



ERSKINE

Veterans Charity



2025 Annual Review



**PROUD TO
CARE**

THIS YEAR WE
CARED FOR


1,252

MEMBERS OF
THE VETERAN
COMMUNITY IN
SCOTLAND

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Cover: Edinburgh Home Residents George Walker and Joyce Smith

Left: Haig House residents enjoy the sunshine



INTRODUCTION

WELCOME

A Year of Growth, Confidence and Shared Achievement.

Welcome to our Annual Review 2025! This year has been one of the most significant and encouraging in Erskine's recent history.

Across Scotland, we are now supporting more Veterans and their families than ever before, and we believe our charitable activity expenditure is now greater than that of several other national military charities combined. Demand for our services has continued to grow, reflecting both the changing needs of the Veteran community and the trust people place in Erskine. Thanks to the dedication, professionalism and compassion of our staff and volunteers, and the generosity of our supporters and partners, we have been able to meet that demand while maintaining the high standards of care and support for which Erskine is known.

Over the past two years, the charity has taken important and sometimes difficult decisions to ensure we remain strong, sustainable and ready for the future. These decisions were shaped by rising costs, changes in national social care policy, and a clear understanding of how Veterans want to live today – independently, connected to their communities, and supported when they need it most. While change is never easy, this work has allowed us to protect the quality of our residential care, invest in our workforce, and expand community-based services that are already transforming lives.

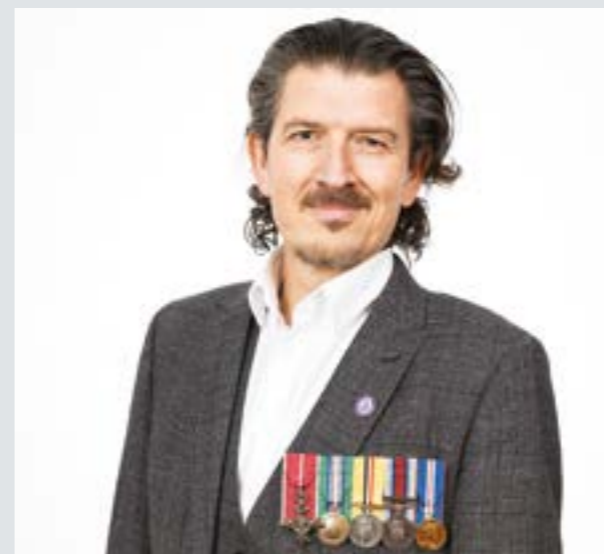
This year marks the first full year in which the impact of those changes can truly be seen and felt by our beneficiaries. Through the expansion of our Erskine Veterans Activity Centres (EVACs) and the successful launch of

our Home Support service, we have nearly doubled the number of people we directly support. Hundreds of Veterans who may previously have felt isolated are now part of vibrant, welcoming communities where they can build friendships, take part in purposeful activities, and regain confidence and independence. For many, these services have been genuinely life-changing.

At the same time, our residential care homes remain central to Erskine's work. Our teams continue to provide outstanding, person-centred care in safe and supportive environments, and we were pleased that independent evaluations - from the Care Inspectorate - again recognised the strength of our leadership, staff teams and care settings. Behind every positive inspection outcome is dedicated colleagues who go above and beyond every day to ensure residents feel respected, valued and at home.

Our accommodation services at our Veterans Village in Bishopton also continue to play a vital role. From Transitional Supported Accommodation for working-age Veterans finding their feet after leaving the Armed Forces, to family cottages and assisted living homes, Bishopton provides stability, community and a foundation on which people can rebuild their lives. The success of these services is built on close collaboration with other charities, public services and local partners, and we are grateful for the trust and cooperation that makes this possible.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt



Alongside the visible growth of our services, we have continued to strengthen the organisation behind the scenes. We have invested in modernising our leadership structures, improving our decision-making processes, and upgrading our technology so that we are better equipped for a future where services are delivered across multiple locations and increasingly into people's homes. These changes may not always be seen, but they are essential in ensuring that Erskine can continue to grow safely and sustainably.

In a challenging economic environment, we are particularly grateful for the loyalty and generosity of our supporters. Our fundraising team has delivered a

strong performance, providing the resources needed to invest in new services and maintain high standards across everything we do. Every donation, partnership and fundraising effort – whether large or small – plays a part in enabling Erskine to be there for Veterans when it matters most.

None of this would be possible without our people and supporters. Our staff bring skill, kindness and professionalism to their roles every day, often in demanding circumstances. Our volunteers give their time, energy and experience so generously, enriching our services and strengthening our connection to local communities. And of course, our family of donors across Scotland, the United Kingdom and

overseas, provide the sustenance which powers our work. Together, they all embody Erskine's values and make the charity what it is.

As we look ahead, work is already underway to deliver on our strategy to 2031 and beyond. Our ambition is clear: to extend our reach, deepen our impact, and ensure that no Veteran in Scotland feels alone in later life or during the transition to civilian life. This Annual Review shares just some of what has been achieved over the past year, and we hope it gives a sense not only of our progress, but of the shared commitment, care and confidence that underpins everything we do.

Scan our QR code to download Erskine's strategy 2025-2031



SCAN ME





REVIEW OF 2025

HIGHLIGHTS



Left: Members of EVAC West come together to commemorate VE Day
Middle Left: Residents enjoy visits to and from the SSPCA
Middle Right: Veterans, staff and school children pay their respects at Remembrance
Bottom Left: Erskine's mascot ready to open the Ideal Home Show stand
Bottom Centre: You are never too young to support Erskine
Bottom Right: Erskine staff are proud to care



Top Left: The Tattoo visits The Erskine Home
Top Right: Fundraisers abseil the Falkirk Wheel
Middle Left: Erskine Ambassador Kirsten Orsborn wows guests at the Erskine Military Ball
Middle Right: Staff and residents take part in the Victory March to commemorate VJ Day
Bottom Left: Celebrations at the Sporting Senior Games
Bottom Right: Residents enjoy a Christmas toast





WHO WE ARE

WHY WE'RE HERE

Our vision is a Scotland where Veterans and their families thrive. We contribute towards this vision by offering Veterans their best possible future – through the best possible care & community support.

Erskine has four strategic objectives:

Care

Veterans and their spouses receive good quality, person-centred care from when they leave the Forces through to the end of their lives.

Accommodation

Veterans have a place to live when they leave the Armed Forces, for the longer term, and during their retirement.

Community

Veterans suffering from loneliness or isolation have a place to go, where they can learn new skills, have new experiences, and enjoy a sense of camaraderie.

Effective and efficient organisation

The charity is recognised by supporters, beneficiaries, employees and other key stakeholders as an efficient and effective organisation, worthy of their trust and support.



Values

Our values are more than simply words – they are a set of closely-held beliefs about how we should conduct ourselves in everything we do. They are a moral handrail in challenging times and they spell the word CARE.

Communication

We communicate internally and externally, in a transparent, open manner that supports understanding and dialogue.

Accountability

We take appropriate accountability for our individual and collective actions and decisions. We aim to reduce unwarranted variation in care and support provided. We aim for beneficiaries to experience the same compassionate, person-centred care, irrespective of which members of the team are on duty.

Respect

We respect our beneficiaries and those who visit our homes and services. We respect each other as colleagues. We respect the beneficiaries' right to choose and will support them with making choices.

Empowerment

Those who receive our care and support will feel empowered to make choices. We will provide accessible, transparent information to our beneficiaries about their rights and what they mean for their day to day lives. We will value, support, act upon and learn from what our beneficiaries say. We will ensure that our beneficiaries have their voices heard. We will support colleagues to feel empowered to use their knowledge and expertise in the delivery of person-centred care and support.

These values apply to all of us – staff, trustees, volunteers, people we support, families and carers and others that we work with – and are an integral part of our induction, training, communications and working policies.



WHO WE ARE

THE FUTURE

One worthy of their service

For more than a century, Erskine Veterans Charity has stood beside Scotland's Veterans and their families, upholding a simple but profound promise: that those who served our country should be able to live full, dignified and independent lives afterwards. That promise remains at the heart of our newly published strategy, which will give readers a glimpse into not just next year, but out to 2031.

Our vision is unchanged – a Scotland in which Veterans and their families thrive. Our mission is to deliver Veterans the best possible futures, through the best possible care, accommodation and community support. But the world around us is changing, and so too are the needs of the Veteran community. This strategy sets out how Erskine will evolve with confidence and care, honouring our legacy while shaping a future that delivers greater reach, deeper impact, and better outcomes for generations of Veterans yet to come.

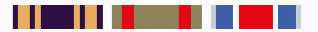
Erskine is rightly renowned for excellence in nursing and residential care. These services will remain a vital sanctuary for those who need them most, delivered to the highest standards we would wish for our own families. At the same time, we recognise a profound shift in Veteran demographics and preferences. Veterans are living longer, are more geographically dispersed, and increasingly wish to remain independent within their own communities for as long as possible. Many now seek support earlier in life, well before crisis point is reached.

Our strategy responds directly to this reality. Evidence and experience tell us that Veterans who are connected, active and supported locally live healthier, happier and more resilient lives. Early, preventative intervention reduces isolation, avoids crises, and delays the need for intensive care. Yet across Scotland, many services are withdrawing their physical presence or relying on remote support models that leave too many Veterans unseen and unsupported.

Erskine's answer is to be visible, present and practical – meeting Veterans where they are, not where systems find it convenient. Over the next six years, we will grow and deepen our community-based services, building on proven models such as our EVACs, Home Support services, and small scale, locally delivered twists upon proven accommodation models. These services are already transforming lives by offering connection, purpose and timely support, and we will now take them further and into new parts of Scotland. Alongside this planned expansion, the



Above: Erskine Edinburgh Home resident George Walker



WHO WE ARE

THE FUTURE

strategy deliberately creates space for future service development led through an executive workstream. This will allow Erskine to explore new, evidence-led opportunities as needs emerge – such as enhanced transition support, short breaks and respite opportunities, whole-family support, and targeted benevolent assistance at moments of acute need. By retaining flexibility at executive level, we can test, adapt and scale initiatives responsibly, ensuring innovation is paced, proportionate and always aligned with our charitable purpose.

We have set out a clear and disciplined framework for growth. New EVACs are planned in regions with high Veteran populations but limited local support, alongside the expansion of the Home Support services that can flex to local need. We will also share our expertise more widely, championing Veteran-

friendly approaches within the wider care sector so that Veterans beyond Erskine's own services can benefit from what we know works.

Crucially, this ambition is underpinned by financial rigour. Having successfully navigated periods of exceptional challenge, Erskine is now on a strong and sustainable footing. Our reserves have been protected responsibly, our services made more resilient, and our governance strengthened. This enables us to invest confidently in growth that is affordable, evidence-led and scalable. As services mature, we expect them to become increasingly self-sustaining, supported by a renewed focus on national visibility, fundraising and partnership.

We know we cannot achieve this vision alone. Collaboration with communities, funders, statutory partners and fellow

charities will be essential. But Erskine brings something distinctive to that partnership landscape: scale, experience, physical presence and an unwavering commitment to quality.

This strategy is bold by design, but grounded in reality. It reflects both pride in what Erskine already delivers and humility about the responsibility that comes with being Scotland's foremost Veterans charity. Above all, it is driven by a simple belief – that when we have the ability to improve the life of someone who once defended ours, it is not merely a choice, but a calling.

Over the next six years, we will honour our past, act decisively in the present, and build a future worthy of those who served.

WHAT WE DO

SERVICES

Our services for Veterans and their families address three fundamental needs: care, accommodation and community.

During the year, our services included:

Care

Residential care homes: The Erskine Home within our Erskine Veterans Village, Bishopton and Erskine Edinburgh Home. These homes provide nursing, dementia and end-of-life care to Veterans and their spouses across a total of 220 rooms and ensure that Veterans and their spouses are provided with the best possible care during later life.

Community

The Erskine Veterans Activity Centres within the Bishopton Veterans Village and also in Forres, 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 their interests and access support services.

The Home Support service brings a member of Erskine staff to your home for companionship, assistance around

the home, help with errands and shopping, and ensures Veterans can attend appointments and social events.

Accommodation

Transitional Supported Accommodation for Veterans who leave the military at relatively short notice and need more assistance to reintegrate productively back into civilian life, within 23 apartments located at our Bishopton Veterans Village.

44 family cottages and five Assisted Living Accommodation apartments for Veterans and their families to live independent lives within our Veterans Village.

Accommodation and support services for the Army Personnel Recovery Centre which supports Servicemen and women to recover during their service, within the 16 room recovery facility located in Erskine Edinburgh.

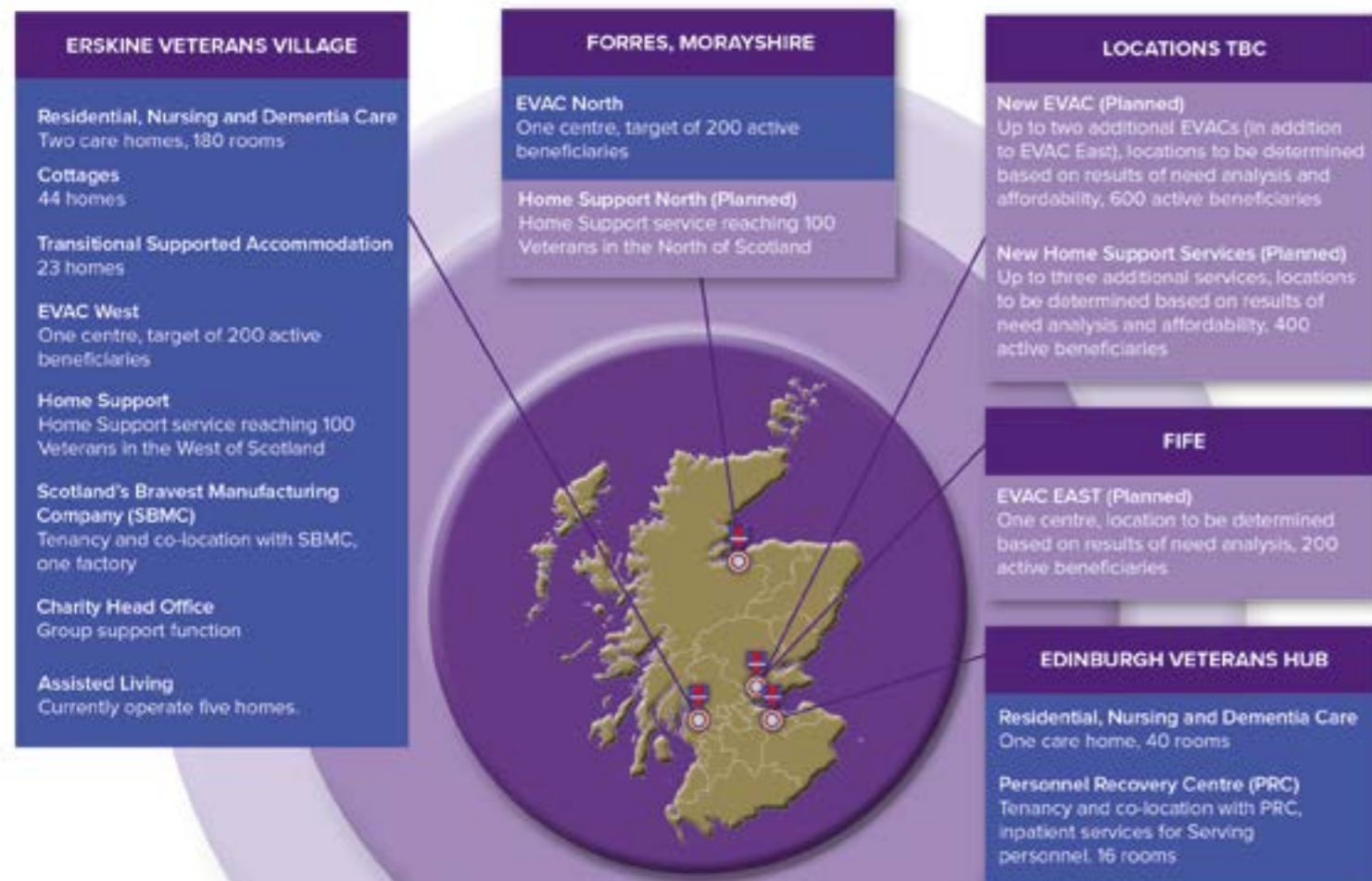
ON OUR ESTATE IN BISHOPTON WE HAVE

44 VETERAN FAMILY COTTAGES

23 TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTED APARTMENTS

5 ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS

Activities by 2031





**“ERSKINE PROVIDES
A SAFE PLACE AND
CAMARADERIE.”**



Grant Richmond Army

A high-threat tour in Afghanistan earned Grant his Operational Service Medal, but being medically discharged and struggling with PTSD changed everything.

Grant joined the British Army in July 2008, aged 16, determined to build a career as a driver with the Royal Logistics Corps. He completed Phase 1 training at Basingbourn Barracks, developing core soldiering skills, discipline, and resilience, before moving to Phase 2 specialist driver training at Defence School of Transport. There, he qualified on his military driving courses and prepared for operational service. From the outset, he thrived in the structured, physically demanding environment.

Grant was posted to Logistical Support Regiment in Gütersloh, where he spent the majority of his six-year career as a Royal Logistics Corps driver completing various deployments and postings.

His service included overseas exercises in Kenya and Canada. In Kenya, he carried out 3 months of additional training. He joined the regimental boxing team, losing his first bout but winning the next three matches. In Canada, he trained in temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees. Alongside his operational duties, Grant immersed himself in army sport.

In 2014, Grant was deployed to Afghanistan for a seven-month tour. Initially assigned as a close-protection convoy driver, he operated in high-threat environments where improvised explosive devices, mortar attacks, and small-arms fire were constant dangers. He recalls numerous near-misses, including an IED detonation nearby during the Taliban poppy harvest that left several injured. Later, he joined the Infantry Replenishment Group, conducting front-line foot patrols before returning to convoy protection duties. He also transported Taliban detainees back to Camp Bastion. Throughout, his focus remained on safeguarding personnel and ensuring critical supplies reached their destinations.

Following the tour, Grant was awarded his Operational Service Medal for

Afghanistan by Princess Anne at a formal parade - an immense source of pride. After post-operational leave, he resumed duties in Germany, driving senior officers including the Commander of Logistical Supplies and the Colonel. His professionalism earned him promotion to Lance Corporal.

Grant's last posting was back to Canada where he sustained a serious knee injury during cold-weather training, which led to cartilage damage and three operations. Unable to continue in the active driving role he loved, and unwilling to move into a desk-based post, Grant was medically discharged in 2014 after six years of service

“It was such a great time. I took full advantage of the sports available: football, tennis, and being part of both the boxing and running teams. I could have stayed on in a desk job, but that wasn't for me. I wanted to be active and, more importantly, drive.”

The transition to civilian life proved far more difficult than Grant anticipated. Though HGV-qualified and quickly employed, he struggled silently with PTSD. He withdrew socially, missed the camaraderie of the army, and masked his difficulties from family and friends. A poor decision then led to imprisonment, a period he describes as filled with shame but also as a turning point. It forced him to confront the impact his experiences had had on his mental health.

After his release, a mentor discovered his family's historic connection to Erskine and helped him secure accommodation at Erskine's Transitional Supported Accommodation within the Erskine Veterans Village. The transformation has been profound. Surrounded by fellow Veterans, he rediscovered the camaraderie he had missed since leaving the Army. Access to counselling, support networks like Opt Nova and Veterans Services, and routine employment has restored

With thanks to



structure and purpose. With ongoing treatment through Combat Stress and support from Erskine's staff and residents, Grant now feels lighter and more at peace.

Living at Erskine has given Grant stability, community, and hope - allowing him not only to reflect on proud years of service, but to begin building a positive future beyond them. Grant has thrived at Erskine and in September 2025 he moved into his own flat.

Grant can't praise Erskine highly enough:

“I am enjoying life because of Erskine. I have never experienced anything like it. I now love a wee bit of company.”

 **62%**
**OF OUR RESIDENTS
SERVED IN THE ARMY**





WHAT WE DO

CARE

When showing visitors around our homes, the response is almost always the same, they note the welcome from staff, the smile and that friendly hello. We are so grateful to the many people and organisations who have supported Erskine Veterans Charity. This generosity, no matter how big or small, allows us to do exceptional things in delivering the care and wider services that every Veteran deserves.

This year has been a year of building on our new foundation, to continue the development of services wrapped round our residents. Staff changes include the development of a new role in our Bishopton Home called the Lead Senior Care Assistant. After a week of focused training, this highly skilled and knowledgeable group of staff have taken on an extended role around leadership and management, supporting the Registered Nurse Team. Other staffing changes were, embedding our new Physiotherapist into his role and appointing a new Trainee Advanced Nurse Practitioner. This continues our approach of developing our own staff for exciting roles such as this. We have also appointed a new Speech & Language Therapist, although she won't commence until early 2026.

However, as some things change, thankfully, some don't. Our annual visit from the Pipes and Drums of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo took place in both Homes (4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland visited Bishopton, while the 32 Signal Regiment visited Edinburgh), with residents reciprocating these visits by going to the Tattoo itself. This year it was a special event given

that it was the Tattoo's 75th anniversary. The Chief Executive and Director of Care had the privilege of representing Erskine and joining the Air Officer Scotland as his guest, while the Air Commodore was the salute taker for the evening.

Change, or more correctly, adaptation, continued in Edinburgh where breakfast time was adjusted, as staff noticed a change in weight for one or two residents. Following the change, the weight of those residents stabilised and returned to a more normal range. Being able to adapt to the changing needs of residents has always been a hallmark of Erskine homes. Similarly, we changed our optical care provider to one that we felt was more responsive to resident needs.

Our now annual Super Car event took place with residents again thoroughly enjoying the day. This was another year where our Bishopton residents again enjoyed a year of 'on-water' activities at Castle Semple Loch and continued with music therapy via a Nordoff Robbins therapist. Our Edinburgh Home team continued with their various, very busy, garden parties - they do like a party in Edinburgh, as do the residents and relatives it seems. The visit by the therapy ponies was also a delight. The Edinburgh team have also created a new contact with another local primary school to ensure our inter-age liaison work continues. In addition, the home also opened its new reception area in May, this brings the reception into the



Above: Providing first class care to Veterans and their spouses

same physical building as the residents.

Residents from both Homes participated in the tenth annual Senior Sporting Games, with over ten care homes now joining our event. It is also good to report that we continue to see a very high uptake of the vaccinations on offer, with over 90% of residents taking this evidence-based precaution. Wellbeing is an important theme across both Homes. For example, in Edinburgh, weekly exercise classes are led by a Veteran (currently a research student) who comes into the Home, these are also supplemented by a professional rugby player from Edinburgh who visits the Home to lead games of bowls. In turn, residents have also had trips out to watch Edinburgh Rugby play some of their matches.

This year we celebrated the end of the wars in Europe and Japan by remembering 80 years since VE and VJ Day. In May, a resident from The Edinburgh Home and one from The Erskine Home, Bishopton attended the VE 80 service at Westminster Abbey, a poignant moment for them both where they had the opportunity to speak with members of the Royal Family. Other contact we have had with the Royal Family include two staff attending the King's Garden Party in June and our three Queen's Nurses and our QNIS Fellow joining the Queen at a reception in Holyrood House. Along the lines of a 'minor royal', Santa visited both Homes as usual, although in The Erskine Home, Bishopton for the third year running, this

"Meaningful activities don't have to be large, grand affairs, there is space for the quiet voice and that slower pace of enjoyment."

included him being chased round the grounds by residents and visitors old and young in the now annual Santa Dash. In Edinburgh, residents were hosted for Christmas lunch in the Gilmerton Community Centre.

We have had a raft of celebrations this year including three residents who turned 100 years joining our 103 and 104 year olds. On one particular day the '100 Club' all went out for lunch at a local hotel. Of course, meaningful activities don't have to be large, grand affairs, there is space for the quiet voice and that slower pace of enjoyment; every two weeks we have a visiting storyteller who (as it says on the tin), comes in and tells stories to residents, an activity greatly enjoyed by participants.

Both of our homes have received unannounced inspections from the Care Inspectorate during the year, receiving grades of Good and Very Good for the two themes inspected in Edinburgh and two grades of Very Good in The Erskine Home, Bishopton. This external recognition of the quality of our services is important for residents and families wishing to move into an Erskine Home, but it is also important for our staff who take great pride in their work. To support staff in developing skills and knowledge, we invest in training and development opportunities throughout the year. We have four staff undertaking MSc level qualifications, one undertaking a clinical doctorate as well as a number undertaking their BSc in nursing, with one of our staff having



Above: VE Day Celebrations

recently qualified as a nurse, choosing to continue their career here with us. In June, the Care Directorate held its conference, with colleagues presenting on a number of topics. Seven of our nursing team also spoke at the Scottish Social Care Nurses conference looking at career opportunities in care, staff wellbeing and the use of digital/AI tools in care. Other training that took place included but wasn't limited to, skilled in dementia, frailty simulation, Adults with Incapacity, CPR/AED training etc as well as the areas you would expect us to continue delivering training such as fire safety and moving & handling.

During the year we transitioned from 'Workplace' to 'Familio', a platform that enables us to post pictures and videos of activities within our Homes, to the families of our residents. It is a great way to maintain links between the day-to-day life of our residents and their loved ones, especially those that lived further away or even lived out of the country. One added advantage to Familio is that it supports us to print a fortnightly gazette for each resident with pictures of their activity during that period as well as pictures their family may have posted to them.

At the Scottish Care Awards this year we had two finalists, one in the category of Emerging Talent, Kirsty Brown, (newly qualified nurse) and one for Care Worker of the Year, Lorna Grayston. We were delighted when Lorna won the Care Worker of the Year.



As Director of Care, Derek Barron gets ready for retirement, he speaks fondly of his time at Erskine: *"Being the Director of Care, since June 2016, it has been an absolute honour and privilege for me. I have enjoyed so many moments with our residents, staff, relatives and visitors; I would like to thank each one of you for the part you have played. It is with immense pride that I show visitors round our two homes.*

I wish those associated with Erskine Veterans Charity, in any way, the very best for the future, I shall continue to support from afar."



George Walker Navy

George survived a trawler shipwreck before serving over a decade as a Seaman Gunner in the Royal Navy during the Cold War. A life defined by resilience, duty and pride in his service.

George Walker was born on 10th November 1939 in Kingston upon Hull, a city defined by the Humber and by the sea. When George was just four years old, his father Harry was killed. Harry's ship was blown up off Iceland during the Second World War, and the loss marked George's childhood and cast a long shadow over his life.

He left school at fifteen for a job in a shoe factory, work he quickly despised. Drawn by family tradition and the pull of the docks, he moved to the fish market, packing boxes bound for distant towns. But the sea itself called louder. By sixteen he had joined the trawler St Crispin as a galley boy under his stepfather's command. In February 1956, the vessel ran aground on the Icelandic coast. With no lifeboat service available, rescue came from local farmers using a breeches buoy. George never forgot the freezing wait in wet clothes, the cold cutting deep. After months in Iceland, he returned home changed.

Briefly sailing again as a deckhand, he was pulled ashore by his worried mother. Restless and determined, he answered an advert for the Royal Navy. Still only sixteen, having persuaded his mother to sign the papers, he enlisted during the height of the Cold War. Two months later he walked through the gates of HMS Victory and began his naval life.

George served ten years and two months, from 1956 to 1966, as a Seaman Gunner. Training on HMS Ocean and HMS Cambridge prepared him for the discipline and responsibility he embraced wholeheartedly. He volunteered readily, including for fisheries protection patrols off Iceland - guarding the very trawlers that mirrored his own beginnings.

His service took him across Europe, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and for eighteen months to the Middle East aboard HMS Dampier, with visits to Penang and Borneo. He was deployed to Cyprus during the time of Makarios III, conducting searches for hidden firearms during unrest. Later appointments on HMS Duncan and HMS Palliser returned him once more to fisheries protection duties. The Navy gave him purpose, structure and pride; it became the backbone of his life.

After leaving the service, George worked in shipyards, built greenhouses across the country, retrained as an electrical welder and later joined Birds Eye during its pioneering years. He also spent four years in the Merchant Navy, undertaking long voyages to Kuwait, the United States, the Philippines and Honolulu.

While serving, he married Catherine, a widow with a young son, whom George raised as his own. Together they had two more children, building a close family that now includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A decade ago, George was diagnosed with prostate cancer and moved into hospice care for pain management. Through determination and physiotherapy, he regained his mobility and independence. Now living at the Erskine Edinburgh Home, he speaks warmly of the care he receives.

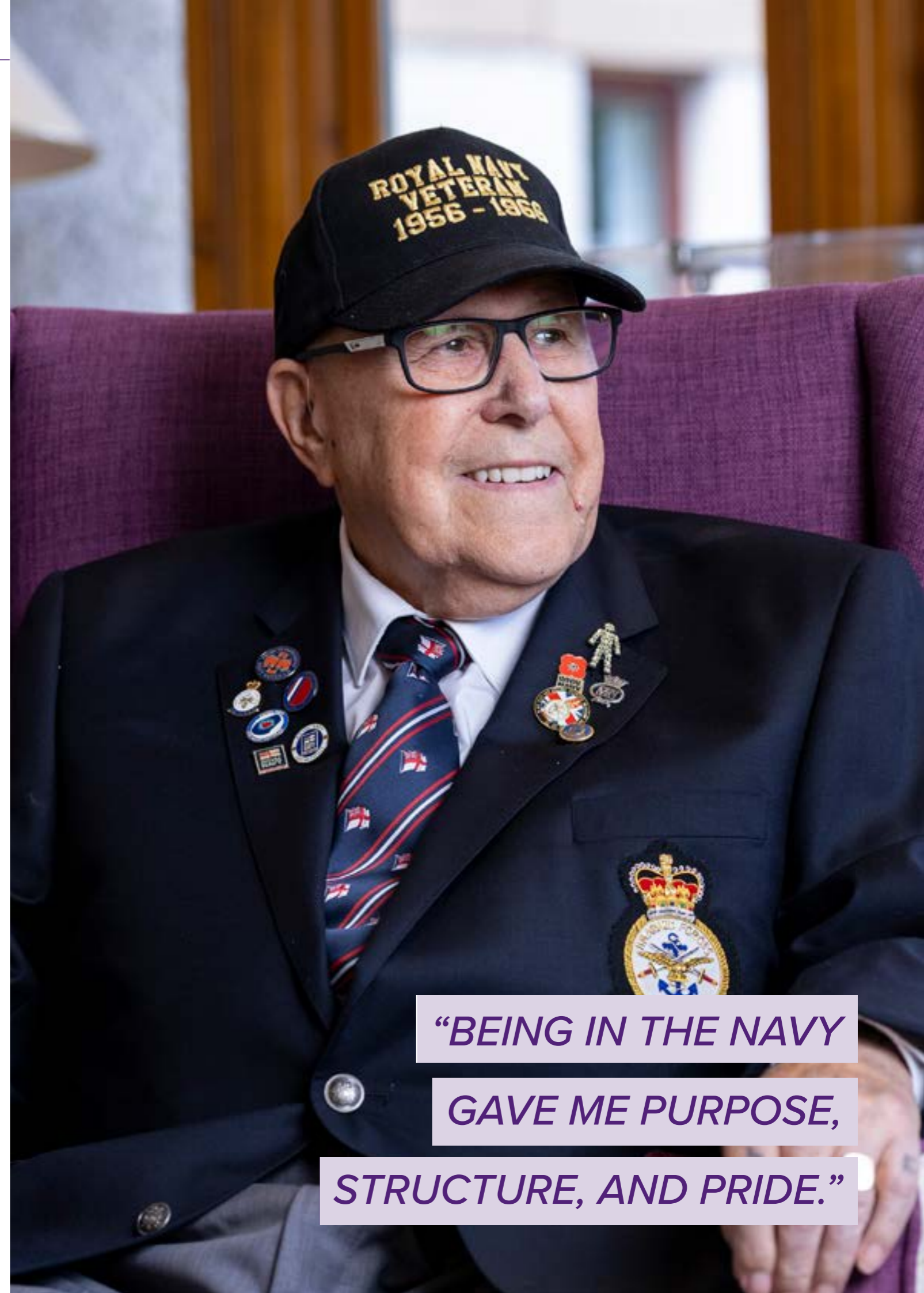
At 86, George still keeps his original service documents. They are more than papers - they are reminders of endurance, of icy seas and distant shores, and of a young boy from Hull who found identity and honour in service to his country.

George appreciates the difference Erskine makes: *"The relief it has given to my son and daughter is immeasurable, they no longer have to worry about me as Erskine Edinburgh has people to care for me 24hrs a day."*



12%

OF OUR RESIDENTS SERVED IN THE ROYAL NAVY



"BEING IN THE NAVY

GAVE ME PURPOSE,

STRUCTURE, AND PRIDE."



WHAT WE DO

ACCOMMODATION

Support

We continue to provide robust support to care delivery across both our homes and across our community services. Although overall care home numbers have reduced, the level of need remains significant. Our teams work closely with care colleagues to ensure an excellent

standard of support for all residents, delivered safely, professionally, and in full compliance with relevant legislation. Above all, we remain committed to fostering warm, welcoming, and secure environments for our Veterans and their families.

Below: EVAC West and Transitional Supported Accommodation buildings

Top Right: Our wonderful housekeeping staff work tirelessly in the laundry

Centre Right: Cottages within the Erskine Veterans Village

Bottom Right: Harry's Cafe provides heart-warming food for visitors to the home

Our catering department was once again awarded an excellent Environmental Health report, reflecting the consistently high standards maintained across our kitchens. The team undertakes regular menu reviews to ensure every meal is of the highest quality and presented in a way that meets each resident's individual needs. They also engage regularly with residents and their families to gather feedback and understand evolving preferences, ensuring that no request is ever considered too much trouble.

Our housekeeping department plays a vital role in maintaining these standards across our built environment. The team ensures our buildings are kept to the highest levels of cleanliness, adhering rigorously to infection-control protocols at all times. Our laundry service guarantees that linen, towels, and residents' personal belongings are laundered and returned within 24 hours, supporting both comfort and dignity.

Our transport and porter services continue to enhance residents' quality of

life by ensuring outings are safe, enjoyable, and punctual. They also oversee the smooth delivery of meals to residents and the safe disposal of all waste types across our Homes and Activity Centres, contributing to a well-managed, supportive and caring environment.

Together, these services ensure we deliver the highest standard of care and support, honouring the service and sacrifices of our Veterans.



THIS YEAR WE PROVIDED

 **220**

ENSUITE ROOMS ACROSS TWO HOMES IN BISHOPTON AND EDINBURGH

Erskine Accommodation

Our 44 cottages continue to offer a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom independent living homes for Veterans and their families. During the year, we undertook upgrades to three properties that had been vacated - one of these being when a resident transitioned to long-term care within The Erskine Home, Bishopton. These improvements ensure that all accommodation remains at the highest standard for incoming Veterans and their families.

Our five assisted living apartments also remain an important part of our housing provision, offering an independent living environment within the footprint of The Erskine Home. This model provides residents with both autonomy and the reassurance of additional support and security as needed.

We continue to deliver significant impact through our 23 Transitional

Supported Accommodation apartments, which offer younger Veterans up to two years of tailored support as they adjust to civilian life. The needs of these Veterans evolve continually, and our team works flexibly and responsively to ensure the right support is always in place and we have now supported 66 Veterans through their transitional journey.

Our Outreach Support Assistant continues to help nurture a strong sense of community and promote an inclusive environment within the accommodation. This role also provides continued assistance to Veterans as they move on to their own tenancies, offering guidance on tenancy sustainment, life skills, budgeting, and other areas essential to successful independent living.





“SERVING TEA TO PRINCE PHILIP WAS ONE OF MY PROUDEST MEMORIES”



Shaun Moat RAF

After a career in the Royal Air Force that ended due to hearing loss and led to homelessness, depression and personal loss, Shaun rebuilt his life when he found life-changing support and community at Erskine Veterans Activity Centre North.

WATCH SHAUN'S STORY HERE

SCAN ME

In October 1997, Shaun began a new chapter of his life when he joined the Royal Air Force as an RAF Steward. His role was one of service and precision - serving officers meals, working behind the bar, and performing silver service duties during formal events. One of his proudest memories was serving tea at 3am to the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh during a visit to RAF Kinloss, where Shaun was first posted.

Life in the RAF quickly became more than a job. In 1999, he deployed to Kuwait for four months, experiencing the realities of operational service. During the Second Gulf War, his 24th birthday was marked by a missile-inbound alert while stationed in the desert outside Kuwait, Shaun didn't think he would live to see his young family again. Two days later, he had a fraught journey as he drove a Land Rover from Kuwait to Basra International Airport, to a new base in a bomb-damaged building. Memories that would stay with Shaun.

In 2004, Shaun was selected to fly as an Air Steward with No. 10 Squadron aboard VC10 aircraft. His career became global, with postings to destinations including Baku, Belize, Washington DC, Banja Luka and Las Vegas. He thrived on the pace, pride, and purpose of military aviation life.

However, in 2005 his life changed dramatically. Years of flying contributed to a 50% hearing loss in both ears. After failing his annual medical his RAF career ended suddenly, just as he was preparing for promotion to Corporal. The loss was devastating. Shaun later described feeling as though his life had ended overnight.

Compounding this was a lack of practical support. Based with his young family at RAF Brize Norton he struggled to find

help returning home to Forres, only to then experience homelessness, living for ten months on a camp bed in his mother-in-law's spare bedroom. The lack of purpose Shaun encountered led to depression and ultimately the loss of his marriage.

Shaun tried several careers post RAF, starting in security before moving into communications and marketing. After years of experience Shaun launched his own marketing business in 2019, but despite professional success, his personal life was struggling. Following another relationship breakdown in 2024, his mental health deteriorated severely, leading to multiple suicide attempts and hospitalisation. He had received little NHS mental health support beyond medication. Help finally came through a Veterans Champion at the Department for Work and Pensions, who referred him to Erskine.

In January 2025, Shaun became the first member to walk through the doors of Erskine's Veterans Activity Centre in Forres, battling heavy snow to attend the opening day. That moment became a turning point. Staff immediately arranged counselling support and welcomed him into a community that would become central to his recovery.

Shaun now attends the centre weekly, playing an active role co-editing the centre's newsletter and chairing the Members Committee. However, he emphasises that it is not one service alone that transformed his life - it is the combination of counselling, social activities, peer support, and friendship. He speaks frequently about Erskine's philosophy that "Erskine saves lives," through a supportive network where stories are shared without judgement.

Today, Shaun continues to advocate for Veterans' mental health, using his experiences to support others facing similar struggles. His story is one of service, loss, survival, and ultimately finding purpose again.

Of Erskine and the staff, Shaun says:

"Erskine are the first people who actually listened. Erskine saved my life"



OF OUR RESIDENTS SERVED IN THE RAF





WHAT WE DO

COMMUNITY

The Erskine Veterans Activity Centres 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, help to explore a number of other interests and access support services.

2025 has been a year of growth, creativity, and wellbeing at EVAC West. Each week, around 250 Veterans attend the centre, immersing themselves in a vibrant schedule of free classes and sessions. Veterans have explored new skills, expressed creativity, stayed active, connected with nature, accessed therapy, and experienced moments of peace. The benefits of these activities extend far beyond the centre, enriching their overall wellbeing.

We were proud to officially open our second activity centre, EVAC North, in January 2025. With over 600 members joining in its first year, the demand for the centre is clear. Like EVAC West, it offers a full weekly programme, with an average of 36 to 40 members attending each day.

The centre will continue to improve, with a kitchen refurbishment due to start in February 2026 and outside space improvements by the summer of 2026; this will include upgrades to the garden, workshop and parking, enhancing the environment and creating further opportunities for members to get involved.

Each of our flagship centres offer a variety of activities every week which are free for the members. Creative sessions like art, pottery, photography and model making give Veterans the space they need to express themselves, build confidence and rediscover purpose. Practical workshops such as IT,



woodwork and genealogy help develop new skills, unlock personal stories and keep Veterans connected to the modern world. Supporting the Christmas Fayre in each area is also very important to the Veterans, giving them the chance to show off their works.

Health and wellbeing are central to everything we do. From supported gym sessions to movement-based activities, Veterans are encouraged to improve both physical fitness and mental resilience in a safe, welcoming environment.

Alongside this, our centres offer varied social programmes, with everything from music and dance to games, group outings and seasonal events. These activities help combat isolation, build friendships and create a strong sense of belonging. Our outdoor experiences and wellbeing sessions further support mental restoration and connection with nature.

EVAC West also has its own choir, bringing together 10 to 15 members who rehearse regularly and grow in confidence. The choir performs at Erskine events, including the Erskine Military Ball and visits to the Bunker to sing for care home residents.

All of these activities are designed to help Veterans live fuller, more connected lives.

One of the most important days of the year is Remembrance Day. Each centre holds its own service to honour the fallen, including those they may have served alongside.

The heart of each centre is the team who runs it. Each centre is unique, and the staff are highly motivated to encourage all members to join in on activities and improve their wellbeing.

Each centre has a committee made up of members who have been elected to the committee by their peers, giving the Veterans a clear voice and a say in how each centre is run.

Feedback from each centre has been overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of participants reporting improved health and wellbeing.

"Having somewhere to go encourages me to come out."

"The group has helped me come out of my shell. I've made great friendships."

With the continued success of both EVACs, we will continue to expand the centres further around Scotland, with the aim to have opened five more by 2031. Our next centre will be in Fife, and we are in active conversations to establish this centre and to support more Veterans as we continue to make a difference in local communities.

27-99 AGE RANGE OF MEMBERS

256 SESSIONS PER MONTH

781 ACTIVE MEMBERS



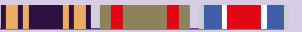
Left hand page: EVAC North opens its doors
Top left: EVAC Members came together to write "My life through WW2"
Top right: EVAC West members pay their respects at the VE Day Memorial Service
Above left: Gym sessions are a great benefit to members
Below: Home Support hits the road

HOME SUPPORT
 Erskine's Board of Trustees gave approval in June 2024 to run a pilot Home Support service for Veterans and spouses. This has now become a main service due to its success in the community in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde and further expanded to take in West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow West. We now visit over 68 Veterans in their own homes.

Information about the service, which provides companionship, assistance around the home, help with errands and shopping, and ensures Veterans can attend appointments and social events, was widely circulated to multiple agencies, including presentations to local community care teams. It is already clear that the pilot scheme has become a fundamental support

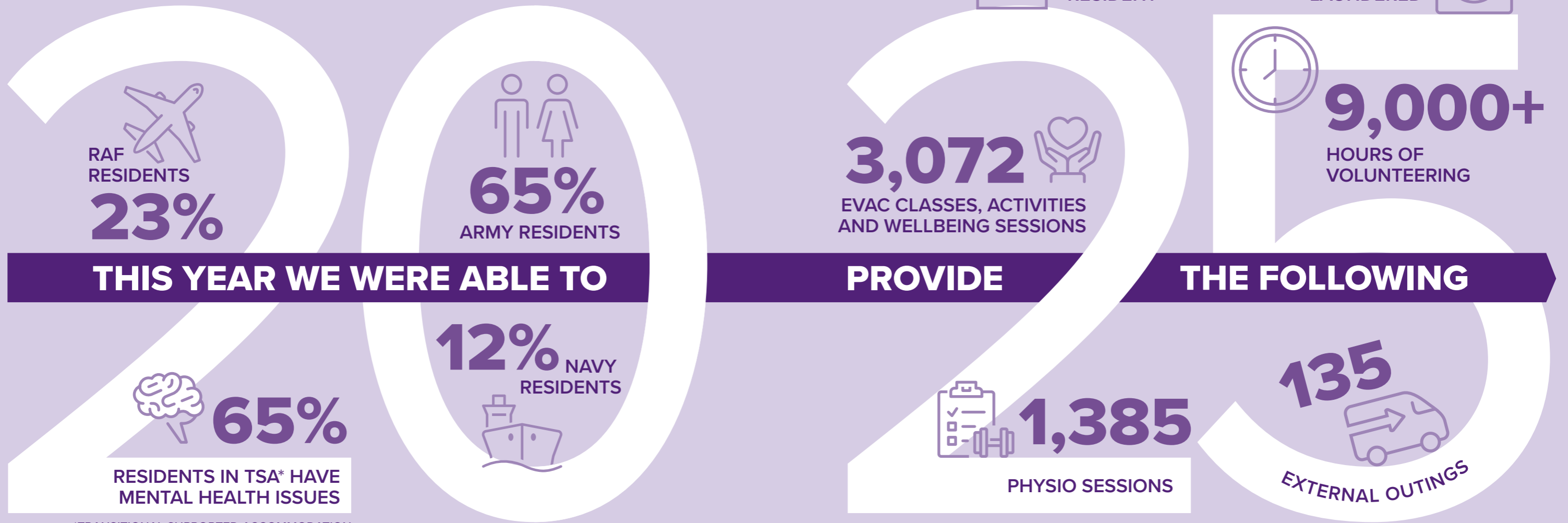
mechanism for its users, confirmed by an external evaluation report, and we look forward to gradually rolling the service out across Scotland so we can support as many beneficiaries as possible. When we open EVAC East in Fife the aim is to run a Home Support service from the centre and every other centre we open as we expand our services across Scotland.





DID YOU KNOW?

YEAR IN NUMBERS



*TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION



240,900

MEALS PROVIDED FOR OUR RESIDENTS



1,354

PODIATRY INTERVENTIONS



136,951

MILES COVERED BY THE ERSKINE FLEET



869

MEMBERS USE EVAC CENTRES



HOW WE DO IT

OUR PEOPLE

Valuing our teams

At Erskine, our employees, volunteers, and trustees are the heart of everything we do.

This year, we celebrated a major milestone: our first-ever Staff Conference, a day dedicated to learning, wellbeing, and connection. Colleagues from across our Homes and services came together to hear from inspiring speakers and reflect on our shared mission. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with staff describing the event as “inspiring and made me proud to work for Erskine.” Many valued the strategic overview from our CEO. The opportunity to network and reconnect was seen as a highlight, reinforcing the sense of community that makes Erskine special.

We continue to invest in our workforce through comprehensive training, wellbeing initiatives, and improved systems that make life easier for our teams. Our HR platforms now streamline rostering, leave, and pay-on-demand, freeing time for what matters most: caring for Veterans and their families. Leadership and teamwork continue to be strengths across our Homes and services, reflected in positive external evaluations and daily feedback from families.

Our volunteers remain a key component of our workforce. Contributing thousands of hours, they enrich the lives of Veterans through companionship, transport, activities, and event support. Their dedication, along with our employees, was celebrated at our Long Service Awards this year - a reminder



WE HAVE
389
VOLUNTEERS



that behind every milestone is a story of kindness and commitment.

Looking ahead, we'll build on the momentum of the Staff Conference with year-round learning, leadership development, and wellbeing programmes. We'll broaden volunteering opportunities and pathways into paid roles, continue to improve our digital tools, and keep wellbeing at the centre of our offer. Above all, we'll stay true to our values of Care, Accountability, Respect, and Empowerment supporting our people so they can continue to deliver the best possible future for Scotland's Veterans and their families.

Recognising our volunteers

Our dedicated Home volunteers give residents connection. Throughout the year, our volunteers have helped create moments of normality, joy and companionship. Whether sharing a blether in Harry's Café, assisting at mealtimes, supporting activities, or helping behind the scenes, they contribute to the atmosphere that makes Erskine feel like home. Their presence complements our staff team, adding warmth, lived experience and community spirit. Our fundraising volunteers generously give their time to our Community & Events teams, helping us raise vital funds to care for our Veterans.

Many of our volunteers have personal connections to Erskine, choosing to give back in gratitude and remembrance – a powerful reflection of our charity's impact.

We remain deeply committed to strengthening this community of volunteers, ensuring they feel valued, supported and proud to be part of Erskine's future.

The charity is governed by an independent Board of Trustees. Details can be found here: www.erskine.org.uk/about-us/our-board-and-team/board-of-trustees

HOW WE DO IT

OUR SUPPORTERS

Erskine has been incredibly fortunate to receive support from many trusts, foundations, ex-Service organisations and grantmakers over the last year. The Trusts team has worked closely with new and long-standing supporters to secure crucial income for our care, community and accommodation services. Our Veterans and staff are truly grateful for this generosity and we are pleased to highlight just some of these supporters.

With thanks to



The Army Benevolent Fund continued their outstanding support of our Army beneficiaries with a significant grant of £150,000 for our provision of enhanced care services at The Erskine Home, Bishopton. We are hugely grateful to the Fund for their exceptional generosity towards our Home's Army community.

We received an incredible grant of £106,325 from The Charity of William Kinloch, administered by the charity ScotsCare, towards the core staff costs of Erskine's Transitional Supported Accommodation project which offers housing and bespoke support packages to working-age Veterans. We were delighted to work with the charity which has been supporting Scots in need for over 200 years.

We received significant support for our care services this year. The Mr & Mrs JMB Trust gave a remarkable £176,000 to fund the new Yarrow House garden at The Erskine Home, Bishopton. Queen Mary's Roehampton Trust continued their regular generosity with £15,000 towards the care of Erskine's War Pensioner residents. Our comprehensive bed replacement programme across both homes was kindly supported by Scotmid, HSBC, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, the Jonathan Cartmell Miller Charitable Trust, The Schuh Trust, the Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust and The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust. In addition, The Pall-Ex Group Charitable Foundation made their first donation to Erskine in support of trips and outings for residents at The Erskine Home, Bishopton, and the William Dawson Trust also helped the Home's Veterans by funding four wheelchair power packs.

The Erskine Veterans Activity Centre West in Bishopton was also generously supported. The Centre received significant year-two funding of £61,162 from the National Lottery Community Fund's Improving Lives Programme towards salary costs. The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust awarded year-two

WE SUPPORT OVER

1,252

MEMBERS OF THE
VETERAN COMMUNITY
IN SCOTLAND

funding of £17,904.30 from their Reaching and Supporting Programme towards the One-Stop-Shop Financial Inclusion service. We also received year-two funding of £10,850 from the Veterans' Foundation for the Ears 2 Hear project. In addition, the Centre accepted generous grants of £10,000 from Officers' Association Scotland and The Wiseman Family Charitable Fund.

We are delighted that our new Erskine Veterans Activity Centre North has already been kindly supported by so many funders. We were awarded £20,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund's Awards for All Programme towards materials and equipment costs. The Veterans' Foundation gave year-one funding of £24,349 towards salary costs. The Scottish Veterans Fund continued their support with year-two funding of £11,870 towards the centre's One-Stop-Shop Financial Inclusion service. The centre also received restricted grants from Scotmid, The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation, the Royal Company of Archers Charitable Trust, The Broughton Charitable Trust and the Welsh Family Trust.

We would also like to give special thanks to Miss M B Reekie's Charitable Trust, The Murray Foundation, the G C Gibson Charitable Trust, The Barrack Charitable Trust and the John Scott Charitable Trust.



HOW WE DO IT

OUR SUPPORTERS

Support from our community

Erskine supporters took part in a variety of events across the year, from VE Day celebrations to Strictly Come Dancing events. We are so grateful for all our wonderful supporters.

Community

The Rangers Supporters Erskine Appeal were once again at the forefront of fundraising for the Veteran community, donating tens of thousands of pounds. Their generous support helped our residents and their families celebrate the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Day, as well as funding Oktoberfest at Erskine Veterans Activity Centre West - a wonderful event enjoyed by all.

Cambuslang Royal Arch 114 hosted an outstanding Sportsman's Dinner, where our residents enjoyed a hilarious and memorable day, entertained by renowned speakers and treated like royalty throughout. Anne Keatings also held her annual fundraiser once again, providing a fantastic night out for both staff and residents.

Alex Maitland continues to show remarkable dedication year after year, tirelessly raising funds through his own efforts.

The Railway Bears held another highly successful sponsored walk around Cumbernauld, with participation growing every year. Over on the east coast, the SMT Claymore Club also enjoyed a strong year of fundraising, with even their children taking part in a sponsored walk up Arthur's Seat.

Calderbank Churchman's Temperance Association had a particularly busy year, hosting both a VE Day party at The Albert Bar and a very successful Sportsman's Dinner. Special guests Derek Ferguson and Ian Durrant entertained attendees with stories about Paul Gascoigne, much to everyone's delight.

We were proud to care for David Neil Snr at Ramsay House, and this year his granddaughter Karen undertook three individual fundraising challenges, culminating in a Strictly Come Dancing event where she finished an impressive second overall.

Football-loving residents were thrilled to receive tickets for Rangers, Celtic and Greenock Morton matches, while at lower league level the annual trip to Petershill FC was once again a highlight. Rugby fans were equally well catered for, enjoying Glasgow Warriors' triumph over old rivals Edinburgh.

Remembrance was, as always, a particularly poignant time for our Veterans. A special highlight was accompanying them to Edinburgh Castle. Caldwell & Dunlop Parish Church's brunch proved a great success, as did the Holytown True Blues Remembrance Party. Meanwhile, Margaret Reid and her Yarn Buddies continue to knit Remembrance flowers year-round and increasing the number of local shops supporting their efforts.

We are also delighted to be developing a new relationship with the Mouldsdale Foundation. Staff and residents have already enjoyed many happy Sundays visiting their Classic & Performance Car and Motorcycle Museum.

To all the smaller groups — the uniformed youth organisations, guilds, Rotary Clubs, and the local pubs who host collecting cans — we simply could not support the Veterans in our care without you. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support.

Finally, our volunteers are rightly regarded as legends. Without them, we would not be visible in the community with our collecting buckets. Their



Below: Veterans and staff take part in the Victory March to Commemorate VJ Day

dedication makes an enormous difference, and we thank them wholeheartedly.

Events

Events have had a major transformation since 2024 with the development and success of our high-profile events.

At the Erskine Military Ball & Ally Awards in 2024, held at the Glasgow Marriott, we formally recognised Erskine fundraising supporters for the first time. This led onto another flagship event at the Radisson Blu 2025 for the Iconic Erskine Burns Supper & Ceilidh.

The Glasgow Ideal Home Show in 2025 caused a stir throughout Glasgow with the transportation and set up of the famous tank (armoured vehicle) causing quite a commotion throughout media including Glasgow Live.

We also decided to diversify our annual Golf Days by having not one but two Golf Days in 2025, Mar Hall and Cameron House. For the first time ever we were able to offer not just a Golf day but Spa Packages and dinner only packages to our guests. These were an astounding success which has led to the various packages being an integral part of our future Golf, Spa and Dinner events.

We aim to continue to elevate our high profile and flagship events for the long term.

HOW WE DO IT

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to the tens of thousands of supporters who have stood with us throughout the past year. Your commitment continues to humble us, and every donation, partnership, and act of kindness honours the service and sacrifices of Scotland's Veterans.

At Erskine, Veterans find community, comradeship, and camaraderie. They are no longer facing their struggles alone but are surrounded by care, understanding, and support, **thanks to you**. Fundraising remains vital to their

future, and we are especially grateful to those who give by direct debit, providing steady, reliable income that helps Veterans rebuild their lives and regain identity, dignity, and hope for the future.

While we cannot name every supporter, please accept our heartfelt thanks. Below, we recognise some of our valued funding partners and long standing supporters whose generosity continues to make an extraordinary impact.

- Aberdeen Performing Arts
- Alasdair Fraser
- Albert Duffus
- Alex Maitland
- Alison T McNair
- American Friends of Erskine Hospital Inc.
- Angela Hughes
- Anne Lawley
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Army Benevolent Fund
- BAE Systems
- Balornock Rifle Club
- BigHearted Scotland
- Blackhall St Columba's Art Club
- Briggs Equipment Ltd
- Bristow Helicopters Ltd
- Bunzl Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies
- Calderbank Churchmans Temperance Association
- Caldwell & Dunlop Parish Church
- Cambuslang Royal Arch Lodge 114
- Cambusnethan Miners' Welfare Charitable Society
- Campsie Bowling Club
- Central Car Auctions
- Charles and Jane Allan Memorial Fund
- Choices Community Shop
- CNR International
- Cruden Foundation
- Dr & Mrs J D Olav Kerr's Charitable Trust
- Drumchapel Friends of the Somme
- Duncan McCuish
- DXC Technology
- Eastfield Bowling Club
- Ecclesiastical Insurance Group
- Eileen Robson
- Elgin Rotary Club
- G C Gibson Charitable Trust
- Garrowhill Bowling Club - Ladies Section
- George Watson
- Glasgow & Strathclyde Universities Officers Training Corps
- Greenock Morton Football Club
- Help Us Help Erskine
- HSBC
- Ian Burrows
- Institute of Quarrying - Scottish Branch
- Irvine Winton Bowling Club
- James and Caroline Urquhart
- John Scott Charitable Trust
- John Stewart
- Jonathan Cartmell Miller Charitable Trust
- Joseph Campbell
- JR Scaffold Services
- Kilmacoll Golf Club Ladies Section
- Kingsferry Court Residents
- Largs Rangers Supporters Club
- Lorimers
- Macintosh Humble
- MacTaggart Scott & Co Ltd
- Maggies Yarn Buddies
- Mary McGuire
- Memoria
- Moray Chamber of Commerce
- Mouldsdale Foundation
- Mr & Mrs JMB Trust
- Mrs M H McMillan's Charitable Trust
- Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust
- Neville McNeill
- Newlands South Church
- Officers' Association Scotland
- Opos Ltd
- Prestwick St Cuthbert Golf Club
- Pure Office
- Queen Mary's Roehampton Trust
- Railway Bears
- Rangers Supporters Erskine Appeal
- RB Safety Consultants
- RBLS - Larkhall & District Womans Section
- Renfrew Rotary Club
- Richard Burns
- Richard Irvin FM Ltd
- Robert and James Henderson
- Robert Gordon University Events Management Students
- Roy and Norma Peebles
- Royal Antidiluvain Order of Buffaloes - Saudi Arabia
- Royal Company of Archers Charitable Trust
- Scotmid
- Scottish Motor Trade Association Ltd
- Scottish Veterans Fund
- SeeByte UK
- SMT Claymore Club
- St Laurence Bar
- St Nicholas Parish Church
- Thales UK Ltd
- The Barrack Charitable Trust
- The Broughton Charitable Trust
- The Brownlie Charitable Trust
- The Charity of William Kinloch and ScotsCare
- The Golden Keys
- The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation
- The Hugh Fraser Foundation
- The J Murray Napier Fund
- The James & Jessie Shaw Charitable Trust
- The Kells Trust
- The Meikle Foundation
- The Milford Collection Ltd
- The Murray Foundation
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Netherton Charitable Trust
- The Pall-Ex Group Charitable Foundation
- The Regal Bar
- The Renfield Bar
- The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust
- The Schuh Trust
- The Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust
- The Wiseman Family Charitable Fund
- Tom Ross & Sons Funeral Directors
- Two Towns Down
- Veterans' Foundation
- Wakeley Tree Surgeons
- Welsh Family Trust
- Western District Lodges Association
- Whitevale Bowling Club
- William Dawson Trust
- Wishaw Golf Club
- Woodvale Rangers Supporters Club



HOW WE DO IT

LEAVE A LEGACY

This past year has been another positive one for legacy fundraising at Erskine, with more than half of our voluntary income generated through Gifts in Wills. Every gift received has made a wonderful difference to the future of Erskine and the lives of those we exist to serve. Combined, Gifts in Wills fund one in four of the Veterans we support, and this is why they are so important to and hugely appreciated by the charity. They are vital to all areas of our work.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has chosen to include Erskine in their Will. Thanks to such generous gifts, we can plan for and deliver high quality care, community and accommodation services to Veterans in need. For example, funding enhanced care provision for our care home residents in Bishopston and Edinburgh, including Physiotherapy, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Activities, and Speech & Language services. These services are funded entirely through voluntary income and are crucial to ensuring our Veterans enjoy the quality of life they deserve, following their service.

Legacies ensure our long-term future and enable us to be here when Veterans need us most, whether that's next year or in decades to come. Erskine's partnership

with the National Free Wills Network allows our supporters to write a simple Will for free, using a solicitor of their own choice, guaranteeing complete autonomy over the process and their wishes. There is no obligation to leave a gift to Erskine when using the National Free Wills Network, but we are most grateful to anyone who chooses to support our work in this way.

One of our existing, long-term supporters recently made the decision to leave a legacy gift to Erskine, saying "I've thought about writing a charity into my Will for a long time and as I've got older I've become more and more certain about wanting to do this, and finally made the choice to leave a donation to Erskine. I've long admired the work they do for



Veterans, since I was a wee boy, and I know they will put my donation to good use. I feel I will be making a difference, somewhere down the line."

For more information on Gifts in Wills, The National Free Wills Network, or to have a confidential chat about how legacy donations support our work at Erskine, please call our Legacy Manager Sarah Morgan on **0141 814 4520** sarah.morgan@erskine.org.uk. Sarah will be delighted to answer any questions you might have.



Watch our legacy video

SCAN ME



HOW WE DO IT

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Every gift entrusted to Erskine plays a vital role in supporting Veterans and their families across Scotland. Our services are complex and delivered to consistently high standards, requiring significant and reliable charitable funding.

We are acutely aware of the responsibility that comes with public generosity. At Erskine, careful stewardship of funds is fundamental to how we operate. Decisions about spending, investment and growth are taken with rigour, strong governance and long-term sustainability in mind. Our independent Board of Trustees provides oversight, ensuring resources are used effectively to deliver the greatest possible impact for the Veterans we serve.

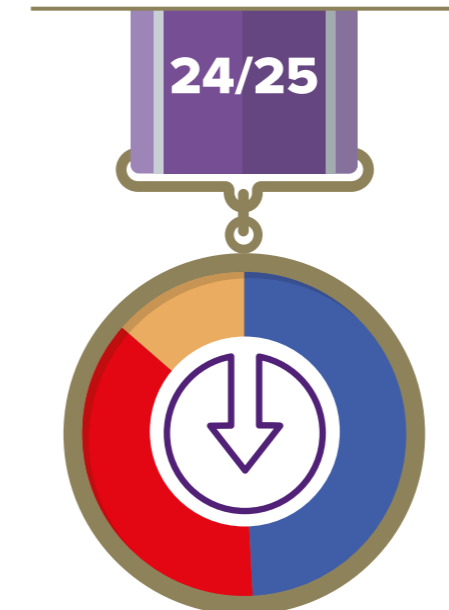
The past two years have involved difficult but necessary choices as costs across social care increased nationally. Within this context, we took measured steps to protect essential services, strengthen our financial resilience, and invest sensibly in areas of growing need, including our Veterans Activity Centres and Home Support services, which are already helping more Veterans remain independent for longer.

Overall financial performance improved compared to recent years, reflecting stronger fundraising, tighter cost control and prudent investment management. However, Erskine continues to operate in a challenging financial environment. We remain reliant on the careful use of reserves and, critically, on the continued generosity of our supporters. For every £1 we spend, 87p is directed to services for Veterans, with 13p used to raise the funds that make this work possible.

Continued financial support is essential. Donations, regular giving, legacies and partnerships enable us not only to sustain today's services, but to reach more Veterans who need care, connection and support now and in the years ahead.

For those who wish to explore the detail, our full audited financial statements are available at this link erskine.org.uk/about-us/publications

SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS



WE NEED TO RAISE



£11m
ANNUALLY

FOR EVERY £1 WE SPEND



13p IS SPENT
ON FUNDRAISING
87p IS SPENT
ON SERVICES TO SUPPORT VETERANS



ERSKINE

Veterans Charity

The Erskine Home

Erskine Veterans Village, Bishopton,
Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU

Tel: 0141 812 1100

Erskine Edinburgh Home

468 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, EH17 7SA

Tel: 0131 672 2558

Erskine Veterans Activity Centre - West

Bishopton, Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU

Tel: 0141 814 4534

Erskine Veterans Activity Centre - North


The Victoria Hotel (former), 1 Tytler Street, Forres, IV36 1EL


Tel: 07788243391

Email: enquiries@erskine.org.uk

Website: erskine.org.uk

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 erskine.org.uk/radio