



## 10 years of the Association

### Accounts of the Clarence Bicknell Association 2022

Clarence Bicknell Association Accounts £ pounds sterling

**BALANCE SHEET**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bank	420.00	412.76	596.59	962.20	5,173.25	393.66	3,181.40	865.12	776.83	186.33
Pay Pal £ GBP	57.36	262.78	98.96	19.12	979.65	336.44	429.20	1,095.64	973.39	0.00
Pay Pal € Euros				10.54	127.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous credits									198.00	
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>477.36</b>	<b>675.54</b>	<b>695.55</b>	<b>991.86</b>	<b>6,280.07</b>	<b>730.10</b>	<b>3,610.60</b>	<b>1,960.76</b>	<b>1948.22</b>	<b>186.33</b>
Loan by M Bicknell	1,756.18	1,360.23	1,313.93	1,452.26	7,386.95	1,838.49	3,841.26	1,956.24	-2052.27	-69.33
<b>Net Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>1,278.82</b>	<b>-684.69</b>	<b>-618.38</b>	<b>-460.40</b>	<b>1,106.88</b>	<b>1,108.39</b>	<b>-230.66</b>	<b>4.52</b>	<b>-104.05</b>	<b>117.00</b>

**INCOME STATEMENT**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Member fees, sales	100.00	1,779.46	298.81	415.57	733.22	1,102.81	2,810.05	671.00	510.89	493.64
Expenses										
Marketing	1,376.18	1,174.38	228.00	347.44	1,350.37	943.13	1,942.07	191.90	572.70	356.94
Financial fees	2.64	10.95	4.50	9.30	65.92	66.03	14.99	29.96	9.11	3.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,378.82</b>	<b>1,185.33</b>	<b>232.50</b>	<b>356.74</b>	<b>1,416.29</b>	<b>1,009.16</b>	<b>1,957.06</b>	<b>221.86</b>	<b>581.81</b>	<b>360.22</b>
<b>Income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>1,278.82</b>	<b>594.13</b>	<b>66.31</b>	<b>58.83</b>	<b>-683.07</b>	<b>93.65</b>	<b>852.99</b>	<b>449.14</b>	<b>-70.92</b>	<b>133.42</b>
Number of members	10	28	15	23	22	29	27	23	18	15

## Notes to the accounts of the **Clarence Bicknell Association** for 2020

From Marcus Bicknell, 27 May 2021

1. **Profit.** Although a profit of 133.42 is shown, a one-off receipt of £250 is included. **Our real trading loss is therefore £116.58.** Income (membership fees and commission on sales of books) did not cover the association's expenses (primarily web hosting, web maintenance, PayPal commissions and postage).

The one-off receipt of £250 was from the **Co-operative Bank** paid in September 2022 under pressure from **The Financial Ombudsman**. Starting in August 2019, the Co-op debited our account with spurious and small amounts described as Direct Debits. The beneficiaries were utilities such as British Gas, The Week, New Scientist and Sage. The amounts were between £5 and £50 each time. I, Marcus, noticed them, a benefit of an executive who knows our suppliers doing the accounts. By phoning the Co-op and complaining I was able to get them reimbursed, and at the same time I instructed them verbally and in writing not to debit our account with a direct debit which we had not authorised. They claimed it is normal practice if a company puts in a claim for a direct debit; I argued that this is theft by the beneficiary of amounts (how do they even know our bank account details?) and collusion to theft by the Co-op bank. 9 months after taking my case to The Financial Ombudsman I got a notice from them that they agreed; they got the Co-op to pay us £250 as a penalty and to agree not to make any new unauthorised debits. I do not know whether this is an industry-wide problem. Two banker friends have told me this could be due to problems of integrating new IT with legacy systems rather than an intention to defraud, but neither of these account for the theft by the beneficiary, i.e. British Gas, for example, must have made the request for a direct debit from our account.

2. **Income.** Income from subscriptions of £243.64 (£351 last year) was down again, reflecting a drop of member numbers from 15 members down from 18 last year. The disproportion is due to some members' 5-year payments in 2020 were attributed over 5 years without the amounts being amortised (carried forward) in the accounts. We are making an effort to increase the member numbers back up again in 2023.
3. **Costs.** The Association made no new purchases of merchandising from the Fitzwilliam Museum in 2022 although the very light demand has been enough to exhaust our stock of cards etc. Note that the Association's stock (housed at the Marcus and Susie's home) are assets of the Association and not accounted for in detail. Note also that stock of MARVELS and the Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book are the property of Susie and Marcus Bicknell, not of the Association. Web site costs are at normal maintenance level, the host crash of 2019 having been solved. As an issue of potential conflict of interest, I hereby inform you that our website hosting and support is handled through Titus Bicknell, my nephew; it is re-assuring that other websites which with I am involved ([www.cmmcs.co.uk](http://www.cmmcs.co.uk) and [www.hodgemoor.org.uk](http://www.hodgemoor.org.uk)) studied the service offering, especially the speed of response when a site goes down, and decided in favour of Titus.
4. **Balance Sheet.** Our profit enabled us to show a balance sheet at close to zero, i.e. the Association's assets equal our liabilities. The loan from the Bicknells has been reduced by a further £2000 in 2022 bring the amount outstanding to £69.33. We show a line "Cumulative profit" at the bottom of the accounts for the first time, which indicates that over the ten years of the Association's activities we have just about broken even (£133.42 profit loss) on a turnover of £ 8,915.45. Our PayPal balance stands at zero because the positive balance there was transferred into the bank in late December 2022.

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5. **Membership.** We had 15 paying members in 2022 (18 last year) (down from a peak of 29 in 2018 and 23 in 2020). We continue to consider this a worrying sign of the function the Association provides to its community and we assess in our meetings how to improve what we offer them and thereby to increase membership numbers. The income from that small number, at an average of £20, is nearly enough to pay basic costs like the web site, but if the numbers drop off then the Association as a going concern would be under threat. In 2020 we awarded several active supporters to the status of Companion of the Clarence Bicknell Association to keep the research and activity momentum moving forward.

6. **Further Notes including some which are given every year.**

- a. The Association and its bank account started in March 2013, more than a year before its first General Meeting of 17th May 2014.
- b. Our financial year is the calendar year.
- c. The Association has one bank account, in £ sterling GBP, at the Co-operative Bank, with no overdraft facility; cheque book and internet banking but no debit card or credit cards. Susie Bicknell and Marcus Bicknell must sign together, but most transactions are completed online.
- d. The Association is accounted on a cash basis; items like the three life membership payments of £400 (total £1200) in 2014 and book stock purchase in 2018 and 2019 are not been amortised over future years.
- e. Susie and Marcus Bicknell do not charge office, broadband and travel expenses to the Association.
- f. Two books (*The Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book* and *MARVELS - The Life of Clarence Bicknell*) and a film (*The Marvels of Clarence Bicknell*) were funded by Susie and Marcus Bicknell without financial help from the Association. Susie and Marcus account to the estate of Valerie Lester the modest royalties due on sales of *MARVELS*. Sales of books by the Association, notably from the online shop at [www.clarencebicknell.com/shop](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/shop), generate a commission of 10% to the Association. *The Book of Guests in Esperanto* (published 2022) was funded by Graham Avery and Susie and Marcus Bicknell and is available to the public on Amazon KDP print-on-demand without any per-book profit accruing to the funding parties, therefore no commission to the Association.
- g. The fundraising activities of the Association have not been successful other than the USA donations and another €100 from a Bicknell family member outside of the membership scheme (2 December 2015).
- h. Corporate governance. Marcus Bicknell (Chairman) acts as secretary in the operational sense, i.e. handles membership, income from sale of books, marketing commissioning and costs, web site and internet costs, banking and PayPal. We therefore have three committee members for the purpose of financial control, corporate governance and annual supervision; Vanessa Bicknell (Treasurer), Susie Bicknell (Secretary) and Graham Avery (Vice-Chairman). This summary note is drawn from an Excel spread-sheet kept updated by Marcus Bicknell year on year, containing 1) the P&L detailing every transaction and reconciliation of bank and PayPal, 2) approved historical accounts of the running of the Association, 3) 2018 exhibition accounts for accounting to our USA donors, 4) book sales showing commissions earned, 5) list of members and renewals, 6) CAF America, handling our USA donors.
- i. The accounts of the Association, minutes of General Meetings, mission statements, Articles of Association and biographies of committee members are published in public and updated yearly at <https://www.clarencebicknell.com/downloads>

Signed



Marcus Bicknell (Chairman)

MB 5 January 2023

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