

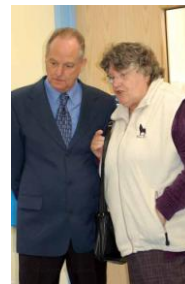
Honiton Unit – Official Opening 30 March 2009

Some photos of the opening from our own keen photographer, Ann Owens¹. (Thanks Ann!).

(For newspaper article, see page 2)



Mayoress Jean Tratt opening the unit.



¹ Photos © Ann Owens 2009

The below article appeared on the Express and Echo Website

<http://www.thisisexeter.co.uk/middevongazette/news/Unit-enables-patients-treated-closer-home/article-854530-detail/article.html>

PATIENTS have been getting dialysis treatment closer to home.

The haemodialysis unit at Honiton Hospital was opened this week by the mayoress of Honiton, Jean Tratt.

The unit is jointly funded by Devon Primary Care Trust and the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. A patient at the unit, John Jones from Cullompton, said he preferred the relaxed atmosphere at the new unit to the RD&E, where he had previously been treated.

He said: "At first I didn't want to change from using the kidney unit in Exeter, but I have found the new unit in Honiton to be really friendly as well as easier to get to.

"I dialyse three times a week and have made many friends here. We have all got to know each other and it is almost like a family."

Dr Lucy Smyth, consultant renal physician at the RD&E, said she was delighted that patients found the new unit was reducing travel times, thereby improving their quality of life.

Devon PCT's chief executive, Dr Kevin Snee, said: "The new renal unit is a good example of how we can make the best possible use of our community hospitals.

"People have told us that they want to be cared for and treated close to home and we are committed to providing services in the local community to make this happen."