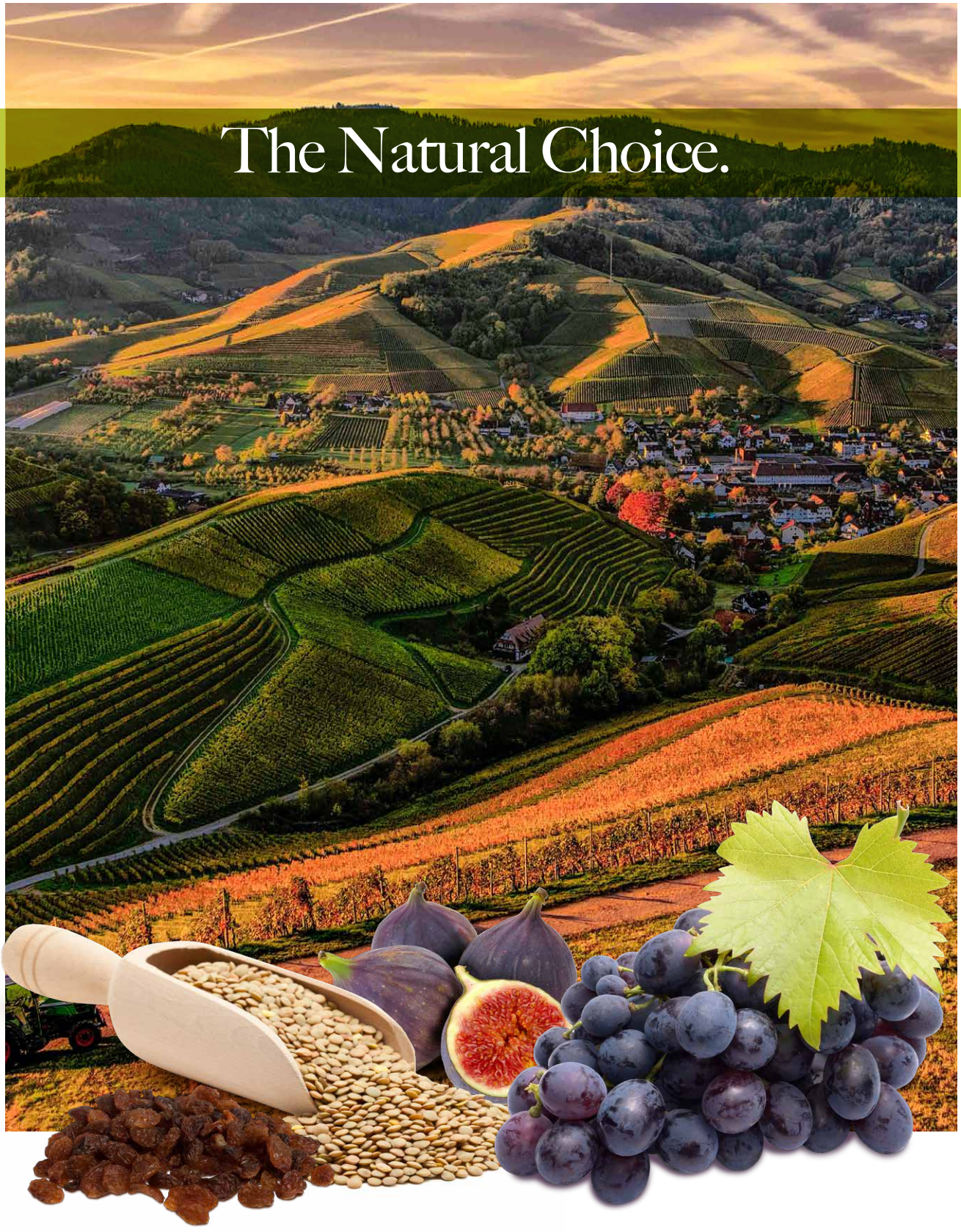
The Natural Choice.



Demos

Dried fruits, grains & pulses since 1826

A legacy built on quality, tradition and relationships

Steeped in history and tradition whilst embracing modern environmentally sensitive practices and technology to ensure our heritage for centuries to come.

We are committed at Demos and George Harker to providing our customers with good service and excellent products.

We have a fantastic history and a unique story to tell and are proud to be one of Britain's oldest privately owned food businesses.

While many of our products are traditional we are also at the forefront of development for the use of healthy, nutritious fruits and grains. Our enthusiastic and knowledgeable team work hard to understand and meet customer requirements, be they a large supermarket or manufacturer, or a small independent craft baker or health food supplier.

Demos have the imagination to provide a complete service for own label requirements from sourcing, design and packaging through to final delivery.

We have our own BRC accredited factory, George Harker & Co Ltd in Braintree, Essex where we package products to specific requirements.

GEORGE HARKER

George Harker BRC accredited packing factory

A global food business connected over 6 continents

Demos Ciclitira Ltd established since 1926 is an experienced importer and packager of dried fruit and natural food in the UK.

Buying direct from the producing countries, we are key suppliers to manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers throughout the country.

Our network of contacts and business partnerships from around the world ensure we can obtain the best freshest fruits, grains, seeds and pulses.

By working closely with growers in these regions we always have key information on harvest yields, crop quality and potential supply issues.

This means we can plan ahead with confidence and ensure our customers are informed with the latest supply information.

Importing, packing, exporting across 6 continents

We have many well-established Grower & Producer partnerships around the world.

We currently import dried vine fruits, dried tree fruits, pulses, seeds and grains from 20 countries spanning 6 continents.

From seasonal Greek currants, Turkish figs and South African apricots, to rice products from the Far East, to US pulses and seeds from South America.

Many of our grower and producer partnerships have been established for several decades built on trust and confidence to enable a smooth continuation of supply.

Top: UK Quinoa
Bottom: UK Peas

Sustainable & ethical practices

Improving working conditions

Reducing carbon emissions

Striving to reduce plastic packaging

The directors and management are committed to minimising the environmental impact of the materials and resources we use and supporting the well being of employees within the supply chain.

Our packing factory in Braintree, George Harker, has undergone modernisation in recent years culminating in a replacement insulted roof, LED lighting and double glazed windows. Combined these structural changes have reduced our fuel consumption and related carbon emissions, whilst improving the work environment for our employees.

In conjunction with our packaging suppliers and modern manufacturing techniques we are striving to reduce the use of plastic in all our films and can offer recyclable options to our customers.

Although we pride ourselves on our global procurement, we can also look closer to home, and where viable endeavour to source British grown crops including quinoa, peas and spelt.

Our business is registered on Sedex and we encourage our suppliers across the world to join the organisation to monitor and ultimately improve working conditions for the labour force. Supplier visits enable us to engage with local workers and encourage examples of good welfare.

Packing, sorting and mixing services

Our BRC accredited and Organic approved packing factory undertakes packing for major supermarkets, wholesalers and manufacturers. We have an excellent working relationship with some of the best loved food companies in the UK.

Our packing factory has six packing lines and two fruit washing lines. We have the capability to mix, repack and chop dried fruits. We also have facilities for hand packing. This enables us to pack a diverse range of sizes and designs to cater for a wide variety of customers.

We have full traceability from importing the product through to packing and distribution. Every product is quality checked, packed and supplied to specification.

We also work in partnership with importers and manufacturers from initial production, development and art work through to packing and distribution of the products.

We work closely with our customers to ensure every part of the process from sourcing to delivery meets their requirements.

Our George Harker factory gives us the flexibility to carry out bespoke packing.

Washing. We are able to re-clean dried fruit using Burgess fruit washers which wash the fruit with potable water and remove debris and stones. The fruit is then visually inspected to remove any further stalks and foreign matter, so that the final product conforms to the customer's specification.

Mixing. We have the ability to blend different types of fruit using our washing process. However, if the fruit does not need to be washed, it can be mixed on vibrating tables. We also mix pulses and freeze dried products for cereal and manufacturing customers.

Chopping. We can chop a variety of dried fruits, and apply rice flour if required to keep the fruit free flowing, using an Urschel chopping machine. We also visually inspect product and remove foreign material by hand if required.

Storage. We have the capability to unload and palletise containers and can store approximately 300 pallets in our warehouse. We have approximately 15,000 square foot for storage, and although we are a nut free site, have allergen and organic segregation for both raw material and packed product.

200 years of history...

1798
George Harker Born.

Upper Thames Street Warehouse.

1826 George Harker business established. - Trading in dried fruit, nuts and spices. The company expands and moves to Upper Thames Street.

1863
George Harker dies and three generations of his family continue the business.

1890
Theodore Ciclitira establishes Ciclitira & Co in Botolph Lane London specialising in Greek currants.

1898
George Harker incorporated as a Limited Liability Company.

1912
Stanley Stephenson joins George Harker.

1926
Demos Ciclitira having worked with his uncle Theodore, sets up his own company Demos Ciclitira in Monument Street.

1926
George Harker celebrates its centenary with several staff having been with the company for over 50 years.

1939 Britain's imports are restricted at the outbreak of the war and dried foods are rationed.

1941 George Harker's factory in Southwark destroyed in the blitz, staff moved to temporary premises in Weston Street, London.

1943 Demos Ciclitira Dies and the company becomes dormant until 1946.

1944 Dennis Ciclitira as a member of SOE participates in the famous wartime exploit capturing the German General in charge of occupied Crete.

1957 Demos Ciclitira is incorporated as a Ltd company by Dennis and John Ciclitira importing on a much larger scale from all over the world.

1958 Stanley Stephenson's son, Patrick, joins George Harker.

1969 Derek Thomas joins Demos and continues to work with the company as the longest serving member of staff.

1970 George Harker relocates to Park Drive, Braintree to new purpose built factory.

1987 Andrew Ciclitira joins Demos working with John and Dennis. The company expands selling direct to supermarkets and manufacturers.

1988 Demos builds its own offices at Capitol House, Leman Street, London.

1994 George Harker sold to S&B Foods and Sunmaid raisins. Stanley and Patrick Stephenson retire.

1998 S&B sell George Harker to Demos. S&B continue to trade with Harker.

2000
Demos celebrate millennium with dinner at the Savoy and mark 50 years' service by Dennis and John Ciclitira.

2020 Death of Andrew Ciclitira.

2021 David Ciclitira takes over as Chairman and Rebecca King as MD.

The Demos/George Harker story

David Ciclitira is the third generation of his family to run the dried fruit business of Demos Ciclitira Ltd. The firm was established in the 1920's by David's grandfather Demos. It then continued under the direction of Demos' two sons John and Dennis.

George Harker moved to London from Yorkshire in the 1820's and established a business importing and distributing "colonial produce". The firm prospered and moved to a large warehouse and offices in Upper Thames Street in the City of London. George Harker passed the business to his son George Junior and then to his son Henry Harker.

The firm came to specialise in dried fruits, cereals and pulses supplied to grocers throughout the country.

The original offices of Demos Ciclitira were in Monument Street and then Idol Lane, which by chance are a stone's throw from Upper Thames Street. In the 1960's Demos moved to Creechurch Lane in the City and Harker took offices just two doors away at Cree House.

When the Stephenson family took the decision to sell the business of George Harker, the then Chairman Stanley Stephenson had been with the firm for more than eighty years!

The business was purchased in 1994 by Stevens and Brotherton and the famous US raisin company Sunmaid. The venture was short lived and in 1998, Andrew Ciclitira was responsible for bringing the two old firms of Demos and George Harker together.

Both Companies share a unique heritage and today's business remains true to the spirit and tradition of the generations that have gone before.

The present company maintains its established link with the City through its offices at Capitol House in Leman Street. The Harker factory and warehouse relocated to Braintree, Essex in 1970 and are today the busy heart of the business.

Our management team

From left to right: Sarah Partridge (Financial Director), Derek Thomas (Genaral Manager), Rebecca King (Managing Director), David Ciclitira (Chairman), Helen Riley (Commercial Director)

Our experienced Management Team has a vast wealth of experience in importing and supplying dried fruits and dried foods in a competitive marketplace.

Our grower producer partnerships are based on both a personal and professional level. The Board of Demos Ciclitira and George Harker Limited are well respected within the UK dried fruits and dried foods industry.

As founder members of the National Dried Fruit Trade Association (NDFTA), now the Nut & Dried Fruit Trade Association, we have access to expertise in all aspects of the business.

Vine fruits, nature's delicious sweetener

Raisins, currants and sultanas have been hugely important culinary staples in food worldwide for hundreds of years. Demos are renowned for importing, packing and supplying the very best fruit from Greece since 1890 and later from Turkey, South Africa, California and Australia.

Greek Currants

Back in 1890 when Theodore Ciclitira first established Ciclitira & Co, Greek currants were imported and sold in the UK. Over 130 years later, Demos continue to import the best currant crops from Greek growers whom have been growing and drying the fruit for generations. Demos supply Greek provincial currants, (small, medium and blended) and Greek Vostizza, (small, medium and blended).

Turkish Vine Fruit

Turkey are the oldest and world's largest producer of sultana raisins, which are renowned for their high sugar content due to perfect growing conditions. Demos supply Turkish Thompson seedless raisins as well as Turkish No 9 and No 10 Sultanas.

South African Vine Fruit

Mainly grown in The Northern Cape, these vine fruits are known for their bright colour and less sweet flavour which makes them great for snacking. Demos supply South African currants and golden raisins.

Californian Raisins

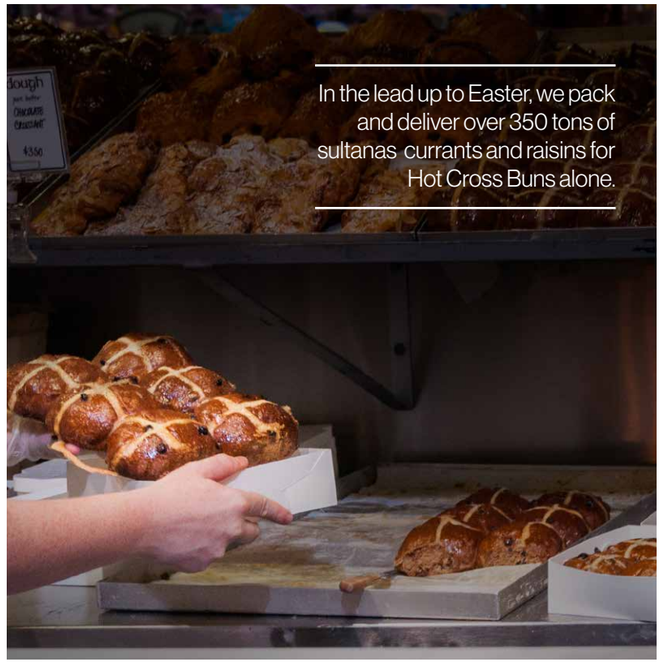
Dried naturally for 3-4 weeks in the California sun, the intense heat caramelises the natural sugars in the grapes, which give the raisins their distinctive blue-black colour and rich dark flavour. Demos supply Californian Thompson seedless Raisins.

Australian Vine Fruit

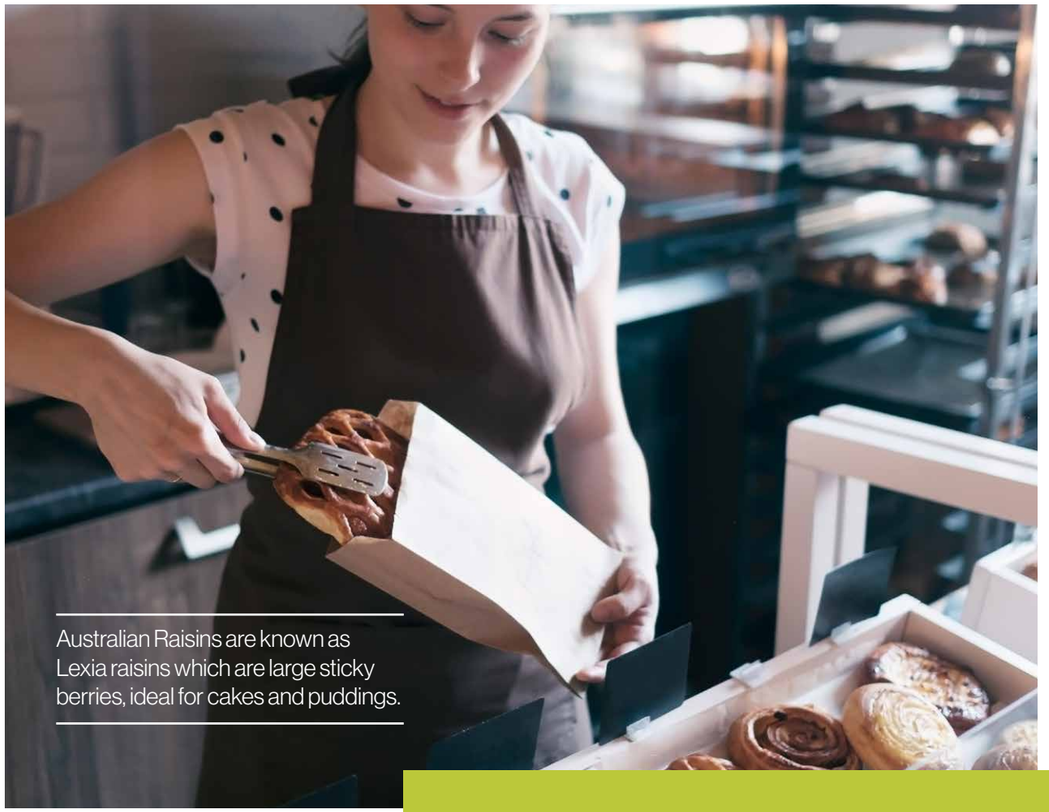
The grapes are grown alongside the Murray River, which is the largest river in Australia and are dried in the Mildura area, known as the sun drenched region. The fertile soil is ideal for growing vines which are used for both wine and dried fruit.

Sultanas are graded in colour and quality with the 5 and 6 Crown Australian sultanas being regarded as one of the most premium products on the market. The fruit having an attractive, natural light amber colour, sweet flavour and juicy texture.

Premium Demos sultanas and raisins are the choice of artisan bakers



In the lead up to Easter, we pack and deliver over 350 tons of sultanas currants and raisins for Hot Cross Buns alone.



Australian Raisins are known as Lexia raisins which are large sticky berries, ideal for cakes and puddings.

Dried fruit

Demos and George Harker have been importing high quality dried vine and tree fruits from around the world for a combined 280 years. Both names are well known for the supply of dried fruit in the UK and are well respected within the industry.

Vine Fruits

Our vine fruits are divided into three main types, currants, sultanas and raisins which are imported from the growing regions of Greece, Turkey, Australia, the USA and South Africa.

Tree Fruits

Our tree fruits include figs, dates, prunes and apricots. These are available whole or chopped. We also specialise in glace cherries and mixed peel as well as dried cranberries and pineapple.

Cereals & Pulses

We have packed traditional grains, beans and peas for many years but following recent health trends now supply the most fashionable grains used by celebrity chefs.

Grains & Seeds

Our range of different grains continues to expand and includes quinoa, couscous, bulgar wheat, pearl barley, spelt, buckwheat, chia seed, linseed and popcorn to name a few..

Pulses

We stock a large range of pulses, including black turtle beans, red kidney beans, haricot beans and adzuki beans. We also supply red and green lentils and a variety of dried peas, including chick peas, marrowfats and split peas.

Superfoods

Super seeds, pulses & grains

We pack and supply a number of grains and pulses to help everyone stay healthy and follow the top trends set by leading chefs.

Chia Seed

Chia seed is a tiny seed, grown in South America, which is rich in omega 3 and fibre. It is easily added to cereals, salads, yogurts and smoothies for a healthy boost.

Quinoa

Originally grown in South America and following its increase in popularity is now also grown in parts of Europe and Britain. Quinoa is a source of protein and fibre and is an ideal substitute for rice because of its nutritional value. Great recipes include quinoa burgers and stuffed peppers.

Freekeh

Freekeh is a green grain made from young durum wheat which is roasted or smoked then polished to remove the shells. They have a rich, nutty, smoky flavour. An excellent addition to soups, stews, salads and pilafs.

Pearled Spelt

Grown in Italy, Germany and Britain, pearled spelt is a good source of fibre and protein. The nutty texture of the grain makes a really tasty risotto or can be used to add texture in salads.

Buckwheat

A conical shaped grain which is a source of protein and magnesium. Used in many recipes such as salads and porridge.

Wholewheat couscous

Is made from durum wheat semolina, which retains the bran from the wheat grain, to keep its nutritional value. Ideal for making tagines and casseroles, providing a source of fibre and protein.

Own label retail packing for wholesalers to major supermarkets

We are experienced in producing own label retail products and packaging for both retail and wholesale markets. We will source, pack and deliver a large range of dried fruits, seeds and pulses in bespoke packaging which including the current legal requirements and nutritional information.

Our product experts will advise on the best and most suitable packing materials to display your products based on our years of retail packaging experience.

Our Design Team will produce innovative and eye-catching packaging for your products or alternatively will closely implement your own in-house design requirements.

In conjunction with our packaging suppliers and modern manufacturing techniques we are striving to reduce the use of plastic in all our films and can offer recyclable options to our customers.

Since 1826

Proud suppliers to many household brands and supermarkets throughout the UK and Ireland.

Demos & George Harker retail packs

Our customers demand quality products supplied at a competitive price, in contemporary well designed packaging which enhances the product.

Our Demos and George Harker range of retail packs aim to highlight the provenance and quality of the products and the heritage of the brand.

Our seasonal Christmas range of figs, dates and apricots is very popular with wholesale customers and can be found in greengrocers throughout the UK.

Accreditations & Associations

Our packing factory has had full BRC accreditations for over 20 years. It is also certified by the Soil Association for packing and supplying organic products.

Demos is a founder member of the NDFTA (National Dried Fruit Trade Association) and is unique in having had four past Chairmen.

Nut & Dried Fruit Trade Association
Internationally renowned organisation representing the interests of its members in the UK.

Sedex
Dedicated to driving improvements in responsible and ethical business practices in global supply chains.

Soil Association (Organics range)
Soil Association Certification is the UK's largest organic certification body.

BRC Global Standards
Global safety and quality certification programme.

Product List

Beans

Adzuki beans
Black turtle beans
Blackeye beans
Borlotti beans
Butter beans
Haricot beans
Pinto beans
Red kidney beans

Blends

Exotic fruit mix
Luxury mixed fruit
Mixed fruit
Mixed beans
Quinoa blends
Soup mix

Grains and seeds

Amaranth
Buck wheat
Bulgar wheat
Chia seed
Couscous
Wholewheat couscous
Organic couscous
Golden linseed
Pearl barley
Pearled spelt
White quinoa
Red quinoa
Black quinoa
Seed pearl tapioca
Semolina

Lentils

Green lentils
Puy type lentils
Red split lentils

Organics

Couscous
Currants (Greek Vostizza)
Figs
Red and green lentils
Raisins (Turkish)
Sultanas (Turkish)

Peas

Green split peas
Yellow split peas
Marrowfat peas
Chick peas

Tree fruits

Whole pitted apricots
Chopped and garland apricots
Cranberries
Deglet Nour dates
Medjool dates
Chopped dates
Natural figs
Lerida figs
Layer, garland and pulled figs
Fig paste
Baby figs
Natural whole glace cherries
Whole and broken cherries
Single and double cut mixed peel
Orange and lemon cubes
Diced pineapple
Whole pitted prunes

Vine fruit

Currants
Greek provincial,
(small, medium and blended)
Greek Vostizza,
(small, medium and blended)
South African
Australian

Raisins
Turkish Thompson seedless
South African Thompson seedless
Californian Thompson seedless
South African golden
Australian Lexia
Chilean flame

Sultanas
Turkish No 9 and No 10
Australian 5 crown and Sun Muscat

Demos Ciclitira

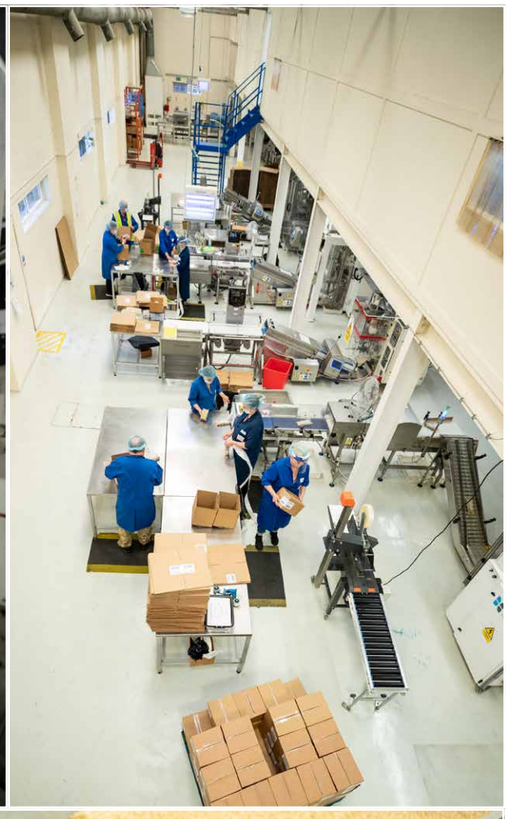
Then and now

Demos and George Harkers rich heritage and current facility.

David Ciclitira

1916 George Harker
Upper Thames Street Office

1950's Trade Exhibition, London



Packing in the 1950's

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