

ERSKINE *News*

Issue 39, Autumn 2024



Recreation & Activities

Read about how your donations allow Veterans to take part in trips and activities on Page 6

Welcome



Erskine's proud history of caring for Veterans dates back over a century. The young men returning from the Great War with horrific injuries required hands-on surgical care. While this groundbreaking care of 1916 remains a cornerstone of our history, today we find ourselves evolving to meet the needs of Veterans.

Erskine was the creation of Sir William Macewen. His ethos, unheard of in 1916, was that a holistic approach was essential. He believed it was the only way forward for the young men in their prime, who had returned not only scarred physically but mentally too. Sir William Macewen and his fellow carers gave those fortunate enough to return not only hope, but skills to move on with their lives.

By looking outside the box and evolving to ensure Veterans' needs are met, Erskine lives in the moment. We deal with the pressures of modern life, amid striving to offer the Veterans of today a future. Thanks to your support, we offer a range of services tailored for individual needs.

From the original hospital with its Nightingale wards, Erskine transitioned to modern care homes with private en-suite rooms. Modern cottages cater for Veterans and their families within the Erskine Veterans Village. Whilst those Veterans independent enough to live alone can choose an Assisted Living apartment. Our Transitional Supported Accommodation offers a home and support for Veterans who have encountered difficulties in the transition to civilian life.

In the past Erskine offered Veterans employment. Veterans worked at Erskine furniture and printing factories, as well as a garden centre. Today Veterans still enjoy these types of activities at Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC). The tutors are happy to revisit forgotten talents or find new skills in woodwork, art, and pottery, to name a few. A second Erskine Veterans Activity Centre will be opened in Forres by the end of 2024. You can read more on the progress of this on Page 11.

The services and care we offer are only possible with the steadfast and unwavering commitment of you, our supporters. With your generosity and kindness we can afford to explore new ways and evolve to help the Veterans of today and the future.

Our Support at Home pilot initiative offers a helping hand to Veterans within the comfort of their homes. Find out more on Page 10.

Please read on to find out how your wonderful donations help Veterans.

Susan Hamilton

Susan Hamilton
Communications 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.



Legacy Development Manager
Sarah Morgan

I've been with Erskine for 5 years now, and love being here on the beautiful Bishopton estate.

I make sure that the generous people who have remembered Erskine in their Will have their wishes carried out, something I take very seriously. I speak to solicitors to ensure that gifts are handled properly, and we use them to their maximum benefit.



Accommodation Services Manager
Tracy Higgins

I'll have been working with Erskine for 20 years.. In my current role I manage the non-care accommodation on the Erskine Veterans Village, including 44 cottages, 5 assisted living apartments and 23 transitional supported apartments. This largely involves giving support and providing a listening ear for the Veterans and families staying in the Erskine Veterans Village. I really enjoy my role and I'm proud to work for Erskine.



Erskine Edinburgh Home Activities Assistant
Wayne Large

I'm based in Erskine Edinburgh Home and have worked here for 13 years.

The residents and the team here are what makes the job so great. It gets said often, but no two days here are ever the same, there is always something going on. One day I could be helping the residents in the garden, the next I could be helping them prepare for the Sporting Senior Games.



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.

A LOOK BACK AT D-DAY 80

On Thursday 6th June Veterans, families, friends and staff gathered in The Bunker of The Erskine Home to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day which was part of Operation Overlord, one of the most important points in the history of WW2.

The home was decorated with bunting and decorations, the staff were dressed in 40's style which just added to the atmosphere. And to top it all off there was a magnificent backdrop in the corridor featuring Erskine D-Day Veteran Albert Lamond alongside photography from the landings on the day. For those who ventured into the gardens there was a life size replica of a landing craft that took part in Operation Neptune.

A 16-piece swing band entertained everyone with music from that era - Glen Miller, Vera Lynn and many more. There was dancing, sometimes on the dance floor or even just sitting at the table.

Very special guests in attendance were Albert Lamond, a 98 year old Erskine Veteran who served from HMS Rowley as a Signalman on D-Day; Glen Michael, a 98 year old RAF Veteran; and Donald Robertson, who was born on D-Day, and chose to

celebrate his 80th birthday with us at Erskine. Albert raised a toast and quietly reflected on his memories of the day.

Thanks to your generous support, we're delighted to announce that our D-Day 80 fundraising campaign raised nearly £280,000. We would once again like to thank you, our Erskine family, for raising this incredible amount to help support Veterans.

Erskine is lucky to have support from so many wonderful people like you. Whether you take part in fundraising activities or donate when you can, every single donation makes a huge difference to the lives of our Veterans and their families.



Above: 16-piece swing band and singer entertained residents with music from the 40's era



Above: Erskine residents enjoying the D-Day 80 event



SPOTLIGHT on Recreation & Activities

WITH CRAIG BERRY

Walking through The Erskine Home can be full of surprises. You'll often see colourful bunting for events from the Olympics to Halloween to Valentine's Day. You'll hear nostalgic music in the halls. You might even meet a miniature therapy pony!

Your generous donations allow the Activities Team to plan fun events and outings for our residents all year.

"Erskine is not like any other care home" is a phrase we hear often.

Craig Berry, Activities Co-ordinator, has been part of the Erskine team for 30 years. He shared his memories of how his career started and how he still loves working in the Activities team today.

"I was at college and deciding whether to work in healthcare with adults or children. After my work experience at Erskine, I had summer and Christmas jobs. Staff then encouraged me to apply for a permanent role.

"I had my interview at the old Erskine hospital (now Mar Hall Hotel) with Matron Lundy. The conversation lasted about an hour, and I told her about how I had been looking after my gran. I went away and didn't really think much more about it, I wasn't confident I'd got the job.

"On the 5th of February 1995, the letter came through offering me the job!"

"I started as an Auxiliary Nurse, now known as a Care Assistant. Then, I got the chance to work part-time in care and part-time as an Activities Assistant. Years later I became the Activities Co-ordinator and still enjoy the role to this day.

"I love working with the residents, seeing what they get out of it, and the smiles on their faces. I always think Activities staff get to do the fun side of the resident care by working with them."

Craig and the Activities team plan a busy calendar of well-thought-out activities and outings. They plan activities to suit individuals' interests and abilities.

"We always try to find activities that match people's lifestyles before moving into the home. Some people love gardening, so with the help of generous donations we've been able to build raised beds to allow residents to plant their own flowers.

We ask residents where they used to go. For some, it may be a trip to the beach for ice cream, a trip to the Falkirk Wheel, or something new like going on a speedboat at Castle Semple. Supporters' donations allow us to make special outings like this possible."



Right: Activities Co-ordinator Craig Berry with Veteran Billy Haynes

Above Jessie and Jessie all smiles as they get up close with the ponies

Left: Veterans on a trip to the Seaside and tucking into a takeaway from the Chip Shop

New Exercise Area

Craig shared details on a recent project where they worked in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University.

"We opened a new Strength, Balance and Exercise Walk in the gardens at The Erskine Home. I thought it would be good to have a place for families and staff to visit with residents for some gentle exercise and not have too far to go."

The walk has 6 stopping stations. At each station there are printed instructions on what exercise to do. For those who prefer to watch, the gardens make a peaceful place to sit and enjoy the sunshine, when it comes along.

"People come here at the end of their lives, they don't know how long they have, I want them to enjoy it as much as possible."



Right: Erskine residents taking part in the new Strength & Balance walk

Meet Stevie Wylie

ERMAC Member

Stevie signed up to the Army Catering Corps not realising he would end up as a stretcher bearer in the Falklands. The memories stay with him to this day.

Originally from Dumbarton, Stevie Wylie joined up the Army Catering Corps at the young age of 17, where he spent 14 years in the Royal Logistic Corps, taking him all around the world, including Northern Ireland, Germany, Falklands, Canada and on to London as a last posting with the Royal Engineers.

It was tough for Stevie being away from loved ones, but it was his deployment to the Falklands where things started to change. "My time in the Falklands with the 3rd Royal Green Jackets was life changing. I'd just went back home for leave and there was a knock on the door 'You're needed in the Falklands.'"

Stevie was sent to the Falkland Islands where he wasn't just cooking but stretcher bearing and helping out the medics. He recalls a ship being blown up and he was involved with taking the injured to the first aid post.

Unfortunately, he was injured while serving in the Falklands. "One of the jets was hit and released their payload with a bomb landing not far from me. The last thing I could remember was flying through the air like a superhero." Stevie woke up on a hospital ship after sustaining an injury to his stomach. He was on the ship for months before being transferred back to a military hospital in Woolwich.

Aged 31, Stevie came back to "civvy street". It was time for him to figure out a world he didn't know much about. All he'd known for half of his life was the military way, so it was a huge shock to the system! Stevie made his way back to Scotland, spending six or so years in and out of temporary accommodation before being offered a council house. "Having my culinary skills made it a little bit easier to find the odd job here and there, but my mental health was suffering, and I missed having structure to my days".

Eventually Stevie found out that the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC) was opening soon. "That was five years ago now and I can't express how much it has turned my life around. It's been a godsend".

He now finds comfort in spending time with fellow Veterans who all speak the same language. They have a personal understanding of what they've been through which is reassuring to them. ERMAC has enabled Stevie to achieve things he would never have expected over the last few years. His confidence has grown, he has made great friends, gained new skills and the biggest accomplishment – travelling. Before coming to ERMAC Stevie wouldn't have even contemplated going abroad and yet now he looks forward to his next adventure.



"THIS PLACE IS A GODSEND AND I FEEL VERY COMFORTABLE. IT'S LIKE BEING BACK IN THE FORCES."

Stevie Wylie

Looking to The Future

Support at Home Pilot Launched

Erskine marked this year's Armed Forces Day with the launch of a new Support at Home pilot, aimed at expanding the care package offered to Veterans throughout Scotland. It aims to support Veterans living in the community, initially within the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde areas, by bringing assistance directly to Veterans in their own homes.

This new initiative will offer support such as: someone to talk to, help around the home, assistance with errands and shopping, escorted trips for activities, and help getting to appointments. One such person is Royal Navy Veteran John Graham (95), who has made his home in the Assisted Living accommodation within the charity's Veterans Village.

John said: "I put my name down for the pilot because having someone pop in even just for a chat is something to look forward to. It's even better if they can come with me for a coffee. I appreciate the help and company. It makes a big difference to my day, knowing there's someone who cares and can assist with little things that might be challenging for me.

Erskine CEO Ian Cumming said "We know from talking to our residents and their families, that

many were receiving care at home services before they moved into our nursing homes. We intend to complement existing care at home provision, but with our staff really having the time to help deliver meaningful, bespoke assistance which enhances each Veteran's quality of life, dignity, and independence."

Find out more

If you live in Renfrewshire or Inverclyde, please contact:
Gordon Johnston, Pilot Project Manager
E: gordon.johnston@erskine.org.uk
T: 0141 814 4576



Right: Royal Navy Veteran John Graham

New VETERANS Activity Centre coming to FORRES!

Since 1864, the Victoria Hotel has stood as a landmark in the west end of Forres. Over the years, it has held endless dances, functions and family celebrations. It operated as a hotel until January 2020.

Erskine are proud to be in the process of transforming the Victoria Hotel into a permanent Erskine Veterans Activity Centre in Forres. It will be named the Erskine Veterans Activity Centre North (EVAC) and will become a hub of activity and support for Veterans and their families.

EVAC North will be modelled on the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC) based in Bishopton. ERMAC opened six years ago and boasts over 200 members. It allows Veterans to enhance their own wellbeing and an opportunity to engage with people who have shared similar experiences in the Armed Forces as well as learn new skills, hobbies and interests.



Above: Victoria Hotel, Forres



Right: Renovation work underway at Victoria Hotel

Ian Cumming, Erskine CEO said: "We are incredibly excited to begin this transformation. The establishment of the Veterans Activity Centre is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting Veterans and their families.

We believe that providing a dedicated space for Veterans to come together, access support services, and engage in various activities will greatly benefit the surrounding community and honour the sacrifices made by those who have served our country."

The construction work on the hotel began in May and we are excited to be opening doors to our Veteran community by November 2024.



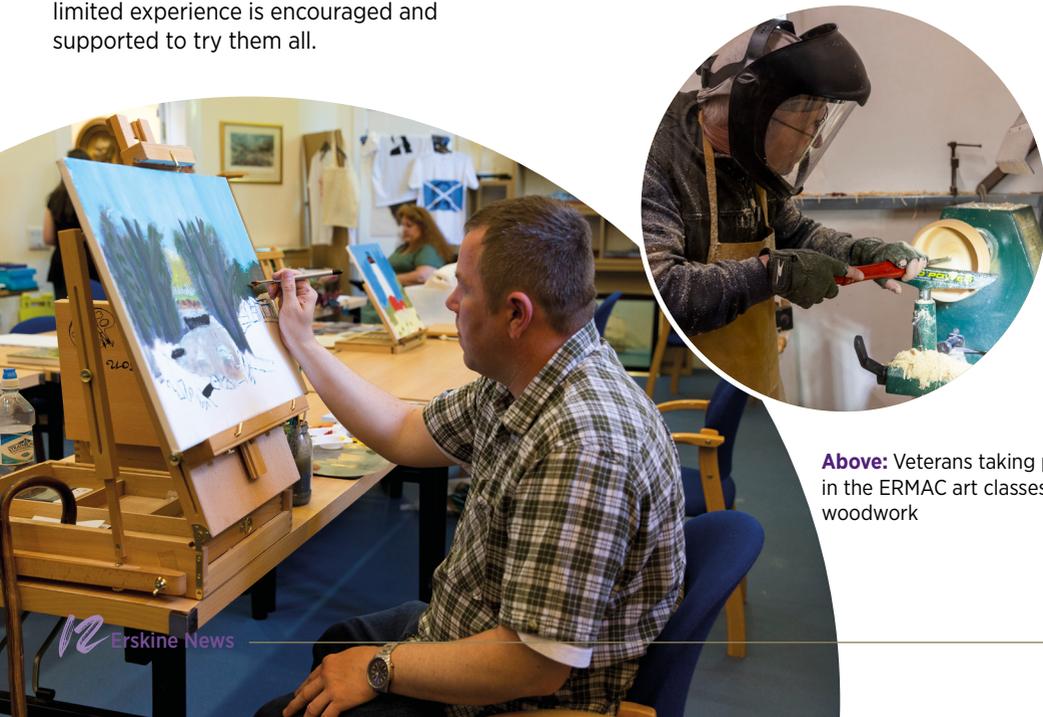
VETERANS PREPARE FOR THE Festive Season

Our activity centre (ERMAC) aims 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 interests and access support services. Many Veterans enjoy the art class, where they can create their own masterpieces.

As part of an exciting, varied and member-led activities programme, ERMAC's art classes run all year-round, led by tutor Mac McDade and are attended by Veterans of all ages.

In the art classes, each Veteran works on their own project with a medium of their choice. This might be clay, oil, watercolour, inks, ceramics etc. Any member attending the class with limited experience is encouraged and supported to try them all.

Recently our ERMAC members have been designing their own Christmas cards ahead of the festive season. Three designs are available for you to purchase your very own Veteran designed Christmas cards this year. Read on to meet the Veterans who designed the cards.



Above: Veterans taking part in the ERMAC art classes and woodwork

George Mackie - Christmas at ERMAC

George Mackie, 86, served in the Royal Scottish Fusiliers. He started attending ERMAC a year ago, after the passing of his wife. His son, who is also a member, convinced him to come along and try it out. He had never painted before coming to ERMAC, but since being a member, has discovered a natural talent through attending the art classes. He was inspired to paint this festive image of ERMAC in the snow. George says attending ERMAC has brought him out of the shadows after his bereavement.



Captain Bryan Warren - Santa Overhead

Captain Bryan Warren, 86, served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He has been fundraising for Erskine for 14 years and has raised over £42,000 by playing his bagpipes at Loch Lomond Shores and selling some of his artwork. He is a keen member of ERMAC and takes part in the art classes, where he painted Santa flying over the Activity Centre.



Bobby Bates - Festive Robin

Bobby Bates, 76, served in the Royal Parachute Regiment during the Cold War. He started attending ERMAC on a recommendation from a fellow Veteran. Through joining ERMAC he has been able to make lots of new friends, as well as reconnecting with old acquaintances. He is a very active member of the centre, serving on the committee, as well as partaking in guitar classes, gardening, fishing and metal detecting.



How to place your order

Get 10 festive cards for just £5, perfect for spreading Christmas cheer.

Order yours:

- use the enclosed form and Freepost envelope
- or call 0141 814 4555

Please note cards will be shipped starting week of 16th September.

LEAVING A LEGACY

The remarkable tradition of leaving a gift in your Will has never been more valued or more needed than it is today.

Why leave a Gift in your Will?

These gifts come in all shapes and sizes and every gift given in kindness, no matter how small, really does make a difference to our Veterans' lives and to those of their families.

Kenneth Hill, 74, a former Special Boat Service personnel, said "I can't say thank you enough for the support that Erskine showed me after my time in the Falklands. After a hospital stay, I came to Erskine and they helped put me back together." Ken's experience of PTSD and adapting back to civilian life was much harder than anticipated, but Erskine provided him a safe haven and somewhere to call home. He has decided to repay that kindness with a Gift in his Will. We are so grateful to people like Ken.

Without Gifts in Wills the care and support offered to Veterans would not be possible and their lives would be very different.

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

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

Free Will writing

We've partnered with the National Free Wills Network to offer our supporters the opportunity to write or update your Will for free, with a local solicitor.



To leave a gift in your Will to Erskine, all you need to provide your solicitor with is:

Name of charity: Erskine
Scottish Charity number: SC006609
Address: The Erskine Home, Bishopton, PA7 5PU



Find out more and watch our latest TV advert at erskine.org.uk/legacies



How DONATIONS Help ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Army Benevolent Fund has generously supported Erskine's Army beneficiaries once again with an incredible grant of £150,000. This will help fund enhanced care to Army Veterans and their spouses. The Army Benevolent Fund has been an outstanding long-term supporter of Erskine's services, and we are hugely grateful for their decision to assist us once again.

At present, about two-thirds of Erskine's residents are Army beneficiaries. One of our Home's residents is Tommy Dickie, an 87-year-old Army Veteran who was born in Glasgow in 1936. Tommy worked various jobs in his teenage years including as a sheet metal worker at Associated Metals and also as a labourer at Tennant's Brewery. At the age of 20, when he was still an apprentice sheet metal worker, Tommy signed up for his National Service.

Tommy signed up to the Royal Artillery and soon travelled to the training camp in Oswestry, just five miles from the Welsh border. Tommy served his entire two years of National Service in Germany and is hugely proud of his time in the Army. He returned to working at Associated Metals after his Service.

Since 2021, Tommy has been living with his wife at The Erskine Home, Bishopton. He enjoys taking part in lots of activities and events at the Home such as the recent launch of Erskine's 'Vanishing Willows' beer by the Two Towns Down brewery. Tommy says: "You can't get any better than Erskine. It has been my home now for nearly three years and the care is second to none."

Erskine's CEO, Ian Cumming "I would like to sincerely thank the Trustees of The Army Benevolent Fund for this incredible grant and their long-term support for Erskine's Army Veterans and spouses. We are very proud of the care that our dedicated staff provide at The Erskine Home to ensure our elderly and disabled residents can enjoy the best quality of life and regular interaction with their fellow Veterans. In these challenging financial times, our charity continues to deliver a high standard of care to our Veterans while also remaining focused on the long-term sustainability of our services. We are privileged to support so many Army Veterans and their spouses and will continue to do so thanks to this incredible support from the Army Benevolent Fund – thank you all again."



Above: Veteran and Erskine resident Tommy Dickie at the launch of Erskine's beer

Would Erskine be here without Volunteers?

We don't
think so!

At Erskine we're lucky to receive support from various organisations and companies.

Whatever size of the company, we work with employees to identify the right opportunities for them to support our Veterans at Erskine.

Companies are often excited to get involved in volunteering, sponsored events and fundraising activities. We can't thank the teams enough. If you or your company is interested in finding out more, we'd love to hear from you!

Read on to find out how staff at Edrington and Scullion Law have supported Erskine recently.

Interested in Volunteering?

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.

E: fundraising@erskine.org.uk
T: 0141 814 4555

EDRINGTON

"At Edrington, our commitment to giving more extends beyond our business operations. We take pride in weaving the spirit of generosity into our corporate fabric, and over the last 3 years, our dedicated team have had the privilege of volunteering at Erskine, where we supported Veterans to create an allotment. Through our volunteering, we strive to make a positive impact in the lives of others in our communities, embodying the essence of Giving More. Seeing the progress each time we volunteer is incredibly rewarding and we love spending time with Pamela and the Veterans."

Blain McEwan, Global Supply Chain Process and Controls Manager

Scullion Law

"Staff from The Family Law and Wills and Bereavement Teams at Scullion LAW enjoyed an afternoon in the sun of cleaning the plaques at the Erskine Veterans Village this spring. It was fascinating to see the grounds and learn about the work going on there. Scullion LAW are proud to have been able to support Erskine and as a Defence Employer Recognition Silver Award firm who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and offer a discount to members of The Military, we are committed to serving those who serve or have served."

Judith Higson, Executive Director

STORIES FROM OUR FUNDRAISERS

DANNY PAWSON

Danny Pawson, a former RAF Regiment gunner, has completed his Mont Blanc expedition to raise funds for Erskine. We are thrilled to announce that he has raised a massive £4170!

Danny said: "I've always thrived on challenges and adventure from my days in the RAF. Erskine has been a beacon of support for our veterans, and raising funds through this climb is my way of giving back to those who sacrificed so much for us. Seeing all the donations come in has been an incredible surprise and very overwhelming, knowing it all goes towards such a worthy cause."

A massive well done to Danny and his team, you are amazing.



Above: Danny Pawson on his Mont Blanc expedition and at the summit

JOHN BAILLIE

Erskine's superstar rower, John Baillie, has begun another incredible challenge for our Veterans. This time John is virtually rowing from Land's End to John o'Groats!

"I am very proud to be taking on another exciting challenge for Erskine Veterans Charity in 2024. Rowing from Land's End to John O'Groats will commemorate those who sacrificed so much at D-Day, giving their day for our tomorrow. Rowing the length of the UK will respect and honour Veterans from across the country. The challenge is even more gruelling for me, as I had my kidney removed for cancer earlier this year. I do love a challenge though, and hopefully our kind supporters recognise this."

We are so grateful for all that John has done to support Erskine, thank you.



Left: John Baillie rowing for Erskine

SAVE THE DATE

Edinburgh Kiltwalk
15th September

Loch Ness Marathon
29th September

Great Scottish Run
6th October

Firewalk North
10th November (TBC)

Firewalk Bishopton
22th November

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



ERSKINE
Veterans Charity

Erskine Military Ball

Saturday 9th November 2024
Marriott Hotel, Glasgow

Tickets £100 | Table of 10 £900 | Service Discount Available

T: 0141 814 4555
E: events@erskine.org.uk
W: erskine.org.uk/events

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.

Please cut/tear here