

Five things you need to know today



Botanic Cottage – Modern Apprenticeships – Ziggy Stardust – Easter Play – Edinburgh International Science Festival

Exciting news from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh RBGE that they now have the funding needed to rebuild the Botanic Cottage within the garden. RBGE has been awarded £708,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Botanic Cottage is one of five significant natural heritage projects to benefit from £2.78million HLF funding, bringing HLF's total support for Scotland's natural environment to over £50million.

From 1764 to 1821, the Botanic Cottage was the “gateway” to the previous RBGE site on Leith Walk. Here, Professor John Hope, a botanist of international renown and a leading character in the Scottish Enlightenment, taught students about the emerging science of botany. The vision of RBGE is for the building, designed by John Adam, to be rebuilt and used once more as an educational facility.

The cottage had been threatened with demolition but as a result of tireless campaigning by the community, led by the Botanic Cottage Trust, it was painstakingly dismantled stone by stone in 2008.

RBGE's Regius Keeper, Professor Stephen Blackmore welcomed news of the funding and commented: “The support of the HLF, with that of many generous individuals and a number of other foundations, will breathe new life into a building with a

remarkable and important history. When the Botanic Cottage follows us to Inverleith, almost two centuries after we moved from Leith Walk, it will become the centrepiece of our rapidly expanding programme of voluntary and education activities helping to transform our public engagement. The award is wonderful news for the Botanics.’’

The HLF award will now allow RBGE to move forward with the final stage of planning and fundraising, to close the final funding gap, before the official project start date in July. Construction work for the rebuild is anticipated to start in spring 2014.

Other projects to receive HLF funding include the woodland regeneration project at The Great Trossachs Forest, heritage skills training on the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, the preservation of Castle Lachlan and interpretation of its wild landscape, and a new gallery at Our Dynamic Earth celebrating Scotland’s central role in the development of modern geology.

Commenting on the awards, Colin McLean, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said: “This year, the Year of Natural Scotland, brings into focus the natural beauty and biodiversity that surrounds us. It is one of our greatest national assets, attracting visitors from home and abroad and making a valuable contribution to our tourist economy.

“However it’s not just visitors that benefit. With a bit of innovative thinking, we can protect our natural heritage in a way that helps people and communities. We want people to have the opportunity to get involved, to have a say in how the environment is managed, to learn new skills and apply new technologies. We want to help ignite passion for our natural world and its long-term conservation.’’

Since its inception, the Heritage Lottery Fund has invested £52.12million in over 310 projects which conserve Scotland’s landscape and biodiversity, from the Ffowls of Caithness to the

valleys of the Tweed.



While we are talking about the Botanics, there are two modern apprenticeships available for applicants between 16 and 19 years-old. [More details here.](#)

An Easter treat if ever there was one. The Filmhouse is showing Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars tonight at 20:30. [Get your tickets here.](#)



In Duddingston this afternoon a group is staging an Easter play.

Duddingston Kirk and Theatre Alba

invite you to this major outdoor performance of the Easter Play

To The Cross

*at 2 p.m. on Easter Day, **Sunday 31 March 2013***

in the church gardens at Duddingston Village in Edinburgh. The event is FREE, but booking is desirable.

If this is your thing then [you can book a place here.](#)

This will be the last week of the Edinburgh International Science Festival and there are still many things to attend or see.

Here is the full programme

[Edinburgh Science Festival 2013 Brochure](#)