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.



Veteran and Glasgow Home resident Alex - along with fellow Veterans Chic and Alistair - has been cycling to raise funds and awareness. Find out more on page 4.



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.

Erskine's person-centred care is tailored to the needs of each individual veteran as they are offered a unique quality of care with the provision of physiotherapy, speech & language therapy, dentistry, podiatry and a dedicated activities team on site.

We also assist veterans who need help to begin the next chaper of their lives, offering social recreation and training facilities at our activity centre



To find out more about spending time at Erskine see our virtual tour at erskine.org.uk or call us today on:

0141 814 4538 www.erskine.org.uk moving_in@erskine.org.uk Erskine, Bishopton, PA7 5PU





Welcome

A welcome to your latest issue of Erskine News from Chief Executive, Wing Commander Ian Cumming.

Hello Everyone!

It is safe to say the last few months have been far from normal for anyone, anywhere and the same is true here at Erskine.

As we continue to rise to the immense challenges that face us and our Veteran Family, one thing that has not changed is the incredible support that we have received from you, our supporters.

So I send this message with huge gratitude. To everyone who has sent donations, found new ways to fundraise or delivered kind gifts to keep our front line teams fuelled. To those who offered their own businesses' PPE to bolster our supplies, sent messages of encouragement and all those who have supported us throughout the pandemic in so many different ways. From the bottom of my heart, to you all, thank you! We are so proud to call you part of the Erskine family.

The challenges we face to keep our Veterans safe, still remain, but with your continued support, we will get through this. We continue to strive and to care. We continue to rigorously follow the evolving health guidelines and are now able to carry out weekly covid-19 testing, whilst implementing the strictest decontamination and infection control procedures. I am delighted to say that this means we are now able to welcome back family members to visits with their loved ones. It is a joy to behold. Great news also, that our activities centre has reopened for outdoor activities to support Veterans who have been particularly affected by the lack of social interaction over the past months.

I have never been so proud of our teams across Erskine, their strength, professionalism, compassion and determination to ensure that our Veterans are cared for and supported. But they couldn't do it without you – so thank you once again!

V V
Wing Commander J D Cumming

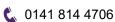
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@ fundraising@erskine.org.uk



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



Chief Executive

Erskine Glasgow Home

Based in Anniesland, the home opened in 2007 and provides nursing and dementia care for 47 residents.

Erskine Edinburgh Home

Opened in 2002 the home is situated in Gilmerton and provides nursing and dementia care, both long term and respite, for 72 residents.



Trio have blown the roof off their goal!

With a combined age of 260 these gents have been through many a challenge in their lives so lockdown was just another one to push on through.

Alex, Alistair and Chic are residents in Linburn House here at Erskine Glasgow and were inspired by various challenges they heard people were taking on from home during lockdown. The trio aimed to cycle 500 miles between them using the static bike pictured and raise £100.

We're delighted to tell you that not only have they completed their cycle, they have raised £3374! Well done gents, we salute you.

Music for all

Residents from all three of our Houses - Flanders, Mitchell and Linburn - have been out in the sunshine as much as possible during lockdown as their days and trips out have been cancelled.

Our wonderful Activities Team and other staff have been keeping them thouroughly entertained and as you can see the outdoor music days are a big hit.

Home Manager, Alison, walks the Grand Canyon.

We're extremely proud of Edinburgh Home Manager, Alison, who has virtually walked the 280 miles of the Grand Canyon whilst raising funds.

"I did the challenge to raise funds for the Edinburgh Home. Normally we hold at least two big fundraisers a year at the Home but due to the Covid pandemic they had to be cancelled to protect the residents, relatives, staff and local community."

To date £1161 has been raised which will go towards an array of entertainment, activities, home comforts and even grant wishes for residents.



The fun hasn't stopped

The Scottish sunshine has been a great help in keeping our residents, and staff, positive during this new way of living.

Being able to get out into the gardens and be safely entertained from a distance has meant residents haven't been missing out on their usual activities.

A big thank you to all our Activities Team, other staff members and friends of the Home for keeping spirits high. (You can just make out the Piper playing!)

Erskine Park Home

Set on the Bishopton estate this home was purpose built and designed to care for people with dementia.

100th Birthday Celebrations for Nettie!

It wasn't the big birthday celebration we all had planned for Nettie but it was a special day nonetheless.

She shared her birthday cake with fellow residents and staff, as Her Majesty (a cardboard cut out) looked on and presented Nettie with her birthday card.

The absolute icing on the cake however was a visit from family through the window. Glasses of fizz were raised to the birthday girl as a piper played "Happy Birthday".



The fun never stops. Even during a pandemic!

Here at Erskine Park we are so lucky to have a fabulous Activities Team who without a doubt went above and beyond during lockdown.

With costumes, wigs, music, themes and games for all occasions and every genre, our residents have been having a blast.

The Erskine Home, Bishopton

Built in 2000 to replace our original hospital this home provides nursing and dementia care, both long term and respite, for 180 residents.

Our delight at seeing family and friends again!

As restrictions eased and it was announced small groups were able to meet outside, our staff began preperations for arranging visits from loved ones.

Gazebos were put up in the Homes garden spaces, tables and chairs set up safely distanced and an appointment system put in to place. The result? We think Hasie's face says it all!

104 year old Hasie, who has overcome COVID-19, was thrilled to catch up with his daughter after three long months. Due to distancing he did struggle a little and said: "I can't hear you or see you but I know you're there."



lan takes on a special birthday challenge

Staff across all of the Erskine Homes have been inspiring during these past months. Not only have they continued to care for our residents to the highest standard and adapted to new ways of caring, they have also taken on personal challenges to raise funds.



Activities Assistant Ian, a Royal Navy Veteran himself, decided to celebrate his 55th birthday by setting him self a "5" themed challenge. He ran 5km a day for 30 days and aimed to raise £500 for the residents and fellow Veterans he cares for.

Please join us in giving Ian a big well done! Not only did he keep up his 5km runs he has raised an astounding £6305.

Commenting on his achievement, lan says: "I sincerely can't thank everyone who has donated enough. The residents and dedicated staff make Erskine the special 7 place that it is."

Here at ERMAC we wasted no time in getting our community online under our new living conditions.

Since the first week of lockdown we revised how we could offer services to members and started our Zoom community which met for 2 hours, 3 times per week. It has been a lifeline for many to continue socialising with fellow members following such a sudden withdrawal of routine.

Things snowballed and we got up to 6 meets per week with smaller interest groups branching off from the main sessions including Art, Photography, Genealogy and Spouse and Carer meets. We've even had a Committee Meeting which ensures that members are involved in ongoing service delivery and decision making.

For our members who don't access the online community we've been sure to contact them weekly or every other week via phone call to have a nice chat, ask about any challenges they may be facing and we ensure these are dealt with swiftly

As part of the Unforgotten Forces our fellow partners have been a real support. Fares 4 Free have been wonderful delivering food supplies to our members, Action on Hearing Loss Scotland have been there to help with hearing aids, Music in Hospitals & Care Scotland engaged singer songwriter Jason Sweeney to entertain us and Poppy

Scotland's 'Token Gestures' project supported to source a halogen cooker for one of our veterans.

To keep things fresh and interesting there have been special guests joining in the video calls too! Glen from Poppy Scotland, Neil spent a session with us representing Veterans Scotland, we invited Jacquie from Home Energy Scotland who provided some very interesting and relevant information for members, and Erskine CEO lan was a regular on screen face too.

Entertainer Kirsten Orsborn pre-recorded a lovely message of support to all at Erskine which really lifted our spirits and oor Billy has entertained us with his guitar, not to forget the virtual VE Day Party Celebrations!

We have seen some really heart-warming examples of assistance during these tough times whether its been from organisations or Veterans supporting each other, humanity has really been at the forefront of this fabulous community.





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History class in session

Sean Szmalc from Titanic: Honor and Glory gave a great presentation about the history of Titanic with some truly touching personal stories from survivors that he has met over the years.

Many of our members have a keen interest in the subject with a few having visited the Titanic experience in Belfast.

VE Day 75 celebrations in full swing!

Here we have Bethany from the Ragtime Dolls singing Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.

The whole day was great fun and full of entertainment.

Forces Sweetheart

As mentioned earlier, entertainer Kirsten Orsborn recorded a special message of support to all our Veterans however she also set aside time on other occasions to join in our video calls.

Not only did she sing beautifully and keep her audience enraptured, she also spent time chatting and having some banter with the members.

Thanks for all your support Kirsten!

Thank you for your generosity!

During the Covid-19 pandemic and throughout lockdown so many of you sent our Homes various forms of supplies. Here are just a few...



Nursery children from Craigour Park School wanted to bring some cheer to residents at our Edinburgh Home, so they drew rainbows to brighten up the home.



The Erskine Bridgewater branch of Greggs for their very large donation of cakes and other goodies for our residents to enjoy. Your kindness is much appreciated.



"We are incredibly thankful and proud of everything key workers in the health and social care systems are doing. The Subsea 7 Glasgow team wanted to find a way to help and we thought about Erskine. We hope this donation of face masks will make a big difference to vulnerable Veterans and carers in our local community."

Huge thanks to Gordon Powrie of Kenneth Keegan Funeral Directors who donated Easter Eggs to Erskine Park.

They were an egg-xellent treat!



Angelini's Pizzeria kindly delivered pizza and pasta for our night shift care staff at the Bishopton Home.

Staff were delighted with the fantastic treat and grateful for Angelini's generosity.



Cheers! Edinburgh Home residents were gifted cases of beer by The City of Edinburgh Council and Stewart Grace.

The note left with the cases read: "Please have some beer! Stay Safe <3 Edinburgh Council."



Children of The Good Shepherd Centre in Bishopton made up these lovely goodie bags for The Erskine and Erskine Park Homes.

Filled with treats such as bottles of water, chocolate and shortbread biscuits they were just what the doctor ordered.



As you can see they even took the time to customise them with our logo and other artwork.





Esk Valley Rotary Secretary, Beth Thomson, dropped off a fantastic donation of hand sanitiser on behalf of the club.

Your generosity is much appreciated!



The Golden Friendships Club from Dalmuir dropped off a very generous donation of 100 visors. Many thanks!



Ramsay House resident Graham's family donated these gorgeous plants for the garden.



Community Fundraiser Jim needed his muscles when he went to collect a very generous donation from Chivas Brothers.

Having already donated 150ltr of alcohol gel for our dispensers Chivas reached out again this time with 48 bottles of whisky to keep resident's morale up.





Med Supply Drive Scotland have made numerous deliveries of PPE. Operations Director, Rob Gray has dropped off various types of PPE over lockdown and we are very grateful for the generosity of the donations.

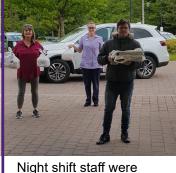
Domino's Anniesland delivered delicious piping hot pizzas to Erskine Glasgow staff which were very much appreciated!





Hand sanitiser is always very welcome at Erskine! Big thanks to Ian Nelson together with Diageo and RSEA for this generous donation.





delighted when Grill in the Park in Erskine sent over lots of tasty treats and bottles of juice to be enjoyed at break time.

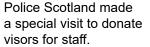


Scotmid Food delivered these fantastic hampers filled with goodies to keep our staff going.

Cpl Stu Preston and Cpl Stevie Murray popped in with goodie bags for residents.



Police Scotland made



Lynn Mackie and Lindsay Paterson have been making face masks from left over fabric after making scrubs for the NHS.

The pair are hoping to continue to raise funds to keep the masks flowing to frontline charities in need.

Carers thinking of other carers. How lovely! Thank you to BMI Ross Hall Hospital for taking the time to donate hampers of goods for our staff and residents.





Renfrewshire based charity I Am Me Scotland donated Keep Safe Bags along with arts and crafts materials for our residents, plus a food hamper for staff. Projects Initiative Officer Mhairi O'Rourke delivered all the goodies.

Stuart White carried out a fogging treatment at two of our Homes free of charge!



"Sanondaf UK are delighted to have provided a full decontamination treatment to communal areas within the two Homes in Bishopton. As a company we try to support some great causes and none fits the bill better than the care and support offered to our Veterans through the dedicated care staff. support and estates teams looking after their residents 24 hours a day in these challenging times.

We are very grateful to Thermo Fisher Scientific for arranging this and allowing us to interact with the brilliant team at Erskine"

What you've been up to.

Many of you had plans in place pre-lockdown to support our Veteran's through sponsored events but you didn't let cancellations that stop you!

You accepted the 2.6 Challenge!

Thanks to all of those who set themselves a challenge along with the rest of the nation.

£3178 was raised during the 2.6 Challenge.





VE Day was celebrated in style in your gardens.

The 75th Anniversary of VE Day wasn't going to be put on hold. Lots of you held your own "Street Party" in the safety of your gardens and homes.

BBQs, bunting, music and cakes all round to show your thanks to those who fought for this historic day to come.

A wonderful £2885 was donated through vour celebrations!

Others took the opportunity to start a new challenge and we're very gratful to every single one of you. Again, here are just a few...



Golfers shuffle things up!

Since 1977 the members of Kilmacolm Golf Club Ladies Section have held an annual Bridge Competition.

In March this year they chose to donate the proceeds from the day to Erskine and we're very thankful they did!

Community Fundraiser, Jim, popped along to thank them and receive their donation of £640.

Lochter Activity Centre, Inverurie



Lockdown "Loch" Swim

Janice Naven has taken staying at home to a whole new level by adapting her amazing swimming challenge to raise money for our Veterans.

She set herself the challenge to swim 1km in 50 Scottish Lochs, then lockdown hit. Instead, she's been swimming for an hour per session in a pool in her garden!

"As lockdown eases and I am able to access open water again. I look forward to resuming my original challenge."

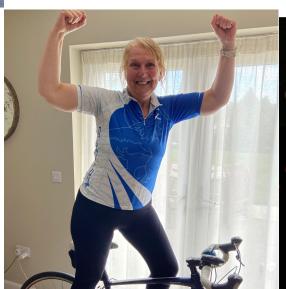
www.erskine.org.uk

The Cycling Grandma

Catherine Robertson Ross MBE cycled 260 miles over three days on her road bike on a Tacx trainer at home.

Having set a target of £1000 she exceeded it by the end of day two raising £1584.

"I've supported military charities my whole adult life, raising funds and helping in anyway I can those who serve and have served our country and their families. I believe those who have served our country. have done so with great courage and I also believe they have earned the right to our help."





What you've been up to!

Glasgow Clan fans battle to bid for exclusive Erskine jersey in honour of VE Day

Each season the Glasgow Clan Ice Hockey Team support a charity and in 2016 they chose to back our Veterans.

Fast forward to VE Day 2020 and we were delighted to hear from them again!
To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day they auctioned off a limited edition camouflage Clan jersey, signed by the 2016 team. £360 was the winning bid all of which was donated to Erskine.



HM Naval Base Clyde donate £10,000!

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD) we were nominated to be one of three beneficiaries of the profits from the sale of CASD 50 merchandise.

We can't thank the Base staff enough for thinking of our Veterans.



Charity Partnerships

There are a number of ways organisations can support Erskine!

Your company/club/group can get as creative as you like in order to support Erskine - we love to hear your fun ideas! You could also support by attending one of our events, by encouraging staff/members to donate their time to volunteer, or by donating unique items or services for auction and help us maximise the care to our Veterans.

All partnership opportunities can be tailored to suit your organisation's preferences. To further discuss how your organisation can work in partnership with Erskine please contact:

Jennifer Campbell, Events & Corporate Fundraising Manager

T: 0141 814 4729

E: jennifer.campbell@erskine.org.uk



you raise will receive a 50% top up* from The Hunter Foundation.

Inspired to take on your own challenge?

Contact your Community Fundraiser today for support on how to get started:

0141 814 4555 - fundraising@erskine.org.uk

Upcoming Events

Christmas Cracker Shopping Fayre

12pm - 5pm, Sunday 22nd November 10am - 3pm, Monday 23rd November Ingliston Country Club, Bishopton

With over 70 stalls ranging from crafts to homeware, fashion to skincare, food, drink and much more, don't miss this traditional Christmas Shopping Fayre to pick up some unique gifts and get into the festive spirit.

Entry is **FREE!**

Donations will be gratefully received.

Tree of Honour

6:30pm Thursday 3rd December All Erskine Homes

Join Erskine's residents, staff and families for our annual Tree of Honour: Lights Switch on and Dedication Ceremony. The procession begins at 6.30pm led by the pipes & drums, local school children and cadets to the Erskine Home for our Tree of Honour Lights Switch On. Followed by more entertainment and refreshments. *this event will be open to the public subject to government guidelines.

Burns Supper

Feb 2021 - Date & Venue TBC

Enjoy an evening celebrating the life of Scotland's National Bard. Enjoy an evening of sparkling drinks, sumptuous food and traditional Burns entertainment.

Victory Ball

Postponed until 1 October 2021 Doubletree by Hilton, Glasgow

The Victory Ball is Erskine's premier fundraising event of the year! This alittering black-tie ball will commemorate the anniversary of Victory in Europe with a unique 1940s theme.

Please note: All Erskine events are subject to change in line with Scottish Government Guidelines. All updates will be posted on our website.



For the latest information on all of Erskine's events please visit our website

www.erskine.org.uk/events

or contact us on 0141 814 4729 events@erskine.org.uk

Let's be social! Find us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



Over the past few months we have received invaluable support from Trusts and Foundations who have helped fund our daily costs, additional PPE and safety expenses

as well as helping us maintain a small sense of normality

amazing supporters, we owe you a huge THANK YOU!

Trusty Supporters

We were thrilled to have received a grant of £10,000 from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity to help us purchase thermal imaging equipment for our four Homes and our Activities Centre in response to COVID-19. To the right, you can see our Director of Care, Derek Barron testing out the equipment.

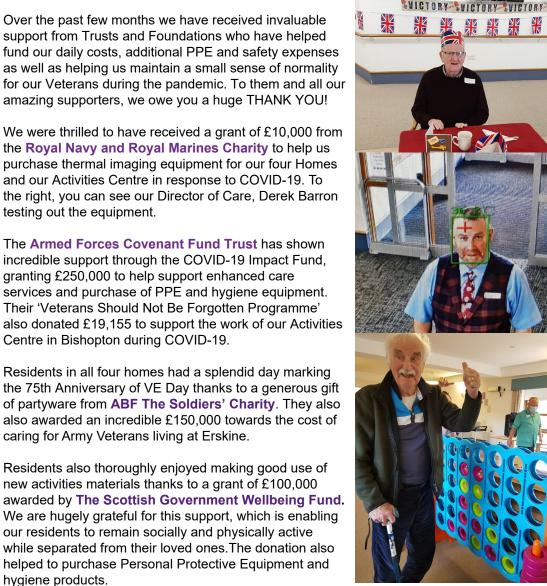
The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has shown incredible support through the COVID-19 Impact Fund, granting £250,000 to help support enhanced care services and purchase of PPE and hygiene equipment. Their 'Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten Programme' also donated £19,155 to support the work of our Activities Centre in Bishopton during COVID-19.

Residents in all four homes had a splendid day marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day thanks to a generous gift of partyware from ABF The Soldiers' Charity. They also also awarded an incredible £150,000 towards the cost of caring for Army Veterans living at Erskine.

Residents also thoroughly enjoyed making good use of new activities materials thanks to a grant of £100,000 awarded by The Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund. We are hugely grateful for this support, which is enabling our residents to remain socially and physically active while separated from their loved ones. The donation also helped to purchase Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene products.









Your lasting legacy Where there is a Will, there is a way!

While it's been a difficult time being separated from loved ones, the residents at Erskine have been fully on board and happy to protect themselves and others during these uncertain times. With staff members facilitating zoom calls, FaceTime up 50% of Erskine's voluntary income chats and phone calls, morale has been

The opening words of Jim Gorrie, a 91 year old Veteran who lives in The Erskine Home, to his family were indeed "Covid is not going to take me out!"

"I survived the war. Covid 19 wasn't going to beat me!"

Jim started his career back when he was just 18 years old and was conscripted to the 1st Battalion of Seaforth Highlanders, he was sent to Malaya where he protected the precious rubber plantations for 2 years following the war. He loved his adventures and didn't mind when his service was extended by 6 months.

Returning home to civilian life - and to the girl he planned to marry - was the perfect end to his time serving his country. After his long and happy marriage of 62 years, Jim moved into The Erskine Home. Since coming to Erskine he says "I feel very safe here and there is always someone around when I need help. It is a home from home and as my home was very special and important to me, this is high praise indeed."

During the past 5 months of lockdown, the residents have been keeping spirits up with all kinds of activities, many of which were paid for by the gifts which were left in Wills. Gifts in Wills make and are vital to the running of Erskine. kept high and new technologies embraced. This is why we would ask that once your family and friends are taken care of, you might consider leaving a gift to the exservicemen and women who fought for our country. Covid-19 has put an immense amount of pressure on Erskine's already tight running costs, and we need your help more than ever.





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

Covid-19 has put such a dampener on 2020 that most things ground to a complete halt! One area that continued to thrive was the desire to write a Will.

As most people are aware, these are incredibly important documents that highlight what you want to happen after you have gone, and nominates specific people to carry out those wishes on your behalf. Erskine is lucky enough to have 3 partner solicitors; McClure Solicitors, Thomas Bradley & Co and Kingsley Wood who are all available to write a Will free of charge (in return for a donation to Erskine for them providing this service), and offer a reduced price Power of Attorney.

Since the beginning of lockdown, McClure Solicitors have been holding appointments by video which allows you to give your instruction and sign your documents from the comfort of your own home and still see the Estate Planning Consultant you are dealing with.

Over 80% of the appointments set in the last 4 months have been done via video. Janet Houston, Estate Planning Consultant at McClure Solicitors said "Our ability to provide successful video appointments has been a real life line to clients in these unprecedented times giving them, peace of mind that their affairs are in order. I have been receiving positive feedback from clients on how easy it was for them to operate this service from the safety of their own home."

To speak in complete confidence about Gifts in Wills, please contact our Legacy Officer,

> Sarah Morgan Erskine, Bishopton, PA7 5PU 0141 814 4706 sarah.morgan@erskine.org.uk



If you have any questions about any of the services McClure Solicitors offer and to arrange an appointment, call Janet Houston on 0800 852 1999 or email

contactus@mcclure-solicitors.co.uk





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www.erskine.org.uk

Erskine care for around 1000 Veterans each year and rely on your support



IF AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, PLEASE

REMEMBER ERSKINE IN YOUR WILL

legacies@erskine.org.uk | 0141 814 4520

Yes, I want to support Veterans at Erskine today

Your details please: Name:	
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Email:	Postcode: Phone:
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Fundraising Department, Erskine, Bishopton, Renfrewshire PA7 5PU

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

Name: Address:	I would like to make a regular gift of:	I would like this gift to be made: Monthly Quarterly Annually	
	£8	Please start my payments on: 1st 15th (insert	(insert month / year)
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