

# Erskine News

A Scotland in which all Veterans and their families are valued and respected, and where high quality care and support enable them to maximise their potential quality of life.



What a wonderful sight – on March 1 we were able to #openwithcare. Veteran and Erskine Home resident Graham Williams getting a long awaited hug with his daughter, Nikki Innes. Find out more on page 8.

Issue 32 Spring 2021

  
**ERSKINE**  
Caring for Veterans since 1916

# TIME TO CARE

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

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

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



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

**0141 814 4538**

or visit us at:  
**[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)**

  
**ERSKINE**  
Proud to care

Unless the spouse has remarried\*

ERSKINE



## Welcome

Erskine has been proudly caring for Veterans for over 105 years. For the past 25 years I have been blessed to live and work at Erskine. Like you, I enjoy playing my part in supporting the charity and seeing it grow to help even more Veterans.

### The most challenging year yet

In the quarter-century I have been at Erskine, I can truly say this last year has been the most challenging for us all. 2020 presented us with seemingly insurmountable hurdles, but together we overcame them. In the days where there seemed to be no light at the end of the tunnel, we marched on. Always guided by our determination to give the best care to Veterans and their families.

Of all the challenges that Erskine has overcome, there is one thing that never changes or falters. The love and unwavering devotion of you, our loyal supporters.

### You make it all possible

For over 105 years, supporters like you have made the Erskine story possible. Even during the nation's darkest times, you stand by Veterans and their families. This year has been no different.



Bill McDowall, Head of IT

It has been inspiring to receive your kind donations and heartfelt letters. Knowing you are alongside them helps our dedicated staff overcome the difficult times. Your support means Veterans can look towards a brighter future.

Thank you for your generous and continuous support. We hope you enjoy reading about how you make a difference to the lives of Veterans and their families.



**Bill McDowall,**  
Head of IT and proud Erskine cottage resident for 25 years.

Funded by



Follow us:

 @erskineveteranscharity

 @erskineveteranscharity

 Play Erskine Veterans Radio by visiting [erskine.org.uk/radio](http://erskine.org.uk/radio)

Get in touch:

 [fundraising@erskine.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@erskine.org.uk)

 0141 814 4657

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

# Thanks to you Erskine Veterans are on the move again

## Erskine Veterans are on the move again thanks to a new minibus funded by generous supporters.

Due to the pandemic, a lot of our usual day trips and excursions have not been possible. With hope dawning on the horizon we are planning trips for the future, when it's safe for Veterans to get out again. So it was important to replace our older minibus with new reliable transport.

## Smashing the target

The target was set at £55,000 for a specially adapted minibus that meets our Veterans' needs. Due to social distancing other adaptations are also required.

Thanks to everyone for your kind donations. You helped smash the target and raise over £90,000. Any additional funds will go where they are needed most and will help with days out for Veterans when it's safe to do so.

Thank you on behalf of all our Veterans, we are incredibly grateful for everyone's generosity.

## Marvellous minibus names

Many of you not only donated but also rose to the challenge of naming the new minibus. The response was wonderful and

everyone enjoyed reading all the name suggestions.

To select the winning name, Veterans voted for their favourite – not an easy task with so many wonderful suggestions.

There could however be only one winner to take their place in Erskine history.

### Winner:

#### Shuggy The Shuttle

Suggested by Mr Kevin McCusker

### Runners up:

#### Stravaig

Suggested by Mrs Paula Francis

and

#### Wheel Meet Again

Suggested by Mr Kenneth Solway

Thanks to everyone who donated and those who suggested minibus names.

We are looking forward to keeping everyone up to date on the adventures of Shuggy The Shuttle and sharing the memories made possible thanks to you, our wonderful supporters!



## Veterans' wishes for future days out

Shuggy The Shuttle will give Veterans the chance to enjoy days out in the future.

Findlay McQuarrie (92) joined the Royal Army Service Corps aged 18 as a Private and worked up to the rank of Sergeant. He told us his day out wish. *"When we can venture out again my ideal outing would be to the beautiful Culzean Castle. The castle overlooks the Firth of Clyde, on the Ayrshire coast. It would be a very scenic drive down to it and there is so much to see and enjoy."*



## MARCH FOR ERSKINE

March for Erskine for 2021 Armed Forces Day and raise funds for Erskine Veterans' outings.

Find out more at: [erskine.org.uk/marchforerskine](https://erskine.org.uk/marchforerskine)



# Three years of lifeline Veterans' activity centre

## Your support helps the Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre improve Veterans' lives.

Three years ago, in 2018, a new chapter began in Erskine's history. The Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre (ERMAC) opened offering Veterans a place to socialise, take part in activities, learn new skills and access support services.

With your help, the centre aims to enhance the quality of life and well-being of Veterans in the community. Something that was even more important during the challenges we all faced in 2020.

## A trip down memory lane

In January members got together on a video call to mark the anniversary. Former SAS Veteran Colin Maclachlan joined Veterans to reflect on memories.

He said: *"Since officially opening ERMAC, I've been amazed by the value it has provided to Veterans and all those that have participated in the wide range of services it has going on. Never has that been more critical than the past year, when most practical things have turned virtual."*

*"The Zoom chats have been fascinating and entertaining. They have provided much needed social time for everyone involved."*

ERMAC manager Debs Dickson said: *"While the past year has been incredibly*

*tough, I truly feel it has only strengthened our community bond as we have all pulled together to maintain what we have created since 2018."*

*"Zoom, Workplace (a social media platform), one-to-one calls and the newsletter, have provided us with new sources of communication and for a civilian like me, continues to remind me of servicemen and women's ability to adapt and adjust whilst making the best out of any situation thrown their way."*

## A lifeline with much needed laughter

With half of the Zoom participants living alone and 80 per cent of them aged 65 and over, the sessions have been described as both a "godsend" and "lifeline" by Veterans - proving vital for friendship, support and much needed laughter.

ERMAC members are looking forward to returning to the centre at the end of April (if restrictions allow). Grants from The Scottish Government's Communities Recovery Fund and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust are helping prepare the Centre for opening again, by providing outdoor shelter for socially distanced classes and by funding new activities.

Follow Erskine on social media to hear more about the re-opening and how your support helps ERMAC members.



ERMAC's services have been **online since March 2020.**

**260 activity sessions** took place over 42 weeks.

Online sessions covered everything from stand-up comedy to mindfulness, Italian, pottery and Tai Chi.

You can find out more and watch a video about Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre at [erskine.org.uk/reid-macewen-activity-centre](https://www.erskine.org.uk/reid-macewen-activity-centre)

# Loved Ones Reunite



**On 1 March 2021 Erskine was delighted to #openwithcare in line with the Scottish Government's care home visiting guidelines.**

These photos of residents and family being reunited capture magic moments of pure joy and relief. Moments we want to share with you, our wonderful supporters.

## **A cuddle, a tear and a laugh shared**

90-year-old Nessie Jackson moved into Erskine Park Home in October 2020. Although her daughter Julie visited her mum in the home's garden, she had never seen inside her room.

Julie said: "I cannot express what it meant for me to visit mum in her room for the first

*time. To be able to cuddle, shed a tear and laugh together was wonderful. The staff assisted mum to personalise her room with family photos and personal items which makes the room so homely.*

*"Mum and I are very close and have always had a special relationship. Being separated from her has been really difficult, however I have seen such a difference in mum since she moved to Erskine Park. I can see she is thriving and she has her sparkle back. She loves singing and the staff have learnt some of mum's favourite songs so they can sing them with her. Mum enjoys the company and she loves to join in all the activities as well as enjoying the endless cups of tea and cake. I can't thank all the nursing and care staff enough."*

Lesley Wylie, Erskine Park Care Home Manager said: "It was wonderful to see Julie and Nessie enjoying a visit in her room, following Julie having a lateral flow negative test. We talk about meaningful moments and they don't come much more meaningful than this. The joy was written all over both Julie and Nessie's faces."

## **Hope for the future**

This year like many of us, Veterans have missed out on hugs from grandchildren, blethers with old friends or a simple cup of tea with family.

Throughout it all thanks to your kindness, the Erskine family have come together to show their support. You are an important part of the Erskine family and on behalf of our Veterans we can't thank you enough. Together we all look forward to a brighter future.



# 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](http://www.erskine.org.uk/lottery)  
or phone 0141 814 4555



# Memories That Last a Lifetime

**More than a year on since the start of the pandemic, we reflect on life at Erskine in 2020 and look back at times gone by.**

2020 will stand out in our memories for various reasons. From endless Zoom calls to home-schooling and PE with Joe. Or just simply as 'the year we stayed at home'. At Erskine, with your help, Veterans have still been able to enjoy some magical moments.

A year when we were all faced with unthinkable challenges. We all missed blethers in person with our family and friends. We waited (or are still waiting) for

those heartfelt hugs that nothing can beat. Your kind support helps make the difficult times slightly easier.

It's been comforting to know you stand by our Veterans, their families and our incredible army of staff. Thank you.

### Making memories possible

Whilst the pandemic put a pause on many things, with your help joyful and memorable moments have still been possible.

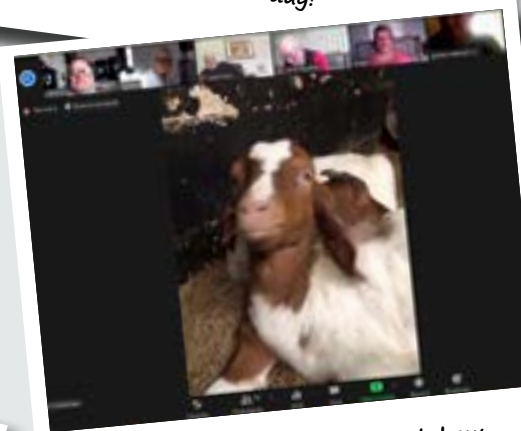
Here's a few snippets from Autumn 2020 to now:



*Residents had a flipping good Pancake Tuesday!*



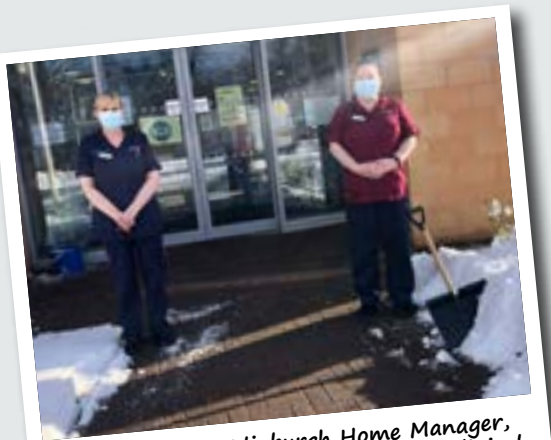
*Veterans celebrated Burns Night with some poetry*



*A goat called Ozy from Cronkshaw Fold Farm in Lancashire joined an ERMAC Zoom call*



*Some of our residents found it difficult using mobile phones to speak to loved ones - a handset which plugs into a mobile now makes it more like an older phone*



*Snowy days: Edinburgh Home Manager, Alison; House Manager, Linda; and Clinical Lead Amanda stayed overnight to ensure our residents were well cared for*



*Heaters made outdoor visits more comfortable*

### We want to hear from you

We know many of you have fond memories of Erskine. We receive heart-warming letters from supporters who have personal stories of family members who were cared for at Erskine.

**We'd love to hear your stories.**

**Write to: Fundraising Dept, Erskine, Bishopton, PA7 5PU**

**Email: [fundraising@erskine.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@erskine.org.uk)**

**Phone: 0141 814 4555**

# Transitional Apartments for Younger Veterans

**With your help, Service leavers will get the support they need when transitioning to civilian life.**

As you know, over the years Erskine has adapted its care and support to meet the ever changing needs of Veterans and their families. The transition from the military to civilian life is a critical time for Veterans. That's why we have completed the build of 24 apartments to offer much needed support to younger Veterans.

These apartments will be for ex-Service men and women of working age, to help make the transition from military to civvy street easier.

## Access to support and facilities

Veterans will have access to a support base. This will allow them to reflect, reorientate and retrain before moving on to new housing and employment opportunities.

The accommodation offers a maximum two-year tenancy and aims to provide a transition into long term housing and employment.

The project will help Veterans who have encountered difficulties shortly after leaving the military, or who may be going through another transitional period of their post-service life. Erskine Reid Macewen Activity Centre will offer social, recreation and training facilities. A valuable resource for Veterans who need help to begin the next chapter of their lives.

## Apartment at a glance

- Fully furnished
- Includes a living, dining, kitchen area, bedroom and en-suite wet room
- A communal space for training, other group activities and one to one counselling
- A communal Cinema Room with a large screen TV



## Eligibility

This supported accommodation aims to provide a transition into long term housing and employment for:

- Service-leavers transferring from the military to civvy street
- Veterans who have encountered difficulties after leaving the military
- Veterans who may be going through another transitional period of their post-service life
- Serving or served as a member of one of HM Armed Forces as a Regular or Reservist

## To find out more contact

Tracy Higgins on 0141 814 4578 or [accommodation@erskine.org.uk](mailto:accommodation@erskine.org.uk)

# Thanks a Million to RSEA

**RSEA tops £1 million with their tireless fundraising efforts.**

Since 2007 the Rangers Supporters Erskine Appeal (RSEA) has raised an astounding £1,000,000 for Erskine Veterans. Their donations have helped with a variety of projects. This is a feat which has taken patience, dedication, and endless amounts of energy.

RSEA secretary Tom Clark said:

*"To reach over £1m for the Erskine Veterans has been a labour of love and I am delighted we have now passed this milestone. To every single person who has donated a pound or given an hour of their time, thank you."*

## Life-changing projects

Like your kind donations, the funds raised have helped make such a difference to Veterans' lives at Erskine. In the past contributions have helped with everything from the refurbishment of the Erskine

physiotherapy suite to funding weekly aromatherapy sessions.

The Sporting Memories Room was also made possible thanks to RSEA's fundraising efforts. The room features lots of sporting memorabilia with one wall displaying a large mural containing photographs of sporting greats from a variety of sports from athletics to swimming; boxing to football.

## Congratulations and thank you

The support and dedication from the RSEA has been nothing short of outstanding. Erskine Chief Executive, Ian Cumming said *"Everyone at Erskine is enormously grateful to the Rangers Supporters Erskine Appeal for their innovation, energy and resolve in exceeding this target. Their generosity over the years, has made a world of difference to the lives of Scotland's wartime heroes."*



Follow Erskine on social media to see the difference this new accommodation will make to the lives of Veterans.

@erskineveteranscharity  
 @erskineveteranscharity  
 Play Erskine Veterans Radio by visiting [erskine.org.uk/radio](http://erskine.org.uk/radio)

@erskinecharity  
 Erskine Veterans Charity

# Erskine Veterans Radio will be music to your ears

**Erskine's new radio station will offer a mix of music, interviews with different people and share how your support makes a difference.**

For many of us, listening to the radio is part of our everyday routine. It offers a level of companionship with uplifting music, and helps us keep up to date with the latest news. Erskine is excited to announce the launch of our first Erskine Veterans Radio.

The one hour radio show will be hosted by industry professional, Ian Brannan. The new shows will be available live and on demand every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 3pm – repeated at 7pm on those same days.



You can listen to on-demand recordings of shows at any time via three different methods:

- Visit [erskine.org.uk/radio](http://erskine.org.uk/radio)
- Download our bespoke 'Erskine Veterans Radio' app for Android and Apple iOS
- Ask an Amazon Alexa device "play Erskine Veterans Radio"

To hear your favourite tune or send a special message to our Veterans or your loved ones:

Email: [radio@erskine.org.uk](mailto:radio@erskine.org.uk)

Or fill out a request form at: [erskine.org.uk/radio](http://erskine.org.uk/radio)

An answering machine will be made available at a later date for telephone requests – we will keep you updated. We hope you enjoy listening in and look forward to keeping you even more updated with how your support makes a difference to the lives of Veterans and their families.



**When: Friday 22nd October 2021**

**Where: Lochter Activity Centre, Inverurie**

**For Info: [fundraising@erskine.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@erskine.org.uk)**

# An icy challenge that will warm your heart!

**Charlie and Andrew brave the elements in memory of Alex and raise over £3,000.**

In the dark and cold days of January, while most of us stayed warm at home, Charlie (9) and Andrew (10) braved the ice, wind, and rain. Their challenge - to complete a 5K run in memory of Alex McNicoll, Charlie's Childminder's father.

Alex was a constant friendly face in Charlie's life since 2015. His loss prompted Charlie to do something in memory of Alex. A keen runner, Charlie decided to run 5km to raise funds for Erskine, a charity close to Alex and his family's heart.

**Two heads are better than one.**

Despite the cold, wind, rain and snow Charlie and Andrew kept up their training programme. Finally, on a cold and icy Sunday morning in late January, the boys completed their stellar 5km run. Spurred on by the memory of Alex, they crossed the finish line in a blisteringly fast 35 minutes.

**A huge congratulations**

Their fundraising efforts raised an amazing £3,200 for Erskine. A total that smashed their original target of £1,150. The money Charlie and Andrew helped raise will make a huge difference to the lives of our Veterans.

**On behalf of everyone at Erskine - thank you.**



## Hall of Erskine's extraordinary fundraisers!

There are so many wonderful people who take on challenges to raise funds of Erskine.

Take a look at the hall of fame to see more of Erskine's extraordinary fundraisers:

[www.erskine.org.uk/hall-of-fame](http://www.erskine.org.uk/hall-of-fame)

### Inspired to join Team Erskine?

There are lots of ways you can raise money to help Veterans and their families at Erskine. We're here to help you every step of the way and would love to hear from you.

To find out more visit: [www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)

Email: [fundraising@erskine.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@erskine.org.uk)

Phone: 0141 814 4555



# Your Lasting Legacy

Erskine is all about families. Families being together. Even though for most of the last year this has been an incredibly difficult time and being together hasn't always been possible, Erskine has done everything it can to ensure families are staying in close contact and relationships remain as strong as ever. We've accommodated all sorts of different types of gatherings between families, even having a 100th birthday party through the windows!

That's why, after you've taken care of your family in your Will, we would like to ask if

you would consider leaving a gift to your Erskine family too.

Erskine relies on Gifts in Wills to continue providing high-quality care for Veterans, as we have done for over 105 years. We want to continue to be there for Veterans well into the future; but to do that we need your help. By writing a Will and leaving a small amount to Erskine, you would be securing the future of Scotland's Veterans charity and enabling us to continue to support Veterans of all ages when they need it most.

## A gift in your Will of:

**£500**

Could help provide adapted aids to enhance independence for our Veterans

**£1,000**

Could help provide physiotherapy to assist with mobility problems

**£10,000**

Could help us train Palliative Care Nurses for seriously ill veterans near end of life



## A share of your Estate could provide:

- Rehabilitation to help vulnerable Veterans by providing counselling, training, accommodation and employment
- Specialist equipment, nursing care and recreational activities to enhance our Veterans quality of life
- Keep Erskine alive to care for many more Veterans who will need our help in the future

## Free Wills Network

Thanks to Erskine's membership of The National Free Wills Network we are able to offer you a free Will writing service from a local solicitor. This is an offer which operates on a first come, first serve basis without any obligation to include a gift to Erskine in your Will. If you think this is something you could benefit from, please get in touch.

To find out more about the Free Will writing service or leaving a gift to Erskine contact:

Email: [Sarah.morgan@erskine.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.morgan@erskine.org.uk)

Call: 0141 814 4520

Write to: Sarah Morgan, Legacy Officer,  
Erskine, Bishopton, PA7 5PU



# THE BIG PICNIC

ARMED FORCES DAY 26TH JUNE 2021



WE'LL MEET AGAIN

Host your picnic throughout June

Contact Erskine for your **FREE** Picnic Pack

T 0141 814 4555

E [events@erskine.org.uk](mailto:events@erskine.org.uk)

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



## Yes, I want to support Veterans at Erskine today

### 1 Your details please:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Postcode:

Phone:

### 2 Please accept my gift of £

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

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

*giftaid it*

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

I am a taxpayer

Today's date

I am not / no longer a taxpayer

### 4 Donation Payment:

I enclose my cheque made payable to Erskine

or

please debit my Visa/ Mastercard/ Maestro/ CAF Charity Card (delete as applicable)

Card Number

Start Date  Expiry Date

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

Signature

Today's Date

I do not require acknowledgement of my gift.

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

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

**Name:**

**Address:**

I would like to make a regular gift of:

£5  
  £10  
  Other £

I would like this gift to be made:

Monthly  
  Quarterly  
  Annually

Please start my payments on:

1st  
  15th  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (insert month / year)



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

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch sort code

Bank/Building Society Account Number

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



Service User Number

7	0	6	3	7	7
---	---	---	---	---	---

Reference

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

**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.

Signature(s)

Date

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