



End to the mayoral year for Councillor Fida Hussain and mayoress Tanvir pictured with daughter Sumiya

OLDHAM'S business community turned out in force to back a dinner which raised funds for charities picked by the borough's outgoing mayor.

Hundreds of guests attended the Asian Business Leaders' Dinner at Oldham's Eastern Pavilion events venue including representatives of the Pakistan and Bangladesh commissions and consulates. Oldham Mayor Councillor Fida Hussain chose The Christie in Oldham, Dr Kershaw's Hospice, Mahdlo youth zone and the Action Oldham Fund as his good causes for his year in office.

The fundraising dinner was hosted by Dr Basma Ellahi, from the University of Chester, and Martyn Torr, former business editor of the Oldham Chronicle.

Speakers included Mumtaz Bashir, an engineer who later worked in sporting events including the London Paralympics and Glasgow Commonwealth Games; Bangladeshi digital businesswomen

Fida's finale is fantastic

Farhana Rahman, Dave Benstead from Oldham Business Leadership Group and Muzahid Khan.

Entertainment came from Asian dancer Deeba Amin and Hulme Grammar School pupil Saskia Edwards, who sang songs from musicals. She becomes the new Youth Mayor of Oldham later this year.

During a charity auction, business owner Kumar Zaman, of Greenstone Construction, bid the highest to buy a framed photograph of Oldham-based Manchester United legend Paul Scholes. However Mr Zaman's generosity went even further because this was the second time that he had bought the photograph to

help charity causes.

Mr Zaman said: "Paul Scholes is the best and he's well-known in Oldham. I first bought the photograph of him for £200 and now I've bought it again for £300. I'd have gone higher if need be because this event is raising money for such good causes."

Asked if he would hang it at his office or home, he quipped: "I don't know. I might donate it again in the future?"

Martyn Torr received a special lifetime achievement award for services to Oldham business presented by Ed Stacey, former head of Oldham Enterprise Agency and Business Link and author of the "Cotton, Curry and Commerce" book documenting Asian business in Oldham.

There were also awards for design business owner Ansar Ali, of DSGN UK, and former Oldham PC Philip Buckley for their work and community activities. Mr Buckley's charity activities have included a 350-mile cycle ride in Bangladesh.



Kumar Zaman, of Greenstone Construction, with the framed Paul Scholes photograph he won at auction for a second time.



Mark Moisley, Commercial Manager at Oldham Athletic FC, Ansar Ali, Bharat Sisodia. pictures by **PHIL WAREING PHOTOGRAPHY**