

The Botanic's Cottage Georgian Garden Gala on Monday

There once was a lonely cottage in Leith... It's hard now to  imagine, but from 1763 to the 1820s the Botanics occupied a site at the top of Leith Walk (now Haddington Place). When they moved to Inverleith, the **Botanic Cottage** – home to the Head Gardener *and* to one of the first classrooms of the **Scottish Enlightenment** – was left behind. Vandalised and threatened with demolition, the poor cottage's future was bleak – until a community campaign was set up to save it. **The Botanic Cottage Project** raised funds, commissioned surveys and came up with an ambitious scheme to conserve the building, and in 2008 – just before a new development threatened to swallow it up – it was dismantled, with every stone being carefully numbered and stored.

 Tomorrow, Monday 30 May 2016, at RBGE's **Georgian Jamboree**, you can see the impressive results of that campaign, for the cottage has been moved, stone by precious stone, from Leith to the 'new' Botanic Garden, where it has been rebuilt in its entirety under the guidance of architects **Simpson & Brown**. For the first time members of the public will have the chance to explore inside the rebuilt Cottage and learn about its history and fascinating journey, while enjoying an afternoon out with **live music, creative activities, cooking demonstrations, dancing, storytelling** and more. Bring your own picnic – party like it's 1766!



The cottage will be used as a new centre for community and education work in the Garden. The upstairs classroom (where, in the 18th century, **Professor John Hope** – the sixth Regius Keeper of the RBGE and Professor of Medicine and Botany in the **University of Edinburgh** – taught medical students about

plants) has become a spacious community area with elegant Georgian-style chairs specially made by **Garvald**  **Edinburgh**, while downstairs you will find a kitchen (the floor is reclaimed Caithness stone and the beautiful Scottish oak benches are the work of **Grassmarket Furniture**), potting shed and education spaces. Groups of all ages can now use the cottage for classes, workshops, talks and meetings – indeed, it is already hosting **Open Book's Reading Together** sessions, cookery demos by the **Edible Gardening Project** and **Art in Healthcare's Parkinson's Art Group**.

The Botanic Cottage Garden Gala will take place 12 noon-6pm  on Monday 30th May 2016 in the Botanic Cottage and Demonstration Garden, [Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. It's **free** and all are welcome! The Botanic Cottage is funded thanks to the support of the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. This event is part of a season of events at the Botanic called **Be Inspired by Nature** and is also part of the **Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design**, supported by **Visit Scotland**. All images © Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

