

# THE GARDEN



## The Formal Garden

The Formal Garden was built in the late 1800s as a kitchen garden that extended over some 1.6 ha (4 acres) to the north-east of Benmore House, and at one time it had long herbaceous borders and two large conservatories which had been reduced to ruin and finally lost in the gales of 1968.

Now the Formal Garden boasts a large collection of ornamental conifers suitable for the smaller garden. There are over 200 plants, ranging from the dwarf conifers suitable for a rock garden to tall trees with a range of colourful foliage which give year round interest and a spectacular contrast to the surrounding garden.

Pucks Hut provides a welcome shelter from those west coast showers.



Nestled in a shaded cleft in the hillside, it will be landscaped inside and out with a range of native and exotic ferns. It has also been identified as an ideal site for the cultivation of *Trichomanes speciosum*, the Killarney fern, one of Britain's most rare species, protected under UK and European legislation.

Other endangered native species will be cultivated to highlight general issues of plant and habitat conservation. There will be range of training opportunities for staff, students, general interest groups and the public as well as educational activities, tours and visitor events throughout the project

A personal welcome to the Botanics! Whether you are one of our regular visitors or have yet to visit the Botanics, I hope you will enjoy exploring this web site and visit our four Gardens soon.

Without plants there would be no life on Earth. We are dependent upon them for the very air we breathe, not to mention the food we eat and many other products that sustain our daily lives. With plants and their habitats under threat around the world there is an urgent need to understand, protect and conserve them. This is a daunting task but the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has over 330 years of experience in working with plants and the environment. Our continuing success is due to:

- Our skilled and dedicated staff who are leaders in their fields and work in over 40 countries around the world,
- Our world-renowned Living Collections in our four Gardens, each with its own climate, allowing us to grow plants from all over the world, and
- Our first-class research facilities - the Laboratories, Herbarium and Library.

We are well placed to make an increasing contribution to the conservation of plants in Scotland and in the world at large.

We hope that you will share our passion for plants and our concern for the future.