

THE SCOTSMAN

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## Orkney lighthouse just misses out on TV millions

RAYMOND HAINEY

A 19TH-CENTURY wheelwright and blacksmith's workshop last night won the final of Restoration Village, while a Scottish lighthouse took third place.

Chedham's Yard in Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, proved to be the most popular property in the BBC2 show, attracting more than half a million votes.

Supporters plan to turn the site into a working museum, with a blacksmith to provide training and education.

Its victory came as a disappointment for backers of Dennis Head Old Beacon on North Ronaldsay, Orkney. The lighthouse made it into the top three selected by the public from a list of eight finalists, which also included the 16th-century Cromarty East Church on the Black Isle.

The lighthouse's supporters wanted £1 million to help restore it to its former glory and help stimulate the economy of the island, which has a population of only 70.

But the show's presenter, Gryff Rhys Jones, last night offered some consolation for the losing finalists.

The prize pot was linked to the number of calls, and any cash left over from the total figure of more than £2.3 million will be handed out to one or more of the runners-up to help with restoration work.

William Muir, chairman of the North Ronaldsay Trust, said: "It makes it much harder for us to get the money, but it was still quite an achievement to get to the final three."

Second place went to Watts Gallery, an arts centre in Surrey.

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