

Now Whisky Galore isle to build its own £2.5m distillery

Daily Mail Reporter

IT was once the island home of Whisky Galore author Sir Compton Mackenzie.

Barra in the Outer Hebrides was also used in making the classic film of his book, which was based on the true-life grounding of the SS Politician with a cargo of the spirit on the neighbouring island of Eriskay.

Now it is hoped there really will be whisky galore on Barra after the launch of a shares offer for a £2.5million distillery project. It is looking for £1.5million of the cash through crowdfunding.

The scheme, which already has planning permission for a site above the township of Borve, aims to be the 'most environmentally friendly whisky distillery' in the UK.

Four wind turbines have already been built. Two hydro turbines as well as solar panels

will be added to meet all energy requirements.

The distillery will use the peaty water from the island reservoir at Loch Uisge.

It is hoped to secure a local supply of barley, grown in Barra or neighbouring Uist.

The goal is to produce 30,000 bottles of whisky a year, with the profits ploughed back into the community of 1,100 islanders.

The SS Politician was carrying 28,000 bottles of whisky packed

in cases when it ran aground in 1941. The crew were rescued unharmed.

Sir Compton's 1947 novel inspired the 1949 Ealing comedy in which many islanders were used as extras.

Barra Distillery director Peter Brown said: 'You cannot buy the publicity that the mere hint of Whisky Galore gives.'

'Environmentally friendly'