



## General Meeting 2022 Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the Clarence Bicknell Association was held by Zoom on 27 September 2022

Present: Marcus Bicknell (chair), Graham Avery, Susie Bicknell, Helen Blanc-Francard and Nick Ray (Companion)

Apologies received from Alison Lester, Titus Bicknell and Geoffrey Bicknell

No minimum quorum is required by our statutes (which can be consulted at <https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/CBAstatutes.pdf>) and the meeting proceeded.

### Agenda

- 1) **MB presented the 2021 financial accounts** which have already been approved by the treasurer Vanessa Bicknell. They can be consulted at [https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/accounts\\_2021.pdf](https://clarencebicknell.com/wp-content/uploads/accounts_2021.pdf). He remarked on 1) the small annual loss, 2) the low membership numbers and low income in 2021 and 3) our 2020 profit which was enough to bring the Balance Sheet to close to zero, therefore enabling us to repay Marcus and Susie Bicknell all or a large part of the loan they made to the Association in 2013.

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

### 2) Election of officers of the Association

#### a. Committee members.

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

- a. At the General Meetings of 2018 and 2020 **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 2022 for re-election.

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

- b. **Susie Bicknell** stood in 2020 for re-election as Secretary for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. She stands in 2022 for re-election.
- c. **Vanessa Bicknell**, agreed to stand for the post of Treasurer for a period of 2 years. She was unanimously elected in 2020. She stands in 2022 for re-election.
- d. **Marcus Bicknell** stood in 2018 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. He stands in 2022 for election for a period of 4 years.
- e. The other committee members stand in 2022 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.

**Motion 2:** The General Meeting approved the re-election of all the committee members and officers for the periods shown above. *Nick Ray said he might be a candidate for the committee in the future but was even more focussed in travelling to Bordighera at some time in the future.*

*MB reiterated that we are not obliged to have a General Meeting every year. Even the election of committee members can be every two years. Suitable candidates for the committee or other roles can be co-opted in the interim. We can nominate and appoint Companions of the Association (see list in Annex) as we go along.*

- 3) **Events.** We discussed the details of the Clarence Bicknell conferences in Nice 19 November ("Les Botanistes aux Sommets") and Bordighera 20 November ("Botanici sulle cime") involving Marcus Bicknell and Graham Avery. Graham will check with Annalisa the Italian title proposed by Daniela.

GA and NR supported the idea of events in London and Cambridge, whether aimed at botanists, botanical artists or Esperantists. Clarence participated in the Esperanto World Congress in Cambridge in 1907. NR mentioned Stephen Heath who knew about CB and Esperanto. SAB wondered if Parr House near Cambridge is suitable for an event but NR says it only holds 20 people at a time. MB will make enquiries.

#### 4) Any other business

a) 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 had no issues of that importance.

b) In lieu of committee meetings, we have been holding, every six months, Zoom meetings of several committee members, Companions of the Association and others. The next dates are

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 15h GMT UTC

and thereafter on the third Tuesday of the first month of each half-year...

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<sup>2</sup> The Chairman shall "shall serve a term of four years. The Chairman may be reappointed for further terms" (Statutes III.4).

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 3 pm London time  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 3 pm London time

The Chairman is willing at any time, on demand of a committee member, to call one or more committee meetings.

- c) GA proposed a vote of thanks for the efforts made by Marcus and Susie and warm applause rippled through the ether. In reciprocity, MB thanked Graham for his continued research and writing efforts, notable on Reginald Farrer (an updated paper about to be published on [www.clarencebicknell.com](http://www.clarencebicknell.com)) and on Fritz Mader (a volume of work which will become a book).
- d) MB was reminded to pursue a campaign to get American Bicknells interested and seeking membership. The offer of books (we now sell 3 of them at [www.clarencebicknell.com/shop](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/shop)) and ephemera for Christmas presents could be attractive.
- e) GA informed us that Clarence's seminal study of the rock engravings is available online at Archive.org.  
<https://archive.org/details/GE0036GenB213/page/n13/mode/2up>
- f) MB informed the meeting of the great news for friends of Clarence Bicknell outside France. Rémy Masségli's extraordinary film Naïs au Pays des Loups (his young daughter and he in the mountains looking for the wolves) is available to view, possibly for the first time. Previous online showings like on French TV have been geo-blocked for rights reasons. I have purchased it to view from What A Trip Festival Montpellier <https://watmontpellier.fr/projections-en-ligne/> for just €3, but the rights end on 2nd October. Watch it now!  
You remember of course that Rémy made for us the extraordinary 18 minute biopic *The Marvels of Clarence Bicknell* in 2017. [www.vimeo.com/clarencebicknell/marvels](http://www.vimeo.com/clarencebicknell/marvels)
- g) HBF raised the subject of Casterino and access after the floods. The following video report is interesting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dljxaBJbZp8>

Marcus Bicknell  
27 Sept 2022

Information release, 28 August 2020

**The Clarence Bicknell Association is proud to announce a new honour, Companion.**

The Committee of the Association decided at its meeting of 28th July 2020 to honour a number of important people who have contributed to recording and publicising the work and culture of Clarence Bicknell around the world. We are pleased to announce today that the persons listed below have been elected as Companions of the Clarence Bicknell Association.

Each Companion has the right - but not the obligation - to cooperate closely with us by conducting research, writing papers for publication, participating in seminars, and other activities. We hope that each will continue to forge lasting ties with fellow Clarence-lovers, see light shone on their expertise and find a platform to share their insights with a wider audience. The input of new voices such these Companions will greatly increase the international visibility and impact of the Clarence Bicknell Association.

Among our new objectives is the aim to bring Clarence's life and work into the digital age. Many cultural activities in the "post-Covid-19" era will be conducted by means of internet, Zoom, websites, virtual tours and other innovative applications. As funding becomes more and more difficult for museums and other cultural institutions, we believe that we can help to sustain and add value to them by inviting the public - worldwide - to enjoy the possibility of virtual access to Clarence's heritage in various localities.

We also want to extend our field of interest by linking Clarence to other personalities who influenced the creative environment in his time - in Bordighera, the Riviera, Liguria, the Maritime Alps, and elsewhere. Topics could include George MacDonald, Ellen Willmott, Reginald Farrer, Fritz Mader, Emile Burnat, the British Tennis Club, Edward Berry, Charles Garnier, Jane Morris, Louise Jopling, Italy's Queen Margherita, Britain's Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and others.

We believe, as Clarence did, in sharing all our research publicly. Our website is a precious resource and we will continue to improve it. We plan also to increase our use of social media.

Signed on behalf of the Committee of the Clarence Bicknell Association,

Marcus Bicknell

Chairman



**Giuseppe Bessone**, Bordighera: engineer, art collector, historian, writer and expert on Clarence Bicknell.

**Julian Bicknell** MA, London: architect (<http://www.julianbicknell.co.uk>), writer, worked with the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture between 1990 and 2000, previous Master of the Artworkers' Guild ([www.artworkersguild.org](http://www.artworkersguild.org))

**Mark Bicknell** MA, Nettlebed, UK: Retired engineer, philanthropist, art collector

**Sue Bicknell**, London; supporter of Clarence Bicknell initiatives including the prospection of significant financial contributions from donors in the USA who have remained anonymous..

**Dr. Raffaella Bruzzone** MA, Genova and Nottingham: Research associate at the School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies, University of Nottingham, previous Marie Curie Fellow there, writer on botany, landscape and Clarence Bicknell.

[www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Maddalena Cataldi**, Paris: archaeologist, graduate student and writer at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris, expert on the Vallée des Merveilles and Clarence Bicknell. [www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Jean-Félix Gandioli**, Nice, France: Master of Science, researcher and writer on botany, micro-climates, conservation and the history of botanists at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Nice, curator of the 2018 exhibition *Les Botanistes au Sommet* featuring Clarence Bicknell.

**Dott.ssa Daniela Gandolfi**, Bordighera: Director of the *Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri* and of the Museo Bicknell which it owns, archaeologist including a specialisation in marine sites, writer, museum curator, team leader Clarence Bicknell 2018 Centenary, expert on Clarence Bicknell and his work on the rock engravings of the Vallée des Merveilles. [www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Caroline Hanbury**, at the Hanbury Gardens at la Mortola, near Vintimiglia, Italy, organiser of the 2019 conference on *Victorian on the Riviera* which examined the relationship between Hanbury and Bicknell.

**Prof. Mauro Mariotti**, Genova. Professor of Botany at the University of Genova, UNIGE - Dipartimento di Scienze della terra, dell'ambiente e della vita (DISTAV), curator of the most important collection of Clarence Bicknell botanical watercolours, plant samples and archaeological records, director of the Hanbury Gardens, expert on Clarence Bicknell. [www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Elisabetta Massardo**, Genoa and Vernante (Italian Maritime Alps): mountain walker, amateur botanist, photographer, translator into Italian of *MARVELS – The life of Clarence Bicknell* by Valerie Lester. [www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Gisella Merello**, Bordighera: historian, researcher, writer (for example the architect *Charles Garnier e la Riviera*, history of Bordighera and its buildings and people, The British Royal Family in Bordighera, Bicknell's nephew Edward Berry), President of the Jury of the annual cultural award Parmurelu d'Oru, member of the Sezione Intemelia dell'Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri, team member Clarence Bicknell 2018 Centenary, member of the Associazione Amici di Winter.

[www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Nick Ray** MA, Cambridge, UK. Architect, writer (*Alvar Aalto* (2005), *Rafael Moneo* (2015), *Architecture and its Ethical Dilemmas* (2005), and *Philosophy of Architecture* with Christian Illies (2014).), long-time Assistant lecturer at Cambridge University, Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge University, Honorary Visiting Professor in Architectural Theory at the University of Liverpool, Syndic of the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge 2015-2020. Descendant of Clarence Bicknell's father.

**Claudia Roggero**, designer and PR specialist: worked in visual communication at the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Padua, and in Coordinated Image and Exhibit Design at the European Institute of Design in Cagliari, member of the Committee for the restoration of the church of S. Ampelio, Bordighera, member of the Friends of the Clarence Bicknell Library and Museum, worked on the 2018 Clarence Bicknell centenary with the Istituto Internazionale di Studii Liguri.

**Giovanni Russo**, Bordighera: Expert librarian and researcher at the Istituto Internazionale di Studii Liguri, expert in Clarence Bicknell's writings, art and the collection at the Museo Bicknell, Bordighera. [www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Ursula Salghetti Drioli Piacenza**, La Mortola: botanical expert in Italian plant and garden associations, president of the *Associazione per la Diffusione di Piante fra Amatori.*, council member of the Amici di Villa Hanbury and owner/garden director of the neighbouring Villa Boccanegra.

**Humphrey Tonkin**, Hartford, Connecticut, USA. President & University Professor of the Humanities, Emeritus, University of Hartford, USA. President of the Universal Esperanto Association 1974-1980 and 1986-1989. Expert on Clarence Bicknell's Esperanto hymns, poems, translations and activities in the Esperanto movement. [www.clarencebicknell.com/documents](http://www.clarencebicknell.com/documents)

**Tamsin Treverton Jones**, St Leon sur Vezere, France: writer and poet, formerly Head of Press at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Court Theatre and Bath Literature Festival. She has produced and presented features for radio, programmed literary events for digital broadcast and published two oral histories for The History Press. *Windblown* (2017) commemorates The Great Storm which struck Britain in October 1987.

**Selby Whittingham**, London: art expert specialised in the work of J.M.W. Turner, consultant to museums and institutions, secretary and founder of The Independent Turner Society and author of a number of books about art and museums. Expert on Clarence and his father, art-collector, Elhanan Bicknell.

The past and present committee members of the Clarence Bicknell Association are also Companions, as follows.

Marcus Bicknell	Chairman, Clarence Bicknell Association since 2013
Graham Avery	Vice-Chairman, Clarence Bicknell Association since 2013
Susie Bicknell	Secretary, Clarence Bicknell Association since 2013
Geoff Bicknell	Treasurer, Clarence Bicknell Association, 2013-2018
Christopher Chippindale	Committee Member, Clarence Bicknell Association since 2013
Maria Pia Luly-Jones	Committee Member 2013-2017
Helen Blanc-Francard	Committee Member, Clarence Bicknell Association since 2013
Vanessa Bicknell	Treasurer, Clarence Bicknell Association
Titus Bicknell	Committee Member, Clarence Bicknell Association
Renchi Bicknell	Committee Member, Clarence Bicknell Association

Valerie Browne Lester (1939-2019), Committee Member 2013-2019 † In Memoriam,