

# YOUR GIFT

**COULD SUPPORT SCOTLAND'S  
VETERANS FOR YEARS TO COME**



## INSIDE

Everything you  
need to know  
about leaving a  
gift to Erskine in  
your Will



# ERSKINE'S STORY

## Thank you for thinking about leaving a gift in your Will to support our brave Veterans

Since 1916, Erskine has cared for over 105,000 ex-Service men and women. More than a century later, kind people like you continue to show your incredible support for our ex-service community.

The devastation of the First World War highlighted the lack of hospital facilities to care for wounded soldiers. It was clear a facility was greatly needed - especially for those who tragically lost limbs on the battlefield.

Thanks to support from people like you, Erskine opened in October 1916. Then known as The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers.

The care and support Veterans and families receive has evolved over the years. From amputations and prosthetic limbs in the past. To our care facilities, accommodation and Activity Centre today.

One thing that has remained constant is Erskine supporters' devotion and incredible generosity.

With your help, together we will be there for Veterans and their families when they need us most, and for as long as they need us.

**Thank you.**

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WE HAVE  
CARED FOR

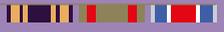


**105,000**  
VETERANS SINCE 1916



### Pictured opposite

The original brave Veterans and staff of Erskine Hospital 1916.



More than 100 years ago, Sir William Macewen founded The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers - the charity we know today as Erskine.

Here's a look back at some of the key moments in Erskine's history of supporting Veterans and their families in Scotland.

### 1916

Sir William Macewen, a professor of surgery at Glasgow University, was appointed to establish a new hospital. The hospital was urgently needed to treat the thousands of military that lost their limbs in the First World War.

It was named The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers.

### 1917

The formal opening was performed by the hospital's patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Louise.

By the end of WWI over 3,450 men had been admitted with 2,697 wounded ex-Servicemen fitted with artificial limbs.

### 1924

By 1924, 8,000 of the permanently disabled Veterans in Britain had been treated.

Over 6,000 of these men were supplied with artificial limbs - a truly extraordinary feat.



# A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Caring for Veterans since 1916



### 1945

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Erskine was expected to deal with the wounded. The long-unused huts from the First World War were refurbished to provide 200 beds.

In addition to the 150 First World War Veterans still being cared for at the hospital, 740 patients from the Second World War were admitted.

### 1966

Erskine celebrated half a century of care. The charity was evolving to meet the needs of a new age and plan for future demand.

Care was no longer restricted to the limbless of 1914-18 but evolved to all ex-servicemen who had become disabled, whether as a direct result of combat or from other causes. Cottages were built where war pensioners could live with their families on the grounds.

### 1978

By 1978 running costs had escalated to reach £1million a year; due to inflation, a spike in the price of oil for heating and a sharp increase in nurses' wages.

At the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee chairman, General Sir Gordon MacMillan, announced the Effort of Erskine fundraising scheme which highlighted the personal stories of Veterans. It produced a generous response from the public. Something that continues with your kind support today!

### 1993

By the 1990s, the NHS and other charities were providing better services for disabled people. Erskine had changed, it had been caring for wounded Veterans, unable to cope in mainstream society - gradually we became an elderly care provider. Nevertheless, Erskine's original purpose continues today - providing support and accommodation for younger Veterans too.

In 1993 it became clear that the Erskine House (now Mar Hall Hotel) was no longer fit for purpose. It was time to build new facilities - once again the public responded magnificently.

### 2000s

With the support of generous donations from people like you, The Erskine Home was built. The building as we know it today, provides care for 180 residents.

**2002** Erskine Edinburgh opened providing care for 88 residents.

**2007** Erskine Glasgow opened providing caring for 47 residents.

**2017** five Assisted Living Apartments were completed - allowing Veterans to live independently.

**2018** The Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre opened, providing support to Veterans living in the community.

### Today

With your help, Erskine continues to adapt the support it provides to our ex-Service community.

Other facilities include Transitional Supported accommodation for single ex-service men and women who need help transitioning to civilian life. The apartments provide a place to live within a community of fellow ex-Service personnel and receive support.

This timeline tells you a little about the great history of Erskine.

Thank you for playing your part in the future.



# LEGACY FOR THEIR FUTURE

 **SUPPORTER CASE STUDY**

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.”*

After 14 years together Bob and Edna got married in August 2022 and live in Inchture, Perthshire. They have always been aware of Erskine and their work.

**Bob says** *“I couldn't put my finger on how I came to know of Erskine. It was well before I moved up here so maybe about 25 years ago. They've always been someone I stored away in my memory in case I ever needed them.”*

## Edna Robson

*“My dad was my hero. I'd get my pocket money and he'd say 'Here's your six pennies and here's your Erskine box'.*

*I'd be so excited and ask dad if my pennies had got the soldier a new leg! To which he'd very cleverly reply 'That was enough to get him a toenail. You need to keep collecting.”*



## Bob Robson

Having been a Cadet in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and joining the Reserves (TA), Bob later felt the Navy may be a better fit for him.

In 1955 aged 17 he joined the Royal Navy and left as a Petty Officer after 12 years of service.

Mr Robson Snr, Bob's father, was also in the Forces and died serving in Germany during WW2.

## Bob Robson Royal Navy – Fleet Air Arm

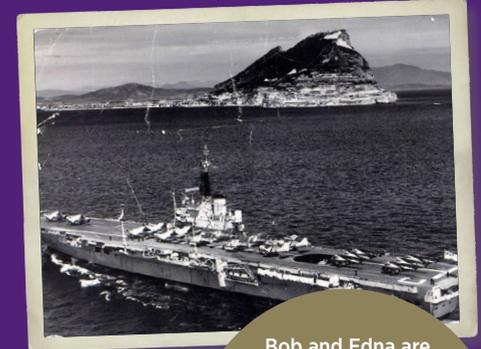


*“My 12 years' service was during what you could call the better period, if there ever is one in the Forces, the only trouble I got into was the trouble I cause myself as a young man.*

*The highlights of my career all revolve around being on a light fleet carrier HMS Centaur, which was a cracking crew! The only downside on that ship came in 1961. We set off to Gibraltar with the intention, we were told, of going to America. Within a day and a half of leaving Gibraltar they decided to turn us around and go up the Persian Gulf instead because President Qasim of Iraq announced his threat to Kuwait. We made our way there to relieve HMS Victorious.”*

Following on from Iraq they continued down to Mombasa to help with flood relief then on to Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. Bob was also in Northern Ireland in the early years of the Troubles.

After serving for 12 years Bob made the decision to leave the Navy in 1967.



*HMS Centaur in Gibraltar*

Bob and Edna are keen to be Veterans Village residents. They have spoken with the Moving In Team and Accommodation Services Manager should anything suitable for their needs become available.

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

**Edna says** *“We were so impressed. It was the kindness and gentleness exuded by the staff who were there that included the big boss! There were Erskine residents at it too and watching them with the staff who were escorting them was touching. Everyone representing Erskine that day was so upfront and honest, there was no pretence, it didn't feel like they were trying to hide anything about what it is they do and what they can offer Veterans.”*

*That day we spoke to Sarah and said we'd be keen to leave a legacy. Within a couple of days she had organised for us to speak with a Solicitor and get the legacy written into our Wills. Nothing was a bother for them.”*

*“Erskine is unique. It's always evolving; when I grew up it was known as the hospital, then the cottages came about, then dementia only care homes and now there's the Transitional Apartments for younger men and women! Veteran's 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.”*



# WHY LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL?

For each of our Veterans there is a moment when Erskine's doors open and once again they see a life worth living.

Could you help keep the door open in the future?

## Why leave a Gift in your Will?

Erskine relies on donations and gifts in Wills to provide vital care and support for Veterans.

By remembering Erskine in your Will you can ensure we are there for Veterans for generations to come.



Gifts in Wills make up **50% of charitable income** to care and support our brave Veterans.

Your gift could help provide everything from dedicated nursing care, sensory gardens, specialist medical equipment, physiotherapy, hairdressing and many social activities that enhance Veterans' quality of life.

Imagine the difference you can make to the lives of the young men and women who serve our country today.

**If or when the time is right, please remember Erskine in your Will.**

Every gift, large or small, will make a difference to the lives of Veterans and help us to care for many more in years to come.

Would you consider a gift that costs you nothing today, but helps us to be there for our Veterans when they need us?

# WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN DO FOR VETERANS

The remarkable tradition of giving to Erskine in your Will has never been more valued or more needed than it is today.

Our supporters have helped us to achieve great things, and made a real difference to the lives of our Veterans.

Legacy gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Your gift, no matter what size, will make a huge difference.

**Imagine the difference your gift could make to a Veteran and their family.**

These are just a few examples of the many people who have supported Erskine and who chose to make the ultimate gift in their Will. We are grateful to all our supporters for their unwavering support of our Veterans. These acts of kindness will never be forgotten.

**Here's just a few of the wonderful ways supporters' gifts have helped:**

- A long term supporter left Erskine a box of treasures from his time in Japan. These were sold at auction and raised £800.
- Mrs Catherine Evans gifted £1000 in memory of her late husband. This provided a hydraulic bed, walking frames and specialist socks for our diabetic residents.
- Mr James Anderson, a former resident of The Erskine Home left 25% of the residue of his estate, ensuring his loved ones were taken care of before he made a significant donation to Erskine.
- A gift of £1000 from a lady in Glasgow came with a special request that a plaque be placed at Erskine in memory of her late husband. We were honoured to do this and a dedicated bench is now located in the garden of the Erskine Home.
- A gift of £25 helped purchase a set of adapted cutlery for a Veteran to make meal times easier for them and be able to retain that independence of feeding themselves that most of us would take for granted.





# HOW TO LEAVE A GIFT

Making a Will is the best way to ensure that your future wishes are addressed and carried out after you are gone.

We understand that writing your Will can be a personal and sensitive task, but we are here to help should you need it.

In some cases, leaving a gift to charity in your Will can help reduce the amount of inheritance tax that needs to be paid on your estate. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend discussing it further with a legal professional.

## There are three possible ways of leaving a Gift in your Will.

- 1 A residuary gift is a percentage or remainder of your estate after expenses and other gifts have been deducted
- 2 A pecuniary gift is a specified amount of money
- 3 A specific gift is a specific item such as property, jewellery, shares etc

If you do decide to leave a gift to Erskine in your Will, then it is important to give your solicitor our correct details to ensure your wishes are met.

### The details you need are:

Erskine, Bishopton, Renfrewshire. PA7 5PU  
**Scottish Charity number:** SC006609

## Review your existing Will

If you have already written your Will and would now like to include Erskine, this can be done by adding a codicil to your Will.

We advise that you consult a solicitor when reviewing your Will so they can ensure any future amendments include your wishes for Erskine.

## The National Free Wills Network

Thanks to our membership of The National Free Wills Network we are able to offer you the opportunity to have your Will written by a local solicitor – with Erskine paying a discount rate for the writing of simple Wills.

This is a limited offer on a first come, first served basis. There is no obligation to include a gift to Erskine. If you choose to we would be extremely grateful for any gift which will help our future Veterans.

## Our Legacy Promise

- We absolutely recognise that those closest to you come first in your Will
- We will never ask you the size or type of gift if you decide to support our work this way by leaving us a gift in your Will
- We will never ask you to tell us your intentions, but if you decide to tell us we can say "Thank you"
- We fully understand that you may change your Will and decide not to leave us a gift, and that is your right to do so
- We promise to use your gift wisely and for the benefit of our Veterans

If you wish to discuss your options in complete confidence, please contact:

### Sarah Morgan

Legacy Officer  
Erskine, Bishopton,  
Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU

T: 0141 814 4520

E: sarah.morgan@erskine.org.uk



### Pictured opposite

The sprawling Erskine Veterans Village, Bishopton today.



# PROUD TO CARE

## We'd love to hear from you

There's nothing we like more than hearing from our wonderful supporters. Whether you'd like a chat on the phone, to write us a letter or share your thoughts online - here's how to stay in touch.

### Write

Share your thoughts or stories by writing to:  
**Fundraising Team, Erskine, Bishopton,  
Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU**

### Call

Questions, comments or just want to chat?  
You can call us on: **0141 814 4555**  
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

### Email

You can email us with any queries or concerns you may have:  
**fundraising@erskine.org.uk**

### Social

Check out our social media or listen to Erskine Veterans Radio to see how your donations make a difference to Veterans.

 [@erskineveteranscharity](https://www.instagram.com/erskineveteranscharity)

 [ErskineVeteransCharity](https://www.facebook.com/ErskineVeteransCharity)

 [@erskinecharity](https://www.twitter.com/erskinecharity)

 [www.erskine.org.uk/radio](http://www.erskine.org.uk/radio)

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