

LECTURING EXPERIENCE

Cliff has presented both slide and digital lectures on various subjects to Alpine Garden Society groups and to horticultural, photographic and natural history societies, groups and clubs across the north-west of England. He has presented specifically themed lectures to the Bolton British-American Society; to the Rochdale based Whitworth Historical Society; to Castleton Scientific & Natural History Society; to a number of Rotary Clubs; Senior Citizen Groups; Ladies Guilds and to Probus Club members in Manchester and beyond.

More distant lecturing opportunities have often been reluctantly declined due to work and family commitments, but early retirement has recently enabled less restrictive planning and lecture requests are increasing accordingly (and quite alarmingly)!

Lecture Sheet

HORTICULTURAL LECTURER, PHOTOGRAPHER & WRITER

Cliff Booker *Ranunculus*

A self-taught and obsessive photographer, Cliff specializes in alpine flower images interspersed with landscapes, habitat and natural history shots.

He reluctantly switched from 35 mm film to digital cameras a number of years ago, but wouldn't switch back for all the tea in China!

His images feature prominently on both the website and the forum of the Scottish Rock Garden Club (where a number of his articles on the Dolomites can also be found).

He has had images published in A.G.S. Bulletins, various gardening publications and even on plant labels for the trade.

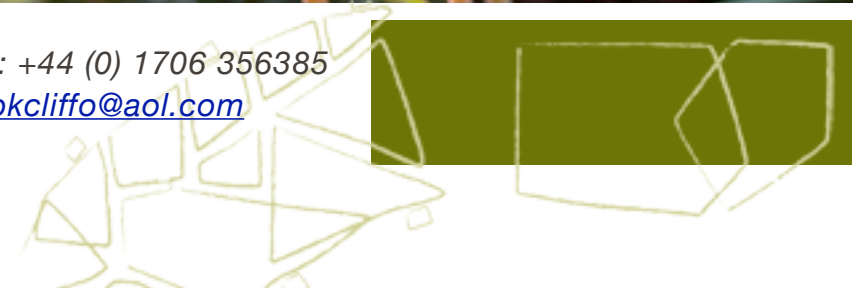
He has had a number of articles published in A.G.S. Bulletins. Two further examples can be found at Vol. 65 No. 1 Page 30 - 'Gone, but not forgotten' and Vol. 65 No. 2 Page 134 - 'Practical Joke'. (March and June 1997 respectively).



11, HORSEFIELD AVENUE, WHITWORTH. ROCHDALE.
LANCASHIRE. OL12 8SW. UNITED KINGDOM

Telephone : +44 (0) 1706 356385

E-Mail bookcliffo@aol.com



Cliff's strengths are certainly his photographs and his use of Keynote technology, so he plays to these strengths with a maximum use of images and a minimum (but certainly sufficient) use of commentary.

Short musical introductions also feature in his presentations and, as the image sequences are all pre-timed, then Cliff would prefer to answer any questions at the end of (rather than during) the lecture.

He has tried to target his presentations to interest not only the expert gardener and grower but also their less knowledgeable partners and companions who might otherwise be deterred by the experience.

Cliff is (given the time and the artistic freedom) more than willing to consider suggestions for topics from less horticulturally based groups.

'ALPINES IN FOCUS - HOPEFULLY?' (69 minutes)

A presentation that demonstrates (with over four hundred images) that any enthusiast can take stunning digital photographs of mountain plants in their natural habitats, whatever their choice of camera. Lavishly illustrated with images captured in Italy, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and at alpine flower shows in the U.K., this is Cliff's favourite and his suggested lecture of choice.

'CREAM OF ALPINES' (APPROX. 65 minutes)

Another digital presentation that delves into the plants that have shaped his hobby and forged his love affair with mountain plants. Thirty intimate portraits that examine these very special plants, their beautiful habitats and some associated species in the wild and on the show bench.

(N.B. It is necessary to point out that these first two presentations include a number of identical images, so watching both presentations may induce occasional feelings of déjà vu!)



Lecture requirements

Cliff will bring his presentations on a Macbook (laptop) and will require a digital projector with Mac input please, projector stand, screen and any extension reels, etc., please.

Cliff MAY bring some signed unframed photographs of plants and landscapes for sale should baggage restrictions allow.

May he also very graciously request that any fees, expenses, etc. be paid in cash rather than by any form of cheque as the conversion rates are now exorbitantly expensive.

'ON WITH THE SHOW' (Approx. 65 minutes)

Yet another digital presentation that explores the A.G.S. and S.R.G.C. Show scene in the U.K. and concentrates on the expertly grown gems that appear at every show. Profusely illustrated with rare and sometimes difficult species, this talk also offers lots of hope to growers who long to try some of these spectacular plants in their own gardens.

'ISLANDS IN THE STREAM' (Approx. 65 minutes)

A fourth digital presentation (that is very much at the design stage at the moment), that will feature breathtaking landscapes, wildlife and an array of amazing plants from tropical, sub-tropical and Mediterranean locations including St Lucia, Madeira, Crete, the Canary Islands, the Balearics and beyond.

'THE DOLOMITES'

Cliff can also 'mix and match' shorter digital presentations from the Dolomites to create lectures of any required length. These musical presentations with commentary range from five minutes to twenty minutes and are entitled as follows:-

THE DOLOMITES - MEDLEY - AN INTRODUCTION
MELLOW TO YELLOW
ETHEREAL REALM
SYLVAN MOMENTS
AZURE DAYS
PARTING SHOTS

'SWITZERLAND - A DIGITAL EXPERIENCE' (Sixty minutes plus)

This is a music based presentation (no commentary whatsoever) that explores the beautiful scenery and vivid plants of the Bernese Oberland. Designed initially as a relaxation aid this presentation proves very popular for less horticulturally based audiences. Created in 2005.