Moving Armistice Day memorial service at Biggart Hospital

On the 11 November every year, members of the British Legion, along with veterans of conflicts, meet patients, staff and members of the public at Biggart Hospital for their annual Armistice Day memorial service.

‘On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month’ in a railway carriage in the Forest of Compiegne, France in 1918, the Allies of World War One and Germany signed the Armistice to finally put an end to the fighting along the Western Front. Around 17 million soldiers and civilians were killed in the war. The first Armistice Day memorial was held at Buckingham Palace on 11 November 1919 and it has been a tradition in many countries across the world ever since to remember all of those who have fallen in conflict during and since World War One.

Gary Wakelam, Porter at Biggart Hospital and Company Sergeant Major with the Inkerman Company West Lowlands Army Cadet Force commented: “We have been holding an Armistice Day memorial service at Biggart Hospital since 2009 and every year the number of people attending has increased.

“This year we were proud to be joined by cadets from the Inkerman Company West Lowlands Army Cadets and the Ayr T.S. MountBatten Sea Cadets.

“The cadets were very touched to see the local community come together to pay their respects to our local veterans and all those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world.”

More than 100 guests arrived at Biggart Hospital to observe the two-minute silence and attend the memorial service led by Reverend Paul Russell, Hospital Chaplain, NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

Dr Martin Cheyne, Chairman, NHS Ayrshire & Arran laid a wreath at the service and added: “I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who attended the Armistice
Day Memorial Service at Biggart Hospital to honour and remember all those who have fought to defend our country. It is always a very moving event, particularly for our local veterans, staff and communities who have been affected by conflict since the First World War.”

Ends

Date of release: Friday 13 November 2015

Photograph: Members of the Royal British Legion, cadets from the Inkerman Company West Lowlands Army Cadet Force and the Ayr T.S. MountBatten Sea Cadets observing the two-minute silence.

Photograph: Gary Wakelam, Porter at Biggart Hospital, Company Sergeant Major with the Inkerman Company West Lowlands Army Cadet Force and Gulf War veteran.
Media information
For immediate use

Photograph: A sea cadet officer from the Ayr T.S. MountBatten Sea Cadets saluting the wreaths.

Photograph: staff, patients, families and local school children sing a hymn at the service.
For further media enquiries about this topic, please contact:

**Notes to editors**

Vhairi Slaven  
Communications Assistant  
NHS Ayrshire & Arran  
University Hospital Crosshouse  
Kilmarnock KA2 0BE

Phone: 01563 826110  
Out of hours: 07769 648975

Email: vhairi.slaven@aapct.scot.nhs.uk  
Website: www.nhsaaa.net

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