

## **Renal Ward News – August 2020**

We have some good news, but also some disappointing news about the new ward.

In our May 2020 update, we reported that, with the gradual easing of CoVid restrictions, work on the renal project was expected to restart in a few weeks. And restart it did, with the refurbishment of Wytham Ward getting under way again. (That's the good news.)

Unfortunately, the refurbishment threw up some unexpected problems, meaning the work will take much longer than expected. (That's the disappointing news.)

So where does this leave us?

**Stage 1**, requiring the clearing and refurbishment of Jane Ashley Ward, ready to accept and be the new home for transplant patients, has been completed. This new ward was up and running and all transplant patients were successfully transferred into this new ward before the lockdown.

**Stage 2** then involved the complete refurbishment of the now empty Wytham Ward, ready for it to accept patients from the colorectal ward, which ultimately will be the new home for renal. However, the unexpected difficulties encountered during this part of the refurbishment (plus the cessation of work during lockdown) has meant this part of the three stage project is taking much longer than was predicted in the original plan. Work continues but with an extended timescale.

**Stage 3** will entail the thorough refurbishment of the empty colorectal ward and the installation of all the special facilities required in a state-of-the-art renal ward. Once the work is completed, all renal patients can be transferred from the old ward and the renal unit can start to enjoy a bright new future in its new home. However, taking on board all the difficulties encountered in the Wytham refurbishment, it is expected the Stage 3 work will also take longer than planned ... much longer.

**End date?** Sorry to say our new renal ward is unlikely to be up and running till the end of this year. But the project continues and we haven't got that much longer to wait.

We will give another update when we have more news to report.