



ERSKINE *News*

Issue 36, Spring 2023



From Volunteer to Senior Care Assistant

Read Liam's journey into care on page 3

Welcome



Erskine is a cause close to my heart. By giving back in a small way, I have gained so much more than I give. I am a proud Erskine Ambassador.

My connection with Erskine started years ago through my work. Then our family's charitable foundation, started by my Dad in the 1980s, helped support the building of 'The Bridge', the activities room in the Glasgow Home.

At the time, we didn't realise that the Glasgow Home, would indeed become my Dad, Bill's home. He lived there for the last two years of his life, due to his dementia with Lewy bodies diagnosis.

Those two years, although exceptionally sad, were made better not just for Dad, but the whole family and myself in particular thanks to the unstinting support and care we received from all the staff, carers, activity team and housekeeping staff. They guided me through Dad's illness and subsequent passing from dementia.

Because of this time in my life, I developed a real interest in the disease and more importantly, an appreciation for those suffering from it. I realised that in spite of the problems and upset dementia brings, there are still plenty of moments of love and joy to be had. This in turn led me to start volunteering with the Activities Team.

I help the team and residents with everything from attending concerts, shopping trips, sports

activities, reminiscing activities, to simple one to ones sitting, chatting and holding a resident's hand.

The Activities Teams are fabulous and an integral part of the care which we provide for our residents. Your support, through donations big or small, is so important. I feel privileged to see first hand, on a regular basis, how your donations help.

Through my volunteering and writing a book, sharing our family's account of how we coped with dementia, I was asked to be Erskine's first Family Ambassador. It is a role I'm very honoured to fulfil and will be there to help support other families on the dementia journey.

I can wholeheartedly say, supporting this wonderful charity is exceptionally rewarding, but it is one that relies heavily on donations for all the fabulous work it carries out.

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support.

Sarah Smith
Erskine Family Ambassador
& Acclaimed Author "*Because I Know Who He Is*"
In memory of William "Bill" Mann, CBE

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.



Community Fundraiser
Sharon Meiklejohn

I was delighted to join Erskine's Fundraising Team in 2022. The supporters and community groups at Erskine are second to none!

Every day I look forward to answering the phone because I never know what amazing challenge the person has set themselves, all in aid of our Veterans. I could start my day sending out sponsorship forms and end it cheering on 40 people walking over fiery coals!



Senior Care Assistant
Liam McIntyre

When it came to leaving school I didn't know what I wanted to do. I liked computers, but had discovered a real passion for helping people through volunteering at Erskine.

I love their focus on Veterans - giving back when they've done so much for us. During my five years here I've progressed to Senior Care Assistant. It's not an easy job but it's so worthwhile.



Physiotherapy Assistant
Samantha Bremner

I have now been with Erskine for just over six years and I really enjoy my job. Having day to day contact with the residents and getting to know all about them is a real highlight.

You build relationships and trust with each resident much faster than in outpatient settings. I also like swapping stories with them of our time in the Armed Forces.



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 Services

Our services for Veterans and their families address three fundamental needs – Care, Accommodation and Community.

Spotlight On - Transitional Supported Accommodation

Sometimes the transition from military to civvy street can be challenging. 24 apartments, known as David Boyle Court, give Veterans of working age accommodation and support to help begin the next chapter of their lives.

The treatment went well and, thanks to your support, we are now supporting them to find suitable employment and long term accommodation.

Support for when plans are disrupted

The apartments are available for Veterans whose life or transition plans have been disrupted. Personalised support programmes enable Veterans to reflect, re-orientate and retrain. They can then relocate to the region and employment of their choice and go on to give back to their community in the way we know they can.

More than a place to call home

Veterans can also access social, recreation and training facilities at the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC).

One Veteran came to stay at David Boyd Court when they needed to find suitable, affordable accommodation close to Glasgow to attend an intense treatment plan at a local hospital.



ON OUR ESTATE
IN BISHOPTON
WE HAVE



44
VETERAN FAMILY
COTTAGES



5
ASSISTED LIVING
APARTMENTS



24
TRANSITIONAL
SUPPORTED
APARTMENTS

HOW
OLD
ARE OUR RESIDENTS
17-103



4,015
1:1 PHYSIO
TREATMENTS



2,182
SPEECH &
LANGUAGE
THERAPY
SESSIONS



178
VETERANS AT
OUR ACTIVITY
CENTRE

* In 2022

All new
Veterans'

Wellbeing Cafe

Veterans can now socialise at The Veterans' Wellbeing Cafe. The project, delivered at Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC), is part of a consortium of 18 Scottish charities.

Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC) has always provided a variety of activities, including pottery, archery and a creative writing. Following the pandemic the need for social contact increased dramatically.

Feedback from Veterans highlighted this growing need. Enhancing the existing Activity Centre service, this new drop-in support service for the Veteran community focuses on non-clinical mental health support.

The Veterans' Wellbeing Cafe hosts an open event, inviting consortium partners, other relevant organisations and the people they support to attend. The aim is to provide a hub where Veterans can explore other avenues of support or activities available to them and for best practice and learning to be shared between partner organisations.

A Wellbeing Coordinator is on hand to help Veterans with a lack of confidence and anxiety around group situations. The Coordinator spends time with them, making introductions, identifying interests and hobbies, whilst also identifying further wellbeing support that may be required.

Take a tour of ERMAC at our Veterans Village.



SCAN ME

One-Stop-Shop

Saving
Veterans
Thousands

Many Veterans leave the Forces unaware of the full catalogue of support available to them. One-Stop-Shop is here to help.

Providing our Veterans access to tailored financial advice has made a significant difference to every recipient of this service. The majority of our members left the Services at a time when there was very little transitional support, and many of our Veterans are still unaware of the full catalogue of support available to them.

The One Stop Shop is a weekly session providing financial advocacy, guidance and support to Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC) members.

One-Stop-Shop provides advice on a wide range of topics, including welfare, debt management, benefits, pensions and energy advice.



About Erskine's Activities Centre

ERMAC is open 5 days a week to all Veterans.

Members can take part in a timetable of meaningful activities, with opportunities to learn new skills, socialise and with easy access to support services.

Classes include IT, art and woodwork alongside therapies, social activities and outings. Transport and hot lunches are provided daily. Thanks to your support, the entire ERMAC service is free of charge to any Veteran, carer or spouse wishing to attend.

People here know what it's like to serve and then be left with nothing and the staff are amazing. They listen, they always make time for you no matter what and they genuinely care.

Here's what one Veteran said

How your support helps

£2 Could provide a hot meal for a Veteran

£9 Covers weekly volunteer expenses for those giving up their time to support the Centre members

£50 Funds transport for a day to enable vulnerable Veterans to attend the Centre

£60 Provides an IT class for up to 6 veterans

£125 Provides five Veterans access to wellbeing and holistic therapy classes

MAGICAL MEMORIES

Erskine
Glasgow Home

Many of you have shown incredible support for the Erskine Glasgow Home in the past. After many years of caring for Veterans and their families, it was with a heavy heart that we had to make the decision to close the Erskine Glasgow Home in 2022.

The factors that influenced the closure decision include a localised drop in the remaining number of elderly (WW2 and National Service) Veterans who required our care, sector-wide staffing challenges and increasing costs which Erskine, as a charity, can no longer bear.

With all of this in mind, we reluctantly made the decision to close the Erskine Glasgow Home and welcomed the majority of staff and residents to their new homes in our Bishopton

Veterans Village. Change is never easy, but with your support, our services will stay adaptable and sustainable for as long as they are required.

One thing that has always remained constant is the generous support and devotion from supporters like you.



Top: Staff dressed up for 2016 Centenary garden party.

Left: Everyone enjoying one of the famous annual garden parties.

A trip down memory lane

Here are some of Erskine Glasgow Home's highlights through the years.

Our Erskine family

We were delighted that many residents and staff chose to move to the Erskine Home or Erskine Park Home at the Veterans' Village in Bishopton.

Residents and their families are enjoying the many facilities on offer, including 'The Bunker' activities space, Harry's cafe and the beautiful grounds.



Top: The Royal opening in 2008.

Middle: The build of 'The Bridge' Activity area in 2015

Right: Resident enjoying seaside day in 'The Bridge'



Left: Panto in 'The Bridge'

Middle: Residents enjoying sunshine during lockdown

Right: Alex, Alistair and Chic take on cycling challenge and raised over £3,000

We'd love to hear your memories

Many supporters have fond memories of Erskine Glasgow Home, visiting Erskine or their past relatives talking about Veterans in their blue Erskine uniforms.

There's nothing we like more than hearing from our wonderful supporters. Feel free to get in touch with your memories.

E fundraising@erskine.org.uk

T 0141 814 4555

SPOTLIGHT ON MADE BY ERSKINE

Since 1916, Erskine has supported Veterans to learn new skills. Over a century later, Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC) continues the tradition, with its aim 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.

In the picture: George enjoying a
woodwork class at ERMAC



Erskine's first workshop

The first Erskine workshop was set up in 1917, a year after Sir William Macewen founded The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers. The charity we know today as Erskine Veterans charity.

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.

Veterans' continue to learn new skills

The huge number of amputees caused a desperate shortage of artificial limbs and the skills needed to make them. Workshops were created where Veterans worked on the construction and adjustment of artificial limbs.

As well as woodwork and basket weaving, Veterans learned the trade of boot and shoe repairing.

Over a century later, workshops continue to be a focal point of the Erskine Veterans community. ERMAC provides a range of classes, including art, woodwork and pottery, where Veterans can learn new skills.

Veterans' creative talents

Since it opened in 2018, ERMAC has supported over 350 Veterans, spouses and carers. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Veteran, George, seized the opportunity to learn new skills and tap into his creative side.

Take a look at 'The Mosaic Soldier' range inspired by George's design.

Treat yourself
or a loved one
and support
Veterans.

The Mosaic Soldier, designed at ERMAC by Erskine Veteran, George Collins



Coaster Set £5



T-Shirt £20



Greeting Card £4



China Mug £12



Tea Towel £8



Jute Shopper £8

erskinestore.org.uk

The Power of Physiotherapy

Erskine Homes are about much more than nursing care. We want life here to be as enjoyable as possible for all our residents.

Thanks to your support, our dedicated staff provide a range of activities and services, which really can improve Veterans' quality of life.

Our Physiotherapy team help residents improve their physical and mental wellbeing, improving their mobility and balance but more importantly - have fun.

Whether it's through group classes, one-to-one sessions, Physiotherapy Challenges both individually and in a team our aim is to help residents achieve their own goals.

Billy's journey

Billy Haynes, Army Veteran, suffered from slipped discs in later life which left him confined to a wheelchair. He is now a regular at the physio gym. In November he was proud to lay a wreath on behalf of Erskine Veterans.

Billy said: *"The physio staff have got me up and moving again, something that I previously struggled to even dream of. To be able to lay a wreath on Armistice Day was truly fitting and I can't put into words how thankful I am to the Erskine staff for providing me with the care and support I needed to make that a reality."*

There's never a dull moment in Physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy gym is a popular place and there's always a buzz of excitement. Whether it's Chris singing his favourite songs, of which there are many, or Alex and Billy cycling over 100kms on the static bikes.

Back in October 2022, the team introduced a "Halloween Horror Challenge" to help motivate residents to be more active. Residents picked their own "Horror Challenge" to be completed in the month of October and it was so successful residents are now challenging our physio team to come up with bigger and better challenges for them to complete!

Did you know?

In 2022 our Physio team delivered 4,015 one to one sessions across our homes.

Erskine staff and Veterans are putting their best foot forward

We hope you'll join us in wishing the team luck for their next challenge at the Kiltwalk in Glasgow on 30 April 2023.

A team of staff and residents will take on the Big Stroll, a 14 mile walk, to help raise vital funds for Erskine. They'll be part of our Purple Army joining lots of you, our supporters, who have already signed up to take part.

There are lots of opportunities for you to be part of Team Erskine and take on your own challenge.

Visit [erskine.org.uk/events](https://www.erskine.org.uk/events) to see how you can have fun and raise vital funds for Veterans.



Left: Residents working hard in physio gym.
Right: Billy laying wreath.



Join our Veterans and take on a challenge

Be part of our 90+ Kiltwalk Team!

Sign up now for one of the upcoming Kiltwalks. You'll receive a FREE Erskine t-shirt to show your support along the way.

Aberdeen - 4th June 2023

Dundee - 20th August 2023

Edinburgh - 17th September 2023

Contact our Community Fundraising Team
E community@erskine.org.uk
T 0141 814 4555

THANK YOU



Prison Staff donate Christmas Funds

Low Moss Prison staff and officers donated £204 raised from their Christmas raffle. We're very grateful and looking forward to supporting them during the summer, during their cycling challenge!



Salute to the BFBS from our Veterans

ERMAC is delighted to have been awarded a grant of £1000 from the British Forces Broadcasting Service as part of this year's BFBS Big Salute campaign. This fantastic donation will help fund materials and equipment for Veterans' pottery and art classes.



John's overmoon to have raised £15k

We're in awe of 80 year old Veteran John Baillie who has successfully rowed the distance of the Atlantic! Using his trusty rowing machine, John has not only smashed rowing over two million metres he has also surpassed his fundraising target of £15,000. He said: "Well all you GREAT supporters I have come to the end of my fundraising for Erskine Veterans. Once again I thank you for an amazing journey, so much kindness shown makes the effort so worthwhile."

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.

Appeal Update: IRAQ 20 YEARS ON

20 years ago, on the 20th March 2003, the invasion of Iraq was launched. In February this year we shared Esther's story with you.

In 2005 she was sent to Iraq with the Royal Logistic Corps as a Supply Co-ordinator, her role was to ensure soldiers had all the necessary supplies. Everything from uniform, vehicles and food to items that tend not to spring to mind.

Whilst over there, she recalls the first time she was asked to order body bags. "Shock was my over riding feeling. Obviously I knew that soldiers would be lost on active service but I really was not prepared to place that order."

The move back to civilian life was difficult for Esther and she ended up sleeping on a friend's couch until she could find somewhere to live. She was then put in touch with Erskine.

"Erskine gave me a place of stability, a place I could focus on my life and get back on track again. They offered me a place in their Transitional Supported Accommodation. I can't thank the charity enough for giving me a home when I needed it most. Not only a home but help and support too."

Your support of the appeal and Esther's story has been outstanding. To date over £50,000 has been raised to help more Veterans like Esther.



SCAN ME

To read Esther's full story or make a donation scan here.



FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

Erskine's online community is showing its support for Veterans by raising funds through Facebook!

In the last year 131 people celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or honouring a loved one set up online fundraising page through our Facebook page. An astounding £14,439 has been donated towards our care of Veterans.

If you have a celebration coming up we'd be honoured if you would consider creating a page. You can do it in three easy steps:

1. Go to [Facebook.com/ErskineVeteransCharity](https://www.facebook.com/ErskineVeteransCharity)
2. Like our page
3. Create Fundraiser

You can personalise your page and share it with friends for them to show their support and make a donation to Erskine.

Erskine Veterans Radio

Tune in to Quality Radio, 107.5fm, to hear your favourite music and stay up-to-date with Erskine news.

Erskine shows:
Tuesdays 12pm
Saturdays 2pm

Make your requests at [erskine.org.uk/radio](https://www.erskine.org.uk/radio)



Would Erskine be here without Volunteers?

We don't
think so!

After a sterling career of 20 years in uniform, Joyce was winding down and heading for the quieter life of retirement. However best laid plans are made to be hanged!

On a chance visit to the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC), Joyce met fellow Veteran and Centre Coordinator, Evonne, who was quick to recognise a kindred spirit in Joyce.

Keen to have her involved with the centre, Evonne invited Joyce to join. After a few weeks, she was asked if she would be able to help some shy Veterans finding it a little hard to settle at the centre.

Thanks to her warm personality, many Veterans opened up at Joyce's conversation and reminiscence group.

Joyce said: *"No is a word I find very difficult to say when volunteering is involved! It is such fun and everyone is special in their own way. The Veterans, regardless of service or age, are just brilliant to 'work' beside."*

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



Leave a Legacy

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

This year 88 supporters have told us they are pledging, considering or enquiring about leaving a gift in their Will.

We'd be delighted, if and when the time is right, if you could consider a Gift in your Will.

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.

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.

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?

Our Legacy Fundraiser **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

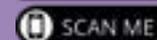
Free Will writing

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



SAVE THE DATE

Erskine at Ideal Home Show Scotland
SEC Glasgow. Friday 26th May - Monday 29th May 2023

Erskine Motorbike Meet
Erskine Veterans Village. Sunday 28th May 2023

Art for Erskine Exhibition & Sale
Braehead Shopping Centre. Date TBC

Sounds of Stirling Castle: A Military Concert
Stirling Castle. 25th August 2023

Veterans Pairs Bowls Competition
National Bowling Centre, Ayr. Saturday 9th September 2023

Erskine Military Ball
Doubletree by Hilton, Glasgow City Centre. Friday 6th October 2023

Erskine Golf Day & Dinner
Royal Troon Golf Club. Thursday 12th October 2023

Erskine Burns Supper & Ceilidh
Cameron House. Friday 2nd Feb 2024



Please cut/tear here

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, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU | Telephone 0141 814 4616 | erskine.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC006609

Erskine Veterans Charity is the trading name of Erskine Hospital (Company No. SC174103) Registered Charity No. SC006609 (Scotland)

Registered Office: 7 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1BA

PLAY TODAY



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

£25,000

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

Visit: www.erskine.org.uk/lottery



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
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Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

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Branch Sort Code

<input type="text"/>					
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Bank/Building Society Account Number

<input type="text"/>									
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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.

Service User Number

7	0	6	3	7	7
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Reference

<input type="text"/>											
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Signature(s)

Date

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

Please cut/tear here