

Dartmoor's First Whisky Distillery Opening Thanks to Funding Boost from the Greater Dartmoor LEAF

Two business men from South Devon were granted funding to convert the Old Town Hall in Bovey Tracey into Dartmoor's first single malt whisky distillery and visitor attraction centre. The DR Company, helped Simon Crow and Greg Millar to successfully apply for money from the Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund 2015-2020 which enabled them to complete their project sooner than planned.

The Dartmoor Whisky Distillery plans to be a working distillery which will provide educational tours on the process of distillation as well offering a stylish venue to meet, eat and drink in Bovey Tracey. The working distillation still, sourced from Cognac in France, central to the production of the whisky, will form a part of the distillery tours and a unique visual focal point for those eating and drinking at the Bistro Bar and Café.

"The Dartmoor Whisky Distillery will bring new tourism into Bovey Tracey and boost the local economy," explains Project Advisor Sophia May. "The whisky will be made using local malted barley and Dartmoor spring water, and the distillery itself is bringing new life to an historic building and creating an innovative new attraction for the area. This is exactly the sort of project that the Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund wants to support as it is bringing income and new jobs into our area."

The Greater Dartmoor LEAF have been awarded almost £2 million to allocate to projects in the Dartmoor area. The focus of the programme is to support job creation and help the rural economy to grow in the areas of farming, forestry, enterprise, tourism, rural services and cultural heritage activity. The Dartmoor Whisky Distillery is just one of several projects who have successfully applied for funding through the DR Company, and applications are still open.

"Without the help of the DR Company to secure the funding from the Greater Dartmoor LEAF programme, we wouldn't have been able to open the Dartmoor Whisky Distillery as soon as we now will", confirms co-founder Simon Crow. "We are anticipating that this will bring in a much needed boost to tourism to Bovey Tracey and we are very proud to be flying the flag for local, Dartmoor produce."

