

Thank you, David Tredinnick!



(Left to right): David Tredinnick, Lord Aaron Kenneth Ward-Atherton and Lord Michael Cashman at the House of Lords dinner during the *New Horizons in Water Science* conference

It is difficult to rejoice at the prospect of a General Election under the most ideal circumstances, but this election looms under an especially dark cloud, because we already know that we have lost our staunchest supporter in Parliament, David Tredinnick. On 6 November 2019, David stood down as an MP, having represented the constituency of Bosworth, Leicestershire, on behalf of the Conservative party, since 1987. He had decided that it was time for someone younger, and with fresh ideas, to take on the many challenges currently facing the country.

Throughout his time in office, David has championed complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), homeopathy in particular, and he has

been Chair of the All Parliamentary Group for Integrated Healthcare (PGIH) since 2002. Unsurprisingly, David's unequivocal advocacy for CAM has attracted a lot of criticism from his fellow MPs and the press, but at no time did that deter him from speaking out in favour of an integrated approach to healthcare, and the rights of patients to choose the treatment options which work for them. In fact, Hansard has recorded David talking about homeopathy on 42 occasions, which is really important, because every positive comment David has made about homeopathy, is now a matter of public record. This means that no future government can deny knowledge of the potential of homeopathy as part of

an integrated approach to healthcare delivery, even if they choose to ignore the evidence with which they are presented.

On 14 October 2019, following on from the State Opening of Parliament and the Queen's Speech, David addressed the Commons Chamber, offering perhaps his most spectacular 'tour de force' to date. He started by observing that, over the years, there has been little progress at overcoming the reluctance of the medical establishment to utilise resources which lie outside of their immediate control, such as the services provided by the CAM sector. Initially, so-called lack of 'robust' regulation was the excuse used to exclude CAM provision from the NHS but,

despite the fact that osteopaths were regulated by statute in 1993, and the chiropractors in 1994, David noted that very little has changed. Furthermore, in 2003, the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) was established to regulate a whole range of healthcare professionals, yet it seems that the PSA's recommendations have made little difference to the treatment options available to patients. David called for the adoption of a completely new health paradigm in the future – a paradigm which was sustainable, carried a minimal carbon-footprint, and maximised all available resources. He went on to cite that sustainable healthcare was hardly a novel concept, and already existed ▶

▷ on a massive scale, in countries such as China and India.

David recently visited India, and spent a week exploring the work of the AYUSH Ministry – AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy. He was clearly impressed by what he saw, and he shared with the House some eye-watering stats and facts about the role of homeopathy in Indian healthcare: In Delhi alone, there are some 6,000 homeopathic clinics, and over 15,000 registered homeopaths, most of whom are also doctors – there are over a quarter of a million doctor-homeopaths in India, and the number is growing rapidly. One of the homeopathy teaching hospitals in Calcutta occupies a 14-acre

site and sees between 2,000-3,500 patients a day, with around 100 doctors / post-graduates on duty at any time. David commented, somewhat wryly, that here in the UK we are told by a handful of individuals who know very little about homeopathy, that there is no evidence to show that homeopathy is effective. **By contrast, in India over a quarter of a million doctors treat an average of 20,000 patients a day using homeopathy.** How can anyone continue to ignore the very real experience of millions of individuals? David's excellent presentation contained many more interesting facts about the work of the AYUSH Ministry, and the full transcript is available via Hansard.

My own most endearing memory of David dates back to 16 April 2018. It was a breezy, showery day, and a sizable group of homeopaths, farmers and animal lovers, had gathered just outside the Houses of Parliament by the statue of Winston Churchill, to march to the headquarters of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to deliver a petition. This petition called for a retraction of the RCVS's November 2017 statement on the use of CAM in veterinary practice, in which the RCVS implied that CAM for animals was ineffective, and could present an animal welfare issue. As we assembled, the sun broke out from behind some clouds, and suddenly David appeared – he

had taken time out from his busy schedule, to cheer us on. He jumped up on the wall just behind the towering figure of Churchill, and delivered one of the best 'once more unto the breach dear friends' speeches imaginable! We set off on our way, warmed, encouraged and inspired by David's heartfelt enthusiasm for our cause.

We are really going to miss David's unwavering support for homeopathy. We will also miss his optimism, his apparently limitless energy, and his positive outlook even in the face of extreme adversity. Thank you, David, you have truly been the best of friends to our profession, and we will miss you!

Karin Mont MARH

INDIVIDUAL THERAPISTS

A pioneering insurance package specifically designed for you



BALENS INSURANCE PACKAGE FOR THE ALLIANCE OF REGISTERED HOMEOPATHS

- » £6m Medical Malpractice
- » £6m Professional Indemnity
- » £6m Public & Products Liability
- » Taxation and Legal Package
- » Cover for temporary work abroad (Excluding the USA & Canada)
- » Policies available in Europe
- » Can include over 3,500 different therapies / activities



BALENS

Specialist Insurance Brokers

Balens are a 4th generation, ethical family business providing exclusive insurance schemes in the UK, Republic of Ireland and Europe. Offering you one of the widest Insurance covers available with competitive premiums to match.

Telephone: 01684 580 771 Web: www.balens.co.uk Email: info@balens.co.uk

Balens Ltd is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
For the purpose of insurance only The Alliance of Registered Homeopaths are Introducer Representatives of Balens Ltd

*Pioneers
for 65 years!
Caring for
the carers*