Day surgery annexe is in the pink

Breast surgery patients can now recover in a more relaxed and personal environment, thanks to the opening of the new day surgery annexe in University Hospital Crosshouse.

Former patient Eileen Symington, founder of the annual Pink Ribbon Ball, opened the annexe, alongside former Consultant Breast Surgeon, Dr Philippa Whitford MP and Karen and Malcolm Simpson of The Gailes Hotel who currently organise the annual Ball.

The annexe will provide a separate recovery area for patients who are undergoing breast surgery, and aims to provide a comfortable and sociable environment to help patients at what is often a difficult time.

Suzanne Elgammal, Consultant Breast Surgeon, said: “Previously, when patients were going through surgery for breast cancer, they would spend several days in hospital. They would often develop strong bonds with other women who were facing similar challenges. These friendships often continued for years after their initial treatment and were a great source of mutual support.”

Changes to surgical practice have meant that the extent of surgery has been reduced. This has led to patients spending far less time in hospital, with most admitted through the day surgery unit. In many cases, breast cancer patients have been more scattered within the system, which has meant that it was more difficult for women to identify others in the same boat.

Ms Elgammal explained: “It was felt that if we had an area where all our patients could be together within the day surgery unit, they could offer friendship and support through their shared experience.”

The new day surgery annexe can hold up to six patients, and includes a pleasant area where women can relax and chat with other patients, as well as a separate toilet and shower area.

The refurbishment was funded in the most part through the annual Pink Ribbon Ball, which is held in the Gailes Hotel, Irvine, every September. The ball was founded
by Eileen Symington more than 13 years ago, and has helped to buy equipment for
the hospital and fund staff training over the years.

Ms Elgammal added: “On behalf of the breast surgery team, I would like to thank
Eileen for her continued support over the years. I would also like to thank DFS who
supplied the sofas and armchairs and the Twilight Walk who also donated funds.
Other contributors include Mary Cunningham, Elizabeth Morgan, Dawn Hodge, Jean
Gibson, Lynn Davison, Helen Stirk and McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd.

“I would also like to thank former Consultant Breast Surgeon, Dr Philippa Whitford
MP, who helped to open the unit. It was lovely to see her again.”

Dr Philippa Whitford MP said: “I am honoured to join my former colleagues on such a
great day and to finally see the unit become a reality. It was designed by the breast
surgery and day surgery teams working together to create something practical but
with a pleasant ambience and I hope that patients will feel we have achieved that.”

ends

Date of release: Friday 11 December 2015

Photographs:
Patients can relax in a more comfortable and social environment

A bumper cheque donation for the day surgery annexe

Left to right: Rachel Kyle and Anne Stuart from McLaughlin & Harvey, Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Ms Suzanne Elgammal, Consultant Breast Surgeon, Mr Sanjeet Bhattacharya Consultant Breast Surgeon and Ms Sugatta Pareek, Breast Surgeon
Just some of the representatives who supported the project

Left to right: Karen Simpson, Gailes Hotel, Eileen Symington, founder of Pink Ribbon ball, Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Heather Smith from Santander, and Malcolm Simpson, Gailes Hotel

For further media enquiries about this topic, please contact:

Miriam Porte
Communications Manager
NHS Ayrshire & Arran
University Hospital Crosshouse
Kilmarnock KA2 0BE

Telephone: 01563 826108
Out of hours: 07769 648975

Email: miriam.porte@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk
Website: www.nhsaaa.net

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nhsaaa
Follow us on Twitter @NHSaaa