

Community Sponsorship Programme

The Port of Cromarty Firth exists to improve, safeguard and develop the Cromarty Firth as a Port, for the benefit of all stakeholders. The community sponsorship programme aspires to improve, safeguard and develop the port, the Firth and its surrounding communities for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Application Criteria:

- Applicants must be a community project, school or local charity based in one of the nine communities that border the Cromarty Firth. The port does not accept applications from individuals.
 - Applicants must submit an application form which clearly states the measurable objectives of the project and the expected outcomes, and how they meet the aspirations of the programme and the qualifying criteria. Projects can request financial assistance and/or donations of time. They must also submit a letter of support from their local Community Council, outlining how the project benefits their community and confirming it is recommended for support.
 - The port is seeking community support partnerships. Projects must be collaborative and deliver positive benefits to both the port's community and the port.
 - Community benefits must meet one of four qualifying criteria:
 1. Skills Development, Employability, or Job Creation
 2. Vessel Crew or Passenger Support
 3. Environmental Protection and/or Enhancement
 4. Inter-community events or projects which enhance and/or benefit more than one of the nine Cromarty Firth communities and encourage inter-community collaboration. This can include historical projects related to the port and the Firth; providing they are accessible to all Firth residents.
 - Port benefits can include promotional opportunities, staff development, environmental enhancements, improvements in port infrastructure etc. The Port logo must be prominently displayed on all project promotional materials.
- Long-term projects are of particular interest, as they provide an opportunity for the parties to build a mutually beneficial relationship. Projects related directly to the Firth will also be viewed favourably.

The port is fortunate to receive many requests for support. Applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Cut off dates for submissions are the last day of March, June, September and December. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their submission within a month of the cut-off date.

As a condition of the provision of support, a brief report must be submitted to the Port of Cromarty Firth at the end of the project, or on the anniversary of the date support was provided (whichever is the soonest). This should outline the success of the project and compare the achieved outcomes to those set out in the original application form

Community Sponsorship Programme

APPLICATION FORM

Applicant Name:	Susan Kruse
Project Name:	Dalmore in WWI and WWII
Contact Telephone Number:	077888 35466
Contact Email Address:	info@archhighland.org.uk
Project Address:	The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer IV14 9AF

Is the applicant a community project, a local school or a local charity based in one of the nine communities that border the Cromarty Firth? Yes / ~~No~~

Please describe the project	<p>Dalmore distillery, located between Invergordon and Alness in the Highlands, was requisitioned for special activity in World War I. Towards the end of the war, the U.S. Navy became involved in assembling mines and then deploying them between Orkney and Norway (the co-called Northern Barrage). In the Highlands there were two sites: at Inverness, where the mines and supplies were transported through the Caledonian Canal, and at Dalmore, with materials arriving from Kyle of Lochalsh and then via the railway to Dalmore. Grangemouth in the Central Belt was also used.</p> <p>The base in Inverness has been the subject of research by Inverness Local History Forum, but the Dalmore site has had little attention focussed on it, despite being the best preserved of the three U.S. Navy sites. The requisition of the distillery required the removal of gallons of whisky, and then the building of hangars, sheds, a new pier, accommodation, extensive railway sidings, and a new branch line to Invergordon to allow for the mines to be shipped off for laying in the North Sea. This is an important and little-known aspect of the war, with a large impact in the Highlands.</p> <p>The social aspects of a number of American servicemen had a major impact on the area too, reflected in published memories, newspaper accounts and other sources. Nearby Invergordon had an American YMCA, as did the Dalmore site.</p> <p>In World War II the distillery was again taken over by the military as an RAF training and repair base for flying boats. This was built when the operations outgrew space available in Invergordon. A number of buildings were constructed, some of which remain today on the site.</p>
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	<p>This project has several strands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will build on previous work looking at WWI and WWII remains in Invergordon as well as memories and archive material collected by Alness Heritage Centre. We will research what happened at Dalmore using online information, photographs, newspaper articles, published accounts, plans, aerial photographs and other materials. Already a number of sources have been identified, including an annotated photograph album donated to Invergordon Museum in 2018. We hope to attract participants from Alness, Invergordon and other areas. • As part of the research we will also arrange a day to bring together various groups and individuals who are interested in the topic or have undertaken work elsewhere in the Highlands. • We will collect any memories of WWII activity at the site. • The plans and photographs will be georeferenced to show changes in time and to help match surviving remains to documentary evidence. • We will create a display showcasing our findings, which will then tour local libraries and other venues. We will also post the findings on the Invergordon Museum website, with links to this material from other websites. Binders with the full research results will be deposited at Alness and Invergordon libraries, and Alness Heritage Centre and Invergordon Museum. • We will offer visits to local primary schools. <p>We will also look for additional funding to create a pamphlet on the U.S. Navy presence in the area during WWI.</p> <p>The results of the project will be of interest to a number of people, including local residents and visitors. We expect that some of the visitors on cruise liners will be interested in the project, and they will be able to easily find out about it and other wartime activity at Invergordon Museum and Alness Heritage Centre.</p>
<p>What are the measurable objectives of the project?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will engage with the local community, providing skills and research opportunities. At least 30 people will be involved. • We will produce a display, website information and binders of information to inform people about the results of the investigation. • We will hold at least 2 public open days, including a launch, to publicise results. • We will offer at least two visits to local schools to share results with the younger generation.

<p>What are the expected outcomes of the project?</p>	<p>As a result of this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People will have learnt about wartime heritage in the area which is little known about. We will know this by evaluation forms from participants and by feedback gathered at the celebration day. • People will have gained new or improved skills, such as research skills, creating and using GIS data, writing texts for displays and surveying remains. We will know that again by evaluation forms. • People will think differently about the site and wartime activity in the area after the research. We will demonstrate this by evaluation interviews at our celebration day, and by comments on social media posts. • People will have enjoyed their participation on the project, shown by numbers who remain committed to the project, as well as their comments on evaluation forms. • The heritage will be better interpreted, through our different outputs. We expect that we will identify new WWI structures or remains, and will pull together scattered material into a narrative of the WWI activity in the area. We will document the WWII activity on the site. This new material will be sent to the HER (where it will be available in the event of planning applications). • The project will provide links to several other heritage groups: the Alness Heritage Centre, the Inverness Local History Forum and Invergordon Museum history group.
<p>How does the project meet the aspirations of the Port's community sponsorship programme?</p>	<p>The project will provide exciting information about an unusual aspect of the Firth's history. This will be of interest to both local people and to visitors. The meetings will link various groups in the area, providing interesting and fun opportunities to benefit all.</p>
<p>How does the project meet the qualifying criteria?</p>	<p>We believe that the project meets all four of the qualifying criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The weekly meetings will provide skills in research, organising material, creating displays, and integrating diverse materials. For those who would like it, there will be opportunities to learn more about georeferencing. • The results will provide information for passengers arriving on cruise liners. • The recording of the surviving remains is essential, because they are decaying and at risk. This information will be submitted to the Highland Historical Environment Record (HER), which records all known heritage in the Highlands and is used in planning applications. The results of the investigation will be widely available, digitally and on paper at local museums and libraries.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is inter-community in its design. Alness and Invergordon will be most involved, and we will be using both Alness Heritage Centre and Invergordon Museum. However, other individuals and groups will also be involved. ARCH has undertaken work in the past on wartime remains in Evanton, and many of these participants have expressed interest in the project. In addition, because the U.S. Navy had two bases, one at Dalmore and one at Inverness, we will liaise with the Inverness Local History Forum who have researched Inverness, and Groam House Museum whose recent project on WWI in Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch documented the impact of the Northern Barrage in the Inverness Firth. We are also in contact with the Ardersier and Petty Community Heritage group who are also looking at the impact of the Northern Barrage in WWI on their side of the Inverness Firth.
<p>What assistance would the project like from the sponsorship programme?</p>	<p>We are requesting a grant of £1500 to match the £300 we have already been offered for the project. This will enable us to pay for georeferencing of photographs and materials (essential when trying to sort out different periods and activities on the site). It will also enable us to purchase display boards and materials (including aerial photographs in the National Collection of Aerial Photography), cover photocopying expenses, travel expenses, and a contribution towards the time to create data sets to be created for input into the HER.</p> <p>We have substantial offers of inkind support for this project. Susan Kruse of ARCH is a skilled facilitator, and will lead weekly sessions and process memories. ARCH will also provide project admin support and equipment such as cameras and GPS units. Invergordon Museum will provide room hire for meetings. A volunteer is also going to London to consult the RAF museum archives.</p>
<p>Have you attached a letter of support from your local Community Council to this application?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>How will the Port benefit from the project?</p>	<p>Visitors to the port will find information about a fascinating and little-known aspect of the history of the Cromarty Firth. In particular, it is likely to appeal to American visitors who may not know their countrymen served in this area. The information will also be of use to the tour guides who meet visitors off the cruise liners.</p> <p>The project will also strengthen ties within the community and between different communities along the Firth.</p> <p>The project will result in a display. This can be housed either in Invergordon Museum or at the Port if desired.</p>