

New palace garden will look back to the past

A 17th-century “physic” garden is to be recreated in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh (Mike Wade writes).

The original herb garden was the first of its kind in Scotland and was created to teach students about the medicinal properties of plants and to provide

pharmacists with fresh materials.

The new attraction, developed by the Royal Collection Trust, will be created in the area behind the Abbey Strand buildings and have raised flowerbeds in a geometric pattern, reflecting the design of early botanic gardens.

Jonathan Marsden,

director of the Royal Collection Trust, said the return of scientific gardening would provide a new focus of interest for visitors to the palace, and provide “a family-friendly space just moments from the Royal Mile”.

The gardens and grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse have

had a number of uses over the centuries. When Mary, Queen of Scots was resident in the 1560s, there were areas set aside for jousting tournaments, hunting, hawking and archery.



artist's impression of new physic garden. ght, a 1647 map of the Holyroodhouse garden

