

GURU NANAK NISHKAM SEWAK JATHA (LEEDS) UK
Roundhay Park Sikh Event 11-14th Oct 2007

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this event taking place?

To celebrate 300 years of Guru Granth Sahib Ji becoming Guru.
To celebrate 800 years of Leeds receiving its first charter for a new town.

Who is paying for this event?

Voluntary contributions - no funding.

What is GNNSJ?

Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha is a non-profitable charity organization which focuses on Sikh teaching of selfless service (Sewa)

Who are the Sikhs?

Sikhs are followers and believes in Guru Nanak Dev Ji, succeeding 9 Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib

What do Sikhs believe in?

Sikhs believe in One God fatherhood and brotherhood of man.

Why do Sikhs cover their head?

Sikhs cover their head in respect for God. Our hair is sanctified at the time of Amrit (Sikh Baptism) and become sacred. They need to be kept clean covered.

Why do we have to take our shoes off?

We take our shoes off in respect for Guru Granth Sahib Ji to maintain sanctity of Darbar (worship hall) and Guru's Langar (kitchen).

Why is everyone wearing white?

White is commonly associated with purity and peace, which is a mixture of all colours representing togetherness.

Why are men and women sat separately?

It is not a religious injunction, but an old Indian tradition of men and women sitting separately when in public.

Why is there free food?

This is a unique Sikh institution started by the first master to eradicate class/cast distinction in Indian society.

Why is everyone sat on the floor?

Sikhism believe in an society , a practical way to demonstrate equality.

What prayers are being read?

Continuous readings of the Holy Scripture known as Akhand Paath; this takes a total of 48 hours.

What are there people singing?

The singing is called Kirtan. It is singing of sacred hymns to the accompaniment of traditional Indian musical instruments from the Guru Granth Sahib.

What is the Sikh greeting and what does it mean?

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa - The Khalsa belongs to God
Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh - Victory belongs to God.

Why are people giving money at the front in the pray hall ?

This is a voluntary offering for the charity. Sikhs are required to put in 10% of their earnings and time to good causes.

Where does all the money for the food come from?

Voluntary contributions.

How much are these workers being paid?

Nothing. It is Sewa (selfless service)

What is the food offered in the pray hall?

It is called karh parshaad. It is a mixture of flour, ghee (purified butter), water and sugar and formed. Krah prashaad is sacred food and comes as a blessing from the Guru.

Why is the food only vegetarian?

Sikhs are forbidden to eat meat, fish and eggs and consume intoxicants / tobacco.

Why are some Sikhs carrying knives?

It is not a knife . In the Sikh language it is called a Kirpan - this is Kirpa (kindness, merge) and aan - righteousness. These are the virtues a Sikh is required to develop in his character.

What is a Sikh?

A Sikh is a searcher of truth. The ultimate truth is god.

What is Guru Granth Sahib?

Unique world scriptures that enjoy the little of "GURU"

GU - Darkness or spiritual ignorance.

RU - Light in divine wisdom.

Guru is somebody or something that can remove ones spiritual darkness from a person and bring enlightenment.

What are we hoping to achieve from this event?

- To receive spiritual mileage through the practice of Sewa (selfless service)

- Provide an opportunity to meet people of different faiths, ethnic religion, exchange views and enrichen ourselves.