

Erskine News

Together we can enable members of our ex-Service community to get the best care and support to achieve maximum quality of life.



TIME TO CARE

If you or someone you know has spent time in our Forces, they deserve some extra special care in return.

At Erskine we have the time to provide the compassion, kindness and care that is needed. We care for our ex-Service men and women, their spouses, widows and widowers.*

If this applies to you, the difference of a lifetime could be just a quick call away.



To find out more about spending time at Erskine for nursing, residential, respite or dementia care, call us today on:

0141 814 4538

or visit us at:
www.erskine.org.uk


ERSKINE
Proud to care

Unless the spouse has remarried*

ERSKINE



Welcome

Hello, I'm Debs Dickson and I am the Centre Manager for the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre, one of Erskine's new initiatives and part of the wider Veterans Village plans for the Bishopton estate.

I have been in post for 6 months and was tasked with developing and opening the centre. Our aim is to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of veterans in the community, providing the opportunity to engage with people who have shared experiences and history, learn new skills, explore a number of interests and access support services.



Debs Dickson
Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre Manager

I would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thank you to each of you in supporting Erskine and contributing to our new activity centre which is making a huge impact on the lives of those who have served, many of whom would be experiencing social isolation if not for this project.

We threw open our doors on the 15th January with our official opening by SAS Who Dares Wins veteran, Colin MacLachlan, taking place on the 14th March.

Since January we have supported 45 veterans on a weekly basis. As a result of the generous donations received we can offer art classes, I.T skills, wood workshops, genealogy classes, holistic therapies, photography, creative writing and model making workshops. In such a short period of time we have achieved a great deal, demonstrating the need that is out there for this type of service; a hub with veterans at its heart.

Follow us:

 ProudToCare

 @erskine1916

Get in touch:

 fundraising@erskine.org.uk

 0141 814 4657



Fundraising Department, Erskine, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU



Activity Centre Update

We are delighted to let you know that thanks to your valued support and that of various Charitable Trusts our new Activity Centre has opened its doors!

In consultation with ex-Service men and women, we were able to tailor the services and activities available at the Centre to their specific needs. Offering a range of purposeful activities, opportunities for learning, and access to other support services, the Activity Centre aims to address social isolation and loneliness experienced by so many veterans.

56% of attendees are under the age of 65 and the majority, 70%, have served within the British Army, with 10% Royal Navy and 20% Royal Air Force. We have also discovered some veterans who are extremely talented artists and are working with our sessional art workers to develop their artistic skills.

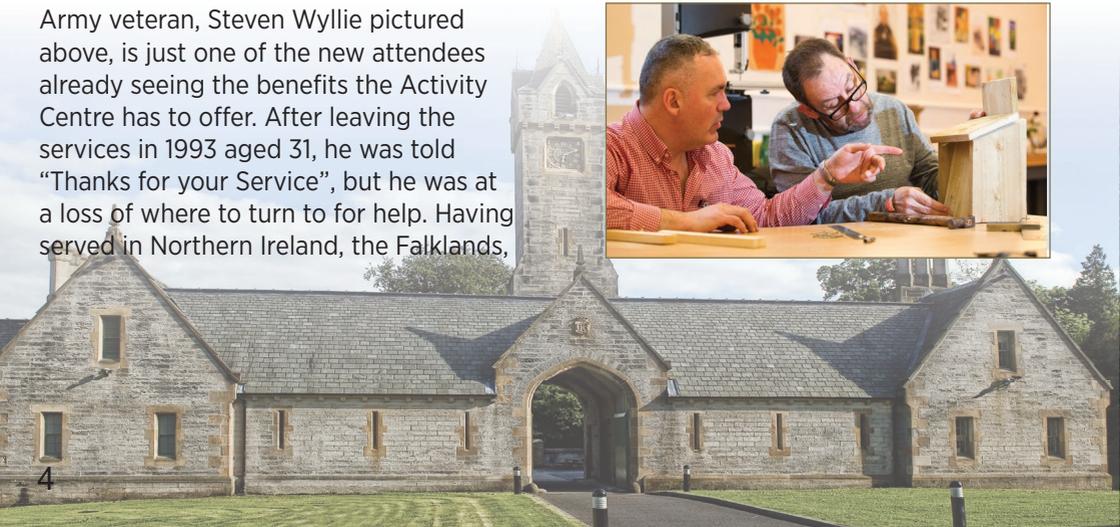
Army veteran, Steven Wyllie pictured above, is just one of the new attendees already seeing the benefits the Activity Centre has to offer. After leaving the services in 1993 aged 31, he was told “Thanks for your Service”, but he was at a loss of where to turn to for help. Having served in Northern Ireland, the Falklands,

Germany and Canada, he discovered all of those years spent away from family and friends had a major impact on his life - he was now homeless, without a job and affected by PTSD.

“It took me ages to access local mental health support and I haven’t had a Community Psychiatric Nurse for two years.”

For the past year Steven has been receiving one-to-one mentoring through the Shoulder to Shoulder project. His mentor is a fellow veteran and has helped support him step by step to the point Steven now feels confident enough to attend the Activity Centre.

“Now this centre has opened I have somewhere to go, I’m feeling less isolated and I’m excited at the possibility of making new friends.”



Independent Living Apartments

You may have spotted earlier this year we announced exciting plans to build independent living apartments on the Bishopston estate.

The 24 apartments will be built for occupation by ex-Service men and women of working age to help with the ever increasing demand for housing for veterans.

Each apartment will have a double bedroom, living room, en-suite shower room, kitchenette and will be let furnished or unfurnished. There will also be a communal recreation/TV area. Residents will be able to enjoy all the benefits of living on the Erskine Estate including on hand advice and support from staff at the Activity Centre and access to Harry's Café and the Royal Scots shop in The Erskine Home.

A number of apartments will provide accommodation for veterans working with Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Company which is also opening on the estate in June.

As a social enterprise SBMC is projected to help more than 40 ex-Service men and women every year through direct, flexible employment in the factory producing rail and road signs; wooden products and providing print, mail and fulfilment services.

"Building apartments for younger veterans is just one of several initiatives we are taking forward this year to extend our service provision. We envisage a true Veterans Village which will support many more veterans enabling them to access advice, accommodation and employment."

Any veteran interested in finding out more about the Apartments can have a look on our website or call.

www.erskine.org.uk

0141 812 1100





Sporting Senior Games

You may recall back in 2016 we held the Erskine Centenary Games. The Games were such a success that on the 1st of October 2017 they were back by popular demand in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University.

Athletes from all four of our Erskine Homes had been in training for weeks and on the day took part in various sporting challenges in the hope their team would win the coveted John Bowman Trophy.

The trophy is named after an inspirational Erskine resident who passed away in 2016, aged 99. John was a keen cyclist when he was younger and loved competing in sports at Erskine, especially on the static bike. He was also a member of the Clydebank Male Voice Choir for many years and poignantly the Choir performed at this years games.

Now without further ado we'd like you to join us in congratulating the winning team, Erskine Park! But really, everyone's a winner at Erskine with Gold, Silver and Bronze

medals awarded to all other winning teams throughout the day with every competitor receiving a rosette for their efforts.



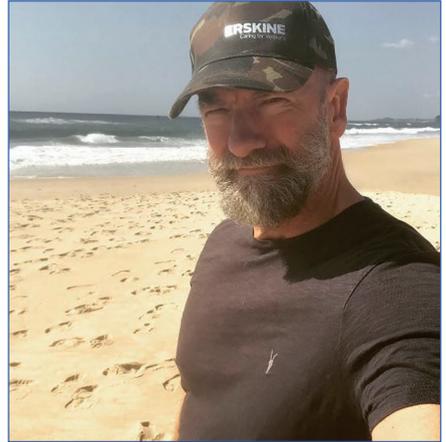
American Friends of Erskine

We have fabulous support over the pond in America with the Caledonian Club of San Francisco sponsoring American Friends of Erskine at the 152nd Scottish Gathering & Games in Pleasanton, California.

A whopping \$12,000 was raised at the Games in August which will go towards the cost of a mini bus for our Edinburgh Home.

One of the main highlights of the weekend was the presence of Outlander star Graham McTavish, or Dougal MacKenzie as some of you regular viewers may know him better. The American Friends of Erskine were delighted to welcome Graham to the stand and tell him more about Erskine. As you can see from the picture he didn't leave empty handed! Graham bought himself an Erskine camouflage cap and shared the snap of him wearing it whilst on holiday in Australia.

Get your Erskine merchandise now on our website Erskine.org.uk and share your selfies with us!



Outlander star Graham McTavish sporting one of our Erskine caps!

Below pictured left to right: American Friends of Erskine Director Floyd Busby, AFoE Director Flight Sergeant Mick Morrison, Caledonian Club of San Francisco Chief Charles McKinnen, and AFoE President David Scott.





Remembrance at Erskine

Remembrance is always a very poignant time at Erskine. Each of our Homes hold their own service to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts from the First World War to the present day.

This year we were touched to be joined by STV News and British Armed Forces TV who both featured the Bishopton Home's service.

Pictured from top left to bottom right: The Erskine Home, Erskine Edinburgh, Erskine Glasgow and Erskine Park.

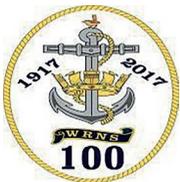
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning; We will remember them.

Centenary Celebrations

We're sure you'll join us in wishing the WRNS (Women's Royal Navy Service) and RAF a very happy 100th birthday.

The WRNS marked their milestone back in November whilst the RAF are still in the early days of their celebrations, turning 100 at the beginning of April.

Did you know we have seven WRNS, fifty four RAF and three WRAF service men and women with us here at Erskine?



www.wrens.org.uk



www.raf.mod.uk



Tree of Honour

Erskine's Tree of Honour celebrations are always a very special occasion, made even more so by all of the kind messages sent to our veterans by you, our supporters.

The evening is a time to remember friends and loved ones fondly, and also to celebrate all of the joy that the festive period brings.

Our Erskine Home was honoured to have Pony Major Mark Wilkinson and Cpl Cruachan IV, the official mascot of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, lead the evenings procession. They were accompanied by pupils from Bargarran Primary School and the Kilbarchan Pipe Band who sang and played wonderfully for our veterans.

The important task of lighting the Home's Christmas Tree fell to RAF Veteran Hasie Young who took it all in his stride and topped off a fantastic night by tucking in to mince pies, shortbread and a wee dram afterwards with fellow residents and guests. Special thanks go to Central Car Auctions for sponsoring the Tree of Honour.



The Field of a Thousand Stars shining bright with all of your kind messages.



Erskine Home Resident and RAF Veteran, Hasie Young, lighting the Christmas Tree.

Meet Erskine



Harry Bayne was born in Cupar, Fife in 1919, and lived most of his life in Crail. Having lived alone for some time with the help of carers, in October 2017 - at the age of 99 - Harry came to live at Erskine.

Aged 18 a young Harry joined the Army and became a Private in the Black Watch 1st Battalion. Two years later in September 1919, war broke out.

Harry and his comrades were sent to France in May 1940 to face the Germans' massive armoured assault. British troops were forced to pull back; they were surrounded by Nazis and attacked as they tried to evacuate. Harry recalls, **"My corporal got wounded - his legs were hanging off. I**

had to carry him on my shoulders to the medics." Eventually they were told to surrender and captured by General Erwin Rommel at St Valery, two days before Dunkirk. Harry was now a Prisoner of War.

He will never forget being marched on to carts and moved to Germany. When they arrived at Dortmund the air raid sirens were going off, the guards disappeared and left the prisoners out in the open. Instead of bombs, Harry tells that the planes dropped leaflets warning the Germans to **"pack it in before they got blown up"**. The prisoners were then taken to a sports stadium and forced into a swimming pool to get rid of lice. Harry said, **"If you couldn't swim you were in trouble as the guards walked round the edges, stamping on people's fingers."** Some of the men drowned and their bodies and all the clothes were incinerated. Many of the 1st Battalion, including Harry, were sent to Stalag XX-A camp in Torun, Poland, where they were hired out to military and civilian contractors. Harry was sent to work on a farm that provided food for German soldiers. He maintains that it was only the help of a girl working on the farm that saved him - she gave Harry three raw eggs each day which he ate with milk and sugar.

By early 1945 Soviet troops had advanced into Poland and the PoWs were moved. This led to weeks of hardship as everyone from the camps were forced to march to Germany. Harry remembers walking for at least two months and says, **"We were constantly on the move. That was the hardest thing of all. My heels ended up skinned right through to the bone. I tried to walk on my toes but that made the pain**

worse. If we stopped walking, they would shoot us.”

Just one week before their release the PoWs could hear aircraft coming overhead and feared their time was up. They knew it was the RAF and that they never missed their target. However the RAF had been told that there were prisoners in the area and didn't drop their bombs. Eventually the group was intercepted by American forces and Harry knew he was safe when he spotted General Dwight Eisenhower, the Allied Forces Chief and later the US president. He said, “**We spotted this big jeep coming towards us with American flags on it. We guessed it was some big shot – it was General Eisenhower coming to inspect his troops. We knew then that we were free men.**”

Harry was transferred to Belgium and flew back to Britain in a bomber. He later found out that the plane ahead of him crashed in England and says, “**I thank God I chose the right aircraft to go home in. Again, it was pure luck. Luck has a hell of a lot to do with my life. Arriving in Edinburgh's Waverly station was very emotional. Then getting home to get a hug from my mum was amazing.**”

Harry certainly makes the most of his new home here at Erskine; he's very active and loves socialising with other residents and their families too. He's a regular attendee at the Activity Room and joins in with as many outings as possible. Harry says that Erskine is, “**The greatest hotel I have ever been in. You couldn't get me out of here!**”



Erskine Edinburgh resident, John Glacken dreamed of seeing the Flying Scotsman. Erskine made his wish come true.

Can you make a Veteran's wish come true?



For more information on how you can be part of Wishes Week please call:

0141 814 4555

Blooming Lovely



With thanks to a grant from Zurich Insurance, Erskine Glasgow were able to transform a very dull exterior wall to one that is bright and colourful all year round.

A great group of volunteers from Zurich Insurance visited to help decorate the

spaces with the end result now providing several residents bedrooms with an enhanced outlook.

We're sure you'll agree it's a wonderful improvement!

All go for Edinburgh's Allotments

Residents and staff at the Edinburgh Home are very excited about being able to spend time working in their new allotments soon. The build is in its final stages of completion and with an allotment for each house within the Home we're sure the Homes Head Chef won't be disappointed in the choice of produce!

These spaces will be used to grow herbs and a selection of vegetables such as carrots, leeks and onions which will then be used by kitchen staff to make hearty meals for our residents.

A big thank you goes out to all who have made a contribution towards the build.



A Cracker of a Day

The Erskine Christmas Cracker enjoyed its first year at its new venue, The Glynhill Hotel in Renfrew. With an eclectic mix of over 50 stalls offering everything from handbags and accessories, to beautiful homeware, clothing, jewellery, candles, confectionary, cheese, pet care and art, amongst many others, there really was something for everyone.

Thank you to all our stall holders that hosted workshops and to our supporters who continue to come along each year and support Erskine at this event. Further



thanks must go to The Glynhill Hotel who were exceptional hosts and looked after us so well.

Christmas Cracker Shopping Fayre
8th - 9th November 2018
Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew

Volunteer for our Veterans

We need people to help at our homes in Bishopton, Glasgow and Edinburgh, as well as throughout the rest of the country, promoting and fundraising on behalf of Erskine.

Volunteering can enhance your life and personal development. If you are working towards an award such the Saltire Award, Duke of Edinburgh or Queens Badge we are happy to help you achieve that!



**Can you spare some time
for our veterans?**

**For more information on how
you can become an Erskine
volunteer please call:**

0141 814 4640



Thank You

Cottage resident and Army veteran Bill McMahon along with his wife Agnes enjoyed a relaxing break in October courtesy of our friends at The Highland Club. The luxurious resort have shown invaluable support to Erskine since 2015 as Headline Sponsor of The Erskine Military Ball and have now demonstrated their generosity even more by pledging to provide much-needed rest and relaxation to veterans and their families.

Bill and Agnes were able to enjoy a week with their family at The Highland Club in the beautiful surrounding of Fort Augustus, on the stunning banks of Loch Ness.

Agnes said: "We didn't feel we would be able to enjoy holidays again until we were given this amazing opportunity of a delightful and relaxing break. The Highland Club was like a little bit of Heaven!"

Recipe for Success



The wonderful team at Loch Ness Bakery have chosen to support Erskine and cancer charity the Beatson by donating 5% of their sales to each charity!

Having sampled their delicious shortbread bites we can most definitely confirm they get the Erskine seal of approval.



Get your tasty treats from Scottish Asda stores and don't forget to share your biscuit review with us on twitter:

[@Erskine1916](#) and [@LochNessBakery](#)



Erskine Military Ball

Erskine supporters and residents had a ball at the annual fundraising dinner on Friday 6th October 2017 in the Glasgow Hilton Hotel. The Erskine Military Ball welcomed over 300 guests for an evening of fine dining, entertainment and auctions. Guests dug deep in support of our country's veterans and raised over **£57,000!**

Host Edward Reid was back, by popular demand, and was joined by pipers from The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and The Voice's Ciara Harvie who put on spectacular performances before the guests danced the night away to the swing sounds of The Cosmopolitan Big Band.

With thanks to our wonderful sponsors The Highland Club, Spar/C J Lang & Son, Strategic Business Management and Tunnocks.

Royal Navy Veteran, and Erskine Park resident, Bill Campbell had a wonderful evening at The Erskine Military Ball.

Bill (pictured right) was looking very dapper in his new tux bought specially for the occasion.

Many thanks again go to The Highland Club for sponsoring Erskine Veteran's tables.



THE HIGHLAND CLUB
FORT AUGUSTUS * LOCH NESS

www.thehighlandclub.co.uk

Don't miss out on this years'
Erskine Military Ball,
28 Sept 18

Get your tickets now:
0141 814 4555





Take a moment...

Legacies are the backbone of our care programme and provide a long term future for Erskine. They help to provide funding for dedicated nursing care, sensory gardens, specialist medical equipment, physiotherapy and many social activities that enhance our veterans quality of life.

Without legacies, this enhanced care would not be possible and the lives of our veterans would be very different.

So what do our veterans get from your generosity?

They get happiness, peace, security and friendship along with the very best care that Erskine are renowned for. In the words of our veterans: ***"I really feel part of a big family now; I am safe, well cared for and my family have peace of mind."***

We are grateful to so many people who have left us gifts in their Wills and they will never be forgotten.

Mrs Annie McGrath was born in Harthill in April 1921 and when war broke out in 1939 Nan, as she was known, presented herself for recruitment to the armed forces with a notion of doing her bit for her country and found herself in the ATS, serving in Hastings, Sussex. At the end of the war Nan married John McGrath, a Harthill man who served in the Royal Navy. *(Both pictured)*

Nan had supported our veterans for many years during her lifetime. After John passed in 1991 Nan gradually began to find purpose

Imagine a gift that has tremendous power to do so much good in the future. Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do during your lifetime; by leaving a gift to Erskine your legacy will be about life and hope, creating happy memories and enabling ex-Service men and women to lead positive lives.

At Erskine we have a vision to continue to provide an unrivalled level of care within a friendly, homely environment and to encourage a true sense of belonging for each and every veteran. We can only do this thanks to the generous support from people like you.

Leaving a gift to Erskine, however large or small, does not commit you to anything as we know your circumstance and those of your family may change. We also appreciate that this is something you must consider very carefully but please, when the time is right for you, **could you remember Erskine in your Will?**

in life again and with support from friends and the community around her she was able to remain in her own home until she was 95. **Her final gift was a bequest to Erskine.**

Mrs McGrath's legacy will help Erskine provide training in palliative care so that seriously ill veterans can be cared for here at Erskine with dignity and respect. Her final act of kindness will always be remembered.

If you would like a copy of our legacy brochure to find out more or if you have any questions, please contact our Legacy Officer, Anne McCallum.

 **0141 814 4520**
 anne.mccallum@erskine.org.uk

For a small donation to Erskine **McClure Solicitors** are offering to prepare or review your Will **FREE OF CHARGE** and will also provide half price Power of Attorney.

You can contact them directly via phone or email using the details below and quoting "Erskine" to discuss further.

Your signature can go a long way, for those who sacrificed so much for the freedom we enjoy today.

 **0800 852 1999**
 contactus@mcclure-solicitors.com

Memorial Plaques

If you would like to remember a loved one with a Memorial Plaque in The Erskine Centenary Garden, please visit www.rememberalovedone.com/erskine



Book of Remembrance

If you would like to celebrate the life of a loved one and create a page in the Erskine Online Book of Remembrance, please visit, www.tolbc.com/erskinebook

Book of Remembrance

Creating a page to remember a loved one and to celebrate their life is simple. Please **£25.00** per page.

Give your name and email address and we will send you our terms and conditions to start creating memories and books of remembrance.

Click to visit a page has already been created for your loved one by clicking their name on the search form. Then simply click on their name to find out more about their life and find the memories that people have shared, or add your own tributes to that page.

Or set up your own personal page to remember, share and celebrate those that are no longer with us. You can share with family and friends and invite them to contribute their memories too. Or create your own page and keep it all to yourself.

If you would like to be added to Erskine's memory for a loved one, please click here. You'll receive more information to help after our national tour and in the future, it may be helpful to help to memory, please make a note of your loved one's name in the 'Notes about your situation' section.



[Book of Remembrance >>](#)

Patients Register

Relatives can now research our records about members of their families injured in the First World War by logging on to www.erskine.org.uk



Our Promise To You

You, our supporters, are at the heart of everything we do. With your help, Erskine is able to offer care and support to veterans and their families when they need us most.

We simply couldn't do it without you, which is why we value your trust so highly. It is also why, when you make the decision to support us, we make this promise to you:

- **We will respect your privacy, we will never share or sell any of your information to other organisations or charities for their use.**
- **We will commit to high standards.**
- **We will be clear, honest and open.**
- **We will share stories of the people you help.**
- **We will be fair and reasonable.**
- **We will be accountable and responsible.**

To find out more about our promise to you and our privacy policy, please read below.

Erskine will never exchange or sell your information to another organisation for their own marketing purposes. As Data Controller, Erskine will collect and use your personal information when you use or access our services, visit our website or help with our income generated activities.



Based on the services you use, or support that you give, we will retain your personal information for a reasonable period of time. For more details on how we use and retain your personal information, your data protection rights, or to contact our Data Protection Officer please refer to our full privacy policy www.erskine.org.uk/cookie-privacy-policy/ or call us to request your own copy.

If you'd like to opt out of our marketing and fundraising communications, simply call our team on **0141 814 4657** to tell us your contact preferences.



Yes, I want to support veterans at Erskine today

1 Your details please:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Postcode:

Phone:

2 Please accept my gift of £

3 Did you know the taxman can care for veterans too?

If you are a UK taxpayer, let us know and we can increase your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you.

giftaid it

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations to Erskine that I make in the future or have made in the past four years. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below and insert today's date: I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 I have given.

Please tick Today's date

4 Donation Payment:

I enclose my cheque made payable to Erskine **OR** please debit my Visa/ Mastercard/ Maestro/ CAF Charity Card (delete as applicable)

Card Number

Start Date Expiry Date Security Number
(Last 3 digits on the back of your card)

Signature Today's Date

I do not require acknowledgement of my gift.

Please send me, in confidence, information about leaving a gift to Erskine in my Will.

Yes, I'd like to make a difference via Direct Debit



Name:

Address:

I would like to make a regular gift of:

£5 £10 Other £

I would like this gift to be made:

Monthly Quarterly Annually

Please start my payments on:

1st 15th _____
(insert month / year)



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the form and send to: Fundraising Department, Erskine, Bishopston, PA7 5PU

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
	Postcode

Service User Number

7	0	6	3	7	7
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Reference

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Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Erskine Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Erskine and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

--

Branch sort code

--	--	--

Bank/Building Society Account Number

--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature(s)

--

Date

--

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.