



## ***General Meeting 2020***

We have pleasure in confirming that the 4th General Meeting of the Clarence Bicknell Association will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 28th July 2020 at Graham Avery's home at 65 Southmoor Road, Oxford OX2 6RE for the General Meeting and concurrent committee meeting of our Association, followed by lunch and an optional visit in Oxford. In view of the Corona virus we have selected a fall-back date of Wednesday 2nd September 2020, failing which we will meet by Skype and or Facetime facilities.

Our statutes provide that "Policy decisions and significant financial commitments shall be the subject of a written motion circulated at least two days in advance to the Committee." We have no issues of that importance at the moment and are unlikely to propose any motions in writing. We have a moment to breathe after the hectic 3 year period of the centenary celebrations, we have a set of approved accounts which will be circulated shortly, and we therefore have an opportunity to look at what we have achieved and what can reasonably be done in the next few years.

It is with pleasure that I can advise that Alison Lester, Valerie's daughter, has agreed to join us on the committee. She is hereby co-opted and shall be proposed and seconded before the general meeting. New members of the committee require a majority vote of the existing members of the Committee.

Our statutes also provide that "General Meetings of the association's members shall be conducted as decided by the Committee, it being noted a) that the scope of the Association is worldwide and members may participate by phone, conference call or Skype, that b) a structured exchange of emails with opportunity for members to voice their opinions and influence decisions will be satisfactory, and that c) in the case of formal votes with notice in advance an email vote is valid." In view of the fact that no member other than a committee member has ever attended a GM (even though invited), I propose that we will simply inform members of the association about the meeting (not invite them) and report on the outcome. I will seek your agreement to this at the GM, for the record. We can change the statutes to suit actual needs if we so decide.

Note that, in respect of committee meetings, we have not been holding face-to-face committee meetings because of the efficiency of email and phone communications and the geographical distance between members.

## ***Agenda***

- 1) **Presentation of the 2017 financial accounts** (Marcus Bicknell) and their approval by the General Meeting. Note the financial report "Marcus and Susie Bicknell loans will be repaid, to the extent of cash available, after the General Meeting. Attachments available in hard copy and online.
- 2) **Brief report on the activities of the Association** (Marcus Bicknell) including a comparison of our objectives laid out in 2013 with what we have actually achieved
- 3) **Election of officers of the Association**
  - a. **Committee members.**

Chairman                      **Marcus Bicknell**                      Clarence relation, researcher, writer, coordinator of Clarence activities, webmaster. Based northwest of London, UK

Vice-Chairman                      **Graham Avery** Senior Member of St. Antony's College, Oxford University, and Honorary Director-General of the European Commission, Brussels. Based in Oxford and Florence.

Secretary                      **Susie Bicknell** Writer, researcher. Based northwest of London, UK

Committee member                      **Christopher Chippindale**                      Archaeologist, writer, researcher. Based Cambridge

Committee member                      **Alison Lester** Clarence relation, daughter of the late Valerie Lester, writer. Based in Droitwich UK.

Committee member                      **Helen Blanc-Francard** Writer, researcher, garden expert. Based north of Paris.

Committee member                      **Titus Bicknell**                      Television production and distribution, exhibitions, conferences and new media professional, Washington DC.

- a. At the last General Meeting, in 2018... **Graham Avery** stood for re-election as Vice-Chairman<sup>1</sup> for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. He stands in 2020 for re-election.
  - b. **Susie Bicknell** stood for re-election as Secretary for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. She stands in 2020 for re-election.
  - c. **Vanessa Bicknell**, agreed to stand for the post of Treasurer for a period of 2 years. She was unanimously elected. She stands in 2020 for re-election.
  - d. **Marcus Bicknell** stood for re-election as Chairman for a period of 4 years<sup>2</sup>. No other candidate has been proposed. He was unanimously elected. His tenure lasts until the General Meeting of 2022.
  - e. The other committee members stand in 2020 for re-election, normally for a period of one year but which we propose to extend by *tacit renewal* to the next General Meeting
- 4) The post-centenary objectives of the Association and how to achieve them. Written input in advance from committee members is invited. Our Mission Statement from 2016 in Annex below. Discussion to follow today.
  - 5) Any other business

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<sup>1</sup> "Officers will normally serve a term of two years" (Statutes III.4).

<sup>2</sup> The Chairman shall "a) till the end of 2018 shall be a family relation of Clarence Bicknell and b) shall serve a term of four years. The Chairman may be reappointed for further terms" (Statutes III.4). Provision (a) is no longer relevant.

**Annex:**

## **Organisation's mission:**

Published at

[https://www.clarencebicknell.com/images/downloads\\_association/mission\\_statement.pdf](https://www.clarencebicknell.com/images/downloads_association/mission_statement.pdf)

The objectives of the Association are;

1. to celebrate and disseminate the work of Clarence Bicknell (born in London 1842 died in Casterino, Italy (now in France) in 1918, pastor, archaeologist, artist, man of letters, author, traveller, botanist, collector, humanist and Esperantist) with seminars, information centres, publications and media aimed not only at scholars and experts but also the general public;
2. to inspire and encourage further research related to Clarence and his work by students or experts; to draw from his experiences and outputs as they are relevant to research today
3. to encourage understanding of Bicknell's network of researchers and scientists around Europe and worldwide and the early European cooperative community of which he was an essential part;
4. to advance the arts, culture, heritage and science in connection with the life and work of Clarence Bicknell and those like him, ensuring a benefit to the wider public.
5. to ensure a benefit to the wider public from this cultural heritage, both in the United Kingdom, France and Italy where interest has been centred so far and worldwide;
6. to support by activities, events, promotion and fund-raising those centres of Clarence Bicknell learning, for example the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera, Italy;
7. to ensure the longevity, value and interest to a wider public of two buildings created by Clarence Bicknell, i.e. the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera, Italy, and the Casa Fontanalba, Casterino, France;
8. to engage in charitable acts, fund-raising and donations in projects related to the above objectives.

## **Organisation's Programs and activities:**

The Clarence Bicknell Association has invested in primary media to establish its presence and to inspire members of the public to appreciate his life and work.

1) Social media. Our web-site [www.clarencebicknell.com](http://www.clarencebicknell.com) is a mine of objective information about Bicknell written by association's volunteers, experts in each field. "News & Views" is a blog where updates can be given on research and events. Our policy, like Bicknell's, is to share information, data and images openly with the public rather than withholding anything deemed valuable. There are 35 subject category pages and some 50 research papers on the downloads page, all searchable. Our Facebook page relays the blog entries and publicises events and publications.

2) Print material. We publish an annual printed newsletter to members which we also make available to the public at events.

3) Video. In 2016 the Bicknell family produced the 18-minute documentary "The Marvels of Clarence Bicknell" which the Association is able to use to promote its activities and Bicknell's heritage. The film is therefore available on our web site home page, in any of

the three language versions (English, French and Italian). The Association did not participate in the funding of the video.

4) Biography. The Association's volunteer researchers have been assisting Valerie Lester in researching the life and work of Clarence Bicknell for the full-scale biography which she is writing, for publication in time for the 2018 centenary of Bicknell's death.

5) Exhibitions. The Association has supported the family and relevant museums or cultural centres as required to bring together materials which enlighten exhibitions of Bicknell's work and life or associated subjects. For example, the 2015-2016 exhibition "*Il y a un Grand Mystère* » at the Musée des Merveilles at Tende in France featured albums and botanical water colour paintings by Bicknell. More such exhibitions are planned for the 2018 centenary at related sites which could include

Cambridge University, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology,  
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge  
Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri, Genova  
Musée de Cuneo  
Musée des Merveilles, Tende  
Museo Bicknell, Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri, Bordighera, Italy  
Oxford University Herbaria  
Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew & Edinburgh  
Università degli studi di Genova

6) Academic research. Today the value of Clarence Bicknell's work in several different disciplines is increasingly appreciated by experts – his pioneer recording, cataloguing and publication of the prehistoric rock engravings of the Vallée des Merveilles, his drawings of the flowering plants of the Riviera, his creation of the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera, and his contribution to the international language Esperanto. The Association has encouraged and worked with the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and the University of Genoa (Italy)(where large collections of Bicknell's botanical and archaeological output is stored) in their efforts to put together multi-country research into earth sciences as influenced by the artefacts and knowledge handed down by Bicknell.

An initial focus of the Association's activities since 2013 has been to prepare a commemoration in 1918 of the centenary of Clarence Bicknell's death, but the information and archive created is considered to be of permanent value in inspiring a wider public.

## Charitable Status

The Clarence Bicknell Association is a “Charitable Unincorporated Association” as provided by the United Kingdom’s new 2011 Charities Act. The British Government’s Charity guidelines at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-types-how-to-choose-a-structure>. This enables us to vastly reduce admin costs, to avoid costs for incorporating a limited company, to reduce financial auditing costs, and to avoid registering for Value Added Tax (threshold £81,000 p.a. turnover). Guidelines say that Registered Charities normally have a turnover of £5000 p.a. or more, which is not our case. Note also that our Association has no paid staff and no charges for accountancy.

The Association is therefore not “Registered as a Charity”.

However, the country of governance of our Association is the United Kingdom; the association’s charitable status and obligations are therefore governed by the United Kingdom Charities Act 2011 and by the Act’s requirements in particular a) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science and b) ensuring a benefit to the wider public. Our governance is regulated by an active board of trustees, by statutes available publicly (<http://clarencbicknell.com> >downloads), by properly convoked and minuted General Meetings and by externally-established and publicly-available accounts. The Association has the right to apply for Registration as a Charity at any time when needed.

The Association studied registration under the applicable regimes in France (Association sous la Loi de 1901) and in Italy (ONLUS) but decided not to take either of those paths, for costs reasons.

Marcus Bicknell  
6 December 2016