



## Mr Abszar Mohammed Waess

Place of Residence: **Reading, Berkshire**  
Sector: **Catering**

**M**r Abszar Mohammed Waess was born in Boro-bari, Amria, Sunamgonj, Bangladesh in 1967. His father is the late Alhaj Abdul Boshor Mashuk Miah, and his mother is Mrs Badrun Nessa. He is the second son of seven children.

Mr Waess moved to the UK with his family in 1975. He completed his education in Berkshire, before studying an HND in Aerospace Engineering at North East Wales Institute of Technology. He obtained a degree in Aeromechanical Engineering at City University, London in 1991.

Mr Waess' career began when he joined his family's restaurant business in 1991. He quickly made progress, and started his own wholesale frozen food company – Eurasia Foods – while studying for his degree. The success of this business allowed him to jointly set up a catering supplies company called Lais Brothers Ltd.

After learning more about the industry, Abszar Mohammed Waess decided that he wanted his own restaurant, and in 1996, he opened The Blue Cobra restaurant in Reading. It was the first upmarket Bangladeshi and Thai restaurant to open in the UK, and was launched by the then High Commissioner of Bangladesh, the late Dr M. Yusuf.

Eleven years later, Mr Waess took

another pioneering step and opened Xen, also in Reading. This flagship open-kitchen restaurant and lounge-bar offers cuisine from all over Asia, including, India, Thailand, and Japan, and is truly unique.

Currently, Mr. Waess is investing and developing an industrial scale, aqua culture project, known as 'Hail Hawor Project', in Mowlovi Bazar, Bangladesh, with the view to cultivate fish, pack, and export to the overseas market.

However, Abszar Mohammed Waess is famous not only for his restaurants. He, and some of his closest friends, were the original founders of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. This organisation, which was established in 1994, was set up to provide a voice for Bangladeshi restaurateurs. The Guild has helped to gain recognition of the contribution that Bangladeshi restaurants have made to British culture and the economy, and now has branches throughout the UK. At present, Mr Waess is the Secretary General of the Guild, and also the President of the Thames Valley Region branch.

Recently, he helped to form the Ethnic Catering Alliance, an organisation that links restaurateurs who offer Asian cuisine. This has been very useful as it has provided many

people who have been affected by the recent changes to the immigration laws with a voice.

Mr Waess was a founder director of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce, and currently holds the position of Deputy Director General. This organisation has helped to promote strong business links between Bangladesh and EU countries.

He also helped to form the Bangladesh Association Greater Reading (BAGR) in 1993, and this organisation helped to raise funds to convert a church into a mosque and community centre. Since then, the group has helped to run numerous projects including mother-tongue classes and elderly drop-in centres. Mr Waess is currently the Vice President of the BAGR.

Having shown to be dedicated to helping his community, Mr Waess was appointed as the first ethnic trustee to the Berkshire Community Foundation. This foundation helps to raise funds for the needy in Berkshire.

Mr Waess is married to Jafrin Khan Waess, and is a father of four children; the eldest, Imran Mohammed Waess, is 16, Samian Mohammed Waess is 12, Labiba Jahan Waess is eight and Safwan Mohammed Waess is seven.