

PHOTOGRAPHY: ASHLEY BINGHAM



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'500 PARTNERS DANCING BOLLYWOOD-STYLE WAS REALLY SOMETHING TO BEHOLD'

GEORGIE HAYNES

Mumbai-style magic came to Wembley last weekend, reports Catherine Riley

Wembley was the arena for a night of Bollywood glamour last Saturday as 500 Partners and their guests gathered at the Clay Oven restaurant to enjoy the best in Indian eating and entertainment.

"This special event was the first of its kind, celebrating all things Bollywood with a mix of superb food and vibrant dancing," says Julie Sizer, Leisure Benefits Co-ordinator, Bluewater, who organised the evening. "The Bollywood theme came from the East Region Leisure Team, and special mention must go to LBCs Tracy Qarni from Brent Cross and Georgie Haynes from Southend, and Leisure Benefits Manager East Helen Will, who

helped make it such a success." Partners from across the business enjoyed an Indian feast, with tables laden with an amazing array of dishes brought out from the kitchen. "The food was absolutely fantastic," says Mohammed Mohiuddin, Loss Prevention Partner, John Lewis Welwyn, with Mala Mehta, Operations, Brent Cross agreeing: "The Bollywood-style bangles that we received as a gift were a really nice touch, too."

After the feast, Brent Cross's Kalpesh Zalavadiya

(pictured below) got the entertainment under way. His dance troupe wowed the crowd with their authentic Bollywood dance routines and fantastic costumes: "they really made the night come alive," Julie reports.

ROUTINE MOVES

Having set the standard, Kalpesh invited Partners onto the dancefloor to show off their own moves. No one declined. "The atmosphere was electric – it was brilliant to see Partners from every division dancing and having fun together," says Georgie Haynes. "The sight of 500 Partners dancing Bollywood-style really was something to behold. Plus, I got to expand my own dance repertoire a little!"

The fun didn't stop there, as Kalpesh made way for the

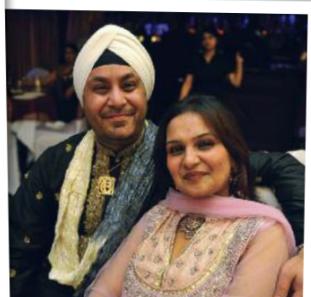
DJ who kept the floor filled for the rest of the night. "He played a mix of Bollywood numbers and some old classics which went down a storm," Julie continues. "The night came to an end at 1am and the dancefloor was packed full right up to then."

Both Julie and Georgie were delighted that so many revellers wore traditional Indian dress. "The room was full of colour from all the beautiful outfits," says Georgie. "It was another little detail that helped make the event even more special."

And judging from the feedback they've received this week, that feeling of it being a little bit special was shared by all who attended. "We've heard from lots of Partners saying they had a really good time," says Julie, who is glad it proved so popular. "All the hard work of the East Region Leisure team really paid off," she continues. "It truly was an unforgettable evening."



JL Watford's Shanta Thapa and Jyoti Mistry of JL Brent Cross



Waitrose Wandsworth's Amandeep and Kiranjyot Kapoor



Ranjan Shah, Bina Dusara and Smita Patel from John Lewis Brent Cross



LBC at JL Victoria Tracy Qarni and Barry Parekh



JL Kingston's Antoinette Gonsalves strikes a pose



Oxford Street's Dharmesh Wanand and Martene Ekeke



Jas Bir and Deirdre Andrews from JL Bluewater



JL Kingston's Maz Venkatasamy with Zama Ozeer