



Organisation's mission:

The objectives of the Association are;

1. to celebrate and disseminate the work of Clarence Bicknell (born in London 1842 died in Casterino, Italy (now in France) in 1918, pastor, archaeologist, artist, man of letters, author, traveller, botanist, collector, humanist and Esperantist) with seminars, information centres, publications and media aimed not only at scholars and experts but also the general public;
2. to inspire and encourage further research related to Clarence and his work by students or experts; to draw from his experiences and outputs as they are relevant to research today
3. to encourage understanding of Bicknell's network of researchers and scientists around Europe and worldwide and the early European cooperative community of which he was an essential part;
4. to advance the arts, culture, heritage and science in connection with the life and work of Clarence Bicknell and those like him, ensuring a benefit to the wider public.
5. to ensure a benefit to the wider public from this cultural heritage, both in the United Kingdom, France and Italy where interest has been centred so far and worldwide;
6. to support by activities, events, promotion and fund-raising those centres of Clarence Bicknell learning, for example the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera, Italy;
7. to ensure the longevity, value and interest to a wider public of two buildings created by Clarence Bicknell, i.e. the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera, Italy, and the Casa Fontanalba, Casterino, France;
8. to engage in charitable acts, fund-raising and donations in projects related to the above objectives.

Organisation's Programs and activities:

The Clarence Bicknell Association has invested in primary media to establish its presence and to inspire members of the public to appreciate his life and work.

- 1) Social media. Our web-site www.clarencebicknell.com is a mine of objective information about Bicknell written by association's volunteers, experts in each field. "News & Views" is a blog where updates can be given on research and events. Our policy, like Bicknell's, is to share information, data and images openly with the public rather than withholding anything deemed valuable. There are 35 subject category pages and some 50 research papers on the downloads page, all searchable. Our Facebook page relays the blog entries and publicises events and publications.
- 2) Print material. We publish an annual printed newsletter to members which we also make available to the public at events.

3) Video. In 2016 the Bicknell family produced the 18-minute documentary “The Marvels of Clarence Bicknell” which the Association is able to use to promote its activities and Bicknell’s heritage. The film is therefore available on our web site home page, in any of the three language versions (English, French and Italian). The Association did not participate in the funding of the video.

4) Biography. The Association’s volunteer researchers have been assisting Valerie Lester in researching the life and work of Clarence Bicknell for the full-scale biography which she is writing, for publication in time for the 2018 centenary of Bicknell’s death.

5) Exhibitions. The Association has supported the family and relevant museums or cultural centres as required to bring together materials which enlighten exhibitions of Bicknell’s work and life or associated subjects. For example, the 2015-2016 exhibition “*Il y a un Grand Mystère* » at the Musée des Merveilles at Tende in France featured albums and botanical water colour paintings by Bicknell. More such exhibitions are planned for the 2018 centenary at related sites which could include

Cambridge University, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology,
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri, Genova
Musée de Cuneo
Musée des Merveilles, Tende
Museo Bicknell, Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri, Bordighera, Italy
Oxford University Herbaria
Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew & Edinburgh
Università degli studi di Genova

6) Academic research. Today the value of Clarence Bicknell’s work in several different disciplines is increasingly appreciated by experts – his pioneer recording, cataloguing and publication of the prehistoric rock engravings of the Vallée des Merveilles, his drawings of the flowering plants of the Riviera, his creation of the Museo Bicknell in Bordighera, and his contribution to the international language Esperanto. The Association has encouraged and worked with the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and the University of Genoa (Italy)(where large collections of Bicknell’s botanical and archaeological output is stored) in their efforts to put together multi-country research into earth sciences as influenced by the artefacts and knowledge handed down by Bicknell.

An initial focus of the Association’s activities since 2013 has been to prepare a commemoration in 1918 of the centenary of Clarence Bicknell’s death, but the information and archive created is considered to be of permanent value in inspiring a wider public.

Charitable Status

The Clarence Bicknell Association is a “Charitable Unincorporated Association” as provided by the United Kingdom’s new 2011 Charities Act. The British Government’s Charity guidelines at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-types-how-to-choose-a-structure>. This enables us to vastly reduce admin costs, to avoid costs for incorporating a limited company, to reduce financial auditing costs, and to avoid registering for Value Added Tax (threshold £81,000 p.a. turnover). Guidelines say that Registered Charities normally have a turnover of £5000 p.a. or more, which is not our case. Note also that our Association has no paid staff and no charges for accountancy.

The Association is therefore not “Registered as a Charity”.

However, the country of governance of our Association is the United Kingdom; the association’s charitable status and obligations are therefore governed by the United Kingdom Charities Act 2011 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. Our governance is regulated by an active board of trustees, by statutes available publicly (<http://clarencebicknell.com> >downloads), by properly convoked and minuted General Meetings and by externally-established and publicly-available accounts. The Association has the right to apply for Registration as a Charity at any time when needed.

The Association studied registration under the applicable regimes in France (Association sous la Loi de 1901) and in Italy (ONLUS) but decided not to take either of those paths, for costs reasons.

Marcus Bicknell
6 December 2016