



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting in person and Zoom call of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Present: MB, SB, Graham Avery, Nick Ray. Apologies from Renchi and Vanessa Bicknell, Humphrey Tonkin who had problems accessing the Zoom call.

- 1) **Presentation of the 2023 financial accounts** by Marcus Bicknell. The accounts had already been approved by the treasurer Vanessa Bicknell and the Vice-Chairman Graham Avery. We sought their approval by the General Meeting. [https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/accounts\\_2023.pdf](https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/accounts_2023.pdf) MB commented that there were 22 paying members resulting from much chasing up.

**Motion 1:** The General Meeting approved the accounts.

- 2) **Election of officers of the Association.** Committee members:

- a. **Committee members.**

Chairman	<b>Marcus Bicknell</b>
Vice-Chairman	<b>Graham Avery</b>
Secretary	<b>Susie Bicknell</b>
Treasurer	<b>Vanessa Bicknell</b>
Committee member	<b>Renchi Bicknell</b>
Committee member	<b>Christopher Chippindale</b>
Committee member	<b>Helen Blanc-Francard</b>
Committee member	<b>Titus Bicknell</b>

Alison Lester has stepped down since the last AGM.

- b. At the General Meetings of 2018, 2020 and 2022 **Graham Avery** stood for re-election as Vice-Chairman<sup>1</sup> for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. He is in post till 2024 and therefore stands for re-election this year.
- c. **Susie Bicknell** stood in 2022 for re-election as Secretary for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. She is in post till 2024 and therefore stands for re-election this year.
- d. **Vanessa Bicknell**, stood in 2022 for re-election as Treasurer for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. She is in post till 2024 and therefore stands for re-election this year.
- e. **Marcus Bicknell** stood in 2022 for re-election as Chairman for a period of 4 years<sup>2</sup> and was unanimously elected. His tenure lasts until the General Meeting of 2026. There is no election this year.

<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.

- f. The other committee members stand in 2024 for re-election, normally for a period of one year but which we propose, as in the past, to extend by *tacit renewal* to the next General Meeting if it is not annual.
- g. Three new committee members have been proposed for election to the committee. The candidates have been discussed with the present committee and are as follows. You can read about them on the subsequent pages of this agenda.

Professor Humphrey R. Tonkin  
Tamsin Treverton Jones  
Professor Nick Ray

**Motion 2:** The General Meeting approved the re-election of all the committee members for the periods shown above and the election of these three candidates to the committee..

- 3) **Persons controlling the Association.** For compliance with the requirements<sup>3</sup> to identify the natural persons who ultimately own or control the Clarence Bicknell Association, the meeting confirms here that the chairman and secretary control the association, to which they give their signatures at the bottom of these minutes. They are:

Chairman	<b>Marcus Bicknell</b>
Date of birth	28 February 1948
Nationality:	British
Country of residence:	United Kingdom
Address:	Homefarm Orchard, Kirby Close, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4FF

Secretary	<b>Susan Augusta Bicknell</b>
Date of birth	18 August 1949
Nationality:	British
Country of residence:	United Kingdom
Address:	Homefarm Orchard, Kirby Close, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4FF

The country of governance of the Association is the United Kingdom. The association’s charitable status is a “Charitable Unincorporated Association” as defined by, and governed by, the United Kingdom Charities Act 2011 updated 2022 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.

- 4) MB updated the meeting on fundraising for the Woodland Trust by sale of Clarence Bicknell wild flower prints and on our new shop at [www.clarencebicknell.com/shop](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/shop). The cooperation of all members is requested in identifying retail outlets and other celebrities who would sign a batch of prints for sale.

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<sup>3</sup> UK Government’s anti-money-laundering provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA), other provisions of the United Kingdom Charities Act 2011 updated 2022 and requirements of HMRC.

- 5) Although the TV documentary by Millstream Films for Sky Arts Italia, "The English in Liguria" has been completed we do not yet have details of its distribution.
- 6) The book *Inglese in Liguria* edited by Francesca Boshieri with contributions from Gisella, Daniela Gandolfi and Marcus came out in July 2023 but there is nothing specific to report on positive impact on knowledge of Clarence.
- 7) Graham Avery informed the meeting on his research on botanist Arthur Evans which would shortly be published as a paper on our web site.
- 8) Graham Avery reported on his intentions to publish his various papers on our web site as a stand-alone book in print. Marcus agreed to help, once the articles are prepared in MS Word and in the same format, to compile them into one online pdf which could also be published on Amazon print-on-demand softback without significant costs.
- 9) The Chairman proposed and the committee agreed to give to every paid-up member of the Clarence Bicknell Association one framed print of a wild flower watercolour by Clarence (or three unframed). Details and two pages below.

Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of January and the third Tuesday of July every year... Date of next meetings:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 3 pm London time

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 3 pm London time

Signed

Date: 18 July 2024

Chairman



Signed

Secretary



*The list of people with whom we communicate about these calls is made up of the Committee and Companions of our Association and others with skill sets and energies useful to the Clarence cause. As of today they are*

*Alison Lester*

*Anna Lowenstein*

*Carolyn Hanbury*

*Christopher Chippindale*

*Claudia Roggero*

*Dssa. Daniela Gandolfi*

*Elisabetta Massardo*

*Geoff Bicknell*

*Giovanni Russo*

*Gisella Merello*

*Graham Avery*

*Helen Blanc-Francard*

*Humphrey Tonkin*

*Ing. Giuseppe Bessone*

*Jean-Félix Gandioli*

*Julian Bicknell*

*Maddalena Cataldi*

*Maria-Pia Luly Jones*

*Nick Ray*

*Prof. Mauro Mariotti*

*Raffaella Bruzzone*

*Renchi Bicknell*

*Selby Whittingham*

*Silvia Sandrone*

*Sue Bicknell*

*Tamsin Treverton Jones*

*Titus Bicknell*

*Ursula Salghetti Drioli*

*Vanessa Bicknell*



## Annual General Meeting 2024

### Note to committee members – gift of prints

Susie and Marcus are proposing to give to every paid-up member of the Clarence Bicknell Association one framed print of a wild flower watercolour by Clarence (or three unframed).

1. These are the 12x16 inch quality art prints (16x18 when framed) which are being sold for charity ([www.clarencebicknell.com/shop](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/shop)). Susie and I have an average of 40 of each of the 59 different original-size images from the Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book, which were run-ons from the original printing of the book in 2016, in storage at Homefarm Orchard.
2. Susie and I on behalf of the Bicknell family would contribute the prints for free (we paid some £8000 to have the book and run-ons printed, so the prints are a sunk cost).
3. The charges to the Clarence Bicknell Association would be frames (£5.25 negotiated down from £8.50 from an Amazon supplier), card mounts (£1.75) and shipping of between £3 and £16 depending on whether framed and UK/Europe/USA destination. I mount the prints in the frames myself. With 26 members, if half took framed ones, the approximate cost to the Association would be about £300.
4. We have £763 cash at bank plus about £200 positive PayPal balance. We have about £300 of annual cost commitments, notably website. We can afford the gesture to our members.
5. Each member could decide which flower(s) to have from the attached list. I will make it easy to browse through images of the watercolours, with the name of the flower referenced.
6. If I expected to meet a member in the real world during this year and they wanted a framed picture then I would hold it and deliver by hand.
7. Members who buy prints (or anything else on the new online shop) will get a bonus product of about 10-20% of their purchase, such as another print unframed or a set of Clarence Bicknell post cards.



Please let me know if you have any questions or any differences. Because the framing and shipping make an unusual expenditure I will propose it as a motion at the AGM.

MB 4 June 2024

Reference number	SKU	The flower shown
2001		<i>Athragene alpina</i>
2002		<i>Tulipa australis</i>
2003		<i>Pulsatilla alpina</i>
2004		<i>Fritillaria burnati</i>
2005		<i>Primula latifolia</i> lar.
2006		<i>Fritillaria moggridgei</i>
2007		<i>Lilium album</i>
2008		Gentiana 4 species
2009		<i>Ranunculus pyrenaicus</i>
2010		<i>Anthyllis montana</i>
2011		<i>Gentiana lutea</i>
2012		<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>
2013		<i>Caltha palustris</i>
2014		<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>
2015		<i>Senecio doronicum</i>
2016		<i>Aquilegia atrata</i>
2017		<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>
2018		<i>Lilium croceum</i>
2019		<i>Biscutella auriculata</i>
2020		<i>Aquilegia alpina</i>
2021		<i>Trollius europeus</i>
2022		<i>Cardamine asarifolia</i>
2023		<i>Viola biflora</i>
2024		<i>Centaurea montana</i>
2025		<i>Primula marginata</i> & <i>Intricata</i>
2026		<i>Soldanella alpina</i>
2027		<i>Myosotis silvatica</i>
2028		<i>Trifolium alpinum</i>
2029		<i>Papaver alpinum</i>
2030		<i>Lychnis flos jovis</i>
2031		<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i> & <i>betonicaefolium</i>
2032		<i>Lilium martagon</i>
2033		<i>Aster alpinus</i>
2034		<i>Parmica macrophylla</i>
2035		<i>Phyteuma balbisii</i>
2036		<i>Dianthus inodorus</i>
2037		<i>Valeriana montana</i>
2038		<i>Arnica montana</i>
2039		<i>Campanula scheuchzeri</i>
2040		<i>Dryas octopetala</i>
2041		<i>Phyteuma halleri</i>
2042		<i>Campanula stenocodon</i>
2043		<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>
2044		<i>Cirsium erisithales</i>
2045		<i>Nigritella angustifolia</i>
2046		<i>Campanula alpestris</i>
2047		<i>Leucanthemum coronopifolium</i>
2048		<i>Senecio auranticus</i>
2049		<i>Doronicum grandiflorum</i>
2050		<i>Trifolium alpestre</i> & <i>montanum</i>
2051		<i>Asperula hexphylla</i>
2052		<i>Campanula pusilla</i>
2053		<i>Digitalis ambigua</i>
2054		<i>Dianthus neglectus</i>
2055		<i>Astrantia minor</i>
2056		<i>Campanula spicata</i>
2057		<i>Hieracium michelianum</i>
2058		<i>Rosa chavini</i>
2059		<i>Potentilla valderia</i>

## Humphrey Tonkin – new committee member

Humphrey R. Tonkin (born 2 December 1939) is professor of English and a dedicated speaker of Esperanto. Born in Truro, UK, Tonkin is a dual citizen of the U.K. and the U.S. He earned his undergraduate degree from St John's College, Cambridge, and his PhD from Harvard University. His academic specialities include English literature of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, comparative literature, and language policy and planning, the English Renaissance and Edmund Spenser, as well as language use and international languages.

As a professor of the University of Pennsylvania, Tonkin in 1970 received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. From 1971 to 1975 he served as Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies. In 1974 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent a research year (1975-76) at Oxford University. The years 1980–81 he spent as a visiting professor at Columbia University; in 1983 he became president of the Potsdam College of the State University of New York. From 1989 to 1998 he was president of the University of Hartford and University Professor of the Humanities. In 2006 he received the Cassandra Pyle Award for Leadership and Collaboration in International Education and Exchange. In semi-retirement, he taught Shakespeare and Development of Theatre at the University of Hartford's Hartt School until 2015.



As an Esperantist, Tonkin has written and translated numerous works in and about the language. Between 1974 and 1980 as well as between 1986 and 1989 he was president of the Universal Esperanto Association. In 1983 he was among the founders of the Esperantophone Akademio Internacia de la Sciencoj San Marino (AIS). Tonkin is also a member of the Akademio de Esperanto. Tonkin is one of the editors of the journal *Language Problems and Language Planning*.

Humphrey has been an Ambassador of the Clarence Bicknell Association since 2020, is a warm friend of the present committee members and has contributed to our cultural objectives especially in providing research work on Clarence's adoption of Esperanto and translations and support for the publication of Clarence's *Book of Guests in Esperanto* and *A High Way to Heaven*. With Michela Lipari, he recently published an edition of Clarence's original Esperanto poems (2023).



## Tamsin Treverton Jones – new committee member

Tamsin Treverton Jones is a published author, a writer of alternative historical narratives, and a librettist. She studied French at Bristol University and went on to be Head of Press at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Court Theatre and the Bath Literature and International Music Festivals. She has produced and presented features for radio, programmed literary events for digital broadcast and published two oral histories for The History Press. Her non-fiction book *Windblown*, published in 2017 by Hodder and Stoughton, commemorates the 30-year anniversary of The Great Storm, which struck Britain in October 1987.

In 2021 she researched and developed the libretto for a new contemporary opera devised by the composer Amanda Johnson. Supported by Arts Council England and Britten Pears Arts, the opera is inspired by Johnson's Bargee Traveller ancestors and set on the canals of South Yorkshire.

This year, in collaboration with the British composer Louis Mander, she is launching a new opera: an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's groundbreaking novel 'The Waves'. After a creative residency at Hawkwood in July, 'The Waves' will receive its world premiere at the Oslo Opera Festival in September, with a run in London in October.

Tamsin has been an Ambassador of the Clarence Bicknell Association since 2020, is a warm friend of the present committee members and has contributed to our cultural objectives and has advised on fund-raising initiatives such as exhibitions of Clarence's work.



## Nick Ray – new committee member

Professor Nicholas Ray is Emeritus Fellow of Architecture at Jesus College Cambridge and professor of architecture at the University of Cambridge. He has an MA in Architecture from the University of Cambridge and a Diploma in Architecture from University College, London. He is an Honorary Visiting Professor in Architectural Theory at the University of Liverpool.

His career in practical architecture started in London and then with Hughes and Bicknell Architects in Cambridge from 1973 to 1989; one of the partners was Peter Bicknell, Marcus Bicknell's uncle and guardian of the Clarence Bicknell collection for many years. Nick founded Nicholas Ray Associates in 1989 in Cambridge. His most prominent buildings in Cambridge are the Quayside Development, on the banks of the river Cam opposite Magdalene College, major additions to the Department of Chemistry and new and refurbishment projects for numerous Colleges, projects for the University and for private clients. His buildings have received awards and commendations from the Civic Trust and Royal Institute of British Architects.

On the academic side he was first appointed to an Assistant Lectureship at the University of Cambridge in 1974. His publications to date have concentrated on studies of 20th century architects Alvar Aalto, 2005 and Rafael Moneo, 2015, both with Yale University Press, and more theoretical work such as Architecture and its Ethical Dilemmas, 2005 and Philosophy of Architecture, 2014.

Nick was a Syndic of the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, from 2014 for ten years. His other interests include painting, music and Clarence Bicknell. He is also a descendant of Clarence's father Elhanan Bicknell, the whale-oil magnate who amassed a huge art collection in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century including work by JMW Turner of whom he was a patron. Nick has been an Ambassador of the Clarence Bicknell Association since 2020, is a warm friend of the present committee members and has contributed to our cultural objectives an example being his making the contacts which led to Clarence's exhibition at the Wren library of Trinity College Cambridge in 2018.

