

**Association Clarence Bicknell
Clarence Bicknell Association
Associazione Clarence Bicknell**



Annual General Meeting 2026

Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 15h BST UK 16h CET

The Annual General Meeting of the Clarence Bicknell Association will be held at Homefarm Orchard and by Zoom on Tuesday 21 July 2025 at 15h BST UK (16h Bordighera, 10am USA EST). All 2026 members may attend. Please email the Chairman at info@clarencebicknell.com for the Zoom sign-on details

We will handle the formalities of the accounts, re-election of officers and any administrative issues of the Association itself. The **minutes** of the 2025 AGM have been published at https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/AGM_minutes_2025.pdf

The 2025 **accounts** have been approved and published on our web site at https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/accounts_2025.pdf

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 other than those below. If you would like to raise any topic and would like committee members to prepare then please do email me at info@clarencebicknell.com with your proposals.

Agenda

- 1) **Presentation of the 2025 financial accounts** (Marcus Bicknell, already approved by the treasurer Vanessa Bicknell) and their approval by the General Meeting.

https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/accounts_2025.pdf

The Chairman's notes to the accounts are as follows...

- **Membership.** We had 21 paying members in 2025 (21 in 2024 and 23 in 2023), down from a peak of 29 in 2018. The income from that small number, at an average of £20, is enough to pay basic costs although some members gave more than the basic £20, for which we are grateful. In June 2024, Susie and Marcus offered all members a free framed Clarence Bicknell alpine flower watercolour print, but only a handful of members took up the offer and there is no evidence this tactic increased the number of members.
- **Income.** Income from subscriptions and commission on sale of books was £626.14 in 2025 (£432.3 in 2024, £664.76 in 2023 and £243.64 in 2022). The Association earned 10% commission on 12 books sold. There were several payments in 2023 and in 2024 for multiple years of membership; our Association's accounts are recorded on a cash basis, not accruals i.e. a payment in 2025 for three years' membership is taken in 2025 not amortised over the subsequent years.
- **Costs.** £541.19 (£714.17 in 2024, £432.59 in 2023 and £360.22 in 2022). In the report for last we forecast 2025 costs would return to normal and this is the case.

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Marcus Bicknell, Chairman
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Web costs were £487.11 i.e. 90% of total. Social media activities cost nothing in money terms but lots in effort by Marcus.

- **Profit.** We are happy to have a small profit of £84.95 (we made a loss last year of £281.85 and profits in the previous years of £232.17 and £133.42). Our cumulative profit remains positive (£250.93 against £165.98 in 2024). This is a satisfactory result considering the continued low number of members.
- **Balance Sheet.** Despite the trading loss we were able to improve the balance sheet. Our profit enabled us to show net assets of £1,092.21 (£652.10 in 2024, £452.28 in 2023 and £117.00 in 2022). The £686.27 due to M Bicknell is not cash put into the Association but monies due for sales by the Association of print belonging to Susie and Marcus. The Association retains 10% of those such print and book sales.
- **Overview.** It is fair to say that bringing Clarence's work to a wider public is a difficult task. Sales of the prints of Clarence's Alpine flower watercolours have been slow, even those signed by celebrities in coordination with Woodland Trust, some real world sales outlets, print media coverage and two talks by Marcus in London (see separate report).

Motion 1: The General Meeting approves the accounts..

2) Election of officers of the Association

1) Committee members at the last AGM

Chairman	Marcus Bicknell
Vice-Chairman	Graham Avery
Secretary	Susie Bicknell
Treasurer	Vanessa Bicknell
Committee member	Renchi Bicknell
Committee member	Christopher Chippindale
Committee member	Helen Blanc-Francard
Committee member	Titus Bicknell
Committee member	Professor Humphrey R. Tonkin
Committee member	Tamsin Treverton Jones
Committee member	Professor Nick Ray

- 2) We regret to inform members of the death in May 2026 of **Graham Avery**, our founder member and Vice-Chairman. The post of Vice-Chairman is vacant until the election of his successor. ¹ **The Chairman proposes to the committee the election of two Vice-Chairmen, Professor Nick Ray and Titus Bicknell** and would be grateful if one or more committee members would second the proposal. There is no specific provision for having two vice-chairmen and the Chairman asks for the AGM and Committee's latitude in appointing two. Their short bios are at the end of this notice.

Motion 3: The Committee and the General Meeting approves the election of the two new Vice-Chairmen.

¹ Officers of the association may be appointed from within the Committee when the Committee is greater than 3 in number and shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Such appointments shall be made by the Committee.

- 3) **Committee members.** The present committee members stand in 2026 for re-election for a term of 4 years. I propose a single block vote to re-elect all.
- 4) **Susie Bicknell** stood in 2024 for re-election as Secretary for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. She is in post till 2026 and therefore stands for re-election this year.
- 5) **Vanessa Bicknell**, stood in 2022 and 2024 for re-election as Treasurer for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. She is in post till 2026 and therefore stands for re-election this year.
- 6) **Marcus Bicknell** stood in 2022 for re-election as Chairman for a period of 4 years ² and was unanimously elected. His tenure lasts until the General Meeting of 2026. He stands for re-election this year, for a further 4-year term.

Motion 3: The General Meeting approves the re-election of the committee members and officers for the periods as shown in clauses 2.3-6 above.

- 7) The chairman proposes the election³ of two new committee members 1) his cousin **Ian Fraser**, descendant of Elhanan Bicknell, collector of Bicknell-related art, student of Clarence and farmer, and 2) **Owen McNeir**, fund-raising expert in the arts and cultural sector, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and partner of committee member Tamsin Treverton-Jones. Their bios are at the bottom of his agenda.

The chairman welcomes proposals for new committee appointments which should be with him three days before the AGM.

Motion 4: The Committee and the General Meeting approves the election of the new committee members.

- 3) The report from the chairman on significant events and publications in the year is given in an attachment to this convocation and he proposes not to read them out but to invite questions and discussions subject by subject.
- 4) Any other business



² 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.

³ "Election shall be proposed by the Chairman, nominated and seconded at least one week before the general meeting at which the elections shall take place and shall require a majority vote of the existing members of the Committee".

Chairman's report

Clarence Bicknell honoured with medal of the Regione Liguria

On June 20, the international conference “Save the Green” was organised by the Friends of the Hanbury Botanical Gardens in Savona’s Palazzo Civico. The event, open to the public, focussed on four key themes of botanical culture: landscape protection, best practices, territorial marketing, and education for new generations on how to protect and study green spaces. Twenty-three speakers from various backgrounds, including botanists, institutions, universities, and industry experts, spoke on nature conservation, historic gardens, and best practices in sustainability. The goal is to create a network platform dedicated to greenery in Liguria, which can serve as a model for interaction between various public and private entities, to increasingly place greenery at the centre of a region ranked first in Italy for wooded area; forests cover 74% of the territory, with Savona having the most wooded provinces. The Riviera dei Fiori further cements Liguria’s position as the undisputed leader of Italian floriculture, producing over 30% of Italy’s entire flower production, with extraordinary varieties of ranunculus, anemones, carnations, roses, myrtle, eucalyptus, and mimosa exported worldwide, and over 4,000 companies engaged in the sector.

The highlight of the afternoon was the award ceremony; the President of Liguria, Marco Bucci, and the Mayor of Savona, Marco Russo, awarded engraved plaques Liguria Region plaques to Carolyn Hanbury, Marcus Bicknell, and the Ricci family, figures who have distinguished themselves for their commitment to protecting and enhancing the botanical and landscape heritage. Carolyn Hanbury was honoured not only for her continued service as honorary president of the Friends of the Hanbury Botanical Gardens, but also in memory of Thomas Hanbury, philanthropist and botanist, who created one of the world’s most important botanical gardens at La Mortola. The Hanbury Botanical Gardens, along with those created by his son Daniel Hanbury in Alassio, now preserved by the Ricci family, underpinned the award of a similar plaque to the Ricci family. Thirdly, I accepted a similar plaque on behalf of the multi-talented botanist Clarence Bicknell, who passed on to the great flower gardens in the sky over a hundred years ago but who is still making his influence felt. He left the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera and over 10,000 herbaria and 3,428 botanical watercolours to the University of Genoa. My acceptance speech showed Clarence Bicknell's concern for the environment; the text and slides can be downloaded and read at [https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/SAVE THE GREEN Clarence Bicknell speech and slides Marcus Bicknell 20June2026.pdf](https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/SAVE_THE_GREEN_Clarence_Bicknell_speech_and_slides_Marcus_Bicknell_20June2026.pdf).

Chiara Ferrando coordinated the day in an expert and calm way... the computer for the slide projection burst into life 30 seconds before it was first needed (by me) and the ceremony and talks were orchestrated with skill. The conference sessions were moderated by media expert Rosanna Piturru. The conference was conceived by our own president Francesca Centurione Scotto-Boschieri and by Alessandro Bartoli, historian and AGBH councillor, who, in conjunction with the Liguria Region, will present the “English Heritage Route” territorial marketing project, a network program of English gardens and villas. This English legacy will be celebrated by the Liguria Region and the Friends of the Hanbury Botanical Gardens, in collaboration with the Municipality of Portofino, the Kores Association, and the Women on Sailing Association, at the first Festival dedicated to the English in Liguria, in Portofino, on July 31 and August 1 and 2.

Graham Avery – 1943-2026 RIP

I am sad to tell you that Graham Avery has died. I got the following message from his wife Annalisa and will wait another few days before I pluck up the courage to call her. I know he had been ill on and off for a year. On one occasion he was in hospital with a bladder problem. On another he joined a Zoom call from his bed.

"Hello Marcus, I have failed to write to you, and to various other friends, to give you the sad news that Graham passed away a month ago. I was so overwhelmed by the last events and then by all the administrative tasks which had to be handled, that I have failed to inform everybody. I do apologise. I am planning to organise a memorial service for late October and I will keep you informed as soon as the date and venue are fixed. Lots of love to you and Susie Annalisa. Sent from my iPhone"



Among his various achievements and posts, Graham Avery CMG FLS was a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London; Honorary Director-General of the European Commission, Brussels; Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence; Honorary Director-General of the European Commission, Brussels; a Senior Member of St. Antony's College, Oxford University; Secretary General of the Trans European Policy Studies Association; Fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University; Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute, Florence; and author of many learned papers. Graham Avery was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the 2012 New Year Honours for his services to European affairs, recognition during his distinguished career as the Director of the European Commission in Brussels and his extensive work focusing on European enlargement and international relations.

Graham's interest in Clarence arose from his interest in botany, in particular the flowers and plants of the Alps. His research into Reginald Farrer (1880 –1920), traveller and plant collector brought him in 2012 to Clarence's Casa Fontanalba [Visitors' Book](#), which I had published online in 2005, and the realisation that Farrer and Bicknell had met there. Since then he has been a life-member and Vice-Chairman of the Clarence Bicknell Association and fundamental to our efforts in researching and promulgating Clarence's various endeavours. He has been so great for the Clarence efforts, especially his research for Valerie Lester's 2018 biography [MARVELS, the Life of Clarence Bicknell](#). For decades, as an enlightened amateur botanist, he walked the Alps, including those which Clarence knew. He has developed a knowledge of some of the other parts of the Alps where Clarence studied the flora and has provided original research from other parts of Italy, France and the UK, much of which is published in his own name, for example on our web site's [documents page](#).

He has lived in Brussels and Florence while maintaining his home base in Oxford where he passed away. We were privileged to have him as a friend and as a supporter of Clarence Bicknell's legacy. I will sorely miss him, his contributions and his encouragements.

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Clarence Exhibition in Treviso

Le Venezie Watercolor Festival 17 October-1 November 2026, at the historical medieval City Palace Palazzo dei Trecento in Treviso, will feature a display exhibition of water-colours of Alpine flowers by Clarence Bicknell accompanied by one or two original vellum-bound albums, artefacts and text information panels.

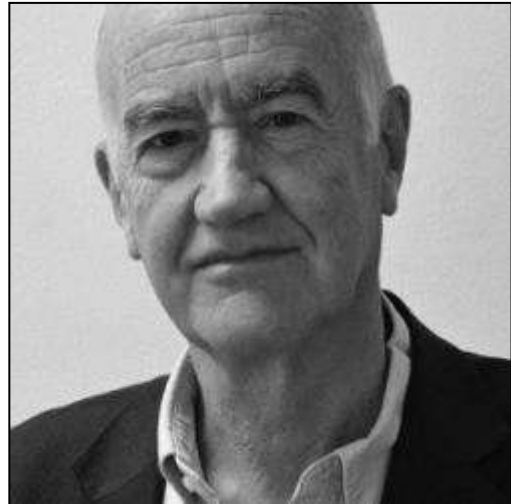
Marcus Bicknell will serve as the Special Juror for this festival and they are establishing a Clarence Bicknell Special Award. Read more and find out about the people involved [on our web site](#)

More news – click on a link to read more

- Regina Margherita a Bordighera – Gisella Merello – book review. [Read more](#)
 - Discovering Clarence; a touching email. [Read more.](#)
 - Visual Theology conference; Marcus's paper is available. [Read more](#)
 - Clarence at the Cookham Festival – exhibition, talk and a video. [Read More](#)
 - A hymn tune by Clarence Bicknell. [Read More](#)
 - More about the organiser of Le Venezie Watercolour Festival. [Read more.](#)
 - Reactions to Clarence's exhibition in Cambridge. [Read more.](#)
 - Muriel de Burgh Daly – Journal de Bordighera and the Tea Rooms. [Read more](#)
 - Did Clarence play football? [Read more.](#)
 - Clarence in Cambridge. [Listen to Marcus on the radio.](#)
 - Portraits of Renchi Bicknell at 80. [Read more](#)
 - Ciclovía Bicknell: no posting made yet
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- Zoom meeting of the **Clarence Bicknell Association** are on the third Tuesday of July and January. The next are on Tuesday 19th January and 20th July 2027 by Zoom. It is primarily for committee members and Companions (<https://clarencerbicknell.com/who-we-are/>) but we are delighted to welcome other members who like to listen in. Email info@clarencerbicknell.com for the Zoom sign-on details.
 - Would you like to be a member, or can you propose membership to a friend? Check it out at <https://clarencerbicknell.com/membership/>. You can subscribe and pay by PayPal or card at <https://clarencerbicknell.com/payment/>

• Nick Ray

Professor Nicholas Ray is Emeritus Fellow of Architecture at Jesus College Cambridge and Reader Emeritus in 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. His most recent book is Thinking Through Twentieth-Century Architecture, Routledge 2013.

Nick was a Syndic (board member) of the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, from 2014 to 2019. 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-19th century including work by JMW Turner of whom he was a patron. Nick has been an Ambassador of the Clarence Bicknell Association since 2020, a committee member since 2023 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.

Titus Bicknell

Titus Bicknell (born 1971) is co-founder of pink ink and TheGalleryChannel.com and co-principal of Museums and the Web LLC. He is an expert in new media, streaming technologies, the small screen and cultural exhibitions.

Apart from a fascinating stint at NBC Universal working on the big screen, Titus has spent the last 20 years exploring the small screen both web and hand held. As Chief Engineer at Antenna Audio Ltd in London, he oversaw ground breaking hand held projects at Tate Modern, the Louvre, Pompidou, the Intel Museum, and the Getty, among others. As Director of Business & Production systems at Hendricks Investment Holdings LLC in Washington DC, he developed documentary and publicity production workflows, live sports event in-stadium broadcasting and digital asset optimization for mobile app development, and oversaw the Property Management, IS and online systems. As Chief Engineer at MyDiscovery, also in DC, Titus oversaw the inception of a community life-long learning platform that now forms part of Learnist through a major joint venture between Discovery Communications and Rocket. As VP Digital Platforms & Chief Engineer at Discovery Communications, Titus oversaw systems architecture and engineering, software architecture and back end development for Discovery's web and mobile portfolio, implementing a portfolio-wide migration to a cloud-based delivery platform and CMS supporting RESTful JSON API delivery to fixed, portable, mobile web and native app experiences. As Lead Architect, Digital Innovation at Discovery, Titus explored the key digital opportunities and technical requirements for the growing non-linear content and user experience.



Titus was Chief Digital Officer at RLJ Entertainment 2014-2024, based in Silver Spring, MD., a premier independent owner, developer, licensee and distributor of entertainment content and programming in primarily North America, the United Kingdom and Australia with over 5,300 titles. RLJE managed the intellectual property and publishing rights to some of the greatest works of mystery fiction, including stories of the iconic sleuths Miss Marple and Poirot. RLJE produced the hit UK mystery series Foyle's War. Since June 2024 Titus has been Executive Chairman of Giant Worldwide which provides global distribution solutions for content and digital platform partners.

At various times Titus has been a film maker, Latin scholar, avid cyclist and advocate for the WordPress open source platform. He attended Winchester College in the UK, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he took a BA in English & Creative Writing in 1993 (Morehead scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma Kappa Alpha National Italian Honor Society). He received a Fulbright scholarship to study Latin at the Gregorian University in Rome and a British Academy grant to pursue a DPhil in 19th century Latin poetry at the University of York 1995-1999. He lives in Baltimore MD with his wife Nancy Proctor and three children.

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Ian Fraser

Ian is as closely related to Clarence Bicknell as any of his siblings' descendants, including Renchi, Titus, Marcus and Nicholas Ray. Henry Sanford Bicknell was Ian's 3 times great-grandfather, Elhanan was his 4 times great-grandfather and Clarence was his 4 times great-uncle.

Ian is also the 4 times great grandson of the great Scottish artist David Roberts (1796-1864), one of Elhanan's closest friends. Elhanan's son Henry Sanford Bicknell married David Roberts' daughter Christine, from whom Ian is descended... a notable lineage indeed.



Ian Fraser is a highly successful multiple-office owner and Director at estate agent Winkworth, who oversaw branches in Islington, Highbury, Shoreditch, Hackney, and Stoke Newington. With over 20 years in the London property market, he successfully expanded his franchise portfolio while navigating multiple market booms and recessions. Ian began his career in real estate in 1996 and joined Winkworth in 2001 as a sales manager in the West End. He purchased the Winkworth Islington branch in July 2006, turning it into a highly profitable operation within his first year. He grew his business footprint by opening a satellite office in Highbury in 2010 and acquiring the Shoreditch franchise in 2012.

Ian holds an MA in History of Art from the University of Aberdeen and wrote for his finals a thesis on "David Roberts (1796-1864) and his involvement in the art institutions of the period especially the Royal Academy" which is published on the Clarence Bicknell website at https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/david_roberts_by_ian_fraser_2021.pdf. He has special insight into the famous Scottish artist because he Ian is Roberts' the 4th great grandson. Elhanan Bicknell (1788-1861), whale oil shipping magnate and patron of the arts, bought many paintings by Roberts and was a close friend. Ian continues to keep a close interest in art in the Bicknell family, including Clarence, and has a modest collection in the genre.

In his spare time, Ian is an avid gardener, fisherman, and farmer. He and Freya née Hayden have three boys and live on a farm in Oxfordshire.

MB June 2026

Owen McNeir

Owen McNeir is a strategic and operational leader with over 25 years' experience in the arts and cultural sector, spanning fundraising, brand development and audience engagement. As a consultant and mentor, he has worked with a wide range of organisations - from independent theatre companies to national heritage bodies - supporting them with business planning, income generation, marketing, and communications.



Owen's career includes senior roles at Bath Festivals and Cheltenham Festivals, where he led on fundraising, marketing, and membership, securing major grants, sponsorships, and high-value patronage. With a background in drama, and a strong commitment to community engagement, Owen brings a creative and strategic perspective to his work.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of both the Chartered Institute of Fundraising and the Chartered Institute of Marketing and has a BA in Theatre, Film and Television from the University of Bristol. Founder of Remarkable Lives (2015-2020), an award-winning social enterprise tackling challenges facing an ageing population. Leads on marketing, communications and programming with Stroud-based Hawkwood Centre for Future Thinking. Owen is also an author and singer with a Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

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