

ERSKINE *News*

Issue 37, Autumn 2023



*EXPLORING NEW WAYS OF
EXPRESSING VETERANS' CREATIVITY*

Read about our residents' Sculpture Trail on page 8

Welcome

This picture sums up my seven years with Erskine. Happiness, care and connection.

Erin Ewing with RAF Veteran, John "Hasie" Young.



Unlike many of my colleagues and many of you, I can't say a personal connection was why I started working at Erskine. The only link to the Armed Forces I have is my brother's friend is currently serving with the Royal Marines. Something that rarely crossed my mind if I'm honest.

I started working at Erskine as a Community Fundraiser in 2016. It was right in the middle of our Centenary Anniversary celebrations. Looking back I couldn't think of a better time to start! Part of my role was to visit community groups and schools to tell them more about the services Erskine provides. To do that I was taking in as much as I could about our 100 year history from colleagues and residents.

Very quickly I realised just how special Erskine is.

Part of my induction was taking a tour around the Homes and learning more about the care our dedicated staff provide. Each Home has the capacity to care for those affected by dementia. However, Erskine Park is specifically designed to support those living with dementia. At the time my Gran was also being cared for due to the disease.

After my visit to Erskine Park, I cried.

Although my Gran was receiving brilliant care where she was, all I could think was: "If my Grandpa had done service or she was in the WRENS she could be here." The thought and detail that goes into Erskine's care for those living with dementia is second to none.

I've since changed roles within the Fundraising and Communications Department. Now I get to create materials like this! As Supporter Development Officer I keep you, our wonderful supporters, up to date on how your donations help. You allow Erskine to continue adapting our services to meet the needs of Veterans and their families.

In recent years I think about my brother's friend more than ever. It's inspiring to see the services and opportunities now available to the younger Veteran Community here at Erskine. Knowing that you have made these things possible is something you should be proud of.

I'm privileged to see the impact of your generosity on a daily basis. There aren't enough thank yous to express how grateful we are for your continued support.

Erin Ewing
Supporter Development 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.



Moving in Team
Mabel McLaren

Being the Moving in Team Manager for Erskine is a big responsibility that I take to heart. I have worked for Erskine for over 30 years and feel very privileged to be the first point of contact for future residents and families.

One of the best parts of Erskine is that we all believe in Erskine's vision, and work as a team promoting an excellent standard of service and care.



Edinburgh Home Manager
Alison Payne

I've worked in the Erskine Edinburgh Home for 12 years now and can't imagine working anywhere else. Starting as an RN on the floor and worked my way quickly up to Home Manager, a role I had never considered doing.

You don't have to have care experience or be a Veteran to work in Erskine. We will provide you with training which is second to none. Every member of staff has taken a different path before going down the Erskine road.



Database Manager
Colin Macleod

I joined the Fundraising team in 2020 as Database Manager. Our dedicated team are always ready to take your call and make sure that your information is safe and secure.

The aim is also to keep necessary paperwork to a minimum, therefore maximising every penny we receive in donations.

Erskine has such a variety of roles, and it's an excellent team environment to work in.



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.

Visit The Veterans Village

Erskine Veterans Village is a serene and calming landscape. A place where Veterans and their loved ones feel at home.

Now, we're delighted to invite you to take a tour at any time!

During COVID-19 and lockdown we felt the impact of not being able to welcome the public onto the grounds. It was a very much needed step to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our Veterans. It highlighted just how many visitors do like spending time here.

From rambling groups and dog walkers, to external workers coming in to Harry's Café for their breakfast rolls. Family members also love having lunch at Harry's with residents. It was a hive of activity!

As so much of our time was spent outside during the pandemic, a suggestion was made to make a walking tour of the estate.

Slowly, as restrictions eased, we were able to welcome visitors back. The buzz and liveliness around the place has come back. Earlier this year we were thrilled to officially put the walking tour on the map. Literally!

You are welcome to come to the Veterans Village and walk the 1.5km route. Or you can also take a virtual tour of our stunning grounds from the comfort of your own home.

Whether you choose to pay us a visit in person or virtually, you'll be guided round by Erskine CEO, Ian Cumming.

Each point on the map signposts something of interest. Be sure to stop and read the plaques or watch the video online.

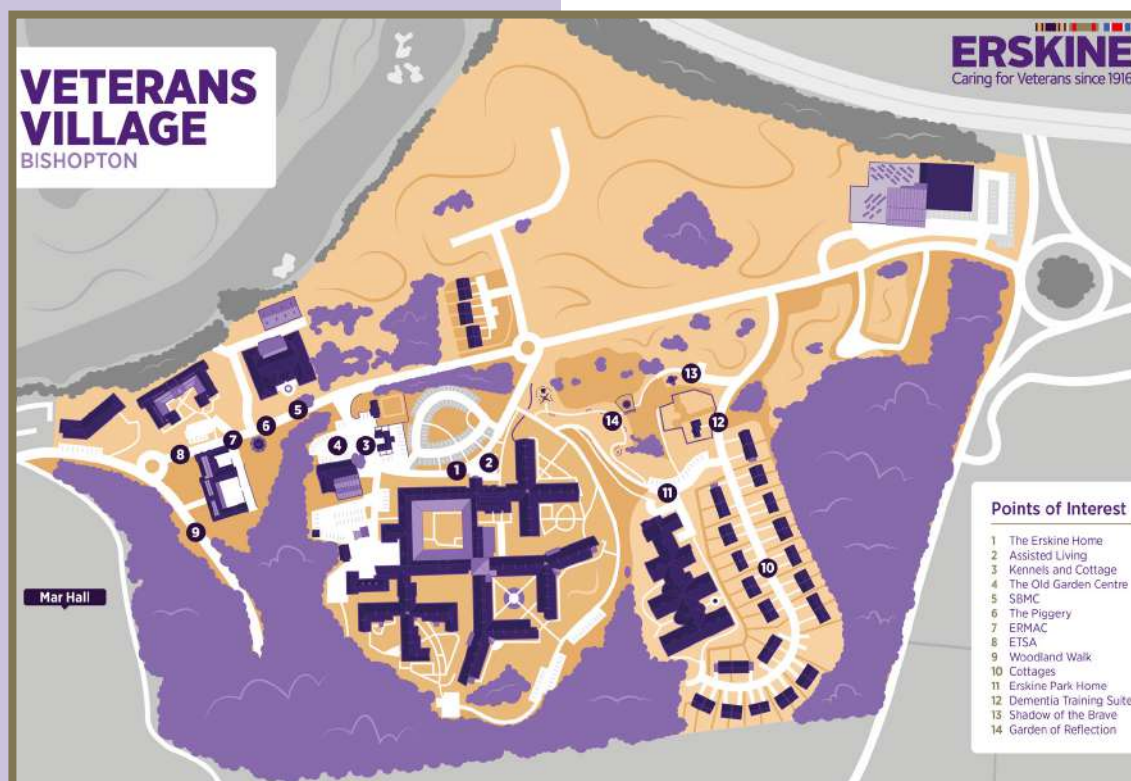
The trail will take around 30 minutes depending on your capabilities. It is suitable for walking, wheelchairs, and buggies. Dogs on leads are also welcome.

If you do take the walk, be sure to pop into Harry's Café within the main Home and enjoy a nice cuppa or a spot of lunch.

We really hope you'll enjoy immersing yourself in our beautiful surroundings. If you can please pop by and say hello.



Scan here to take the virtual tour of the Veterans Village!



ON OUR ESTATE
IN BISHOPTON
WE HAVE

44
VETERAN FAMILY
COTTAGES

24
TRANSITIONAL
SUPPORTED
APARTMENTS

5
ASSISTED LIVING
APARTMENTS

Looking after Veterans'

Wellbeing

Trusts and Grants play a large role in how we fund the many outstanding opportunities and services on offer to Veterans and their spouses. This year we have been able to start two new projects based at our Activities Centre (ERMAC):

Hearing Support

Now well under way, the Ex-Service Advice Repairs and Support 2 Hear (EARS 2 Hear) project has already supported 69 Veterans, spouses and carers.

The project provides advice, support and signposting services to those who have experienced hearing issues ranging from mild to severe. This includes hearing screening, hearing aid support and maintenance and advice on useful equipment to improve daily life.

EARS 2 Hear offers drop-in sessions on a rolling basis at ERMAC as well as the sites of partner organisations across the Central Belt.

This was made possible thanks to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and their tremendous continued support with a Force for Change grant of £10,000.

Women's Wellbeing

We are also pleased to share that the Veterans' Foundation recently made a grant of £10,500 to fund ERMAC's Women's Wellbeing Sessions for one year.

The twice-monthly sessions for female Veterans, spouses and carers focus on women's health and wellbeing, offering a holistic approach that includes massage, talking therapies, relaxation, mindfulness, and other activities suggested by participants to help improve their wellbeing and provide a social space to support each other.

These sessions enable participants to relax, try new things, gain skills, socialise and share stories, as well as learn about and discuss aspects of women's health and wellbeing within a safe and sympathetic environment. Thank you again to the Veterans' Foundation for this continued support - we are very grateful.



...NOT FORGETTING STAFF TOO

The Blue Light Foundation have also funded massage and wellbeing sessions for Erskine staff!

Jo Payne from the Blue Light Card Foundation said: "We are delighted to have granted funds to Erskine Veterans Charity, whose care staff work incredibly hard to support Veterans. This grant will provide an additional level of wellbeing support, allowing them to take a moment for themselves to rest and recharge."

The £5,000 will fund the continuation of regular sessions at all three Erskine Homes for a further six months.

Our therapists deliver massage sessions tailored to the individual needs of each colleague. This project will continue to have a positive impact upon the wellbeing and health of our care home staff who work extremely hard to ensure Erskine's Veterans can enjoy the best possible quality of life.



Pictured: The "Zen Den" space for staff to visit

Did you know

Trusts and Foundations contribute 11% of Erskine's fundraised income.

These funds are typically granted on the basis they are used for a specific project, programme or service that will benefit Veterans at Erskine. For example, we are currently actively fundraising from Trusts and Foundations for the provision of materials and equipment to run a wide variety of classes at our Veterans Activities Centre, including art supplies, pottery materials and IT equipment. However, there are funders who provide unrestricted funds, donations that we can use for any purpose. This gives us the flexibility to direct funds where it's needed most.

The support from funders over the years has been outstanding. The partnership that develops is much more than financial support.

If you're part of a Trust or Foundation and feel Erskine may benefit from applying for funds please do get in touch with our team:

E fundraising@erskine.org.uk

T 0141 814 4616



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

Bringing out residents' hidden talents with the arts

Together with Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, we have completed our artist-in-residence programme. The programme was part of Unforgotten Forces, a partnership of 15 organisations supporting older Veterans in Scotland. Let's take a look back how this project blossomed:

In 2017 James Winnett and Gill White were the first resident artists to work closely with our Veterans. They spent two days each week collaborating with Erskine residents on a wide range of creative activities. Everything from filmmaking and sound recording to storytelling, creative writing and poetry reading. There was even model making, sculpture, stone carving, painting and drawing.

For the first few months James and Gill worked out of our Erskine Park Home at Bishopton, a purpose built home designed to care for people living with dementia. Residents created art inspired by nature and over the summer months presented an outdoor exhibition.

Upon his visit to the exhibition Professor Brendan McCormack, Head of the Divisions of Nursing, Occupational Therapy & Arts Therapies at Queen Margaret University, tweeted: *"This is one of the most inspiring arts projects for people living with dementia that I have ever experienced."*



Top: Erskine CEO, Ian, admiring sculptures made by residents with Artists in Residence, James and Gill.

Left: Ramsay House resident taking on some woodwork.

Initially a three-year project it was interrupted by the pandemic. The project restarted with a new group of artists being welcomed into the Homes.

In 2022 we launched the Erskine Sculpture Trail in our woodland walk based on the grounds of the Veterans Village in Bishopton.

Displayed among the trees in the peaceful setting of the estate, the Sculpture Trail is a wonderful testament to the creativity and joy our residents experienced working alongside the artists to create a lasting display. The sculptures draw on nature, and the memories and stories of the Erskine residents, to create an interactive experience.

Artist in Residence Gill:

"It was a real pleasure to spend time with each resident learning about their lives and adapting each workshop to their interests with emphasis of creating a relaxed fun environment to learn new processes and embrace the explorative nature of creativity."

We had lots of fun together and I found my time spent with Erskine residents, relatives and staff a very happy and rewarding experience both personally and creatively."

Erskine Director of Care, Derek Barron:

"The Erskine Sculpture Trail reminds us of the many happy hours our residents, from all of our homes, experienced during their time spent with our very first Artists in Residence, Gill and James."

Erskine always had an extensive programme of social and recreational activities to support residents' wellbeing, however we did not have the expertise on art and artistic expression that Gill, and James provided. Working with Luminare, Gill and James has brought such a full and colourful range of artistic activities to Erskine which our residents love."

You're welcome to take in the beautiful artwork and surroundings at any time on our woodland walk.

The Erskine Home, Bishopton PA7 5PU



Left: Jimmy and James on their way to the art adventure shed
Middle: Babs Tai Chi inspired clay
Right: Harry doing a fantastic window painting

SPOTLIGHT ON

Scott Meenagh

ERSKINE AMBASSADOR

The list of titles Army Veteran Scott holds is getting longer by the day. Paratrooper, Scottish Rugby player, GB Rower, Nordic skier, Paralympian, World Championship silver medalist, runner, husband and father.

In 2021 he agreed to add one more: Erskine Ambassador.

"It is a tremendous honour to be an Ambassador for Erskine Veterans' Charity. They have been setting the standards for Veterans' care for over a century and seeing the incredible work they do gives me, and fellow Veterans, real confidence in the life-long availability to us and our families."

Scott has been a supporter of ours for the past eight years. He regularly attends our Annual Sporting Senior Games and supports a variety of fundraising events such as the Ball and Burns Supper.

A part of the Army's elite airborne infantry, 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, Scott was deployed in 2011 to Afghanistan.

Whilst on patrol in the Helmand Province he lost both of his legs after stepping on an improvised explosive device. Sadly one of his best friends, Martin Bell, was killed as he and his comrades carried Scott from the minefield.



Determined to honour those who saved his life and most importantly Martin, Scott returned to sports. Not only as a means to help his physical recovery but also to make the most of every opportunity and give it his focus.

In 2014 he competed at the Invictus Games and also captained the Army's Rowing Team. Fast forward to 2018 and a change in sports, Scott was selected to compete for Great Britain at the Winter Paralympics in South Korea.

The first Para British Nordic Skier to do so in 20 years!

Scott was selected again in 2022 to compete at the Beijing Winter Paralympics and once again rewrote the history books this year by winning silver in the 12.5km Biathlon at the World Para Nordic Skiing Championships.

The first Briton to ever win a medal!

On his return from the championships he went through surgery, again not one to sit around Scott signed up to the Glasgow Men's 10k in June to help aid his recovery. Pulling on an Erskine vest he hit the road and proudly crossed the line supporting his fellow Veterans by raising £1,388.

We're honoured to not only have Scott as an Ambassador but to know that through Erskine's ever evolving support of Veterans we will be here for him and his family when needed.

Could you join Scott and take on a challenge to raise funds or dance the night away at the Military Ball

THE ERSKINE MILITARY BALL

ERSKINE
Veterans Charity

6TH OCTOBER 2023
GLASGOW DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

Tickets: £70pp or £800 per table of 12
Military discount available
Email: Events@erskine.org.uk



CARERS Week in McKellar House

From the 5th - 11th June we joined many across the country in celebrating the people in positions of care.

Residents in McKellar House devised a secret plan to say a special thank you to care staff for all they do.

With help from the Activities Team, residents made cards with a lovely poem inside. They took pictures of everyone pulling funny faces and popped sweets and a tea bag into a little gift bag. These little tokens were given to each member the care team as a special thank you.



I care about care because...

What our Staff and Residents said

I am well cared for and my son is happy, I am happy and I get to meet lots of other people.

The people we support become like extended family members.

It is very rewarding when things go well and you can improve the quality of life for individuals you care for.

ERSKINE Lottery Player WINS £1,000

Will you
be next?



George Donald, from Motherwell, is a regular player of the Erskine Lottery and uses it as an opportunity to support his fellow Veterans when they need it most.

A former Royal Engineer, George served for almost six years with 59 Independent Commando Squadron, an integral unit within 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines. Upon leaving the Forces, he then enjoyed a career with Strathclyde Police.

He has been a keen supporter of Erskine since seeing first-hand the hard work and dedication of the home's staff when working as part of the security detail for a visit to the charity by HRH Prince Philip to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic which ran from 1939 to 1945.

George said: "I have never forgotten how impressed I was with both the staff and residents when on two occasions I visited Erskine through work. The lottery is a fantastic way to raise a bit of money for Erskine, and the chance to win a little bit back is always a bonus.

I've never won anything before! It seemed only right and fitting, that I donated £100 of my winnings back to Erskine. After all, we are all Veterans together."

The rest of George's winnings have been put towards weekends and trips away with his wife Anne.



Scan here to
play now or visit
erskine.org.uk/lottery

THANK YOU



Rain couldn't stop this BBQ!

Good on Nurture Landscaping for hosting their Armed Forces Day BBQ in aid of Erskine. Despite the weather, spirits weren't dampened and everyone enjoyed a great wee day, which raised an incredible £1,148 for our Veterans. Special thanks to JBB Knotweed Solutions and Brannan Investments for their support of the event.



Residents get their hands on silverware

Huge thanks to Celtic FC for inviting our residents along to their special sensory trophy event for visually impaired fans.

Guests were able to get up close to and touch trophies, they even got to meet some of the men's and women's team.



Amazon staff take to their bikes!

Members of the Amazon Military Veterans group at ED14 embarked on an epic feat of endurance, cycling 170 miles over two days, from Amazon's warehouse to Fort George, Inverness.

In addition to the 'physical cycle', Amazonians from across the warehouse clocked up the miles on a 24hr static cycle relay.

A fantastic £1,697 has been raised so far!

MILITARY CHARITIES CONTINUE TO SHOW SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER

ABF The Soldiers' Charity continued their outstanding long-term support of Erskine with a fantastic grant of £150,000. This grant will support our provision of expert care to elderly Army Veterans and spouses at The Erskine Home, Bishopton. We are incredibly grateful for the ABF's continued generosity.

Our amazing staff at The Erskine Home, Bishopton deliver a unique blend of care and support to these Veterans living with dementia and other life-limiting conditions. Our enhanced care services include speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, daily activities, and specialist care staff such as our Clinical Nurse Specialist and Advanced Nurse Practitioners. These on-site services are funded by voluntary income from Erskine's loyal supporters.

Brigadier (Ret'd) Peter Monteith, Chief Operating Officer, ABF The Soldiers' Charity: *"Our charity is committed to helping all elderly veterans enjoy peace, comfort and dignity in their final years. We are proud of our longstanding relationship with Erskine and value its high quality compassionate care services. We are very pleased to fund its work again this year."*

We are thrilled to share that the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, and its supporting partner Greenwich Hospital, recently awarded another incredible grant of £50,000 to Erskine. This grant will directly support our sector-leading care services for Navy and Marines beneficiaries living at The Erskine Home, Bishopton.

With this grant, the RNRMC reached the truly special milestone of over £500,000 donated in total to support Erskine's Veterans. Everyone at Erskine would like to sincerely thank the RNRMC and Greenwich Hospital for their outstanding regular support since 2011 which has helped us deliver the expert care services that Scotland's Veterans deserve.

Andrew Jameson, CEO of the RNRMC, said: *"Erskine's unwavering support for Royal Navy and Royal Marines veterans and their family members over the years has been exceptional, and their commitment to delivering world class care is widely recognised across the sector. We are proud to be funders of such an exceptional organisation."*



The Army's National Charity



ONE LAST GIFT

A long standing supporter of Erskine, Jane Reid has ended her years of donations with one final gift in her Will.

The importance of supporting Veterans was always at the forefront of Jane's mind. Her father served in the First World War, both husbands served in the Second World War and she herself did her bit towards the war effort working on the LMS Railway.

Pictured is Jane on her wedding day with new husband, Johnny Lightfoot. Sadly a year into their marriage Johnny was shot down in his Lancaster Bomber over Denmark. He was 22.

After the war Jane went on to meet and marry James Reid, they happily raised a beautiful family together.

A Royal Navy Veteran, James had been plagued with the mental anguish of a crew member who didn't come home following an attack.

Every Remembrance Day James would shed many tears, a memory which stayed with Jane.

Their son Gordon has shared this touching moment: *"When Mum was 95, just before her dementia developed, I spent an evening going through family photos with her and she agreed we should record our conversation. It turned out to be our last chance.*

*Looking at the photos of wartime, I asked her how she felt at the end of the war and her answer was fascinating. Our generation have grown up being told of wild celebrations on VE Day. She didn't speak of celebration - instead she said: **We were bitter. Really bitter, that so many young lives had been taken, so many young men lost.***

I suppose she spoke for many war widows with these words, a voice that isn't often heard."

Jane's final gift will go towards helping Veterans who also suffer from complex issues following their time in service, much like her husband over 80 years ago.

All gifts in Wills are special. Finding out the meaning behind them makes them even more so. Thank you to Jane and her son Gordon for sharing this special story.

Left: Jane and Johnny on their wedding day.

Right: Erskine 1916 Club member receiving their badge.



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.

Erskine 1916 Club

Have you left a gift in your Will but haven't let us know? You could be missing out on membership to the exclusive Erskine 1916 Club!

Our legacy pledgers are inducted into the club with an exclusive pin badge, monthly updates, exclusive invitations to events and much more.

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.

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



National Free Wills Network

Do you need to write a Will? Does your existing Will need reviewing and renewed?

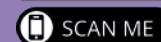
At Erskine we have a partnership with the National Free Wills Network who will direct you to 6 local solicitors who participate in the scheme. You can then decide which one you'd like to make an appointment with and write your Will with them for FREE.

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](https://www.erskine.org.uk/legacies)



2023 ERSKINE CHRISTMAS CARDS



Spread some festive greetings by sending our cards to your loved ones this Christmas. Each card carries the vital Erskine message, with all profits going to supporting Veterans.

Simply visit erskineshop.org.uk

You'll also find our full range of gifts and Erskine merchandise.

If you need a little help you can call 0141 814 4616 to place your order, between 9-5 Monday to Friday.

My donation 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

Please cut/tear here

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)

Please cut/tear here 



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)

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Branch Sort Code

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Bank/Building Society Account Number

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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

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Signature(s)

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Date

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