

Mick of the Manor Part 1:

Mick gets Bhaktised

A truelife fly-on-the-wall account of what happens when you join the Manor Bhakta Programme

Haribol! All glories to the assembled readers.

This article was going to be a daily journal but I found two major drawbacks to this medium. First, length. It would be boring to read and require a great deal of editing. Secondly, most of the realisations were mostly only meaningful to myself – I didn't want to do a self-indulgent article. Thirdly, (okay – three drawbacks!) some of my early criticisms may be unfounded and probably just lack of sleep.

So I thought the best way to go about this would be to write down some of my high points and a few general realisations thereby selling the idea of coming on the bhakta course yourselves. Here goes...

I have come to know my strengths and weaknesses as a person and also as a devotee. This can be distressing or joyful depending on the circumstances, but in the long run a very valuable experience. There have been lots of senior devotees to talk to throughout so it's a nice safe environment to explore some of your shortcomings (if you have any!).

I have met devotees here from over 20 different countries and mostly they have a similar story to tell. It's very life affirming (and faith strengthening) sharing experiences with people from all four corners of the globe (Does a globe have corners?!).

I have worked on the Goshalla. The main highlights were seeing some new calves and milking one of the cows.

I went on the Food for All programme in Kings Cross and Camden. We served about 300 meals in 2 hours. Very nice day, we returned to the Manor via a couple of branches of Sainsbury's to collect the food that they ordinarily throw out. Later the same day we attended an evening program at a millionaire's. So the day was spent with people from both ends of the social hierarchy. Who said being a Hare Krishna monk was boring?

We get the chance to go on two Harinam parties on a Saturday. The dinnertime one is a small affair held in local towns; the evening one being a huge crowd converging on Central London – great atmosphere.

If gardening or planting vegetables is your thing you can gain some handy tips from the resident horticulturalists.

Perhaps the best thing – apart from conquering tiredness – is the amount of opportunities available.

Pandava Sena groups, University preaching, parades, festivals, and more swamis than you can shake a danda at. [Is that what the stick is called? Please edit.]

If you like the idea of joining in with the Bhakta programme please contact Jivadoya das on 01923 857 244. I couldn't recommend it highly enough, it is great grounding for those living outside the temple.

I'm off on a few trips (KC related) soon, including the Sabbatical program, so I'll hopefully write to you all from there.

Hare Krishna!
Bhakta Mick

What will happen over the next month? Will Mick find salvation and end the cycle of repeated birth and death? Will Mick find a guru? Or will he take the blue pill and go back to his old ways? Find out in the next exciting episode of 'Mick of the Manor'...



Mick at the London RathYatra 2006

Tribuvanath's Summer Festival Tour

July 6	Hare Krishna Festival Cardiff
July 15	Stockholm (Sweden)
July 18	Oslo (Norway)
July 22	Copenhagen (Denmark)
July 24-30	Krishna Camp
July 30	Birmingham Rathayatra
Aug 2-6	Big Green Gathering
Aug 5	Cardiff Rathayatra
Aug 6	Leicester Rathayatra
Aug 16-17	Janmastami / Srila Prabhupada Vyasa Puja (Bhaktivedanta Manor)
Aug 25	Hare Krishna Festival Ireland (with Indradyumna Swami)
Sept 1-3	Electric Picnic (Ireland)
Sept 2	Bristol (park) Rathayatra
Sept 3	Glastonbury (town) Rathayatra
Sept 9	Brighton Rathayatra