

# Opening Address by Mr David Tredinnick MP

## Homeopathy Research Institute Reception

House of Commons, London

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### David Tredinnick

Member of Parliament for Bosworth

David was born in 1950, and educated at Eton College, Mons Officer Cadet School, St John's College, Oxford (M.Litt), and the Graduate School of Business at Cape Town University (MBA). He has one daughter and one son.

His main area of interest is health and he has been Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Integrated and Complementary Healthcare since 2002 (formerly Treasurer 1989-2002). His other special interests include defence, environment, home affairs, and information technology.

How wonderful it is to see so many homeopaths in the room. Shall we have a big cheer for them?! [cheer!]

I'm David Tredinnick. I'm Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Integrated Healthcare. I'm also an elected member of the Health Select Committee. There are other members of the Health Select Committee here – I can see Virendra Sharma – and I thank my colleagues for coming this afternoon.

The Parliamentary Group has really defended and promoted Integrated Healthcare, often under the stewardship of Lord Baldwin, who's here this afternoon. Lets give him a round of applause [applause] – he's done a fantastic job over the years – anyway we've put on about a hundred meetings in twenty years, and now this afternoon, we are focusing on homeopathy.

And just incase you think what is this man doing here, I practise what I preach.... look! [Holds up homeopathic remedy kit]. The first point I want to make is, really, well there's a couple of points, because we have very distinguished speakers this afternoon, is that I think I've saved the health service a lot of money by just carrying this around [Applause]. Yes, yes, more, more!! [Applause]

I've got 36 remedies which I use for colds, flu, headaches, bee stings, back pain. I always try and fix myself before going to the GP and that's the thing to do. When you look at it Ladies and Gentleman, we now have a £20 billion funding deficit in the health service and every year the cost of medicine goes up by £600 million. Don't you think there's a role for homeopathy out there somewhere? [Applause] And if you can compare what's happening in this country with what's happening in Europe and beyond, we are completely out of line. If you look at what's happening in France, one third of the population uses homeopathy; 60% of women use homeopathy when they are pregnant; 70% will have, at some time or another, have been to a doctor who has

had homeopathic training (and there are 25,000 of those); of the medical colleges in France, 7 teach homeopathy and 21 out of the 24 pharmacy schools teach homeopathy.

So what is going wrong? The problem here is that possibly we don't have enough research, so it's wonderful to have the Homeopathy Research Institute here this afternoon. And I'd just like to make one other point, particularly. If you go beyond Europe the use of homeopathy is even more widespread – within India 180 colleges teach homeopathy – a staggering figure – and there are 300,000 homeopathic practitioners.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's wonderful to have you here this afternoon and after that little warm-up act.... that's all I am, that's all I am .... I'd like to introduce Dr Alex Tournier and Professor KateThomas....