

# **Back to the Future**

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For over a hundred years the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) offered their 3-year 'Diploma in Horticulture, Edinburgh' course, which was very similar to that still offered by Kew today. In 1995 this course ended and was replaced by a 2-year, mainly theory based, Higher National Diploma (HND) programme in 'Horticulture with Plantsmanship' delivered for one year by the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr and the other year in Edinburgh, predominantly at RBGE.

The HND at RBGE, however, has gone through a huge period of change in the last 2-years (e.g. with both years of the course moving to Edinburgh and the re-introduction of garden based work experience and practical based projects for the students) and a full BSc in Horticulture with Plantsmanship is also to be offered from this September at the Garden. This talk will outline these developments and RBGE's vision for delivering an internationally recognised, professional, practically based, higher education horticultural qualification, within a botanic garden setting..... and the challenges this brings!