secretary of State for his decision.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Oct/Nov/Dec** Decision expected from D.o.E.

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# WHY HAS THE COUNCIL TAKEN THIS ACTION?

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## THEY SAY

## OUR REPLY

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*The number of visitors to the Manor causes problems to the local residents.*

On normal weekends, the volume of traffic to the Manor does not pose an unacceptable problem to the neighbourhood. On the 6 festival days every year, the traffic control is carefully coordinated with local police, AA and the Council, if required.

*Manor visitors park in the village.*

They don't. In 1976 we built our own car park with a facility for 110 cars. On Festivals we use the cow fields. Therefore there is no need for parking outside of the manor grounds.

*The festivals are noisy.*

Not true. The Council checked sound levels during the Janmashtami Festival (when the largest crowds gather). They found that the sound levels *were* acceptable. ISKCON also employed private sound experts who also found that sound levels were not unacceptable.

*General activity of our visitors is a disturbance.*

Not true. Hindu families are religious, very respectable people and believers in non-violence. There has never been any case of crime or violence or any reason for the police to arrest any pilgrim that has visited the Manor, **ever**.



# MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT

## IT MUST BE ONE



## OR THE OTHER

### THE HINDU COMMUNITY MUST HAVE THEIR TEMPLE

Hindus have been fighting for 3 years for their religious rights to visit the Hare Krishna temple at Bhaktivedanta Manor, near Watford for worship and instruction. We tried to avoid a legal confrontation, but, despite all our efforts, no settlement was reached with Hertsmere Council.

Two inquiries have been held:-

**No. 1** December '88 — to decide if Hindus could continue to visit Bhaktivedanta Manor for worship and festivals.

**No. 2** February '89 — to decide if a new temple could be built at Elstree (2 miles from Bhaktivedanta Manor) to serve the Hindu community instead of the present temple.

Sir Graham Eyre QC, appearing for ISKCON, stressed that, "it is unthinkable that the Hindu community should be denied the ability and opportunity to practise their religion . . . . The matter is simple," he said, "either they be allowed to continue visiting Bhaktivedanta Manor as they have for a decade and a half, or they be allowed to create new facilities at Elstree. There must be a continuum!"

### REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF STATE

An Inspector for the Department of the Environment heard the appeals and will write reports to be submitted to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State.

### DECISION AWAITED

A decision is expected later in the year. The Hindu community waits in great anxiety over the fate of the temple. Meanwhile, the Save the Temple Campaign will not stop until a favourable outcome has been achieved.

The Campaign to Save the Temple will not stop until a favourable outcome has been achieved.

# REPORT ON INQUIRIES

## PUBLIC INQUIRY NUMBER 1 DEC 1988

**Appeal against Enforcement Notice to stop the use of Bhaktivedanta Manor for public worship and festivals.**

**Issue:- Are Hindus to be allowed access to the temple for darshan and festivals.**

The 12-day inquiry heard detailed evidence about the background of Krishna Consciousness and how Srila Prabhupada, the founder-acharya of ISKCON, established Bhaktivedanta Manor in Letchmore Heath, Herts in 1973. It was, and still is, the only Hindu theological college in the country training priests, teachers and missionaries, for which planning approval was granted.

A Hindu training college, or "Math", could not function without a proper shrine. Therefore Srila Prabhupada installed the Deities of Radha-Gokulanand at the Manor's shrine. These Deities have been impeccably maintained by the priests and students. Indeed, no other temple in Britain can perform such puja. It is the combination of this standard of puja, the availability of experienced priests and its beautiful setting which has made the Manor the most important Hindu shrine in Britain.

For years, Hertsmere allowed pilgrims to attend the shrine on Sundays and on festivals, but suddenly this attitude changed and in 1987 they issued an Enforcement Notice to close the temple because it was becoming "too popular".

## PUBLIC INQUIRY NUMBER 2 FEB 1989

**Appeal against refusal for Planning Permission for a new temple at Elstree, Herts.**

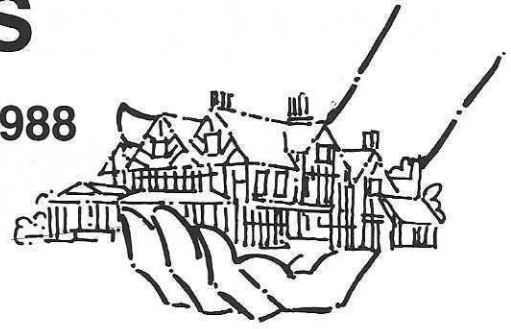
**Issue:- If Hindus can no longer visit Bhaktivedanta Manor, can a new temple be built on a nearby site.**

In November 1987 the inquiry to hear the temple's appeal against the enforcement notice was adjourned to allow time for both parties (ISKCON and Hertsmere) to reach a settlement. The idea was to identify a site to which the activities which attract large numbers to the Manor could be relocated.

A site was chosen in consultation with the Council (see map). Hertsmere involved themselves in negotiations with the owners, London Regional Transport (LRT) and encouraged ISKCON to make an application to build a temple. Astonishingly, Hertsmere then rejected the proposal.

In October 1989, Hertsmere announced it would have granted planning permission subject to conditions. Still, it was not possible to reach a settlement with them, and so a second public inquiry was held in February this year to debate the proposal for a new temple, community hall and ancillary accommodation on a site near Elstree.

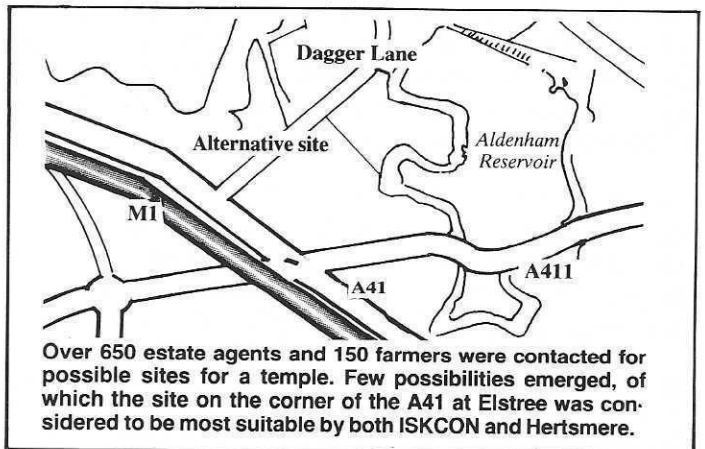
All parties agreed that the Hindu community must have a place to practise their religion. If it was not to be at the Manor, then a new site must be provided. To replace the Manor obviously entailed a large site near North West London, and inevitably in the Green Belt. However, it was concluded that, considering the very special circumstances that would arise if the Manor were closed, the new temple should be permitted



Hertsmere's original allegations of noise, car parking and traffic congestion were refuted. Indeed, Hertsmere did not call an expert witness to even try to substantiate that there was a noise problem. It was clear that there was no issue on car parking and noise.

Except for one day a year on Janmastami, there was not enough traffic to affect the locality. Even then, local residents admitted that things had been improving. Some residents spoke out in favour of ISKCON — they saw no problems whatsoever.

It was pointed out that Hertsmere had encouraged ISKCON to provide facilities such as car parking for the very guests they now sought to ban. Furthermore, Hertsmere had failed to honour their own agreement which granted consent for 6 festival days every year.



### END OF THE ROAD

In earlier newsletters, we presented a proposal to build a new access road to the Manor avoiding all local residences. This could have been a perfect solution to the dispute. However, near the end of last year, we got a final absolute refusal to sell from one of the key landowners. Sadly, we therefore had to



# WORLD HINDUS CONDEMN COUNCIL

## Campaign delegation receives huge support in India and Nepal.

The harrassment of the Hindu temple at Bhaktivedanta Manor, near Watford, has shocked Hindus not only in Britain but in many other countries. Responding to the concern, a delegation led by Cllr Frank Ward of Hertsmere Borough Council went to India in March. The mission was to brief politicians, industrialists and religious and community leaders about the heartless attempt to close down Bhaktivedanta Manor to the public.

Throughout the three week tour of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Vrindavana and Katmandu the reaction in every case was: "...How could such a thing happen in England? If the Indian government closed down a Christian church for any reason they would be branded barbaric!...."

### Highlights of the tour included:-

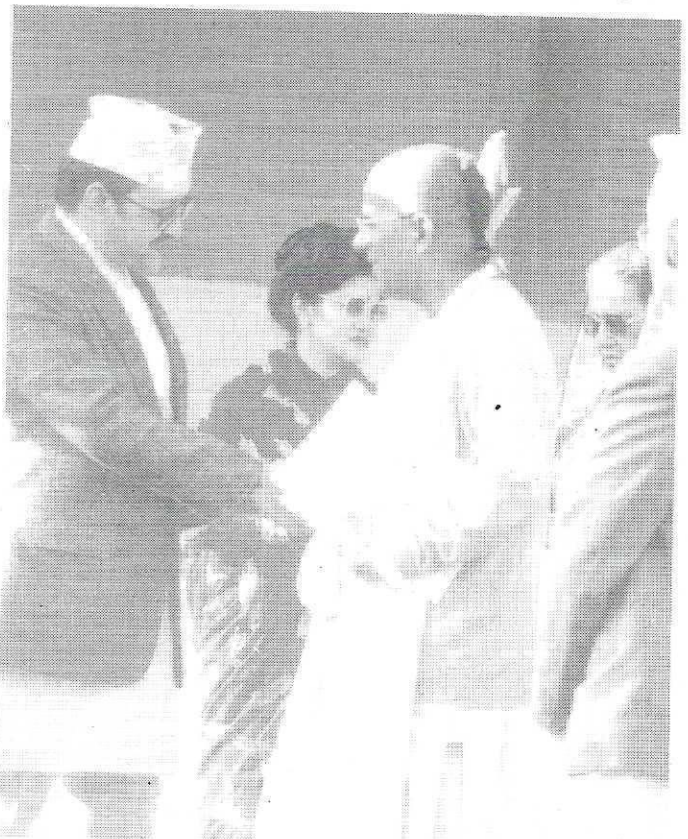
- Ram Anand Sagar promised to include a message about the campaign at the end of an episode of the Ramayan TV series, watched by one half of India's population.
- Mayors of Bombay, Hyderabad and Delhi all pledged full support for the campaign.
- Bombay students organised a protest march to the British embassy.
- 30 politicians attended the Campaign conference at the MP's club in Delhi.
- Letter signed by 14 MPs sent to the UK Prime Minister.

Other dignitaries who gave support were Dr. Karan Singh, ex-Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir ; Sh Panika, parliamentary board secretary; Sh Jagdish Titler, Minister of Labour; Actress Hema Malini; Actor Arun Govill, who plays Rama in the TV series; Music director Anandji Kalyanji; Archbishop of Bombay; Bombay Bar Association; Head priests of Vrindavana's 7 major temples.

The delegation travelled on to Nepal to attend the World Hindu Conference in Katmandu, hosted by HRH King Birendra. Cllr Frank Ward (now named Arjuna das, for his defence of dharma) addressed the conference. 6,000 delegates from 40 countries representing 1 billion Hindus worldwide passed 2 resolutions, unanimously condemning Hertsmere Council's action and calling for an international committee to fight for the temple.

The delegation returned to a huge reception at Heathrow, (broadcast on TV news) and later at Bhaktivedanta Manor where Mr. John Nolan, Mayor of Borehamwood and Elstree, welcomed back his colleague and praised the delegation's success for the campaign

### Royal Support for campaign



Gopal Krsna Maharaja of ISKCON discussed the temple's problem with HRH King Birendra of Nepal at a garden party in the palace. Queen Aisvarya remembered her visit to the London temple in 1983 and urged her husband to help the campaign. Also in the picture is the Maharani of Gwalior, a devout Krishna devotee, who visited Bhaktivedanta Manor some years ago. King Birendra said he would be taking up the issue and hoped he could play his part to save the temple.



# CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES - HIGHLIGHTS

## LOBBY AT COMMONS

Over 100 MPs were petitioned by their constituents in a mass lobby at the House of Commons, held on 1st December 1988. There has been growing disquiet that, despite the pleas from the Hindu people to their elected representatives, this dispute was not settled out of court.

MPs cannot afford to sit back thinking that this dispute does not concern them. You may lose this important facility. Probably there is no alternative temple for you. Therefore your MP must act to protect your interests. He must support the campaign and contact the Secretary of State for the Environment with his protest.

At the Commons a special meeting was chaired by Mr Sidney Bidwell, MP for Southall.



## SACRED FIRE TO DISPEL DANGER

On 7th February, devotees gathered at Bhaktivedanta Manor for a sacred fire ceremony, havan yajna, to invoke the blessings of Lord Krishna at the outset of the second public inquiry,

## WORLD SUPPORT

Almost daily, letters and petitions of protest at the unjust treatment of a Hindu temple are pouring in from around the world. Many cities in America and Australia have organised meetings and petitions handed in to the British Consulates.

## DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES

Hindus in many U.S. cities have invited a British delegation to address human rights meetings across the country. Presently arrangements are being made for a delegation to go to the USA in the springtime and to meet with Hindu community leaders and key Senators. Jesse Jackson has already met with Hindu delegates over the persecution of Krishna devotees in Russia, and Hindus in Great Britain hope he will be a champion for their cause also.

## Excerpts from speeches:-

**Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North:-**

"I have respect and support for all religions to practise in their own established religious centres . . . I am delighted to note that there is all-party involvement . . . you have my continued support."

**Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North:-**

"I can't see that the Hindu community is doing any damage in Hertsmere and therefore they must be able to stay there . . . No council should be allowed to do what Hertsmere is trying to do, because that would be the end of liberty, personal conscience and the individual's relationship with God."

Other speakers included Mr Paul Boateng, MP for Brent South, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East, Councillor Frank Ward, Campaign supporter from Hertsmere and Mr O.P. Sharma, President of the National Council of Hindu Temples (U.K.).

## MP's Petition to be Launched

At the end of the meeting, Mr Bidwell announced that he and Sir Rhodes Boyson would launch a Member's petition called an Early Day Motion in support of the temple. He hoped that it would gather support from about 100 MPs and thereafter be discussed on the floor of the Commons.

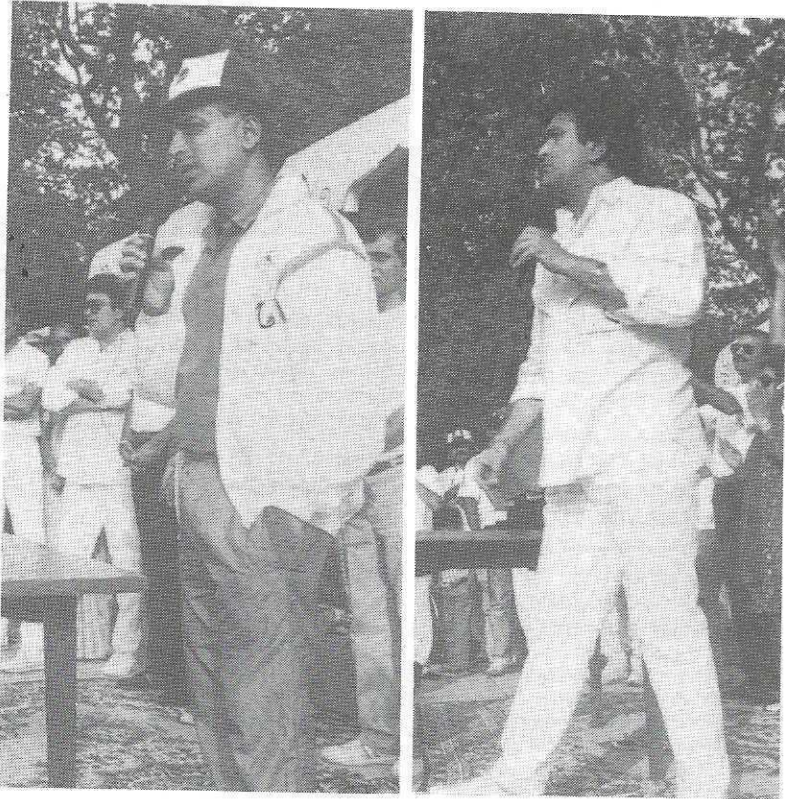
## Delegation urges Prime Minister to stop Hertsmere's "Barbaric Tactics"

A presentation of a flower display pleading "SOS - Save our Shrine" was presented to Mrs. Thatcher prior to the massive protest march and Rathayatra held on Sunday 14th August 1988 on the eve of Indian Independence day. A letter to the Prime Minister from the National Council of Hindu Temples urged that the Government should now intervene to stop the dispute.





# CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES - HIGHLIGHTS



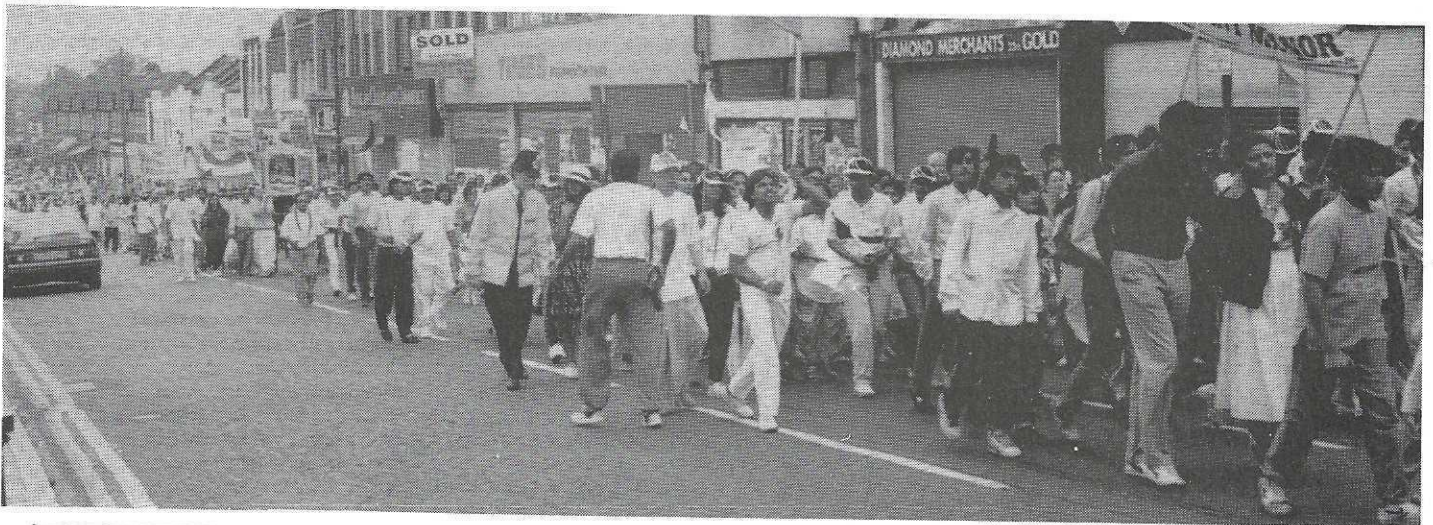
## Sunil and Rishi Walk to Save Temple

The Hindu Community has suffered greatly in the long dispute to save the temple. Huge expenses have been incurred because of the public inquiries. In an attempt to cover these costs, the community organised a mammoth charity walk from Wembley to Bhaktivedanta Manor on Sunday, 16th July 1989.

The walk also symbolises the determination of the community to continue these campaign activities until their rights to practice their religion are secured once and for all.

Cricket hero, Sunil Gavaskar, and film superstar, Rishi Kapoor, eagerly agreed to take part in the 11-mile walk. The community is extremely grateful for this gesture of devotion, which has encouraged many others to participate.

At the time of going to press, preparations were still being made for the walk and we would like to express our thanks to all our enthusiastic volunteers.



### COMMENT . . . .

#### . . . . is there never to be a temple?

The Hindu community in Brent, Harrow and Barnet have been trying to locate a site for a temple for many years but with no success. Nothing is available. If it is, the Council object because of potential noise nuisance or lack of car parking. They say you need a bigger site, go outside of the London Boroughs.

Meanwhile, another Council tries to close the only existing sanatan temple for North West London, and local people object to a Hindu temple in a non-Hindu area. They say go back to Brent. That's where your temple should be. How can we win?

There is no constitution or bill of rights in this country which protects your right of worship. The government has no statutory obligation to provide Hindu temples.

It will be a long, hard struggle to get the temples we

### HINDUS CONFRONTED BY DOGS

Vanloads of Alsatian dogs handled by security guards faced Hindus protesting the closure of their temple by a local council in Hertsmere last week.

The horrifying incident occurred on 27th July when over 600 Hindus, including children, gathered outside Hertsmere civic centre to hear the conservative-led council ban their temple on grounds of noise and traffic congestion.

Angry members of the National Council of Hindu Temples (UK) hit out at the "fascist-type of treatment suffered by the Indian community at the hands of Hertsmere council".

"We are outraged at the barbaric behaviour of a section of the British local government", they said. "We call on all people who abhor racial harassment to condemn Hertsmere Council for its activities and to demand to know why the British Prime Minister has not intervened to solve this dispute".



# PRESS CLIPPINGS

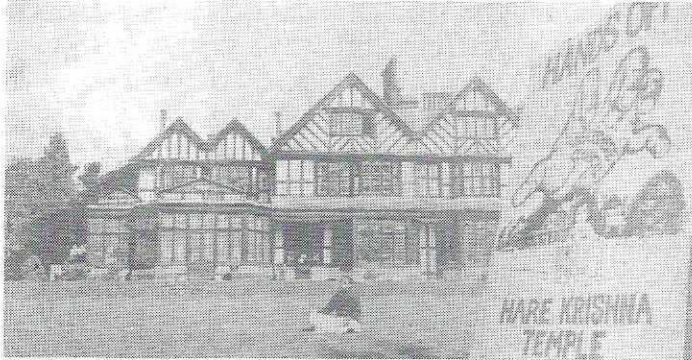
The following are excerpts from a few of the hundreds of newspaper articles, both in the U.K. and abroad, which have featured the Campaign to Save the Temple.

## Campaign to save Krishna temple

Thousands of Hindus arriving at the Hare Krishna movement's temple in Hertfordshire this weekend to celebrate Krishna's birthday will be asked to lobby MPs and raise money for an international campaign to keep the shrine open.

The temple at, Letchmore Heath, is threatened with closure after local objections to traffic and noise. Hertsmere borough council has issued an enforcement order to stop the mock Tudor, 17-acre Bhaktivedanta manor being used as a place of worship. The movement has appealed to the Department of the Environment and a public inquiry will be held in November.

The Guardian — U.K.



Deceptive peace. . . The manor converted into a Hindu temple in Hertfordshire which villagers want closed on grounds of noise.

The Guardian — U.K.

## Thatcher urged to back Krishna 'cathedral'

Hare Krishna followers are to urge Mrs Thatcher to support them in a row over the presence of Britain's "most important" Hindu shrine in a stockbroker belt village.

A delegation will present a petition at Downing Street on Sunday before going on a protest march through London.

They claim it will be attended by 10,000 Hindus from throughout the country, and 1,000 of them will drag a five-ton, 45ft-high chariot, symbolic of a Hindu temple.

The row is about Bhaktivedanta Manor, a mock-Tudor mansion set in 17 acres of grounds in Letchmore Heath, Herts, where 1,000 Krishna Hindus go to worship every weekend.

Daily Telegraph — London

## Jalota: labour of love

Marriage was not the only thing that kept Anup Jalota, 35, busy last fortnight. The chrobic *bhajan* singer was involved in another labour of love in London, raising money for Hare Rama Hare Krishna devotees facing eviction from their temple premises. Jalota's contribution towards their litigation expenses from his concert was a whopping £30,000. Just before launching on the second phase of his honeymoon at Agra, Jalota explained his generosity: "I never charge anything from Hare Rama people. I have an emotional attachment with them."

India Today — U.K.

## Gavaskar bats for endangered shrine

The Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, who has hit more test centuries than any other batsman, yesterday joined the team trying to save a Hindu shrine in Hertfordshire from closure by the local council after protests about noise and crowds.

"People must be allowed to worship and make their peace with God," Mr Gavaskar said yesterday in London.

"I hope the message will reach the authorities that this is something which can't be trifled with and must be settled quickly."

The former Indian captain is visiting Britain to take part in an 11-mile charity walk, expected to attract between 3,000 and 5,000 people, to raise £100,000 for the battle against Conservative-controlled Hertsmere council.

The Guardian — U.K.

## Temple Closure will be disaster for Hinduism

The closure of Bhaktivedanta Manor would be a disaster for prospective students of Hinduism in Britain. This became clear as the inquiry into the continuing row between the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and Hertsmere Borough Council was rounded off last week.

Several Hare Krishna devotees and Hindu members visiting the Manor gave evidence in the public inquiry. The Manor is threatened with closure as the local council claims it is infringing planning laws.

New Life — U.K.

A member of the Hindu lobby protesting at the Commons yesterday against a ban by Hertsmere council on visits to the Krishna Temple at Letchmore Heath, after local objections to traffic and noise. A public inquiry is to decide the issue.

The Guardian — London

## Krishna cult fights for rural temple

Attempts to stop Hare Krishna followers using a mock-Tudor country house in Hertfordshire as a temple strike at the fundamental human right to worship the god of your choice at the place of your choice, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

Mr Altaras told the inquiry in Borehamwood that the local authority's actions were determined almost entirely by political considerations. The local authority and planning officials had never tried to understand Hinduism. The inquiry is expected to last at least two weeks.

The Independent — London

## Krishnas fast to prepare for battle over village shrine

A group of Hare Krishna followers has spent 60 hours in continuous fasting and chanting to prepare for the reopening today of a public inquiry into its use of a manor house.

Daily Telegraph — London



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# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

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The campaign to save the temple is not over yet. The situation is still very serious and urgent. So much has been achieved throughout the world to protect the council's threat to the temple. While we are waiting to hear the results of the public inquiries, the Campaign must keep going. Hertsmere Council have not given up their intimidation of Hindus coming to Bhaktivedanta Manor. On Sundays, private investigators paid by the Council still keep a count of devotees visiting the temple. Hindus are made to feel like criminals for simply performing their religious observances. There cannot be hope of peace and freedom for Hindus until this matter is finally put to rest. Your participating in the Campaign is desperately needed, now!

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## WRITE NOW TO YOUR MP

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Write a letter urgently to your own Member of Parliament. Send it to him or her at the following address:- House of Commons, London SW1 1AA.

1. Write your objections to the Council's actions to close Bhaktivedanta Manor.
2. Explain that Hindus depend on Bhaktivedanta Manor and must have access to the shrine.
3. State that either Bhaktivedanta Manor is allowed to stay open or that ISKCON is allowed to build a temple at the site in Elstree.

Send a copy of your letter and any replies to the Campaign organisers (see address below).

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## SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FUND

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Funds are still needed to fight the Campaign. Donations may be given in at the temple or sent using the slip below.

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## DIWALI NITE WITH ANUP JALOTA

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Following last year's huge success, we are again organising a special Diwali performance of bhajans featuring the world famous singer Sh. Anup Jalota.

The event is being held at the Kensington Exhibition Centre, off Derry Street, High Street Kensington on Saturday, 21st October. Full dinner will be served.

**SEND NOW FOR YOUR TICKETS**

**YES! I WANT TO HELP THE SAVE THE TEMPLE CAMPAIGN**

(tick the box or boxes you are interested in)

- I have written to my local MP and enclose a copy of my letter.  
 I want to volunteer my time and service (who is my local contact?).  
 I wish to contribute towards the Campaign fund:-

£51  £108  £251  £501  £1001  Other (specify) £ .....

Please send me ..... tickets for Diwali Nite with Anup Jalota  
(£108 for 2 seats). I enclose a cheque made payable to **ISKCON - Save the Temple  
Campaign Fund** for £ .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....  
**Return this slip to: Save the Temple Campaign, Bhaktivedanta Manor, Letchmore Heath,  
Nr Watford, Herts WD2 8EP. Tel: (0923) 856269 / 857244.**