

£3 million nurses and medical staff flats ready

A £3 million scheme to rebuild and refurbish the Wellington's nursing and medical staff flats at Avenue House in the centre of St John's Wood is nearing completion.

Tucked away in an attractive street just a few hundred yards from the shops and a quarter of a mile from the hospital, the flats can accommodate up to 80 staff.

Each self contained flat has its own shower room and well equipped kitchen in one of the most attractive buildings in the area.

Wellington Estates Manager, Chris Oates, said the aim was to create flats that were welcoming, quiet, private, yet

bright and cheerful. "We try to look after our staff and new members of the Wellington team who could have moved here from anywhere in the world.



They know they have a home while they get to know London and, if necessary, find a permanent base. The reaction we have got from staff so far is terrific," he said.



Wellington TODAY

November 2005 | Issue 03

Wellington Refurbishment - We're Ahead of Schedule!

Three state-of-the-art theatres have been designed for ambulatory surgery on the second floor with short stay ambulatory beds nearby together with more traditional en suite rooms for longer daytime stays.

On the fifth floor a new gynaecological ward has been opened with ten dedicated rooms with magnificent views over North West London.

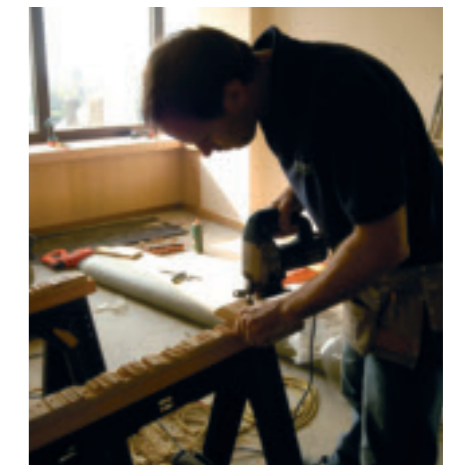
Meanwhile all rehabilitation patients are moving to the expanded specialist facilities on three floors of the North Tower. The Unit, the largest in the private sector, will have 45 rooms and a range of facilities, including two gyms and a hydrotherapy centre.

With specialities moving between floors and between the North and South towers, the management of this major scheme has needed the most careful planning. Wellington Estates Manager Chris Oates is responsible for the refurbishment programme.

"This is the biggest and busiest independent hospital in the country and we have to carry out the equivalent of rebuilding half of it without disturbing patients and doctors and staff," he said.

"We have planned the work so that 'silent' jobs like laying carpet and decorating can be done at night and so 24 hour working can speed things up," he said. "This could have been beset

with problems from the word go and yes, there have been glitches but it is remarkable how the 'can do' attitude of doctors, patients and staff has allowed us to get on so quickly."



Final fitting at the Rehab Unit

The Day the Traffic Stopped

With the memories of that horrific day on the 7th July when four bombs in central London took away many innocent lives and devastated so many more, doctors, staff and even some outpatients joined countless Londoners to gather together.

They stood in silence along the A41 Wellington Road, to pay their respects; to remember the dead, the injured and those others, like the bereaved, who will live with the consequences of that terrible day, for the rest of their lives.

As hundreds of Wellington Hospital people gathered quietly, buses, cars, long distance coaches and delivery vans alike, all stopped. Drivers got out of their cars with passengers too and tourists joined the crowd lining a quarter of a mile of road.

For two minutes, the normally noisy and bustling road fell silent. Everyone, head bowed, alone with their thoughts and prayers for those who suffered and who are suffering still, months after those terrible events.



Seminars

Thursday 8th December
Gall Bladder Disease

Professor Brian Davidson
Professor of Surgery,
Royal Free Hospital

From 7pm, Board Room,
5th Floor, Wellington South



HCA

The Healthcare Company

The Wellington Hospital
Wellington Place
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One of the laminar flow theatres

The most extensive updating and refurbishment programme since the Wellington opened over 30 years ago is ahead of schedule and moving on apace.

Already most of the new 45 bed Rehab Unit is finished and occupied in the North building with just a few weeks to go before the final few bedrooms will be ready for occupancy.

The £14 million scheme has already seen two new suites of operating theatres, some with laminar flow, built and opened in the Wellington South Tower. Two new theatres have been built in what was part of an underground car park and in just a few months time, every floor of the South tower will have been rebuilt and refurbished.

In this issue

Wellington gets the latest 64 slice LightSpeed CT Scanner

Lesley Pope - the new Director of Rehabilitation

New Gynaecology Ward Opens

£3 million nurses and medical staff flats ready

Wellington People - Michelle Martin

Wellington People



MICHELLE MARTIN
- Critical Care Manager

Political Science was her first career choice, or so Michelle Martin thought.

But then Michelle became fascinated with the medical professions and in particular, nursing the very sick. After her first degree in critical care at the University of Pretoria, the time came, at

the age of 22, to look after an intubated patient for the first time. "I was absolutely petrified - but there were great people around to guide me. And I guess I have been lucky in that respect ever since," she said.

After taking a Masters degree in critical care with ventilation as the main subject, Michelle came to the UK on holiday where she learned about The Wellington. "I had been teaching in SA and there was a teaching job at The Wellington which I was lucky enough to get." Michelle took on more responsibilities and was appointed Critical Care Manager in 2003. She has overseen the expansion and upgrading of facilities in recent years.

"What is special about critical care here is the size and the variety of the

resources available. We are the biggest critical care providers in the private sector and comparable even with some NHS facilities. We also have the largest telemetry unit in the UK.

"We are very fortunate that there is no service that we cannot provide - we have the full patient pathway, from pre-admission to elective surgery, or all the aftercare that may be necessary for an acute patient," she said.

"But most of all it is the people we have here at The Wellington. You can't achieve anything without a good team. No individual can make a critical care unit work well. It is very much up to having a brilliant team above you; next to you and an even more brilliant team below you," said Michelle.

Lesley Pope - the new Director of Rehabilitation at the Wellington



Lesley Pope is the new Director of The Wellington's renowned Rehabilitation Unit. Formerly head of speech and language therapy at the unit, Lesley succeeds Lucia Ackerman who has retired after more than six years at The Wellington.

"This is a very exciting time with everything that is going on at the Wellington and in particular, the expansion of the Rehab unit," she said. "It's a milestone for the unit. We're expanding to 45 beds and we are moving all rehabilitation into the one building where we'll have three floors of rooms, gyms, a hydrotherapy unit, and other treatment facilities.

"The £4 million refurbishment is ahead of schedule and we'll be officially opening the 'new' unit at the beginning of December," she said.

"This expansion means that we are recruiting and restructuring. We have appointed a new discharge co-ordinator and there's also a new pre-assessment post so we can give a smooth transition from the time a

patient is referred, through treatment to discharge back home," she said.

Until recently The Wellington Rehab Unit has primarily been based around neuro rehab but increasingly all forms of rehabilitation treatment have been offered with orthopaedic and amputee patients as well as functional restoration patients being treated.

But for the new Director of Rehabilitation, one thing in particular makes her job very special. "It's the patients. Seeing people, often very disabled people, change for the better on a daily basis, seeing them improve and learning to cope with their injury or disability and then to see them fit enough to go home. It makes you feel very blessed that you are hale and hearty," she said.

New Gynaecology Ward Opens

The Wellington's new gynaecology ward has opened on the fifth floor of the Wellington South tower.

The ten room unit has a new reception area and a range of facilities and every room has a commanding view over north London.

Chief Nursing Officer, Sarah Fisher, said "The new ward serves one of the largest Gynae units in the private sector. With so many teaching hospitals within central London we are so very fortunate in having some of the world's leading consultants basing their practices here," she said.

"With our state-of-the-art imaging and diagnostic department in the same building, together with all the new theatre suites, we treat all gynaecological conditions. Patients now have the benefit of a brand new purpose built ward manned by gynaecology specialist nurses," said Sarah.

Imaging gets the latest 64 slice LightSpeed CT Scanner

The Imaging Department of the Wellington has now taken delivery of the latest LightSpeed 64 slice VCT scanner, the fastest machine of its kind available, capable of a head to toe scan in ten seconds.

The machine can produce three-dimensional images of the heart and coronary arteries with sub-millimetre resolution in just five seconds. Head of Department Leslie Gabriel said the scanner means The Wellington can offer the highest standard in cardiac imaging. "This new machine underlines our position as the leading private imaging centre in the UK with the very latest equipment, some of which is not widely available in the public sector either," he said. "The speed of the new machine is a particular advantage

when we have very ill patients needing fast diagnosis but of course all patients will benefit from the faster imaging" he said. "The scanner will, for example, replace routine invasive angiography, so reducing risk and discomfort for patients. Experience elsewhere has shown it will also speed up the identification of sites for ablation treatment for atrial fibrillation."

The department recently installed a second 1.5 tesla MRI scanner and later this year will move towards a film-less environment. "We already have our Computed Radiography System and this will be linked to our hospital information system and to PACS so that next



year all images will be held digitally," said Leslie.

"This new machine will speed up diagnosis and having images electronically stored will mean faster transfer of higher quality information direct to the GP's or consultant's screen in his office or on the ward," he said.



Checking in at the Gynae Unit



and a check before discharge