

Special events

life in Wilmslow

Fresh take on Indian cuisine

Dining Out

WHAT a transformation.

From a dated Little Chef to a top notch authentic Indian eaterie, the new Tiger Lily restaurant in Nether Alderley is certainly a world away from its predecessor.

Taking its name from the two most famous icons of Bangladesh - the Bengal Tiger and the Water Lily - the new Bengali and Indian restaurant looks set to become iconic itself with its offering of authentic and traditional cuisine.

Under the ownership and management of Juber Akther and Kamran Islam-Khan, there is no hint of the previous occupants with its now modern interior design of clean lines teamed with mahogany coloured flooring and deep red hues in the decor, to add an exotic touch.

Classical and gentle music plays in the background to add to the ambience.

Bangladeshi born Juber, who has been in the restaurant business for over 20 years, has gone into partnership with Kamran, a family friend with

extensive experience on the front of house side.

Our meal began with the obligatory poppodums and assortment of fresh chutneys and pickles.

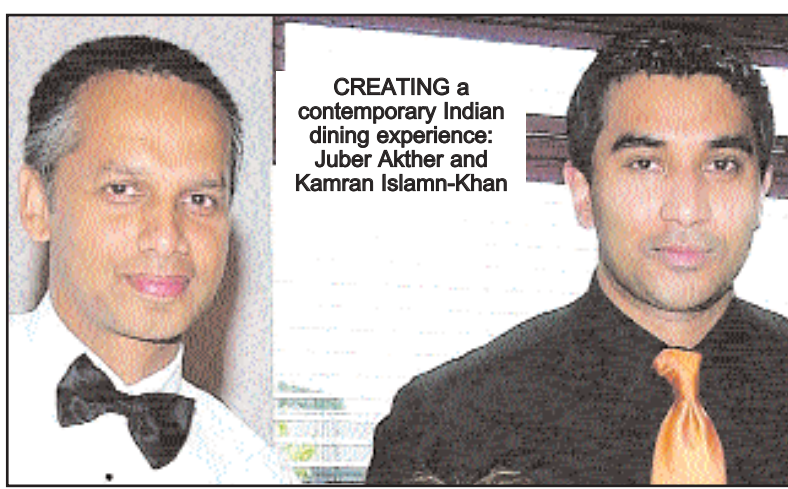
Washed down with a refreshing pint of the native Cobra beer, the poppodums were fresh and crisp, without a hint of greasiness and disappeared from the plate in minutes.

Following some recommendations from Kamran, we were brought a mixed starter of chicken tikka, reshmi kebab, vegetable pakura and a somosa, and a new one for our palates: special thawa - a blend of medium hot spiced chicken pieces prepared with oriental spices, herbs and peppers.

Our party unanimously agreed this was the tastiest Indian starter we had ever sampled and one we will certainly be adding to our future Indian repertoire.

While Juber rose to the ultimate challenge of suggesting a wine suitable to compliment the variety of flavours in an Indian meal, bringing us a refreshing and crisp Petit Chablis vin de Bourgogne, under Kamram's expert guidance we were brought a selection of the chef's specialities for the main course.

A range of subtle flavours and spices to satisfy all tolerances awaited



CREATING a contemporary Indian dining experience: Juber Akther and Kamran Islam-Khan

us: chicken korai - delicately spiced chicken pieces simmering in fresh ginger, garlic, tomato, spiced and sizzled and served up in a traditional Indian wok; lamb achari - tender pieces of chicken cooked in yogurt and pickled spices, tempered with mustard and hot green chillies in a tangy sauce and kashmiri chicken, delicately cooked in a mild sauce with cashew nuts, saffron and cream were dished up - and polished off - together with tarka dall (garlic lentils), pilau rice and the most moist peshwari nan, stuffed with coconut, almonds and sultanas we had ever

tasted. As we supped mango lassis - a refreshing home-made blend of mangoes and yogurt with a hint of cinamon - to cool our palates, Juber gave us another recommendation: to never order more than one naan at any time. "Ask for naan half way through a meal as it stays fresh and warm," he said as a second steaming naan was brought to our table.

As we let our sumptuous meal digest, waiting for our dessert of mango and pistachio kulfi, we were given a rare glimpse of an Indian

kitchen at work. "What goes on in the kitchen in Indian restaurants is a bit of an enigma," said Juber.

"We've deliberately put glass into the window so people can come and see.

"If customers have a good experience and see the same chef in the kitchen, they will come back."

Indeed diners can catch a glimpse of Bangladeshi born head chef Koyes Ahmed at work in his spotless kitchen through the glass portholes in the doors.

In this culinary world there are no synthetic food colourings, but Koyes' raw materials are a vast array of his freshly prepared spices.

While the famous neon-lit curry mile in Rusholme may be only a few miles away, with Kamram's and Juber's strong pedigree - Juber's father worked in the Manzil in Stockport and one of the first and most famous curry houses in the region in the 1960s - the well presented, freshly prepared and top notch Indian fare coupled with friendly service at Tiger Lily sets the mark by which other Indian restaurants should be marked.

Rachel Leslie

Tiger Lily is on Congleton Road, Nether Alderley. Tel: 01625 890379 / 890560.

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