

VICTORY

FOR BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR



The completion of an historic campaign

Victory for Bhaktivedanta Manor The Completion Of An Historic Campaign.

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*This publication is dedicated to
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
founder Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness;
to the well-wishers of Bhaktivedanta Manor and to all those who have worked tirelessly
for the protection of Srila Prabhupada's dream at Bhaktivedanta Manor.
This victory coincides with the auspicious occasion of the 100th anniversary
of the birth of Srila Prabhupada.*

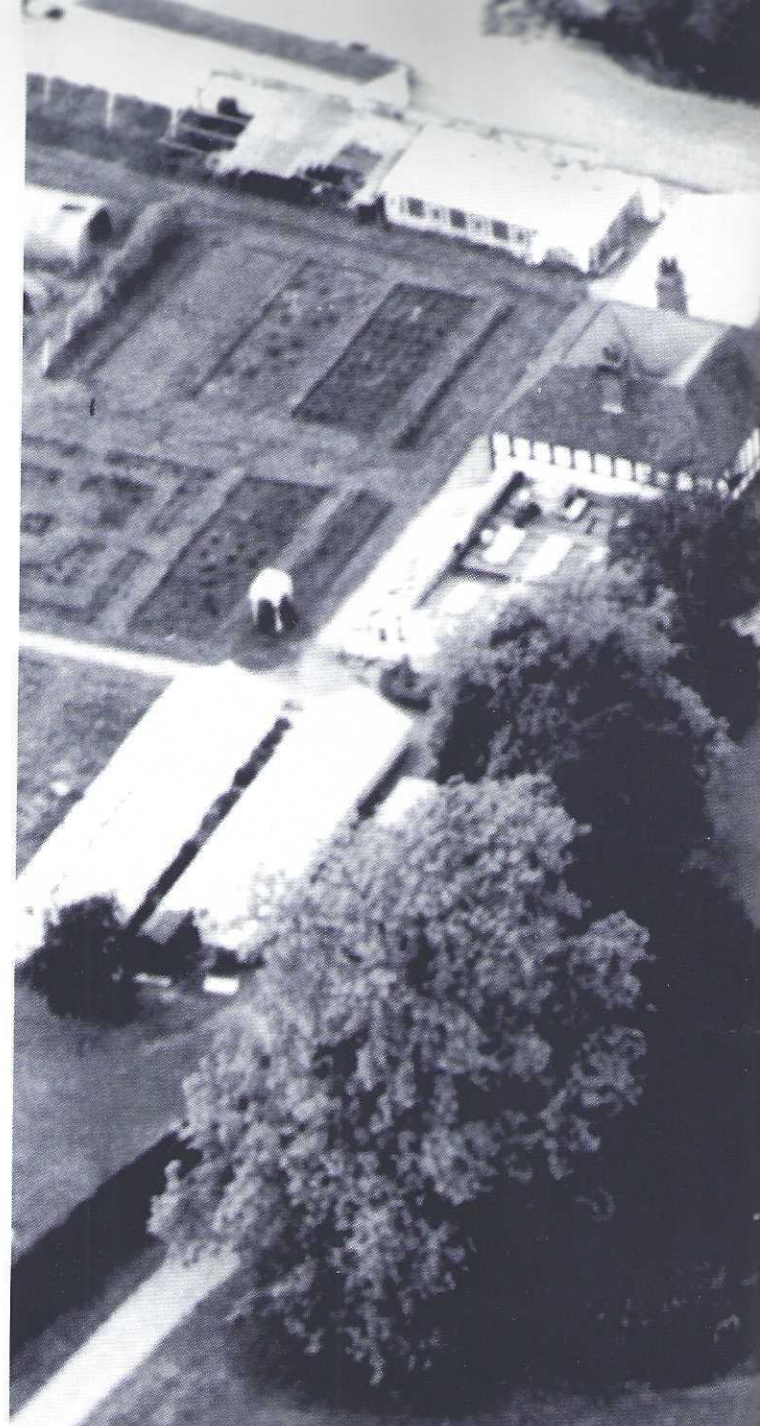
Published by the Bhaktivedanta Manor Foundation ©
Bhaktivedanta Manor, Letchmore Heath, Watford, Herts., WD2 8EP
01923 85 7244

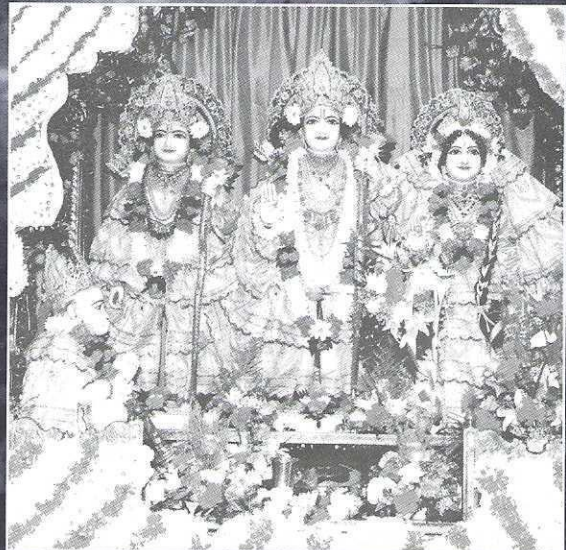
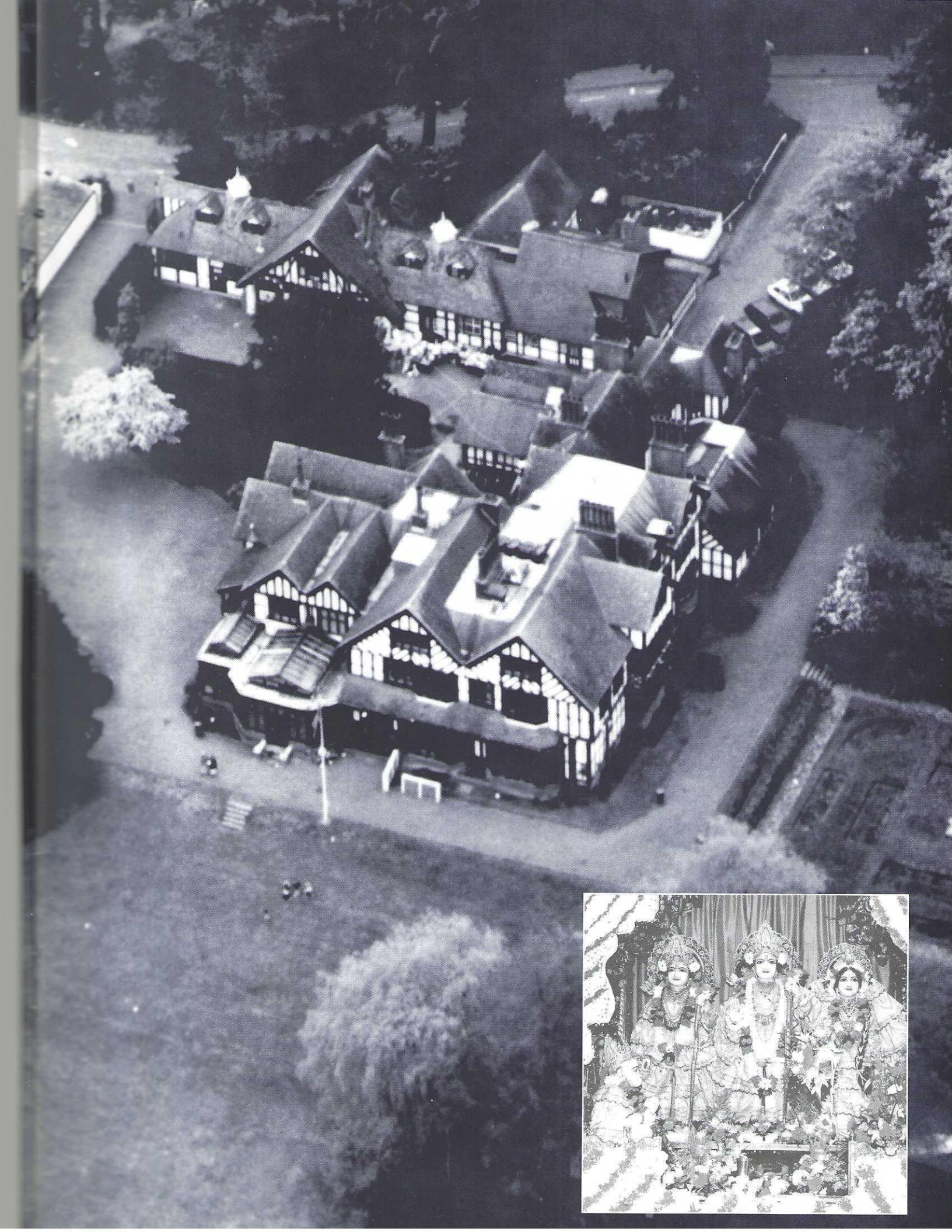
Printed by Creative Colour Print, Watford 01923 242244

THE VISION

Srila Prabhupada had a vision for Bhaktivedanta Manor. He wanted to create the spiritual atmosphere of Vrindavan and thus establish a community of devotees dedicated to the service of the deities. He wanted Bhaktivedanta Manor to be an ideal environment for imbibing Krishna consciousness - a place to offer people the opportunity of becoming fully trained in the practices of spiritual life. Srila Prabhupada established something quite unique and unrivalled; and he wanted many people to come and be absorbed in this Krishna conscious atmosphere.

The atmosphere of spiritual dynamism attracted many visitors. People recognised the benefits that Bhaktivedanta Manor offered. The local Hindu community in North London accepted the Manor as their local temple. They were impressed how the traditional practices of *sanatan-dharma* were being maintained by the devotees. They were attracted by the high standard of deity puja. They developed deep affection and appreciation for the work of Srila Prabhupada and how Bhaktivedanta Manor was fulfilling their spiritual needs. In fact, they became part of the community of devotees regularly serving and worshipping *Shree Shree Radha Gokulananda, Shree Shree Sita Rama Laxman Hanuman and Shree Shree Gaura Nitai*.





THE STRUGGLE

In 1973, the local Council had allowed Bhaktivedanta Manor to operate as a theological college. At that time Srila Prabhupada established a Vaishnava college with its shrine which traditionally should always be accessible to the public.

Although this was Srila Prabhupada's desire, there was growing opposition. After initial complaints by some local residents about the increase in visitors, Hertsmere Council decided to take strong action. They stated their objection to the public worship. "Bhaktivedanta Manor is meant only to be a theological college for residents."

Hertsmere Council sought to stop the influx of worshippers and pilgrims. In 1981, it tried to enforce a ban on all festivals. Later, however, this first enforcement notice was withdrawn. The compromise was an agreement to limit large attendance to six festival days in the year.

In 1985, a new wave of complaints were sent to Hertsmere. This coincided with two devotees purchasing property in the village! Fourteen villagers, led by a local councillor whose grandfather had owned the Manor, complained that the temple was becoming "too popular," "too much traffic," "too many Hindus coming to Letchmore Heath." They were concerned about a "take over" of the village. The local Council went as far as to organise a count of 'coloured' and 'white' devotees attending the Manor.

Hertsmere took further action but they failed to get an injunction from the High Court to curtail Sunday attendance. Hertsmere then resorted to issuing an enforcement notice to close the temple to the public entirely, and threw out the previous agreement to allow six festivals a year. We launched an appeal to the Department of the Environment.

At that time we also considered the idea of a driveway - a new access route taking traffic away from the village to deal with the stated concerns. To deflect this compromise offer, Hertsmere Council offered to grant planning permission for building a temple on a local site. However, the purchase of the land for the driveway fell through. Immediately, Hertsmere changed its mind. They broke their promise and rejected our application for a new temple.

Hertsmere's unfairness was an attack on Srila Prabhupada's desire for Bhaktivedanta Manor. How could we let Hertsmere's tactics wound our morale? Our community was ready to fight for their rightful claim. The response was encouraging. Letters and petitions were sent to the government. The politicians were asked to help. There were many protest events. In 1989, 7000 people joined celebrities Sunil Gavaskar and Rishi Kapoor in a sponsored walk. This was then the largest *kirtan* party outside India. Each step was a prayer. "Please keep our temple open for worship." It raised £100,000 to pay for the legal costs.

But in 1990 the appeal was refused. The Secretary of State announced "No new temple! Stop your worship. Stop your festivals."

But if the government and the Council thought the battle for Bhaktivedanta Manor would end then, they misjudged the determination of the devotees. We were not going to stop our fight or allow the might of the government to deter our campaign.

We appealed to the High Court. But more disappointment "Sorry - this is a planning issue!" The Court of Appeal said "No!" The European Court of Human Rights said, "We can't do anything because of the British planning laws." Every legal channel had been exhausted. The date was therefore set. 16th March 1994



THE DESPAIR

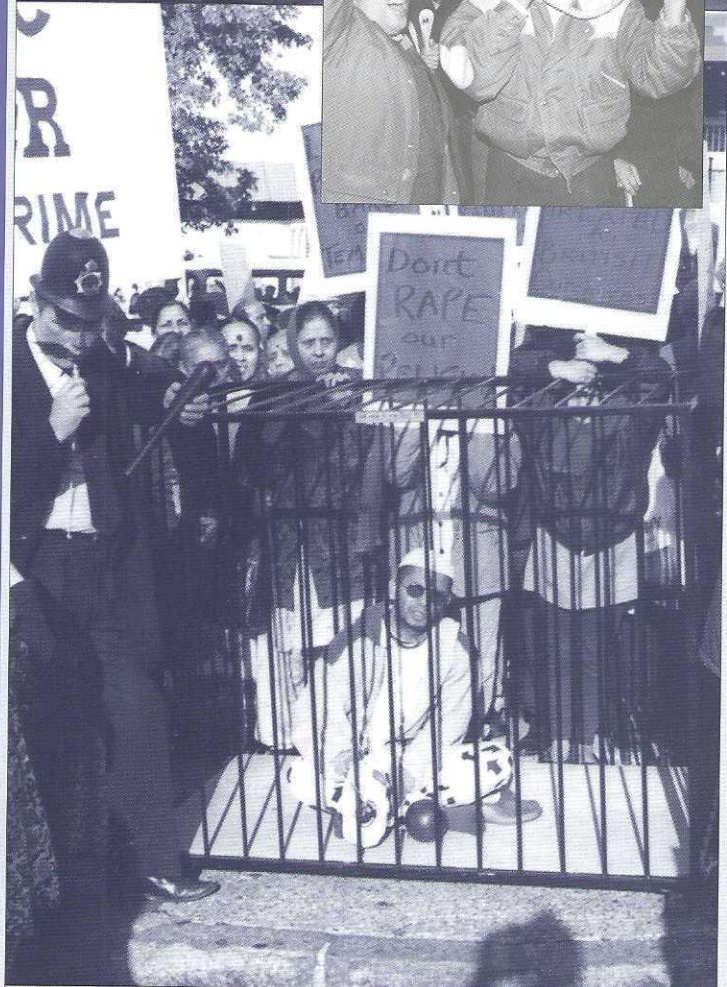
Political help failed to reach the momentum we desired. Thousands of pounds had been spent. So much time and energy employed in many fields - yet the politicians seemed not in the least concerned about peoples feelings or spiritual welfare. The community was saddened. We sat watching the desire of Srila Prabhupada - his dream for Bhaktivedanta Manor - slipping from our hands. In such desperation we had to intensify not only our own prayers but also the message to the community:-

"We have lost many battles but still the gates of the temple are open for you. Festivals are to be banned yet every year we are experiencing a bigger and better Janmashtami. Surely Lord Krishna isn't going to deny the fulfilment of His devotee's desire."

Daily devotees recited a prayer to the Lord, "If You so desire for the pleasure of Your pure devotee, Srila Prabhupada, please keep Bhaktivedanta Manor open for all Your devotees." Devotees came to make offerings to Their Lordships. Bhaktivedanta Manor was special - "the home of our cultural heritage." People expressed their sadness. "What about our childrens future? Does the government not recognise the need for spiritual education?" Although the Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement encouraged everyone to follow the Lord's order, "Remember Me and fight," it was a difficult task keeping morale high.

The youth campaigners, Pandava Sena stated, "we are not concerned about the bricks and mortar of an ordinary building. We are concerned about upholding a 5,000 year old tradition. This is dharma-yudha - fighting for dharma.."

Bruised but not defeated, the fight was to continue. The full cooperation and support of the community was assured.



A NEW DIRECTION

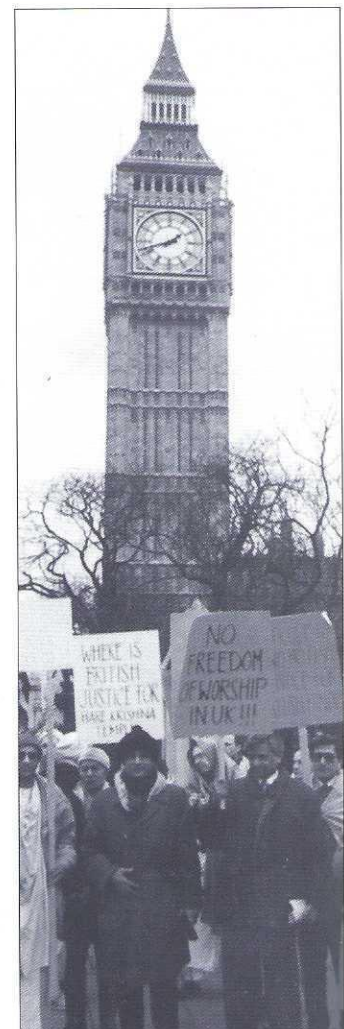
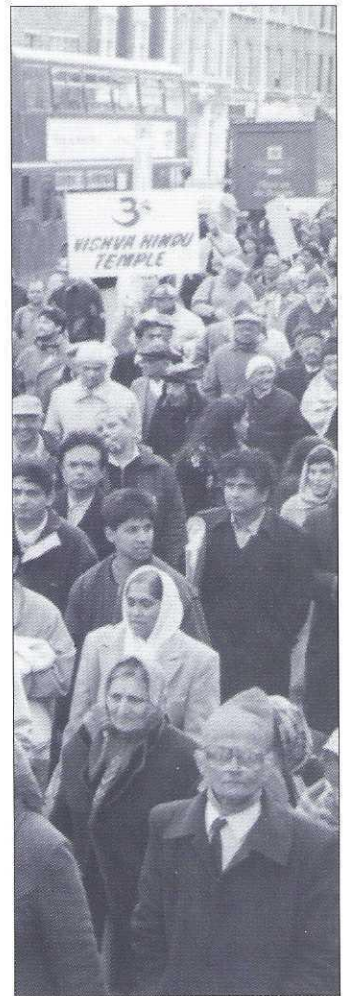
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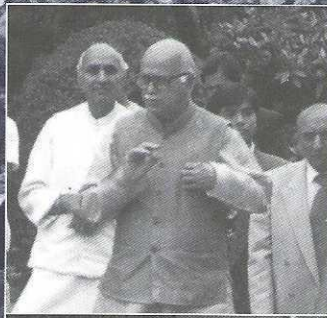
We had never sought to override the concerns of local residents. We always promoted compromise solutions. In 1987, we had considered routing temple traffic via a new access with the possible construction of a driveway. However, the land required was then unavailable. We decided to try again.

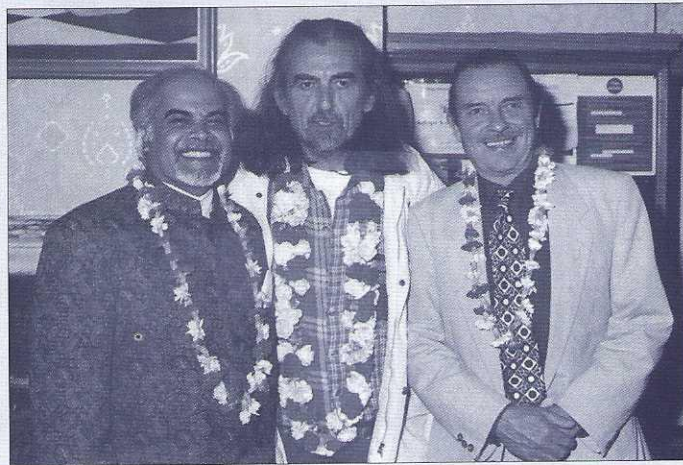
In 1993, just months before the enforcement notice was to take effect, negotiations for the land opened up mystically. With the motto, "Get the land - Build the road - Save the temple," we went into a fresh application. 250 people helped to secure £300,000 for the purchase of the land for the new driveway. There was renewed enthusiasm. The new access to the temple was the solution - our application was submitted to the Council.

But time was running out. March 16th was only months away and the Council delayed considering the application. Many devotees and well-wishers both nationally and internationally expressed their concerns and feelings to the government. From a handful of letters in 1981 to hundreds in 1994 - the support had accumulated. The government realised this was not a small issue. Over one hundred Members of Parliament now joined the list of supporters.

Wednesday 16th March 1994, the enforcement notice took effect. From this date the temple was legally bound to stop public worship - no more darshan, no more festivals, no more aratis for non-resident devotees. On that historical day, 36,000 people gathered in central London - the largest religious gathering outside India. Our community was angry and upset. We marched glorifying the holy names of Krishna - crying out for His protection. People came from all over the country. The young, and the old marched together - an inevitable display of unity behind ISKCON. "Today we are banned from worship - shame on the British government. We will defy this ban!" Some proclaimed "We will protect our temple from closure, protect dharma from attack." The atmosphere was surcharged with emotion. Hertsmere felt pressured. In his address to the community on 16th March, Akhandadhi das announced some good news. "The Council has bowed down to you. They are feeling the pressure. Last night, they told me that the gates of the temple can remain open until they consider our application for the new access. The tide is turning." Sivarama Swami, the Governing Body Commissioner for the UK, stated the desire of Srila Prabhupada. He said, "We anticipate the gates of Bhaktivedanta Manor will remain open for 10,000 years!" There was a great cheer and applause from all present. Although it was the darkest moment, it was the turning point...







One step from Victory

Experts considered the new planning application to be a sound proposal. The land for the new driveway had been acquired. We had undertaken to preserve and enhance the environment, take care of the traffic regulations and block the entrance to the village. It would be good for the villagers, the temple, and the worshippers.

Unfortunately we were at the hands of the politicians. What the planning experts at Hertsmere recommended, the politicians at Hertsmere refused. Our application was rejected. They were adamant - No worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor! - No Hindus in Letchmore Heath!

More fundraising, more lobbying of the MPs, more campaigning. At the start of 1995 we went into another appeal to the Department of the Environment. The Public Inquiry lasted for 6 weeks spread over 6 months. Akhandadhi das presented the evidence on behalf of the temple. The inquiry also invited others to speak for and against. Various community leaders, politicians and religious leaders spoke in favour of the application. Even many local villagers supported our proposal.

Martin Palmer of International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture, said, "The Manor has become one of the most important pilgrimage centres of any faith in the UK and its closure will rebound on the relationships between the faiths and the state."

Kishore Ruperalia, Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad said, "There are now hundreds of Hindu youths in the UK who have taken to a pious and clean life as a result of the teachings and guidance they received from Bhaktivedanta Manor."

Reverend Christopher Lamb, officially representing the Church of England, said, "Strong support is given to the Hare Krishna community who are people of education and vision. There is danger of not seeing the freedom of citizens to visit a place of worship which is precious to them. Some way of allowing the worship to continue must be found."

Then the waiting. We went into the start of Srila Prabhupada's Centennial year with no clear indication as to when the decision of the Inquiry would be given. In the meantime, worshippers continued to visit. They were branded "criminals" for breaking the enforcement notice. The temple was prosecuted for observing the Janmashtami festival in 1994. It became the first religious community in England in the last 300 years to be prosecuted for observing worship. The sentence was a fine of £30,000. In July 1996, the Court of Appeal heard our case

The result

Without warning, the report from the Department of the Environment was issued - granting planning permission for Bhaktivedanta Manor. Upon hearing the news, the devotees were surprised. "Is it really true?" Akhandadhi das reviewed the report and offered the news before Srila Prabhupada's murti. "Dear Srila Prabhupada, your temple is now safe. We can continue our work to fulfil your wish for Bhaktivedanta Manor." The community of devotees came together in a very joyous mood for celebrations - resounding the glory of Radha Gokulananda, Sita Rama Laxman Hanuman & Gaura Nitai Srila Prabhupada and Bhaktivedanta Manor dham.

The BBC announced the result nationwide in its most prestigious slot. In one evening the whole UK community was buzzing with thanks to Krishna. The statement from the Secretary of State appreciated Bhaktivedanta Manor as an important place of worship. He acknowledged "that it is unique in the UK because there is no comparable alternative place for teaching, worship and meditation; and that the level of provision of these religious facilities is to an exceptionally high standard." He said "the Manor is by tradition and association an important place - the home to a very special shrine and Deities of the highest significance to the followers of Krishna consciousness."

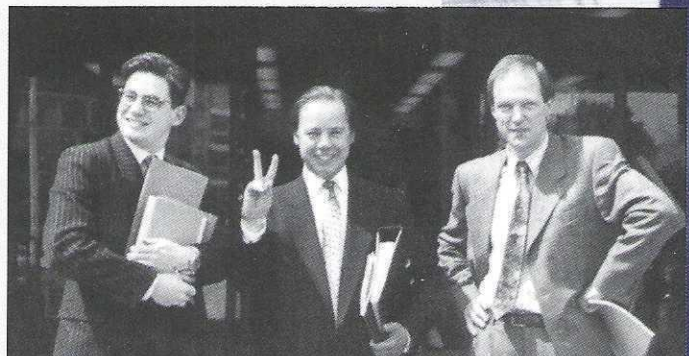
Furthermore, the Secretary of State accepts "that the close association of the Hare Krishna movement's founder with the Manor makes it a special, if not unique place...that association must continue." He was also of the opinion that there was "wider public interest" in the work of the Manor. It is a significant victory - a victory that now establishes the direction of Srila Prabhupada's desire for Bhaktivedanta Manor.

On the first Sunday after the decision, hundreds of devotees and pilgrims came to offer their thanks to Their Lordships. During the victory announcement, people cried, cheered, clapped and bowed their heads before the deities. Later, they all danced with joy. With up-raised arms and big smiles on their faces, the young and old danced and danced as the chanting became faster and louder. Every person had played their part in this victory and now they offered their prayers: "Thank you Lord Krishna for answering our prayers."

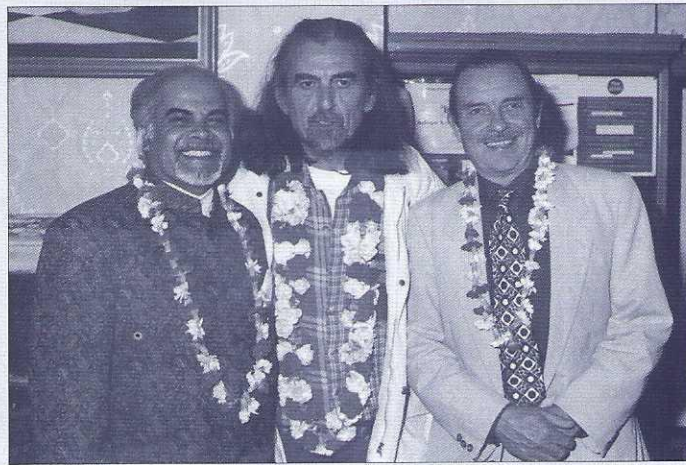
Sruti Dharma das, elated with the news said "The feeling today is unbelievable. It's still sinking in for many but the news is overwhelming. Wherever there is Krishna there is victory and the faith of the community has proven this point."

This campaign has increased the fame of Bhaktivedanta Manor. It has also increased the estate of Their Lordships from the initial 17 acres to 70 acres with the purchase of additional land (not only for the driveway but also for additional car parking, pastures and gardens). Who knew this would be the outcome of a battle which so nearly engulfed the mission and work of Bhaktivedanta Manor. Lord Krishna's statement in Bhagavad-gita, "My devotees will never perish," has become a deep realisation for devotees worldwide. He is certainly the one to "carry what we lack and preserve what we have." Undoubtedly, it is His desire to fulfil the desire of Srila Prabhupada and as His servants we pray to become instruments within His inconceivable plan.

We would like to thank the community of devotees worldwide, our friends and well-wishers and all those who have supported this campaign by writing letters, signing petitions and for your sincere prayers for Bhaktivedanta Manor. Although this victory closes a unique chapter for Bhaktivedanta Manor, a new one opens - the celebration of Srila Prabhupada's centennial and the fulfilment of his dream. The decade of struggle will remain as sweet memories in the history of Bhaktivedanta Manor for future generations to admire, appreciate and salute.



THE RESULT



One step from Victory

Experts considered the new planning application to be a sound proposal. The land for the new driveway had been acquired. We had undertaken to preserve and enhance the environment, take care of the traffic regulations and block the entrance to the village. It would be good for the villagers, the temple, and the worshippers.

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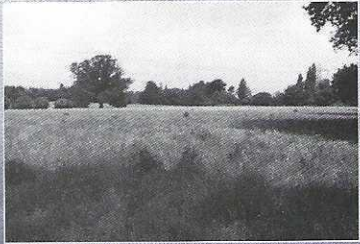
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NEW ACCESS TO THE TEMPLE



Land Purchased for Driveway



Overflow carpark

Safety improvements to Hilfield Lane

NEW ACCESS POINT



Sandy Lane



To MI - Watford

New improvement to existing junction





Festival parking



LETCHMORE HEATH



Existing access to be closed off

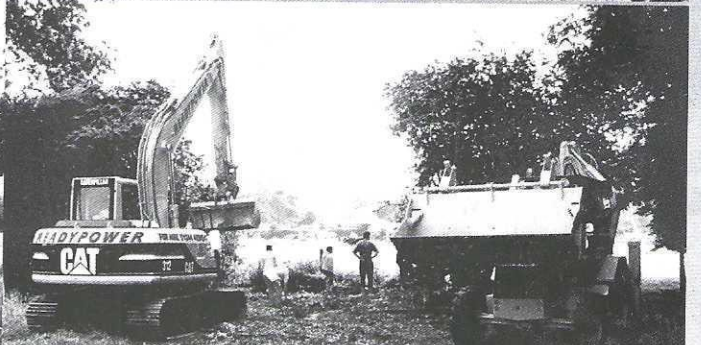


Temple Building

NEW DRIVEWAY



Car park



SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF OUR CAMPAIGN

1973 - 1981 - At various times, some local residents complain to Hertsmere Council about Hindus coming to the temple.

1981 - Council issue first Enforcement Notice to ban festivals.

1983 - Temple signs Agreement with Council not to organise events likely to attract more than 1,000 devotees, except on six festival days. Enforcement Notice withdrawn.

1985 - Two devotees purchase properties in Letchmore Heath. New wave of complaints to Council.

1986 - High Court refuses Hertsmere's request for an injunction to enforce Agreement.

1987 - Council issues new Enforcement Notice to stop all worshippers attending the temple. ISKCON appeals to DoE. Appeal hearing adjourned to allow time to negotiate a solution.

1988 - On Hertsmere's suggestion, ISKCON applies to build a new temple near Elstree. Then Hertsmere refuses planning permission for it. ISKCON appeal again.

1988/89 - Two appeals hear by DoE.

1990 - DoE announce decision. No new temple. Also worship and festivals at Bhativedanta Manor to stop within two years. ISKCON further appeals decision to High Court.

1991 - High Court turned down appeal.

March 1992 - Court of Appeal refuses to hear the case.

July 1992 - Full application lodged for European Court of Human Rights.

August 1993 - " Saviours of the Temple " raise funds for buying the land for the new driveway.

Nov/Dec 1993 - Agreement reached on purchase of driveway land. Planning application submitted to Council for use of Manor for worship and festivals on the basis of the new access.

16th March 1994 - Enforcement Notice takes effect! 36,000 devotees march in London. Hertsmere hold off prosecution while considering new access application.

April 1994 - European Commission of Human Rights claims it can't accept our case for hearing because of technicalities concerning planning laws in the UK.

12th July 1994 - Council defer decision on new access. Temple remains open for worship until then.

August 1994 - ISKCON appeals to DoE that Hertsmere has failed to determine the new access application.

October 1994 - Council rejects new access proposal and decides to prosecute temple for holding Janmashtami festival.

January 1995 - Public Inquiry starts to hear temple's appeal to Department of Environment. Adjourned after 4 weeks.

June 1995 - Public Inquiry concludes after a total of 28 days hearing.

November 1995 - Prosecution for Janmashtami 94. Fined £30,000 + costs.

10th May 1996 - DoE announces result of Public Inquiry. Victory for Bhaktivedanta Manor.

June 1996 - Prosecution fine reduced to £5000.

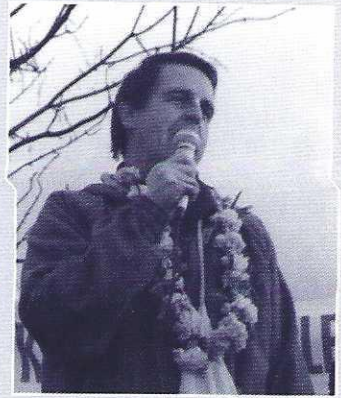
July 1996 - Work for construction of road begins.

5th September 1996 - Road completed. Janmashtami celebrated in great jubilation!

Dear friends,

Hare Krishna.

On behalf of our dear spiritual master, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to you and everyone in the community for your continued support and dedication to the mission of Krishna consciousness at Bhaktivedanta Manor.



We all know how this mission has been threatened for the last 10 years. But our faith and conviction in the work of Srila Prabhupada, gave us the strength to work hard and protect it at all cost. Our campaign to safeguard worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor will be remembered for many generations. In years to come people will recall the events of the last decade. They will remember the troubles, the anxieties and how, amidst such adversities, Lord Krishna reciprocated with our sincere prayers. Every person who has helped in this campaign is a special soul - and will be recognised as being very dear to the Lord. This campaign will be recorded as one of the most amazing and exciting pastimes of Shree Shree Radha Gokulananda at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

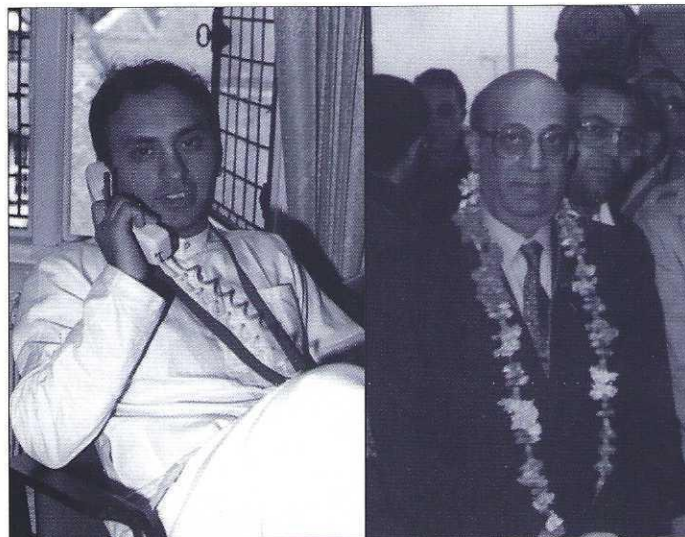
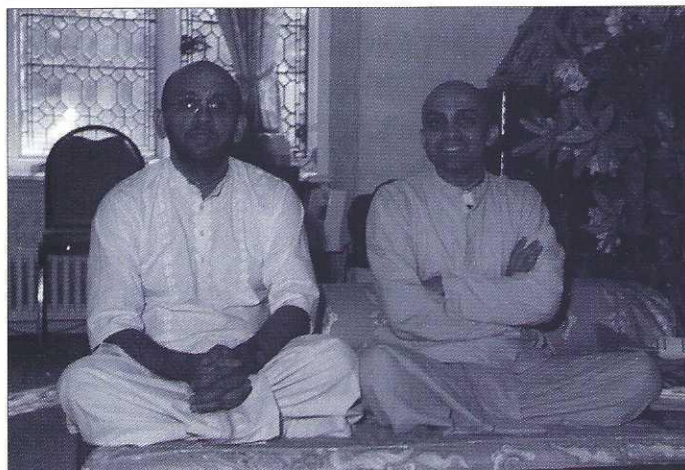
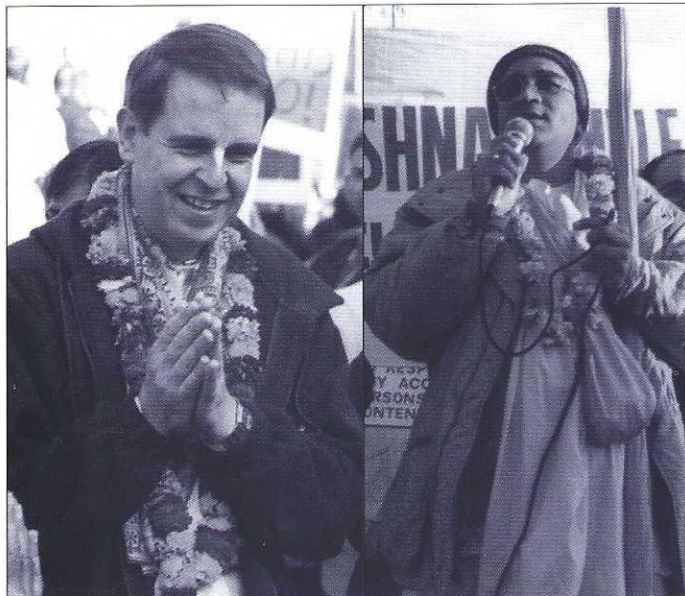
I am very happy that you have been an integral part of these pastimes. It has been my pleasure to have shared your company and serve you in whatever capacity Krishna has allowed. I am eternally grateful to you all. All my special thanks to the Council of Patrons of the Bhaktivedanta Manor Foundation who have been most active in many aspects of the temple, principally fund-raising and helping to steer the campaign to a successful result. They have been physically active assisting the Prabhupada Task Force who have enhanced the appearance of the grounds of the Manor. Also our gratitude to all the Patrons for their on-going contributions to the maintenance of the temple; to the Sevaks who are contributing to the purchase of the new land; to the Saviours of the temple who have helped to secure the strip of land for the new driveway; to the Soldiers of the Final Fighting Fund who helped to secure the cost of the final battle at the Public Inquiry. Special thanks to the committee of the Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement and to the young people involved in the Pandava Sena for their tireless efforts in the campaign to save the temple.

I now look forward to seeing the work of Bhaktivedanta Manor develop further, fulfilling the dream of Srila Prabhupada; and that you continue to grow in your love for the Lord and offer Him your service in many more amazing and exciting ways.

With all my best wishes for your progress on the path of Krishna consciousness.

Yours in the service of Lord Krishna,

Wilson Andrew Das



The team behind the victory

Akhandadhi das has been responsible for carrying the weight of the campaign. He has expertly managed the legal affairs ensuring that at every stage the work of Bhaktivedanta Manor and Srila Prabhupada's dream was presented accurately.

Pranabandhu das and Srutidharma das the directors of the Bhaktivedanta Manor Foundation have been very instrumental in carrying the urgency of the message of the campaign to the community. They worked with a dynamic team of devotees at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Atmanivedam Swami assisted in the Public Inquiry in 1995 and has taken charge to see the completion of the driveway in time for Janmashtami. He has campaigned for many years working with community leaders and the legal team.

Bimal Krishna das has been the secretary of the campaign, working closely with Akhandadhi das. In his work with the PR team, he has rallied support from community leaders, politicians and was part of a delegation to India.

Other key members include : **Bhagavat dharma das** also worked with the PR team, concentrating primarily on his work with the media. **Riddha das** was an integral member of the delegation to India and especially to South Africa where he enlisted the support of Nelson Mandella. **Sita Rama das** for his work in the general running of the campaign and the lobbying of MPs. **Saunaka Rishi das** and **Rasamandala das** for their work with scholars and academics and the Interfaith Network.

The devotees of Bhaktivedanta Manor extend their special thanks and obeisances to **His Holiness Sivrama Swami**, GBC for UK for his spiritual guidance and friendship during the years of the campaign. We would also like to thank **Krishna das Swami**, **Bhakti Charu Swami**, **Radhanath Swami** and **Sridhar Swami** for their inspiration and encouragement.

Thank you to **Damodar das**, the new temple president, who has taken up responsibility of further developing Srila Prabhupada's dream at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

The Legal team

Shantoo Ruparell of Singh & Ruparell Solicitors, was the instructing solicitor for our legal cases. He has very kindly offered his services with no charge. He was assisted by **Dhirubhai Vyas** and **Minal Popat**.

David Altaras Senior barrister, he has been with the case since 1986, and saw us through to victory at the Public Inquiry and successfully carried our prosecution case to the Court of Appeal.

Robert White Junior barrister assistant to David Altaras in the Public Inquiry.

Dough Raine of Ottaways, was instructing solicitor for the Public Inquiry.

Maira Hankinson of GKH - the environmental and landscaping consultant for the Public Inquiry.

Peter Trevelyan - Traffic and Planning consultant and also helping to oversee the construction of the driveway.

Other legal advisers: **Sir Graham Aire QC**, **Jay Vadher & Co.** **Jitesh Thakrar**, **Peter Duffy**, **Basker Gopardey**, **Uday Radia & Co.**, and **Atul Amin** of Hugh Cartwright and Amin.



The Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement

Back row : Chandrakant Raniga, Mahendra Parmar, Davinder Tah, Dr Ravi Kumar,

Front row : Praful Shah, Cllr Frank Ward (Vice Chairman), Naresh Chadha (Chairman) Dr Ashvin Shah, Jugdev Ramful, Rajni Chande,

Missing : Atmanavidam Swami, Nainesh Desai, Mrs S Barrotte, Bimal Krishna das, , Raj Mehta.

Previous committee members include: Nanda Kishore das, Gunvant Changela, Ashok Thakrar, Raju Vyas, Naresh Shingdia, Vivasvan das, Narahari das, Revatinandan das, Nalin Parekh, Balkrishna Mistry, Liladhar Vadukul, Dhananjaya Gadgill.

Naresh Chadha, the Chairman of the Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement. He has helped to instigate and organise several public gatherings and demonstrations, bringing people together from all parts of the country.

Frank Ward has been with the campaign from the day in 1986 he heard Bhaktivedanta Manor was suffering injustice. He is a Councillor with the Labour Group at Hertsmere. His dedication to the campaign earned him the name Arjuna das - now internationally acclaimed. In the last ten years he took the campaign to India, Nepal and South Africa.

Pandava Sena - youth group who brought excitement and life to this campaign especially in 1994. It is run by a dedicated team of students and young professionals. They brought together many young people nationwide to fight for this campaign to ensure worship for their future generations. Their dynamic campaigning includes the peace vigils and student march to the Dept of Environment. We offer our gratitude to all the campaigners of Pandava Sena for bringing a new life to the fight for our temple.

Thanks also to the National Hindu Students Forum and Ram Sena.



The Hindu community of the UK

The following leading members of our community have been very instrumental in the years of our fight. We offer them our sincere thanks for their invaluable service:



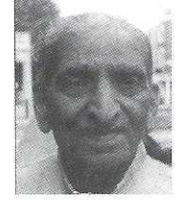
C.B. Patel
Editor of Gujarat Samachar



Kishore Ruperalia
Secretary of the
Vishva Hindu Parishad



O.P. Sharma
President of the National
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Bal Mukund Parekh
(Swami Gita Prakash)

Our gratitude is extended to all members of the community especially to the following individuals and organisations:

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HARE KRISHNA CENTRE (ISKCON), LIVERPOOL
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Srila Prabhupada dream Account

In 1995 we confirmed the purchase of the additional land for the new driveway and car parking. It is being financed by the Sevaks of Srila Prabhupada Dream. Our gratitude to the following sevaks who are contributing to fulfil Srila Prabhupada's Dream for Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Special Sevaks

Dr Ravi Pooniah & Jagdish Chudasama and family, Micheal Eley, S.P. & G.P. Hinduja and family,
Rajan and Kalapi Jani and family,

Milankumar S. Adatia - Harrow, Middx	Kaushik O Patel - Harrow, Middx
Kapil P Amin - London N14	Kiran Patel - Bexley, Kent
Mahendrabhai Amin - London NW10	Manoj / Raj Patel - Harrow-Weald, Middx
Vijay Kumar Amin - London, N13	Mukesh N Patel. - Roehampton, London SW15
Ashok Arora - Harrow, Middx.	Narendra Patel - Immingham, S Humberside,
Rajpal Bacheta - Upton Park, London, E7	Rajesh Patel - Edgware, Middx
Naresh Chande - Wokingham Berks	Raju Patel - Watford, Herts
Manik Choraria - London, N3	Ramanbhai Patel - London W9
Elizabeth Chatwin - Oxford	Ravindra Patel - London, NW10
Ajamil das - Watford	Veei Patel - Kenton, Middx
Nainesh Desai - Illford, Essex	Vijaybhai Patel - North Harrow, Middx
Niresh Ranjan Dey - Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands	Vipul Patel - Edgware, Middx
Jonathan Edgerton - Guildford, Surrey	Virendra Jerambhai Patel - Bolton, Lancs
Sanjay Gadhvi - Welwyn, Herts	Prasangi Caterers - Wembley, Middx
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Bharat Hindocha - London, NW7	Dhanvati Ramdarass - Radlett, Herts
Hasmukh Haria - London, N13	Kishore Rana - Welwyn Garden City, Herts
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Mayur Modha - Edmonton, London N18	Bob Shah - Northwood, Middx
Ajit Mulji - Harrow, Middx	Dhansukh & Mansukh Shah - Wembley, Middx
Pandava Sena (Youth group)	Ramesh Shah - Southgate, London N14
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Gulabbhai Parmar - London, N14	Raghunandan Sharma - Staines, Middx
Sanjay Parmar - Rayners Lane, Middx	Ajay C Soni. - Wembley, Middx
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We would like to thank the following Members of Parliament for their support:

Mr Robert G Hughes
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 Mr Max Maddon
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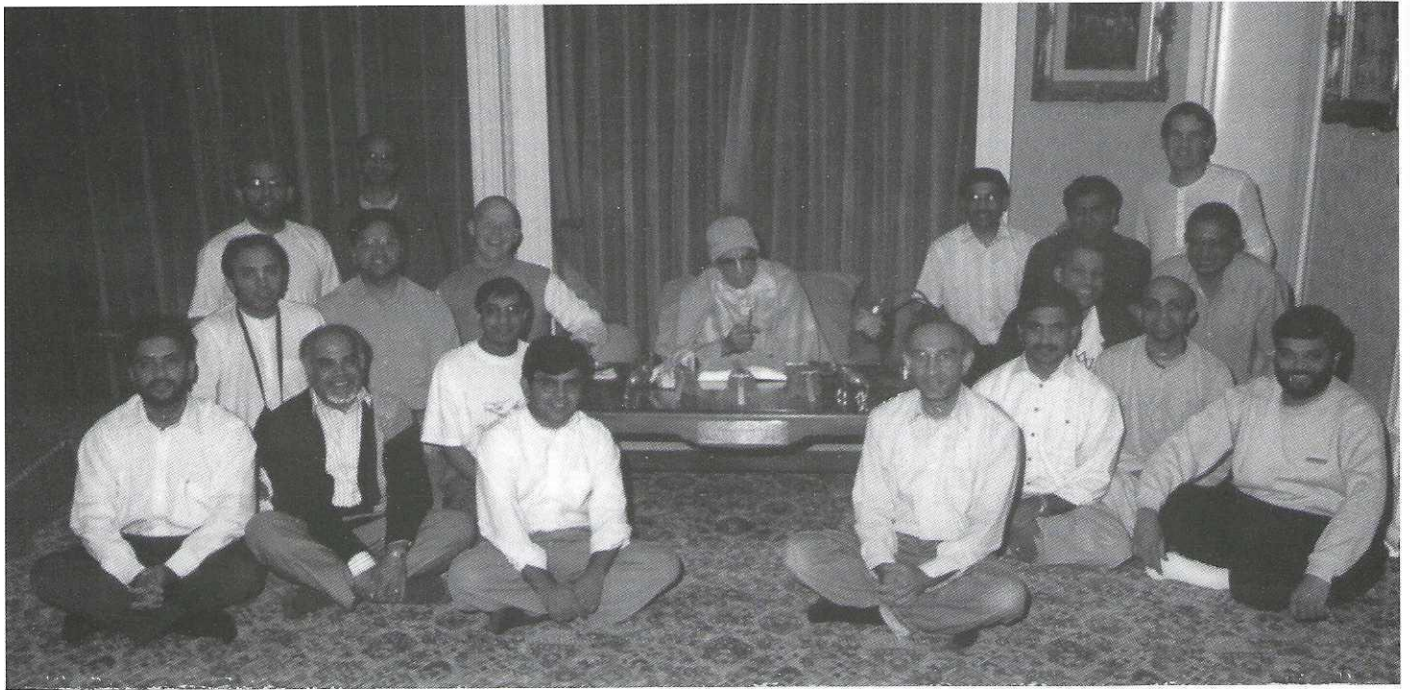
And all those MP's that have signed various Early day motions in support of the temple.

We wish to thank the Hindu community world wide who have helped this campaign with their letters of support, petitions and prayers.

Special thanks to:

Krishna Chandra das - Bombay
 Trikalajna das - New Delhi
 Harinarayan das - Spain
 Sura das - Bombay
 Mahamantra das - New Delhi
 Vineet Narayan das - New Delhi
 Ranjit Ramnarayan - South Africa
 Sanjay Nirupam - Bombay
 Chaitanya das - Calcutta

We would like to thank LAD CONSTRUCTION
 For the management of the construction of the
 New driveway and
 Tom Glynn - Project manager (Highway Design).



The Council of Patrons of Bhaktivedanta Manor

Back row: Pranabandhu das, Sita Ram das, Damodar das, Dilip Patel, Vipul Patel, Akhandadhi das

Second row: Bimal Krishna, Jayesh Saujani, Jitu Shah, Hasmukh Haria, Ramesh Shah,

Front row: Ajit Mulji, Naresh Chadha, Vinod Taank, Prajul Shah, Sanjay Gadhavi,
Srutidharma das, Kaushik Patel

Missing From Photo: Atmanivedan Swami, Nainesh Desai, Davinder Tah.

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Each is donating £1,008 or more per year for the benefit of the temple.

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Our gratitude to the Saviours who helped to secure the purchase of
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Soldiers of the Final Fighting Fund

Our sincere thanks to the following soldiers who contributed towards the cost of our final battle - the Public Inquiry.

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A Madhani - Hartweel Estates, Aylesbury
Ajay Jindal - Hounslow West, Middx
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Dipak Karia - Harrow, Middx
J & S Parmer Family - Kenton, Harrow
J Bucktower - Palmers Green, London
J K Jethwa - Wembley, Middx
J P Karia & Krishna Karia - Carpenders Park, Watford
Jagdish Kumar M Amin - Hendon, London
Jamnada Sonagara - Ilford, Essex
Jashbhai V Patel - Barkingside
Javerlal Bhooven - Eastham, London
Jaya Ramesh Padharia - Leicester,
Jayantilal Gordhandas Mandavia - London, N2
Jayesh S Dattani - Ilford, Essex
Jiten & Dipen Mistry - Kenton, Harrow
Jitendra Patel - Watford, Herts
Jivanlal M Bakrania - Kingsbury, London
K Mesuria - Hornhill, London
K N Shah & Family - Wembley, Middx
K.B.Chanda - Moesley, Birmingham
Kalidas Narotamdas Modi - Wealdstone, Middx
Kalidas Patel - Littleover, Derby
Kamlesh Vora - Ealing, London
Kanji Naran Halai - Kingsbury, London
Kanjibhai K Pindoria - Kingsbury, London
Kankuben J Parmer - Monkspath, Solihull
Karuna Gangola - London, N14
Kedarnath Koshal - Slough
Khimji Varsani - Wembley, Middx
Kiranchandra Thankey - London, N14
Kirit Kumar P Patel - Southall, Middx
Kishan, Arjun & Hemini - Kenton, Middx
Kishor Divani - North Finchley, London
Kishor Pindoria - Wembley, Middx
Krishnalal Shukla - Rushey mead, Leicester
Kumar Mehta - Upper Norwood, London
L J Kanbi - Willesden, London
Laduma Dhamecha - Stanmore, Middx
Lalita Bhimji Pankhania - Southall, Middx
Liladhar Jadavji Vadukul - Wembley, Middx
M / K / H Patel - Manor Park, London
M K Raithatha - Wembley, Middx

M M Chauhan - Mansfield, Notts
 M Pandey - Hedge End, Southampton
 Madanlal Sehgal - London, W12
 Mahendra D Patel - Wembley, Middx
 Mahesh Bilimoria - London, N8
 Mala Saushney - London, W12
 Manjubhai Ambalal Patel - Shepherds Bush, London
 Manjula & Pravin Mistry - Hendon, London
 Mark Williams - Redruth, Cornwall
 Mayur K Patel - Cranford, Middx
 Mina Gohil - London, N15
 Miss Darshna Patel - Wembley, Middx
 Miss R Dudhia - Mill Hill East, London
 Miss R Sisodia - Eastham, London
 Miss Saila Lakhani - Wembley, Middx
 Mitesh Gajjar - Bushey, Herts
 Mohanlal Tailor - Rugby
 Motitam Rama Kapadia - Kingsbury, London
 N C Kavia - Hounslow West, Middx
 N D Tish - Rickmansworth, Herts
 N L Katwa - Edgware, Middx
 N Mistry - Bishops Stratford, Herts
 N Rana - North Watford, Herts
 Naginbhai P Patel - Mitcham, Surrey
 Nand E Farmah - Barking, Essex
 Naran Kanbi - Welling, Kent
 Naren B Jadeja - Edgware, Middx
 Narendra K Mod - Potters Bar, Herts
 Narendra Patel - Immingham, Humberside
 Naresh Bhadrash - Luton
 Naresh Patel - Finchley, London
 Natwarlal Parmer - Harrow, Middx
 Neehal P S Hansora - Middx,
 Nikki Pickett - Brentwood, Essex
 Nirmala Hargovan - Kenton, Middx
 Nitesh & Keval Bheda - London, N22
 Nitin Kapoor - Hounslow, Middx
 Nitin P Patel - Erdington, Birmingham
 P / S / R Sampat - Pinner, Middx
 P Gadhvi - London, NW3
 P K Sudera - Thurnby, Leicester
 P M Patel - Whitton, Middx
 P R Vadher - Stanmore, Middx
 P Raval - London, N12
 Parbhubhai C Mistry - Leicester
 Parthiben Keshav Tharmalingham - Wembley, Middx
 Paul Syamlal - Hounslow, Middx
 Pradip J Pandit - Harrow Weald, Middx
 Praful M Patel - Edgware, Middx
 Praful R Parmer - Luton
 Praful S Patel - Watford, Middx
 Pragji Jinabhai Ladva - Hounslow Central, Middx
 Pran Sagar Kaushal - Cranford, Hounslow
 Pravin M Pattani - Finchley, London
 Pravin Patel - Harrow, Middx
 Pritti Patel - Wembley, Middx
 Punjabhai G Patel - Forest Gate, London
 R M Katechia - Luton, eds
 R Pandya - Pinner, Middx
 Raj Bacheta - Upton Park, London
 Raj Gobinda Das Parkaystha - Loughboroug, Leicester
 Raj K Sharma - Slough, Berks
 Raj Sodha - Barton-On-Humber
 Raja B Shah - Kingsbury, London
 Rajan Mistry - Hendon, London
 Rajesh & Varsha Patel - Edgware, Middx
 Rajesh Bakrania - Isleworth, Middx
 Rajesh Ratilal Bhatt - Forest Gate, London
 Rajni A Chande - Greenford, Middx
 Rajnish Joshi - Heston, TW5
 Raju Kanabar - Watford,
 Ramesh & Seema Munjal - Longthorpe, Peterborough
 Ramesh C Goyal - Leeds
 Ramesh N Patel - Birmingham
 Ramesh Sharma - High Wycombe, Bucks
 Ranu Deb - London, N1
 Rasik Trivedi & Family - Stanmore, Middx
 Ratilal Gokani - Conniburrow, Milton Keynes
 Ratilal N Shroof - Wembley, Middx
 Raval Family - London, N19
 Ravi Tuli & family - London, EC1
 Ravnish & Rishika Seth - Langley, Slough
 Refati Kumar Deb - Islington
 Remal & Rikesh Tailor - Rugby
 Roopesh Sakaria - Harrow, Middx
 Russell Gardner - St Albans, Herts
 S Arora - Seven Kings, Ilford
 S J Patel - Oxslott, Surrey
 S K Talwar - Osterley, Middx
 S Purohet - Leicester, LE4
 Sabita Das - Edmonton, London
 Sanjay Gadhvi - Welwyn, Herts
 Satischandra Vallabhai Patel - Sydenham, London
 Sevita Gorsia - London, NW9
 Shanker Vasdev - Penn, Bucks
 Shantaben P Gajjar - Plaistow, London
 Shantilal P Patel - Kingsbury, London
 Shantubhai Bagvandas Patel - Slough, Berks
 Sharda Tanna - Wickford, Essex
 Shashi I Mistry - Kenton, Middx
 Shilpa Bhatt - London, N3
 Shirish & Yaswant Karia - London, SE1
 Shirish Parikh - Withain, Essex
 Shivanand - Bristol
 Shubira Goswami - Edgware, Middx
 Soni Family - Luton
 Sonia & Shyam Bhayani - Birmingham
 Sonia & Simita Gupta - Ilford, Essex
 Sonia Gupta - Clayhall, Ilford
 Suman Chowdhury - Edgware, Middx
 Sumit/Manish/Kevin/Mahesh - Edmonton, London
 Suraj Perakash Sehgal - London, W12
 Suresh C Sukla - Willesden, London
 Suresh Meghji Thanki - Luton
 Sushma Neera Thuhrud - Wanstead, London
 Swaminarayan Sakhi Mandal - Ilford
 T Gupta - London, NW4
 T Jadeja - Kingsbury, London
 Taruna Amliwala - Leicester
 Thakorebhai R Patel - Northwood, Middx
 Thirukumar - Slough
 Urmila Ved - Kenton, Harrow
 Ushpa Singh - Jaiur, Rajasthan
 V Jain - Claghall, Ilford
 V Mistry - Barnet, Herts
 Valji Bhudia - London, NW10
 Varma Jewellers - Southall
 Vasudevbbhai Limbachia - Hounslow, Middx
 Vibha Ruparelia - Thornton Heath, Surrey
 Vijaybhai J Mehta - Greenford, Middx
 Vinod Mital - West Wickham
 Vinod Taylor - Luton, Beds
 Virji Velji Chavda - Luton, Beds
 Vishrambhai & Gangaben Hirani - North Finchley, London
 Yantilal Patel - Rushey Mead, Leicester

MESSAGES TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

Dear Devotees of Radha Gokulananda,

Please accept the Blessings of Lord Shree Krishna, all glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the great services you have rendered in making this victory a reality. I am privileged to have been able to work with you in this historic event. First of all my thanks to Akhandadhi Prabhu who lead the charge and was the inspiration and strength from beginning to end. Next, to his wife Ratnavati who sacrificed so much to facilitate Akhandadhi's service; Frank Ward who was first an unexpected ally, but proved to be a great one; to Atmanivedanam swami for assisting to bring the campaign to a successful end; to Pranabandhu, Srutidharma and Bimal Krishna and their dedication to the Manor; the UKLM devotees, the Patron Council, Naresh Chadha and the HKTDM; Riddha das, the Manor devotees and all of you who have given your unfailing support over the years. This is history, history for ISKCON, for the Indian community, for England and the world. Thank you for playing part in making this history real.

Sivarama Swami-Governing Body Commissioner for the UK

I would like to especially express heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Akhandadhi Prabhu who fought long and hard tireless hours to save the Manor. His arrows were his dedication and selflessness, thus paralleling Arjuna, the supreme archer. His efforts were certainly remarkable as were that of all the devotees.

What a splendid offering to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada on the occasion of his 100th anniversary! Now that the campaign is finally successfully over, the devotees can now dive deeper into the waves of the Centennial.

H. H. Lokanath Swami & The Centennial Ministry

The Hare Krishna Temple Defence Committee had only one aim and objective when it was set-up and that was to fight till we succeeded in keeping the temple open for public worship and that we have succeeded. Our fight to keep the temple open has been very tough and tiresome for the last 10 years and the campaign has been quiet extensive and thorough both in the UK and World-wide. We had the support of both Hindus and non-Hindus in this campaign and this has attributed in exerting pressure on the British Government to realise our basic needs of freedom of worship. Even the Government has conceded that our spiritual and religious needs out-weighed the objections of handful of villagers and the local authority who were determined to close our temple.

The Hare Krishna Temple Defence Committee would like you celebrate this historic victory by offering our humble thanks to Lord Krishna who helped us in our campaign throughout and taught us to fight for our Dharama as he said in Bhagvat Gita "Mum Anusmara Yudhya cha".

We can now fulfil Srila Prabhupada's dream to make Bhaktivedanta Manor a place similar to Virandavan where his devotees can come and enjoy the freedom of religion and take part in protection our heritage and culture for many years to come. Today the Hindu community should be very proud of its unity and achievement.

I would like to offer my humble and sincere thanks to each and everyone one of you for all the support and assistance you have given us in our fight and struggle in getting this historic victory.

During the previous ten years I have been honoured and privileged to serve the Hindu community in their fight for the right of freedom of religious worship and practice without the fear of intimidation or persecution.

This relationship with my Hindu brothers and sisters has increased the depth of my understanding and appreciation of their cultural contribution to the society in which I live and cemented a bond of mutual friendship which will last for the rest of my life.

While I have not taken to their religion, I shared the pain and grief when the iniquitous decision was taken to close Bhaktivedanta Manor temple and shared their elation when the war against racism and intolerance was finally won with the granting of the appeal.

When I was baptised with the name Arjuna das during a fire ceremony to prepare for my campaign visit to India and Nepal, this special relationship became reinforced and unassailable.

Like most other individuals who attain their prominence by campaigning publicly in support of just causes, I have been given much credit over the years which rightly belongs to my wife Cathie. Without her unstinting support and confidence in assisting me to achieve our objectives the contribution I was able to make would have been limited.

Therefore, I am honoured and privileged to have married a person who is also my best friend and whose loyalty to this campaign must never be forgotten.

Cllr. Frank Ward

Vice-chair of Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement

Everyone who gave a shoulder to the campaign to save the status of Bhaktivedanta Manor deserves the inner satisfaction of being able to serve Krishna in such a wonderful way.

Chaitanya's Sankirtan movement, extended by Srila Prabhupada to the world at large, has universal attraction and appeal, for its effect of pure goodness and devotion is all encompassing. Therefore, the long ordeal inevitably reached this conclusion, but over the years the campaign yielded other fruits which are innumerable and impossible to value.

HKTDM have accomplished an arduous campaign. I remember seeing Frank Ward and Trikalagya das for the first time in March 1988 at Vishwa Hindu Mahasammelan in Kathmandu. They were there to make all Hindu leaders present aware of the predicament faced by Bhaktivedanta Manor. Ever since then VHP leaders have given moral support to the campaign; but practical contributions from VHP and HSS started from October 1993.

I have been asked by Sangha and VHP adhikaris of Bharat and the UK to express deep veneration for the time, energy and efforts put into the campaign by yourselves, Frank Ward and all the members of the HKTDM.

Sbri Kishor Ruparelia

General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad U.K.

The commitment, dedication and unity of Hindus has paid off.

The splendid news of victory conveys a very clear message to all - do not underestimate the strength and resolve of the Hindu people.

Sbri Chunilal Velji Chavda

The victory of the Hare Krishna Movement will go down in history of Britain as an event of great religious significance. The marches, protests, letters, meetings, the public inquiry process, indeed every stage of the campaign has been conducted with utmost dignity and integrity. We have never before seen the community act with such unity.

Britain is a multi-racial and multi-cultural society. Freedom of worship is one of its foundations. The victory of the Hare Krishna Temple Movement led by its outstanding campaign committee ensures that the principle remains a reality.

Keith Vaz M.P.

Shadow Environment Minister

I am delighted to hear that you have achieved victory in keeping Bhaktivedanta Manor open for public worship. I strongly support your campaign and wish you all the best in the future.

Mr. Hugh Dykes M.P.

I am delighted that the British Government has given permission for the continuance of worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor. As a religious man myself I greatly welcome this and have the highest regard for all those who worship there.

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Sir Rhodes Boyson MP

10th May 1996 will go down in the history of Britain as the day when British Hindus achieved the goal they had been fighting for - to keep Bhaktivedanta Manor open for public worship. What a hard struggle it had been but it was a battle worth fighting for. As Lord Krishna said to Arjuna "Remember Me and fight." Hindu remembered Lord Krishna and ultimately all opposing elements were defeated.

I wish you all the success for the future and I pray to Lord Krishna that all the important activities that take place at the Manor can continue without any further hindrance.

Shri Om Prakash Sharma

National Council of Hindu Temples U.K.

Amongst all the good news for Hindus worldwide in the recent past, especially this year, is the victory for Bhaktivedanta Manor. All along, Hindus up and down the country demanded that the Temple should stay open; and now that the British government has decided that the Temple must stay open, we can all rejoice. The Manor will remain open because Srila Prabhupada, one of the greatest human beings of our age, installed the deities there.

And it will remain open because Srila Prabhupada propagated the age-old Vedic religion to the West - giving it a multiracial and multicultural international outlook - from its Holy shrine.

The Manor's cause was just and reasonable and was supported by millions of Hindus the world over. Moreover, the fight for the Manor has given new dimension to the faith, hope and expectations for the Hindu community, especially the youth, and has transformed them into activist believers.

The Manor is served by true disciples of Srila Prabhupada, assisted by committed members of ISKCON, the Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement, the Patrons Pandava Sena and many thousands of faithful, law-abiding and peaceful devotees, for this reason, too, the Manor has remained, and will continue to remain, open.

It was a great privilege for me and my publication to be involved in this Dharmayuddha - this just and Holy fight. I owe so much to my readers, but I know that they felt, like all of us, that this wonderful victory was theirs too.

It gives me immense pleasure and privilege to congratulate The International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and its innumerable devotees for the triumphal victory after more than a decade of struggle for the right to worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor. On my own behalf and on behalf of Namdhari Sangat UK Sikh Community, we are very much delighted with the welcome outcome of the protracted negotiations.

It may be recalled that His Divine Holiness Sri Sat Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaja, supreme head Guru of Namdhari Sikh Community, visited your esteemed temple in September 1993 and gave the message of love, spirituality, cultural unity and solidarity and encouraged the continuation of your good work.

With prayer coupled with untiring devotion, zeal and vigour, the Lord has finally bestowed the opportunity to carry forward your mission in the spirit of peace and brotherhood. Namdhari Sikhs from all over the world are therefore delighted at your wonderful success.

Sbri Vasdev Singh Bhamrab

Publicity Secretary - Namdhari Sangat UK

On behalf of the members of the afflicted organisations to the Hindu Council (Brent) and members of the Executive Committee, I would like to offer our congratulations to everyone at Bhaktivedanta Manor for the most outstanding and dedicated service you have done.

You have all helped the Hindu community in Britain in keeping our heads high with integrity and dignity. I am very confident that future generations will derive their strength through this remarkable achievement. Especially when Hindus in Britain are now actively engaged in making major contributions in all fields of social, economical and industrial, you have now proved that we are too entitled to a place of worship.

Sbri Bipin Patel

President - Hindu Council (Brent)

I have been privileged to be associated with the defence team. It has been a long struggle. We lost a lot of battles but the final war was won. I have no doubt whatsoever that Lord Krishna's thoughts were to see our determination and resolve to fight; - and we succeeded.

Sbri Shantoo Ruparell

Solicitor

Having given evidence on behalf of Bhaktivedanta Manor at the Planning Inquiry in February, I was delighted to learn of the favourable outcome. This has given great pleasure not only to the members of the Hare Krishna movement and to the Hindu community as a whole, but to very many friends and supporters.

It is of great importance that the Inspector accepted that the "religious importance" of the Manor was a justified cause for a favourable response. This has a wider significance, for planning decisions of this kind will be welcomed by all religious communities, as they seek to have their needs recognised and met.

Mr. Brian Pearce

Director - The Interfaith Network for the UK

For as long as I can remember I have expressed my concern about the rights of the minorities. The right to live in peace, to get an education, to get a job, to raise a family and to practice one's religion without reference to race, colour, national or ethnic origins. These issues are at the core of everything that needs to be done. They stand at the heart of every issue. No longer can a society endure in peace, really live with itself, really prosper in all ways if that society and establishment denies minorities the right to practice their religion by directly or indirectly discriminating against them.

It has been a long struggle but the battle is not yet over. Even now many statutory agencies are unwilling to give credence to any suggestion that the system might treat people from different ethnic backgrounds in an unequal manner. It is here that the struggle has been worthwhile.

Sbri Navnit Dholakia OBE JP and Ann Dholakia

Congratulations on getting the planning consent after such a long time. I wish you every future success with the good work of Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Kamlesh Bahl

Equal Opportunity Commission.

I'm so happy at the outcome, so proud of what I was called upon to do in support of your campaign.

Mr. Sydney Bidwell (former MP)

After all these years of struggling, campaigning and fighting, the Truth has at last come out. Truth has victory and as such we had such a victory.

I remember years back when we had a meeting with Hertsmere Borough Council. I came and spoke in favour, being a president of the National Council of Hindu Temples (U.K.), but the council did not budge. We had to spend a lot of public money unnecessarily to go before different courts and a public hearing. For the sake of a few villagers and a few so-called Councillors the bad political game has played its part. May God bless them also.

This victory is not only for Hindus, but it is a victory for all religions and faiths. The freedom of religion in this country has been proved.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have taken part in the campaign: Young Hindus, old Hindus and non-Hindus alike. I pray to Lord Krishna and Lord Rama to bless all of them.

Sbri Nathubhai Jagjivan

Gujarat Hindu Association, Leicester

When Krishna is there and where Krishna's work is carried out, victory is bound to come. Your victory is proof of this. May God bless.

Dr. Nandakumara

Executive Director - Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan

The driveway will provide a new route for the Manor's many devotees and followers of Lord Krishna. I am delighted and proud to have contributed to the success of the proposal and, following the Secretary of State's decision, it has been very gratifying to watch the driveway take shape. I wish the Manor all the very best for the future.

Peter Trevalyan

A.B.T. / Baker Collection - Traffic and planning consultant.

Letter from Pandava Sena

My dear respected members of the community,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

Pandava Sena owes its birth to the mother of dharma-yudha for Bhaktivedanta Manor. Not only has this campaign to save our beloved temple created our youth group, it has given life to many young people. Bhaktivedanta Manor and its devotees have offered us the most comforting shelter in a world full of adversities. Their love for us enthused and ignited a campaign. We learned Srila Prabhupada had a message - a spiritual revolution we wanted to be a part of. And, Bhaktivedanta Manor was integral to this revolution - it had to be saved.

We experienced great excitement and fulfillment. On behalf of the Pandava Sena members I thank all the devotees for their encouragement. I congratulate the leaders of this glorious campaign and thank them for being exemplary in their fight for dharma and righteousness.

It is a pleasure to be a part of these celebrations today. I would like to express that as we enjoy the event today - the opening of the new driveway - my heart is saddened that we are not able to witness the same volume of brothers and sisters who marched in defiance of the ban on worship, to march with pride on this victory remembrance day. I am sure that the next few years will compensate my sadness as our community now continues to serve the mission of Srila Prabhupada undeterred. Once again, thank you all. Please forgive any offence I or any of our members may have committed during the course of the campaign.

Your servant,

Nitesh Gor (Chairman)

We are all extremely happy in Bombay on receiving the good news that the UK Government have allowed public worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor in London.

Ultimately it is Lord Krishna's Will and Srila Prabhupada's desire that prevail! Hare Krishna.

Sbri Krishna Chandra das

Bhaktivedanta Manor holds an affectionate place in the hearts and minds of the thousands of our brothers and sisters across the UK. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us, to congratulate you and all the members of your team for your fine efforts.

Sbri Manjibhai S Hirani

European President - International Swaminarayan Satsang Organisation

As Hindus, we all share in the celebration of this very sweet victory for our great cultural heritage and philosophy. We sincerely convey our blessings that your most noble, benevolent endeavours for the cause of peace, harmony, unity and preservation of Dharma continue.

Sbri Sadbu Santsevas

The Swaminarayan Hindu Mission

Please accept our heartiest congratulations on behalf of myself and the Swaminarayan Sampradaya for your efforts to maintain Bhaktivedanta Manor as a temple. May Almighty God shower His choicest graces.

May I, on behalf of Wolverhampton Inter-Faith Group, take the privilege of sending our greetings and the heartiest congratulations to all members of ISKCON and devotees of Lord Krishna of Bhaktivedanta Manor, for their recent victory over a 23 year long struggle for right to worship and observe festivals.

The news is indeed a joy for all our members because we believe and work for building bridges of understanding with mutual respect between all faiths and communities in this multi-faith, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society of Great Britain.

Shri Ravi Khosla

Secretary - Wolverhampton Inter-Faith group

I was pleased to learn from the BBC news that the Environmental Secretary has finally granted permission for Bhaktivedanta Manor to remain open for worship and teaching. I am sure that the Lord Almighty will bless us, as always, in accomplishing the access road project.

Finally, we have won the right of worshipping the religion of our choice which is to be commended and will make its mark in history. Wishing you peace and prosperity.

Dr. G.P. Sheth

Chair - Indian Professionals Association UK

It is indeed gratifying to have received the good news, especially since it concerns such a sacred place. We at the Caribbean Hindu Society were following the struggle with bated breath and are very relieved and happy at the outcome. Like ourselves we are sure that all devotees everywhere are equally delighted.

Shri K. N. Singh

Secretary - Caribbean Hindu Society

NOAB would like to extend congratulations to all those involved in the campaign and celebrations. We hope that from this success you will find the beginning of a new phase of tranquillity at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

NOAB would like to wish you all the best for the future and we hope that your celebration is an enjoyable one.

Shri S. Kumar Shingari

National Organisation of Asian Businesses

I am proud to say that the Defence Movement Committee and all Hindus living in Great Britain who took part in the campaign throughout the last fifteen years to save our sacred temple, deserve much appreciation. On behalf of the Brahmin Society North London, my heartiest congratulations to the Defence Movement Committee and the entire Hindu community.

Voluntary organisations such as the Hare Krishna Defence Movement play a vital part in the life of the Hindu community and have undertaken an important role in attaining VICTORY in keeping Bhaktivedanta Manor open for public worship. Bhaktivedanta Manor is a place in which people of different backgrounds can achieve a greater understanding of one another and develop mutual respect. This is an excellent achievement in British history which will be remembered for many years to come. I urge all Hindus and all devotees to unite and give full support to all Hindu causes to achieve greater success and also to fight for our rights.

Shri Sumantrai D. Desai

President - Brahmin Society North London

We hope now that all your troubles are behind you and that Bhaktivedanta Manor continues for a long time to come as a place of worship for the Hindu community.

I was most pleased to read in the local paper that your organisation has been granted planning permission. It has taken quite a long time since you showed me round the Manor two years ago. May you have my best wishes for the future.

Mr. Laurence J Cox

Councillor for Wemborough Ward - Liberal Democrat

yada-yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati bhārata
abhyutthanam adharmasya tada tmanam sramy aham
Bhagavad Gita 4,7

Congratulations and Good Wishes for the Future

Vinod Tailor and Family

This victory to keep the House of Lord Krishna open could only be achieved by those dedicated souls who gave their TIME, WEALTH and INSPIRATION throughout the campaign. Lord Krishna tested us right to the last minute but His rewards are great. During the campaign, it was made clear to the authorities in this country that Bhaktivedanta Manor is important for every human soul.

We can see how by Krishna's arrangement so many people in power have been made aware of what Bhaktivedanta Manor has to offer the entire human race.

Shri Gunvant K. Changela

All glories to Srila Prabhupada on the victory, and to the endless efforts of the HKTDM over the years, especially Cllr. Frank Ward and Naresh Chadha. May we look forward to the years of 'restriction free' Krishna consciousness.

Shri Naresh K Shingdia

At a tender age, Lord Krishna lifted Govardhana Hill with one finger to establish that He and He alone is the Supreme Lord. He can protect all His devotees who come under His shelter.

With the blessings of the Lord, the devotees and the Hindu community of Great Britain at large have united together and emerged victorious against the establishment. Some 5000 years after Lord Krishna's appearance, this victory has proved yet again who is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

We all bow down to Him and seek His guidance on how to spread His golden song Bhagavad Gita.

Shri Govind Garala

I would like to thank everyone for your kind support, help and encouragement over the last several years, without whom it would have been extremely difficult to achieve this glorious victory.

I remain yours in the service of Lord Sri Krishna.

Shri Nainesh Desai

My brother Gopi and I were always confident of the success of Bhaktivedanta Manor. We had said that wherever there is Lord Krishna there would be success.

How gratifying that the struggle that we all took part in has now been crowned with victory which was willed by Lord Krishna, but even the struggle was willed by Him as part of the process of victory. Let us, therefore, be grateful both to our opponents as well as to our supporters - both had their role to play.

This struggle helped Krishna Consciousness spread far and wide and brought together various spiritual organisations into a vibrant unity.

Sbri Shrichand P. Hinduja

Chairman - Hinduja Group of Companies

Shree Krishna Ji has said in the Bhagavad Gita 8.7 :

"Therefore, Arjuna, you should always think of Me in the form of Krishna and at the same time carry out your prescribed duty of fighting. With your activities dedicated to Me and your mind and intelligence fixed on Me, you will attain Me without a doubt."

There is nothing wrong in defending one's rights and one's faith. In the beginning, just like Draupadi, during her unfair torture in the court of King Dhritarashtra, we had faith in the justice of this land and we thought that we will win our case against the ban unfairly placed upon us by Hertsmere Borough Council. We lost our initial battles. So, although we returned to Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda for comfort will still felt that the European Court of Law would certainly help us.

We lobbied inside and also protested outside Parliament, but the politicians could not help us. Soon we found that the judicial system of the European Court was unable to help us and there was nothing we could do to prevent the ban.

In such situations, there is only one thing a devotee can do and, just like Draupadi, we turned to Govinda. With even stronger faith, we continued to worship the Deities. We illegally celebrated the festival of Janmashtami and were heavily fined. Our prayers for protection from the Lord increased. We had faith in Bhagavad Gita and in the words of Sanjay in 18,78:

"Where there is Krishna, the master of mystics, and wherever there is Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will also certainly be opulence, victory, extraordinary power and morality. That is My opinion."

The real magic of this victory is that it came during the year of Srila Prabhupada's Centennial Celebrations, making it an eternal gift from Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda to Srila Prabhupada and his disciples, grand disciples and all those who visit this Holy Shrine.

What could be more memorable than tasting Victory of a battle which we had seemingly lost years ago and there appeared to be no hope of winning it. Notwithstanding all the hard work done by the devotees, the HKTDM and all the well-wishers throughout the world, this victory was granted to Srila Prabhupada by Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda, Sri Sri Sita Rama, Lakshaman Hanuman and Gaura-Nitai so we should always be grateful to Their Lordships. This event is not only inspirational but historical. Srila Prabhupada's Bhaktivedanta Manor Ki, Jay!

Hari Das

ISKCON Coventry Yatra

I am greatly honoured to be invited to send a message to the Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement... "Hare Rama, Hare Krishna" is a household phrase in Mauritius where it has entrenched itself solidly by running an ashram and a farm and keeping alive the Hindu tradition, especially the teachings of the Holy Gita. The movement has also widespread ramifications in many parts of the world where its social and religious activities are highly appreciated. I have had the privilege of visiting the ISKCON temple in Durban and I can say it is an architectural jewel and an oasis of peace.

In this era of moral decadence where youths are drifting towards drugs and violence, it is heartening to see a group of devoted men and women engaged in activities to lift people from the mire in which they are sinking.

Sir Satcam Boolell QC

(High Commissioner of Mauritius)

The Hindus strongly believe that 'Truth always wins' and this is what has happened in the case of Bhaktivedanta Manor. The period of adversity was long, but our devotion has been blessed by Lord Krishna.

Sewa International very humbly feels honoured to be associated with the Hare Krishna Temple Defence Movement as well as Hindus and all others in general who stood by the movement throughout the injustice and unfairness.

Sbri. Arjun Lal Sharma

Sewa International

It is indeed a matter of pride for all Hindus that the British Government has finally recognised the importance of places of worship for the Hindu community and of Bhaktivedanta Manor as a place of pilgrimage as well as a special place of worship and training.

This has been achieved by the joint and varied effort of all Hindus. The Hindu Council was able to influence the decision through a very strong campaign through its persistent letters to MPs and the Government Ministers and this gives us a great sense of satisfaction. We wish Bhaktivedanta Manor and its activities all success in the future.

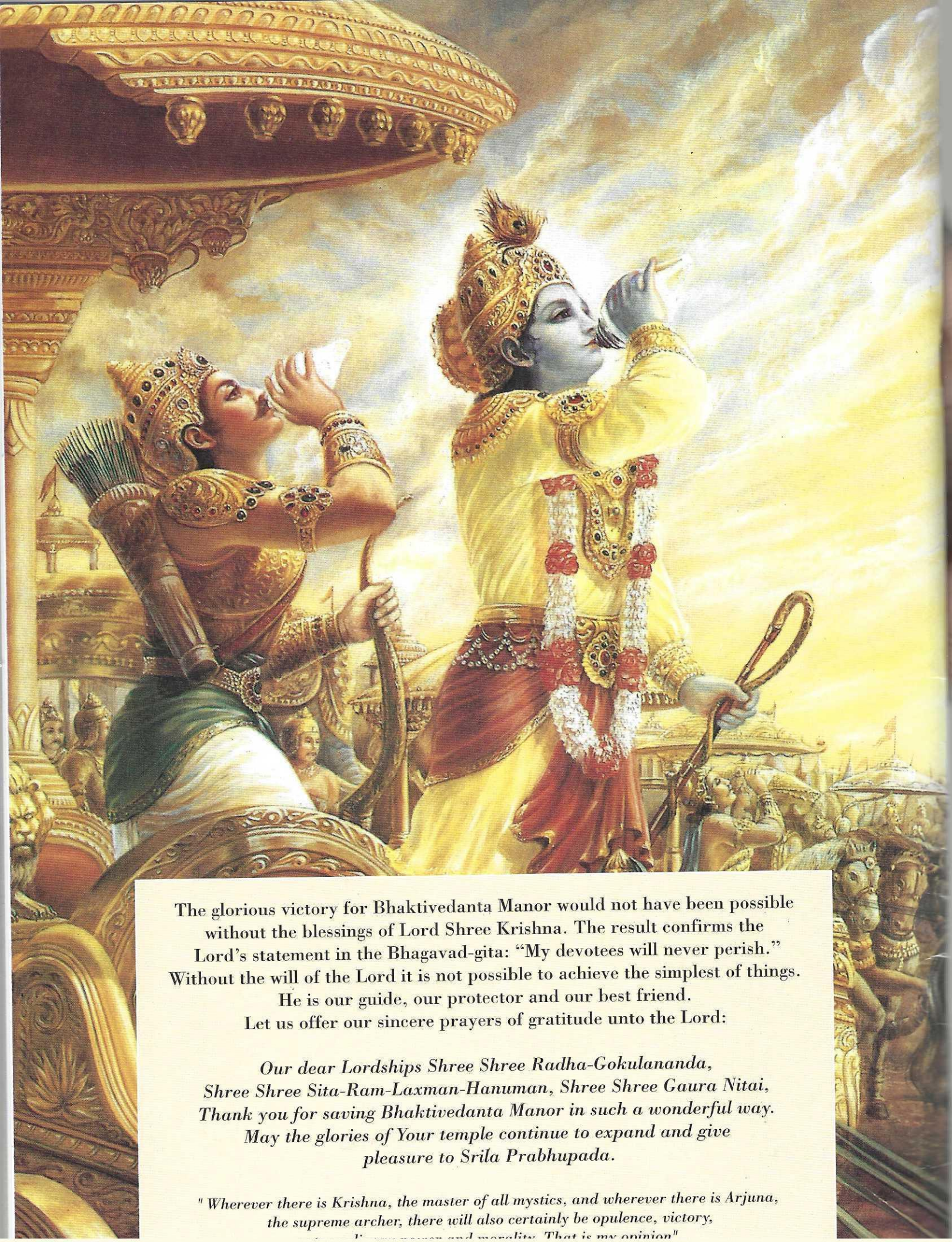
BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

The emblem of sanatan dharma in Great Britain



“ If you want to remain in the spiritual world,
this temple is the spiritual world.

This temple is not in London .
It is Vaikuntha...It is Vrindavan.”



The glorious victory for Bhaktivedanta Manor would not have been possible without the blessings of Lord Shree Krishna. The result confirms the Lord's statement in the Bhagavad-gita: "My devotees will never perish." Without the will of the Lord it is not possible to achieve the simplest of things.

He is our guide, our protector and our best friend.

Let us offer our sincere prayers of gratitude unto the Lord:

*Our dear Lordships Shree Shree Radha-Gokulananda,
Shree Shree Sita-Ram-Laxman-Hanuman, Shree Shree Gaura Nitai,
Thank you for saving Bhaktivedanta Manor in such a wonderful way.
May the glories of Your temple continue to expand and give
pleasure to Srila Prabhupada.*

*"Wherever there is Krishna, the master of all mystics, and wherever there is Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will also certainly be opulence, victory,
happiness and morality. That is my opinion"*