

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE KIDNEY PATIENTS ASSOCIATION (LKPA)**  
**Registered charity 505295**

### **A Brief History**

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1975 a group of patients attending the Renal Unit at Leicester General Hospital (LGH) formed a society called the "*Leicestershire Area Renal Unit Patients' Society*".

They came together with the aim of providing welfare to patients beyond the hospital walls e.g. by providing **holidays** and they had a set of ideas that are little changed today.

For example, they talked of buying **caravans for patients to use**, of Christmas get-togethers for patients & their families & friends, and of printing a **regular Newsletter** to hand out to patients on the **Renal Unit**. It was at this very meeting that one patient noted that she had been trying to contact Bill Maynard to ask him if he would be their Honorary President!

Indeed, Bill did attend a number of meetings after that time. All this activity coincided with the opening of the new Transplant Ward at LGH  
[www.emrn.org.uk/display/templatedisplay1.asp?sectionid=418](http://www.emrn.org.uk/display/templatedisplay1.asp?sectionid=418)

Since then, the name of the society has gradually been altered to become the **Leicestershire Kidney Patients Association (LKPA)** in the early 1980s, and the people involved have also changed over the years. We now stand at around a dozen Committee members, still working for the welfare of patients. In that time the **Transplant Programme** has seen almost a thousand transplants performed. Professor Bell, who set the Transplant Programme up, retired in 2004.

The Renal Unit has seen the opening of several **satellite dialysis units** [www.emrn.org.uk/display/templatedisplay1.asp?sectionid=424](http://www.emrn.org.uk/display/templatedisplay1.asp?sectionid=424) (Kettering, Peterborough, Lincoln, Loughborough and Boston), so that patients can dialyse much nearer to home, since we cover such a large geographic area, including Lincolnshire and some of Northamptonshire and Boston.

In future, there will be a new Renal Unit facility built at the Glenfield Hospital as part of the restructuring exercise that will see changes to all three of the main University of Leicester Hospitals.

### **WHAT WE DO**

The Leicestershire Kidney Patients Association (LKPA) is a registered charity that supports renal patients and their families across Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and parts of Cambridgeshire. As volunteers we give our time freely and hope to bring a sense of fellowship to kidney patients, especially those who are newly diagnosed, who might otherwise feel

rather isolated. It helps when people know that there is someone they can turn to for advice or a just a chat.

We try to raise money in a variety of ways to help us meet our aims, which are:

- to give grants to patients for outings and holidays
- To buy essential items of household equipment
- To buy items of equipment for the John Walls Renal Unit to help make patients more comfortable during dialysis sessions
- To help us maintain two holiday caravans at Skegness for the use of kidney patients at a highly subsidized rate or free under certain circumstances
- To put on social events, such as Dinner & Dance evenings for over 200 people, Bollywood Casino Nights and Horse Racing nights
- To provide patients with regular news updates and information with our quarterly Newsletter.
- To provide patients an all expenses paid to the Xmas Panto!

In these ways we hope to address the specific needs of our kidney patient community.

## **CONTACTS**

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