

AHS London Lecture Thursday 19 November 2026

Mark Crangle, What has 25,000 plants and cuckoos? When horticulture meets horology – the growth of the floral clock.

The iconic Edinburgh and kiss-me-quick Blackpool, both are home to a floral clock.

What started off as a bit of a folly, a curiosity, quickly became a United Kingdom institution, a holiday icon or a childhood treasured memory.

Mark will talk about the origins of the floral clock, through its heyday to its demise. Many of the clocks have now been removed, but there are still some wonderful examples in use today, in all corners of the globe.

Join us for a horticultural horological journey.



The floral clock at Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, created in 1903.

Right: the floral clock in Stanley Park, Blackpool, seen here on an old postcard, was created sometime between the park's opening in 1926 and the late 1930s.



The movement of the floral clock in Hesketh Park, Southport, Sefton, signed on the setting dial by James Ritchie, Edinburgh. The floral clock dates from 1936, and in 2010 it was replanted to the 1930s design.

Mark Crangle has worked at the Cumbria Clock Company since *****. In November 2024, he gave the AHS London lecture 'Scottish Knocks: The Story of Scottish Turret Clock Manufacture'.

Attending London Lectures

We run our 2026 London Lecture Series as hybrid events, available live both online via Zoom and in-person at St Mary-at-Hill Church, Lovat Lane, London. Whether online or in-person, those wishing to attend lectures must register in advance at www.ahsoc.org/events/london-lectures. If you have questions or difficulties please email events@ahsoc.org.