

Somers Town Festival of Culture *By Bhakta Nayan*

DEVOTEES have been performing Sankirtan yajna in the form of Harinam, Books and Prashadam distribution for 12 years since the start of festival on Chalton Street, in between Euston and Kings Cross Station, in London.

In the absence of Parasuram and Giridhari Prabhus along with MahaVishnu and Janananda Swamis on the Scandanavian Rathyatra tour. I was asked to hold the reigns. I have as much talent as to bang a saucepan with a wooden spoon, out of tune and at the same time think shooting stars are going off.



Harinam on the streets of London

A mixed bag of devotees of different race, origin, ethnicity, creed, colour, class and mood came together. It was all a bit last minute (.com) and devotees came together *on the day* but it was all right on the *right day* because Krishna saved it, again.

From Soho Street RadhaLondon Ishwara dasa and his team including Louise matagi, Kings cross FFL team featuring Bhakta Dave from Ireland with his enthusiasm for book distribution and Bhaktivedanta Manor. Sukadev Prabhu (SP disciple) brought some devotees too. Sukadev Prabhu was so agreeable and a perfect gentleman, very inspiring. Prabhu was phoned up last minute with no introduction; he agreed to come at the drop of a hat.

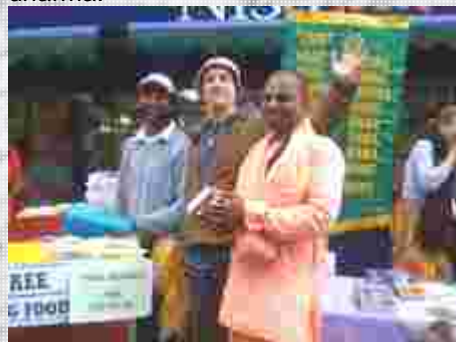
All glories to Srila Prabhupada direct disciples. An aspect of Srila Prabhupada magnanimity is displayed through them. I am fortunate to have so many wonderful fathers.

The Devas provided great weather. The atmosphere was laid back and relaxed. There was no trouble; policemen were tapping their feet to the 'Harinam' being performed on the make-shift stage. There were fun-fair rides on the road, free football tables had been laid out, and local residents were selling their personal bric-a-brac.

The organisers were friendly and appreciative of our support. Parasuram's experience by way of devotee-made ice-cream that he'd organised, accompanied by subji and rice. Even Muslims because of their children and the attraction of ice cream were in approach. Krishna!

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto Sri Chaitanya, who is the most merciful incarnation. He has appeared in a golden color for the purpose of freely distributing pure love of Krishna."

After few hours all other devotees having said they had other services left. I had the good fortune to stay and continue joined by some of my karmi friends who are favourable. They served prasadam to attendees and felt blissful. Wow, the power of Bhakti Yoga, even if tinged. Young Sachin Kotak from the grounds of Pandava Sena who brought cakes made for Krishna by his sister Komal. After some endeavour he reached us late but made up for it, serving very nicely and he gained much from the whole experience as he later recounted on his way to our Saturday night Harinam route. Maybe some of his piers will follow suit and participate in the yuga dharma.



Free Food & book stalls, kept very simple, Nayan's (left) simple yet effective plan!

As the sun was setting, we began to wheel back the rickshaw, with bright Jagannath-Rathesque colours, flag akimbo; to the marvel of onlookers on Euston Road, to the centre. One of the organisers came rushing over to us, a big smile, "Thank you" she said followed by exclaiming "Hare Krishna" and a £40 donation.

'Jai Srila Prabhupada!' Simply books written by Srila Prabhupada, Prashadam, and Harinam in the mood of cooperation not corporation and immediately bliss, ecstasy were felt, freed from the modes and no anxiety. No small wonder Srila Prabhupada instructed Tribuvanath Prabhu to preach through festivals. It all seemed so simple. Chant and be happy, in effect.



Harinam and simple stalls make an explosive combination!

No meetings, resolutions, dissolutions and then no solutions, no bridges or umbrellas, no monopoly game, no hierarchy, no strategy, no opinions, no marketing, no finance. Automatic humility and tolerance by the grace of Guru and Gauranga.

Krishna needs no promotion for He is all-attractive and He is kind. Simple for the simple. House the whole world can live in. United we stand. Law books for the next 10,000 years. Thanks Neville Prabhu and Deviani dd; Antardwip and Dina Krishna Prabhus for their encouragement.

Aatish's Terrible Jokes:

Why did the guy with a hearing problem go to the chicken farm after going to the Iskcon temple? He was told to follow the four eggs.

Why do a lot of devotees have shaven heads? Because Lord Chaitanya came to shave the fallen souls