



**Damian Hinds**  
*MP for East Hampshire*

Sep 2010

## **Damian adds welcome to Kidney Patients Association to Alton**

East Hampshire is home to a great many charities, both local and national, and they are all a fantastic witness to the community spirit which is the lifeblood of our towns and villages.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September Damian was honoured to be able to attend the opening of the new headquarters of the British Kidney Patient Association in Alton where it has been based since its founding in 1975. This inspirational local charity has been helping patients of all ages cope with life changing chronic conditions for more than 30 years. During the opening of the centre Damian was able to make a short speech in which he paid tribute to the selfless work done by the Association and its staff.

“There is nothing more traumatic for a family to come to terms with than a chronic illness. It affects everything and everyone. The best thing, in my opinion, about the BKPA is how they divide their efforts and resources between supporting the medical problems and helping with quality of life. Even the best medical care can only achieve so much on its own, helping patients and their families live in dignity, enjoy their lives and take a family holiday are, in their way, just as important. For a charity that defines itself by a single organ they do incredible work in caring for the whole person, they and the work they do are a credit to our community and a shining example to us all.”