

GUY'S & ST.THOMAS' KIDNEY PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION

KPA RE-LAUNCH & 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON HMS BELFAST 10 JUNE 2006

The KPA celebrated its anniversary on a warm, inviting summer's day. A suggestion of a pleasing breeze through the open portholes helped all present to keep cool and to enjoy the day.

Our speakers all embraced the future confidently.

Trevor Cook (Chairman) highlighted the success stories of current renal treatment - the support given to young patients, by the satellite units and by the new initiatives for pre-dialysis and dialysis patients, whilst not forgetting other kidney patients. He expected the KPA to continue to be active on both the local and national stage, being both accountable and professional.

John Watts (renal Chaplain), assisted by Ferga Robinson, were greatly encouraged by the response to the patients' questionnaire distributed with the current newsletter. John Watts told guests that the KPA (in the shadow of Belfast's 6 inch guns) was now a force to be reckoned with and spoke of the developing work of the ESPS under the Modernisation Initiative, which is fully covered by Dr. Shideh Pouriah's article in the current newsletter.

Jonathon Hope (Chair of the Modernisation Initiative) spoke of his optimism for the future and listed details of the many advances in renal care. At the same time he emphasised that for those patients on dialysis there would be, for some time to come, serious issues of quality of life and the loss of freedom to live and work normally. However, he referred to several areas where improvements were emerging, including the advent of nocturnal haemodialysis (via Holland), more transplant options, more comprehensive rehabilitation, and better dialysis choices and supportive care.

Peter March