

ERSKINE *News*

Issue 38, Spring 2024



D-Day 80

Read about our plans to mark the poignant 80th Anniversary of D-Day on Page 8.

Welcome

With your help, Erskine has been 'Proud to Care' for Veterans in need of our nursing and accommodation services, whilst also ensuring that any new needs are addressed when they arise.

At the close of the Second World War, the UK found itself faced with a sizable Veteran population almost overnight - around four million individuals, released from military service and potentially needing support. Veterans represent a diverse group with different needs at various life stages. Erskine has always stepped in to provide those vital care and support services to Veterans and their spouses.

While there are significantly fewer World War II and National Service Veterans in Scotland today, that doesn't mean there isn't a need for Erskine's services. Together with the Government and a network of other charities, we anticipate that once this fine generation of Veterans has sadly passed on, we will witness a 40% decrease in Scotland's Veteran population. We will also likely see a reduced demand for our residential nursing care.

Whether it's providing shelter and guidance to young Veterans embarking on a new career path, offering family accommodation, fostering camaraderie at the Erskine Veterans Activity Centres, providing at-home support or assisted living services, or delivering quality residential nursing care, Erskine is committed to our Veterans. Together with our supporters, we pledge to offer relevant support at every stage



of Veterans' post-Service journey.

Our aim is to reach Veterans earlier, within their own communities, and make them aware of the support on offer. We're already Scotland's leading provider of care and support services for Veterans. But our ambition doesn't stop there - we intend to become the most recognisable and trusted military charity too. Together, with our supporters, people like you, we can achieve this.

On behalf of all Erskine Veterans and their families, I would like to thank you for your support and donations. Read on to find out how your donations make all this possible

**Wing Commander
Ian Cumming MBE MA FCMJ
Chief Executive Officer**

Meet The Team

There are many different roles within Erskine and each one is taken on by an amazing individual offering their skills and knowledge to help continue to make Erskine's care of the highest standard.



Centre Supervisor
Anne Creelman

I have been with Erskine Activity Centre for just over six years. I started as a volunteer serving meals in the Erskine Care Home and moved to ERMAC when it opened. I then worked as a catering assistant, took on the role of Wellbeing Project Co-ordinator where I was involved in catering and activities, and I am now Centre Supervisor. I look forward to welcoming new members, having day to day contact with our members and getting to know all of them is a real highlight.



Finance Officer
Annie Earley

I have worked for Erskine for over 7 years now, starting out as a Modern Apprentice Administrator and working my way up to Finance Officer.

I look after the residents' fees, and I feel privileged to come into contact and build relationships with many residents and their families. I take great pride in working for Erskine, and giving back to the Veterans who have served us over the years.



Fundraising & Development Manager - North
Michael Parkes

I'm based in the coastal town of Buckie, Moray. Although I'm a Buckie 'loon', I lived, studied and worked in Glasgow for 10 years.

It's an honour to be at Erskine at such an exciting time for the charity, as we progress with our plans for our Activity Centre in Forres. I can't wait to work with more people and organisations across the area, supporting our Veterans!



SCAN ME

We're proud to care and are looking for people to join us who are proud to care too.
Scan QR Code to view our current vacancies.

Our History

At the height of the Great War, the overwhelming need for specialised medical care for limbless soldiers, especially in Scotland, became a pressing concern. The devastating number of casualties from the front lines demanded a solution.

Sir William Macewen was the professor of surgery at Glasgow University, with a world-wide reputation for advancing surgical procedures. He was appointed to lead the project to establish a new hospital dedicated to treating those whose limbs had been disastrously wounded on the battlefield.

Once he had secured the backing of his fellow surgeons, as the funds to make his vision for a new military hospital a reality were needed, he approached the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir Thomas Dunlop. The Provost gave his immediate support and convened a public meeting in the City Chambers on March 29, 1916.

Macewen's speech, setting out the need for a specialist hospital, roused public sympathy and support to such an extent that £100,000 was contributed within a few weeks and doubled within a year. At that moment, Erskine was born or as it was named then the Princess Louise Scottish

Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers. The hospital building was secured due to the generous offer by Thomson Aikman. He proposed the free use of Erskine House and its grounds for the duration of the war and 12 months afterwards. Even more generously, Sir John Reid later provided the funds to accept Aikman's offer to sell the mansion house to the hospital if it were to become a permanent institution.

Situated on the banks of the Clyde, Erskine House, now the prestigious Mar Hall in Bishopton, Renfrewshire, was transformed into a state-of-the-art medical care facility for the rehabilitation of limbless veterans.

The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers stands as a testament to Sir William Macewen's indomitable spirit and pioneering vision, forever etched in the history of our Forces.

Right: Some of the original patients

Below: The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers



Top: Sir William Macewen
Left: Some of the original patients in the recreation room

The Future

Bishopton Veterans Village

Residential Nursing and Dementia Care*
Two care homes, 190 rooms.

Cottages
44 homes

Transitional Supported Accommodation
23 homes

Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre
One centre, 180 active beneficiaries

Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Company (SBMC)
Tenancy and co-location with SBMC, one factory

Assisted Living
Currently operate five homes. Additional homes planned based on feasibility study

Care at home
Pilot of activities within Erskine Veterans Village. Additional locations based on result of pilot

Current Activities

Planned Activities

Erskine Veterans Activity Centres - North

EVAC North (Planned)
One centre in Forres region. 200 active beneficiaries

Location TBC

EVAC East (Planned)
One centre. Location to be determined based on results of need analysis. 200 active beneficiaries

Edinburgh Veterans Village

Residential / Nursing and Dementia Care*
One care home, 40 rooms

Personal Recovery Centre
Tenancy and co-location with PRC, inpatient services for Serving personnel. 16 rooms

Combat Stress and NHS Veterans First Point
Tenancy and co-location with Combat Stress and Veterans First Point. Outpatient mental health service.

Erskine Reid
Macewen

Activity Centre

ERMAC aims to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of Veterans in the community, providing the opportunity to engage with fellow Veterans, learn new skills, explore a number of interests and access support services.

ERMAC has enjoyed its fifth year of service delivery and continues to flourish, significantly contributing to Erskine's vision of a Scotland in which all Veterans and their families thrive. Open to Veterans of any age, along with their spouses and/or carers, ERMAC membership and class participation are free of charge.

Many projects have been developed and delivered throughout the year; we have been especially proud of our allotment's relocation. Having initially adopted a space in the old garden centre, our

gardening group made the most of what they had, however, it was never a viable long-term option. With the support of our fundraisers and brilliant community volunteers, we managed to strip the site back to basics and build a purpose-built environment.

'ERMAC is an outstanding service for Veterans. The staff, from management to kitchen, are amazing people always eager to help. ERMAC has 100% helped me with my mental health & wellbeing. I am so happy & proud to be a member. Well done to all who make it possible.'

Take a tour of ERMAC at our Veterans Village.



SCAN ME

FORRES Activity Centre

Erskine are excited to announce that we're looking to expand our service to Forres.

We can confirm that Erskine's conditional offer to buy the Victoria Hotel in Forres, has been accepted.

We intend to transform the Victoria Hotel into a Veterans Activities Centre, in the mould of our flagship centre in the Erskine Veterans Village in Bishopton, Renfrewshire. Here, Veterans of all ages can benefit from learning new skills and hobbies, building new support networks, and staying active - with a hot meal, tea, coffee, and friendly banter always readily available.



ERMAC ART EXHIBITION

Kelvingrove Museum hosts Erskine Veterans Charity art exhibition highlighting realities of life post service

We have partnered with Kelvingrove Museum to showcase the artistic talents of some of our Veterans that attend ERMAC.

Clyde Connections captures the transformation of the River Clyde - mirroring the evolution of the river and the veterans as they adapt to new environments in their post-service lives.

The show features work by 16 ERMAC veterans, many of whom have lived through traumas predating their military service and those experienced during conflicts.

The artwork on display features stoneware, watercolours, oil, pencil, mosaic, stencil, and an audio-visual installation.



SPOTLIGHT on D-DAY 80

As we approach the poignant occasion of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we have a series of events, fundraising and volunteering opportunities, culminating in a celebration on June 6 2024.

Our D-Day 80 campaign is gathering momentum as we approach the important date. Many of you have already donated to our latest Spring Appeal which featured Albert Lamond, 98-year-old D-Day Veteran and Erskine Home resident. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Beloved television favourite Glen Michael, best known for his success with Glen Michael's Cartoon Cavalcade, has also thrown his support behind our D-Day 80 campaign. Famed for capturing the hearts of the Scottish audience, Glen expressed his delight in supporting those who have served their country. He said: "Having served, I understand the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

"It is an honour to stand with Erskine and support their mission of supporting Veterans, especially as we approach the significant 80th anniversary of D-Day. It's crucial that we recognise and appreciate the dedication of those who have served and the sacrifices that they have made."

With your help, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those who have dedicated themselves to serving our country. Keep an eye out for our special D-Day 80 Appeal or check out the fundraising options on the next page to get involved.



Top: Glen Michael supporting our D-Day 80 Campaign

ALBERT LAMOND

Albert Lamond, 98, is a resident at the Erskine Home in Bishopton. Prior to moving to the home in 2023, he was a regular visitor to Erskine Reid Macewan Activity Centre (ERMAC).

After joining the navy in 1942, just after his 17th birthday, Albert began his career as a signalman on the frigate HMS Rowley, and quickly saw action in the Atlantic, the Arctic convoys and at D-Day.

On June 6th 1944, Albert watched from the sea as the battle raged on the beaches of Normandy – an event which marked the beginning of the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi occupation.



A celebrated career in the Royal Navy saw Albert awarded many medals from his years of service, including the Arctic Star, which commemorated the Arctic Convoys that sailed from North Russia, and the Légion d'honneur, awarded by the French government to D-Day Veterans, as a way of honouring and thanking those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during the Second World War.

When Albert left the Navy in the years following WWII, he took a month off before getting a job on the railway. He worked in the Polmadie engine rooms and thought he would "see how it goes", however ended up retiring some 40 years later as a railway driver.

"Without Erskine, many Veterans would struggle either post-service or in later life. I cannot speak highly enough of what they have done for me. They have provided me with a level of care that is second to none".

Be part of our D-Day 80 Challenge

Take on a fundraising challenge and raise vital funds to support our Veterans. Here's a few ideas of how you or your organisation could get involved.

- Hold a collection. we can provide collection cans or buckets
- Host an afternoon tea. we can provide promotional materials
- Take on our 80 mile challenge during June. We'll be with you every step of the way to cheer you on!

Get in touch today:

community@erskine.org.uk

0141 814 4555

SCAN to GET INVOLVED



SCAN ME

CARE IN THE EAST

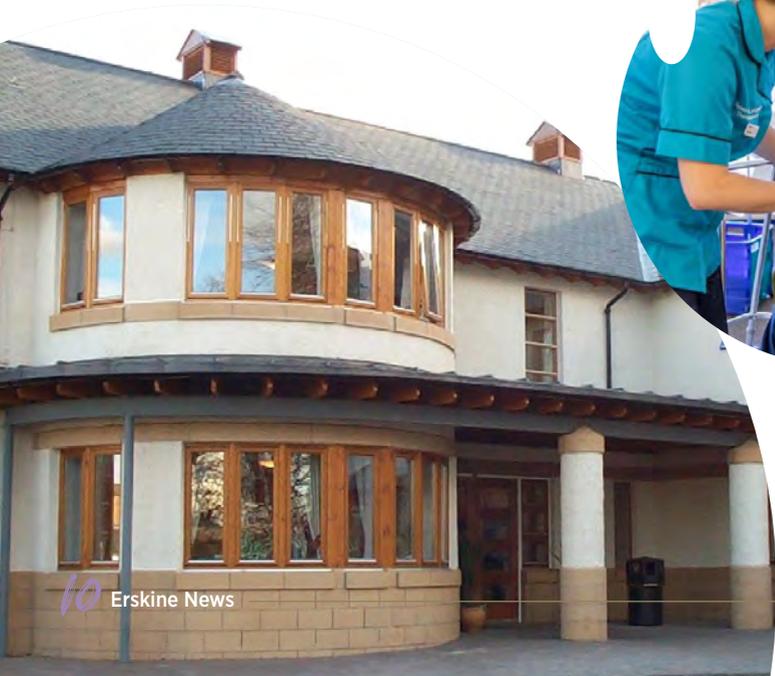
Erskine
Edinburgh Home

Erskine Edinburgh Care Home opened in 2002 and is situated in Gilmerton in the heart of the local community.

The purpose built home provides 24-hour care for 40 residents with nursing needs and for people living with dementia.

A wide range of services and activities are available to all residents. Residents are free to participate in all activities that interest them and support their physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Read on to the next page to discover some stories from Erskine Edinburgh Home. Including how our green fingered residents like Tam enjoy spending their time in the garden. How Jett the Therapet comes in as a regular visitor to delight our residents.



Left: Erskine Edinburgh Home
Top: Staff with resident

GREEN FINGERS

The weather doesn't stop residents from getting involved in gardening. There are plenty of residents who enjoy the garden but Tam is the most enthusiastic and keen to get the garden ready for summer. Tam is a resident in our Erskine Edinburgh Home, who is turning 93 this year. He was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Wayne Large, Activities Assistant who supervises the gardening donated a number of dahlias and Tam went out and bought a few more. There are lots of plants in our greenhouse getting ready for the summer garden and we are hoping to add roses to our rose garden with gift cards to spend at Dobbies, which were kindly donated. We managed to grow both strawberries and tomatoes last year as well as having a beautiful show of flowers.



Left: Tam enjoying the flowers

THERAPET

Donna visits the Erskine Edinburgh Home regularly with Jett. Jett is a two-and-a-half-year-old female black Flat Coated Retriever. She was assessed to be a Therapet therapy dog when a year old and started with Erskine at sixteen months old.

"My late Father-in-Law was a Veteran, so Erskine was our personal first choice to visit. We volunteer under Therapet, which is a Scottish Charity, managed by Canine Concern Scotland Trust - CCST, set up 35 years ago. We have many different varieties and sizes of dogs volunteering and also four cats! There are currently 977 Therapet volunteers working throughout the whole of Scotland.

The dogs (and owners!) get as much joy and enrichment from a visit as the people that they visit, with many wonderful relationships created between dog and the people we visit".



Above: Therapet Jett
Right: Jett with one of the residents



ARCHIE BROWN AND WOJTEK THE BEAR

Our Creative Marketing Officer Krystyna Caulfield shares one of her most memorable stories after meeting Erskine Edinburgh Home resident and Veteran, Archie Brown, 15 years ago.

In 1940, from the Royal Artillery, Archie joined the Royal Corps of Signals as a signaller, and was sent to the Eighth Army in the North Africa campaign shortly afterwards, where he worked as trusted messenger to Field Marshal Montgomery.

The work was dangerous, with Archie relaying coded messages from the commanding officer to the troops at the front line. He was frequently transported in Montgomery's own bullet and bombproof vehicle. The campaign included the horrific battles at El Alamein, Tobruk and Monte Cassino. The experience that he shared with his fellow soldiers deeply affected Archie for the rest of his life.

The story starts in 1942, when a local boy found a bear cub near Iran, whose mother had been shot. The bear passed hands and eventually a young Polish refugee, escaping from the Soviet, donated the bear to the Polish Army.

The young bear initially had problems swallowing and was fed with condensed milk from an emptied vodka bottle. The bear was subsequently fed with fruit, marmalade, honey and syrup, and was often rewarded with beer, which became his favourite drink. He also liked smoking cigarettes. The bear enjoyed wrestling and was taught to salute when greeted.

Wojtek soon became renowned, and an unofficial mascot of all units stationed nearby.

The bear moved to Iraq and then through Syria, Palestine and Egypt with the Polish Company. When it came to leave, the soldiers refused to go without the bear. It was then that he was officially drafted into the Polish Army and given the name of Corporal Wojtek.

As an officially enlisted "soldier" of the Company, he lived with the men in their tents or in a special wooden crate, which was transported by truck. It is said that during the Battle of Monte Cassino, Wojtek helped by transporting ammunition – never dropping a single crate.

Archie proudly served with the Royal Signals until 1946, when he was seconded to the Polish Royal Artillery Unit based in Winfield Camp at Berwick-upon-Tweed. Whilst interviewing everyone in the Unit, he was introduced to Corporal Wojtek, who had been listed as a Corporal on the regimental roster.

The first meeting with Corporal Wojtek, an over 8 ft brown bear, was truly unforgettable for Archie! Archie helped to facilitate Wojtek's safe transfer to Edinburgh Zoo, where he lived out the rest of his life, often visited by former Polish soldiers, some of whom would toss him cigarettes, which he would eat as there was no one there to light them for him.

If you visit Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh you will find a statue of Wojtek the bear, and if you look even closer the name "Archie Brown" is engraved on its plinth.



Left: Wojtek the Bear memorial Edinburgh
Top: Archie Brown



BOB AND EDNA

Bob and Edna Robson first met in 2008 whilst they were both at the Union Jack Club in London.



Bob was gathering signatures to support the Gurkha Justice Campaign and he recalls noticing Edna for the first time. "I spots this lass and asked her for her signature on the petition and if she was feeling up for it to pop her number down there too – which she did! Me coming from Newcastle and Edna living in Scotland didn't faze me. I spent four years on and off at RAF Lossiemouth with the Fleet Air Arm and as you can imagine I didn't appreciate at the time how beautiful Lossie is, it wasn't until I left the Navy and went back as a Civvy that I knew I'd end up in Scotland."

In 2019 Edna and Bob were invited along to our Meet Erskine Perth event. The afternoon is an opportunity for Erskine supporters to come and chat with Erskine staff and Veterans, to hear first-hand how their generosity is changing lives.

Edna said "We were so impressed. Everyone representing Erskine that day was so upfront and honest, it didn't feel like they were trying to hide anything about what it is they do and what they can offer Veterans. We spoke to Sarah and said we'd be keen to leave a legacy. She had organised for us to speak with a Solicitor and get the legacy written into our Wills.

Veterans' needs are changing because the community's getting younger. Erskine's changing with them which is what's needed. If Bob and I can help secure these young people's future care and support by leaving a legacy to Erskine I know our gift won't be wasted."

Bob and Edna had been keen to be Veterans Village residents for some time. In January of this year, Bob and Edna received the news they were waiting for when they were told that they had been granted a cottage. They received the keys in February and became part of the Erskine Veterans Village community.

Leave a Legacy

Would you consider a gift that costs nothing today, but helps us to be there for our Veterans when they need us? Erskine relies on donations and gifts in Wills to provide care and support for Veterans. Our **Legacy Development Manager Sarah Morgan** is always on hand and happy to chat if you have any questions.

E: sarah.morgan@erskine.org.uk

T: 0141 814 4520

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

BURGHHEAD SWIM

COFFEE CONCERT

Erskine were thrilled to be a partner charity for the Burghead Boxing Day Swim in 2023! A huge thank you to the organisers and brave swimmers at the annual event in the Moray village for their phenomenal donation of £3,350 for our Veterans.

Their support comes at such an exciting time for the charity in the area, as we progress with our plans to open a new Veterans Activity Centre in Forres this year. Burghead Bay also played a pivotal role during WW2, with training prior to the D-Day Landings taking place there.

The event raised an incredible total of £10,050, shared equally between Erskine, RNLI Buckie and Moray Befriending Voluntary Service.

We recently welcomed Olivia McDonald (21), where she handed over a very generous cheque in the amount of £686 for Erskine Veterans.

Music student Olivia had single handedly organised a Coffee Afternoon Concert, which was held in The Cornerstone, Bishopton. Themed 'We will meet again', both the Community Choir Singing for Wellbeing and Olivia herself sang for those attending, mainly songs from the war years.

Olivia said: "I chose Erskine Veterans Charity because it's a local charity and it affects many in the community. The Veterans have sacrificed a lot, so I felt that it is important to give back".



Right: Cheque of funds raised presented to Michael Parkes



Top: Olivia's Coffee Afternoon Concert in action

Would Erskine Be Here Without Volunteers?

We don't think so!

Corporate Volunteers have been coming out in force to support Erskine, so far in 2024, we have supported around 50 volunteers providing 250 volunteer hours at Erskine Veterans Charity. Spotlights on Edrington who supported the Bunker during their afternoon tea.

NatWest came out and helped with gardening and data entry. Another group of Edrington volunteers helped at ERMAC.

They moved tonnes of stones and soil to the large, raised beds.

The team from Auchentoshan Distillery supported the post event clear up, shelf stocking in our warehouse and general gardening in the grounds.

If you are interested in volunteering please get in touch. There are many different opportunities and we're on hand to find the right one for you.

volunteering@erskine.org.uk

For fundraising events:
community@erskine.org.uk

Stories From Our Volunteers

EMMA, THALES

JAMES, JP MORGAN

"Volunteering with Erskine was an incredibly rewarding experience, it was great to see such an impact during the day we were there.

It was a great way for our team to spend time together and learn about the work Erskine do. As some of our engineers at Thales are ex-forces, it's important to see charities like Erskine supporting Veterans through difficult periods and for us to be able to contribute as well. We hope to be able to support Erskine again in the future."

"JP Morgan Chase has a global network of Business Resource Groups (BRGs) with over 140,000 members across 600 chapters worldwide, aiming to promote leadership, networking, diversity and community engagement.

In Glasgow, one BRG, known as the Glasgow Vets, focuses on supporting military veterans, retirees, and their allies. Their mission includes community outreach, networking, and highlighting the contributions of Veterans while promoting JP Morgan Chase's values.

A key initiative for the Glasgow Vets is their partnership with Erskine Veterans Village, providing support for Veterans and their families through various programs and activities. They plan to expand their support for Erskine in the future by fostering additional partnerships and hosting events to enhance the lives of Veterans and their families."



Top: Thales volunteers pose for a picture with Caitlin



Right: JP Morgan Chase volunteers in action



SAVE THE DATE

Ideal Home Show

S.E.C Glasgow
Friday 24th May- Monday 27th May

Erskine Bike Meet

Erskine Veterans Village
Sunday 26th May

Sounds from Stirling Castle

Stirling Castle
Saturday 7th September

Golf Day

Kings Course, Gleneagles
Thursday 3rd October

Kiltwalk

Glasgow- 28th April
Aberdeen- 2nd June
Dundee- 11th August
Edinburgh- 15th September

Tough Mudder

Drumlanrig Castle
Saturday 15th June

Great Scottish Run

George Square, Glasgow
Sunday 6th October

Find out more at:

erskine.org.uk/fundraising-events

Yes, I want to support Veterans at Erskine today

1 Your Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

2 Please accept my gift of £

Thank you! To save money a thank you letter will not be sent.
Please tick if you would like to receive one.

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

giftaid it

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

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.

I am a taxpayer

Signature Date

4 Donation Payment

I enclose my cheque made payable to Erskine
or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Maestro/CAF Charity Card

Card No.

Start Date Expiry Date Security No. (Last 3 digits on the back of your card)

Signature Today's Date

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

Erskine Veterans Village, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU Telephone 0141 814 4616 | erskine.org.uk
Erskine Veterans Charity | Company No. SC174103 | Registered Charity No. SC006609 | The Erskine Home, Erskine Veterans Village, Bishopton, PA7 5PU

Please cut/tear here

FOR JUST
£1
A WEEK

PLAY TODAY

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

£25,000

AND YOU'LL HELP TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN SCOTLAND



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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, Bishopton, PA7 5PU

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank/Building Society Account Number

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.

Service User Number

Reference

Signature(s)

Date

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