

# HEALTH FOOD INDUSTRY'S CHAMPION DEFENDER CELEBRATES ITS SIXTIETH



David Domoney



Dinner



Dr Zubir Ahmed MP

**K**ew Gardens was the perfect setting for the Health Food Manufacturers' Association's 60th birthday celebrations.

Guests enjoyed the sights and sounds of Kew Gardens before convening at the Nash Conservatory for a drinks reception followed by dinner in The Orangery with guest speakers and a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues in the industry.

An exhibition highlighted the key points and people from the last 60 years from the inception of the organisation in 1965 by Maurice Hanssen and the founder members Alfonal, Granose Foods, Heath & Heather, MCI Publishing and W. Prewett. The aim was to help defend and support the industry and create a collective voice for the emerging food supplement industry.

The timeline display sparked many a conversation when guests were reminded of some of the landmark moments such as the 1968 Medicines Act, the Food Supplements Directive, Brexit, the B6 campaign, folic acid fortification and more. Historic photos highlighted some of the personalities and activities, including Dame Barbara Cartland's visit to the Helfex trade exhibition in the early 1970s.

Following a welcome by HFMA President Penny Viner, the event featured special guest speakers.



Tom Moses, Natural Trade Brokers, & Bret Tomlin, HBI Eurocaps



Dr Bob Alkin



Dr Bob Alkin, Programme Manager at Kew, provided insight into the history of the botanical gardens and some of the scientific work at Kew, much of it linked to botanicals and herbal medicines.

Dr Zubir Ahmed, MP for Glasgow South West, shared his refreshing and passionate approach to encouraging the health of the nation, keeping people well through education about a healthy diet and lifestyle. He was keen to meet members and discuss some of the challenges we face in the industry.

After dinner, HFMA Chair Nick Bennett welcomed TV gardener, author and Chartered Horticulturist, David Domoney. David's highly

entertaining speech left guests in no doubt about the importance of the natural world to our wellbeing.

"It was a time to reflect on the past and also to look forward to a fast-changing future where the industry and the HFMA still have an important role to play in supporting the health and wellbeing of the UK population," said HFMA's Theresa Cutts. "An event filled with memories, friendships and pride at what has been achieved with an eye on the future where the HFMA will continue to be an authoritative voice of the industry, supporting member companies and the natural products arena both in the UK and abroad."



HFMA's Steve Mann, Penny Viner, Gwyneth Massey



**1965**  
HFMA formed



**1968**  
Herbal remedies exemption from Medicines Act



**1978**  
HFMA Code of Advertising Practice



**1982**  
21st Anniversary



**1984**  
Food Labelling Regulations come into force



**1989**  
HFMA recommends VMS Upper Safe Levels



**1997**  
First novel food regulation



**1998**  
B6 Task Force wins higher dose B6



**2002**  
Food Supplement Directive



**2004**  
Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive



**2006**  
Nutrition & Health Claims Regulation



**2015**  
50th Anniversary



**2019**  
CBD Novel Food Status confirmed



**2024**  
HFMA London Living Wage accreditation