



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Zoom call of 18 July 2023

Present: MB, SB, Renchi and Vanessa Bicknell, Titus Bicknell Graham Avery, Helen Blanc-Francard, Nick Ray, Humphrey Tomkin. Apologies from Geoff Bicknell

- 1) **Presentation of the 2022 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_2022.pdf
MB commented that there were 22 paying members resulting from much chasing up.

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

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

Chairman	Marcus Bicknell
Vice-Chairman	Graham Avery
Secretary	Susie Bicknell
Treasurer	Vanessa Bicknell
Committee member	Renchi Bicknell
Committee member	Christopher Chippindale
Committee member	Alison Lester
Committee member	Helen Blanc-Francard
Committee member	Titus Bicknell

 - a. At the General Meetings of 2018, 2020 and 2022 **Graham Avery** stood for re-election as Vice-Chairman¹ for a period of 2 years and was unanimously elected. He is in post till 2024 and there is no election this year.
 - b. **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 there is no election this year
 - c. **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 there is no election this year
 - d. **Marcus Bicknell** stood in 2022 for re-election as Chairman for a period of 4 years² and was unanimously elected. His tenure lasts until the General Meeting of 2026. There is no election this year.
 - e. The other committee members stand in 2023 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 for the periods shown above.

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

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) **Fundraising for the 2024 Clarence Bicknell Exhibition in London.** MB reported that although there had been many leads, after his extensive approach, no funding had yet been pledged. Elizabeth Scott at the Guildhall continued to be very supportive and had suggested a Plan B, having a much smaller exhibition in the Temple Room, similar to the 2017 event held in Bordighera. Titus asked if this would be a seed or a one-off exhibition. MB said it would depend. And he asked Titus to tell Nancy how grateful he was for her excellent advice on fund-raising. Marcus was still flying the Clarence flag with a couple of talks with film screenings in London coming up in the autumn.

In answer to Graham, Marcus said an approach to the cultural section of the Italian embassy had been negative.

Helen wondered if the Italian version of the National Trust could help, or the FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano, the National Trust for Italy). Gisella said the FAI would never fund an exhibition but she will ask, as could be passive sponsor for the Italian exhibition if it materialised.

Renchi suggested The Newt who were sponsoring huge events like the Chelsea Flower Show. Marcus would ask Hannah Felt (son Christopher's girlfriend) about this.

HB asked if the Museo Bicknell could raise funds, but Marcus was dubious. Maybe for the Italian version of the exhibition but probably not for London.

Gisella asked about approaching the Regione Liguria, the UK ambassador in Rome, School in Rome? But again more relevant for Italian exhibition. Marcus would, however, follow up email from Niccolò Biancheri Chiappori.

Renchi suggested, eg, competitions could be used. Marcus said they were just one of the many "outreach" subjects that had been put forward in asking for sponsors with the aim of including minorities, a young audience etc.

Titus asked if the Clarence cookbook was progressing. Marcus said it was not written but there were plenty of resources. He showed the meeting the latest edition of "La Garance Voyageuse" which called itself a "Revue du monde vegetal" and which had published a very nice article on Clarence. The editor said she knew 2 people who could work on a foraging/using minimal resources type cookbook in French.

- 4) TV Documentary by Millstream Films for Sky Arts Italia, "The English in Liguria". Marcus and Susie had seen a first copy of this 2 weeks ago. Much of Marcus's interview that he had done in the Fitzwilliam in January was featured so Clarence got good coverage alongside Byron, Shelley, the two Hanburys, DH Lawrence and other Ligurian notables. It would appear in Italy, Germany and France but not in England unless eg Sky Arts, Channel 4 picked it up.
- 5) The book *Inglese in Liguria* edited by Francesca Boshieri with contributions from Gisella, Daniela Gandolfi and Marcus came out about a month ago. This book aims to create a route round the villas and gardens created by the English. Gisella said there was an event planned on the book at the Museo Bicknell on 29 July. She suggested a link to the book and how to buy it on the CBA website. Marcus is waiting, as of 27 July, for info and web links from Francesca.

Clarence's poems in Esperanto. Humphrey said this book, called "However Faith Sings" contained 117 poems by Clarence, written between 1900 and his death, with explanatory notes was coming out in two weeks' time at the annual Esperanto conference, this year in Turin. Humphrey would compile an Esperanto contact list for Marcus to help with the promotion of both this book and *The Book of Guests in Esperanto*.

- 6) Nick Ray and Humphrey Tonkin both happened to be in Italy in 2 weeks time, Nick in Bordighera. Marcus would warn Daniela about both their visits. Humphrey would encourage conference attendees in Turin to visit Bordighera and the Museo Bicknell.
- 7) Any other business.
Geoff Bicknell had made some interesting suggestions by email, eg relating Clarence to climate change and also including having a car race from Brighton to Bordighera! Ideas to work on.

Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of January and the third Tuesday of July every year... Date of next meetings: Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 3 pm London time

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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*

