





The Marlborough Brandt Group

Annual Report 2016

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A brand new year, a brand new director for MBG.

Having been appointed to the role at the end of 2015, Karen Bulsara took up the position in early February and the next chapter in the life of the organisation began. This followed the retirement of our Founder, and former Director, Nick Maurice. We knew that this would also mean a new direction for the charity. In order to understand fully what that direction and purpose would be, we asked Karen to spend the first six months or so reviewing what we do, as well as why and how we do it. The trustees, there to be consulted as necessary, took a deliberate hands-off approach during this time, in order for Karen to come to her own conclusions and make her own assessments. This process inevitably had some practical drawbacks.

For the first half of the year, which included Karen accompanying Nick Maurice to Gunjur for the second of her two visits since she joined us, plans for the future of MBG were put on hold. It was considered impractical to instigate new activities until we had an overview from Karen as to how she saw our future. This process, involving meetings with all stakeholders both here and in The Gambia, inevitably took many months and it wasn't until September that Karen was in a position to share her findings.

At a meeting in October, the Trustees, Executive and staff met to discuss what the future might look like based on alternatives offered by Karen.

The meeting was intensely difficult for all concerned, as we were faced with financial realities common to many small charities as well as a recognition that we were no longer able to enable the direct links with Gunjur that have been fundamental to our existence and focus, as an organisation. With our inability to obtain visas to allow

friends from Gunjur to visit us here in Marlborough, amongst other challenges to operating on the scale at which we have been, we had to acknowledge constraints and consider whether a future as a small development organisation was feasible (from a funding perspective) and – ultimately – of significant enough benefit to both communities (in view of operating costs against amount raised/distributed in project funding, and focus of activities). Faced with the options to close MBG and its operations, scale back or merge with a 'likeminded' organisation, the majority of trustees voted to close. However, there was a suggestion put forward by others present that before such a decisive step was taken we should allow time to shape an alternative future for MBG and not pull down in haste what has taken so many years to build.

What was recognised, however, was the expense of running the office and so, with very great thanks for all the work that the staff have done, the decision was taken to close the office in April 2017. This has been an extremely challenging time for staff, supported by several trustees who have been working very hard to oversee this process as we move forward to what is hoped to be a new and streamlined future for MBG.

Following the October meeting, a 'Future Directions Working Group' was formed, comprising existing trustees, executive members and individuals with a long-standing commitment to MBG. A series of discussions held during the end of 2016 provided a forum to consider alternative options for a scaled-back, 'future MBG' and the scope of work that might be supported under it. The essence of these discussions was around establishing a structure which balances pragmatism



and optimism (in view of the constraints identified of operating as a direct 'linking' organisation and in terms of balancing overheads against funding), whilst retaining a core of what MBG has always been about – namely, supporting the communities of Gunjur and Marlborough and extending friendship for learning.

Through this process, we have – once again – been reminded of the immense value of Marlborough's relationship with Gunjur, felt in different ways by both communities and individuals within them. As such, we are in the process of amalgamating the Trustees and Executive committee into a volunteer management group. Operating with a streamlined structure, MBG will identify opportunities to partner with established organisations (where possible) to implement activities that are funded by MBG and are in line with the charity's mandate.

As Caroline Harmer sets out in the Global Education report, the Wiltshire Global Education Centre has had another good year thanks to her and her hard-working team. Over the years WGEC has been very successful, and well respected in Wiltshire schools and beyond. We are extremely grateful for all their efforts over the years. Nevertheless in reviewing priorities, and in line with our policy of concentrating on the

communities of Marlborough and Gunjur, we reluctantly had to conclude that we must end direct funding of these wider educational activities.

MBG will continue to prioritise the communities of Gunjur and Marlborough. The revised structure responds to the constraints identified, whilst providing a mechanism through which to sustain the connection and continue to support work for the benefit of our communities. As such, we will welcome applications for initiatives requiring modest funding. And, with overheads reduced to a minimum, we are confident that donations and funds will be felt most where the impact is greatest, significantly in Gunjur.

The Trustees would like to put on record their considerable thanks to Karen and to all staff and volunteers for their exceptional hard work and dedication over the last very difficult year. The move to a more streamlined MBG is not easy, and would not have been possible without their contributions.

We very much welcome members to join us in maintaining the long-established link between Marlborough and Gunjur and to supporting MBG as it enters its next phase.

MBG Trustees
Geoffrey Findlay & Lilli Loveday

Global Education 2016

As we move into the final days of WGEC, I am going to reflect back on a year which has been hugely satisfying for myself and all of those involved in the education centre. It has been a busy busy time delivering 3 projects and keeping up with school bookings through the Global Learning Programme.

In October, I took 4 delightful young people and their teacher from Hardenhuish School in Chippenham to Gunjur – they had won this year's **Global Entrepreneurs' Challenge** funded by the amazing Arkleton Trust with their inspired plan to produce charcoal briquettes out of peanut husks. We were particularly pleased that Dr Nikki Swann from Arkleton was able to come out with us and see how over 2 years we had been spending the money that we had

been given by the Trust. The highlight of the trip for all of us had to be the afternoon when in the Nansimba's compound, the students demonstrated how their project could work. As with last year's demonstration of tilemaking from plastic bags, we held our breaths – would it work? It did and was received enthusiastically by the women who were demanding to know how they too could get involved. We left the necessary equipment with the Nansimba,



Hardenhuish winners pay customary visit to the Imam



Swindon primaries celebrate their Trade Roots at the STEAM museum

appropriately constructed by the wonderful Ebrima the Welder who had been funded through the competition last year to set up his business. I am really looking forward to my next visit to the Gambia when we will be able to see how the project has been taken forward. For the young people, their feedback showed that their lives had been changed by even a short visit; as for Nikki – we can't keep her away. Seduced by the charm of the village and the power of the link, she is already planning her next visit. Her quote *'If you could bottle what the Brandt Group has done with Gunjur and sprinkle it around, the world would be a better place'* sticks in my mind as a wonderful testament to the decades of the link.

October was my second visit in 2016 to the Gambia – the annual teachers' study visit took place in February half term with 5 participants plus our new director and Sarah Lively from the office, all making their first trip. It was as always an educative, fun and uplifting experience incorporating the teachers' conference (with record numbers this year), visits to link schools and a trip upcountry where bats and cockroaches featured heavily in our collective nightmares.

Between times, I have been busy delivering our Heritage Lottery funded programme for primary schools – **Trade Roots** - which looks at the global connections of industry in Swindon and the Bath area and the movements of peoples who have come to the UK to work from abroad. It has been brilliant and we were immensely proud on March 24th when all schools came together to share their learning at the STEAM museum in Swindon and to show the films that they had made. The project is now in its second year and is due to finish in June 2017. Events overtook us with the Brexit vote in June (and later again as the American election moved to its conclusion) making us realise a) the vital importance of the work that we are doing and b) the need to concentrate very specifically on the movement of peoples, both historically and currently. By the end of the project, there will be over 500 young children in Swindon who understand that people have always moved around the world to work and for other reasons and that our lives are enriched by their living in our communities. Now they just need to get their message out ...



Students at the Upper Basic in WGEC business competition workshop

We have also been running after school **Commonwealth Clubs** in 4 schools this year in and around Tidworth – in schools with high numbers of service families. The clubs have been funded interestingly by the Ministry of Defence and although not a funder that we would normally be looking to, we have got rather a kick from using MoD money to work with children on the key values of the Commonwealth which chime so accurately with our own – democracy, free speech, environmental issues and rights to name just a few. The clubs have been delivered by our long term volunteer, Steve Atyeo and received very enthusiastically by the children.

As you know, MBG will be closing its doors at the beginning of April 2017 and it seems there is no place for global education in the new style charity. I have had almost 10 remarkable years working for MBG and

up until the time when the charity ran into its current difficulties, they have been fulfilling, exhausting, all consuming, fun. I have worked with MBG volunteers who have inspired me with their dedication to the charity and its greater purpose, co-workers who were always on our side and trying to support the work of WGEC, teachers, particularly young ones, who give you hope for the future. And above all the children - as they grow up, robust to take on the challenges of an increasingly divided and complex world, critical thinkers, with a developed sense of justice and fairness, we leave them as the legacy to our many years of work.

On a personal level, I am sure that in years to come, it will be the fabulous aspects of my work here that I will treasure. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Caroline Harmer

Director's Report 2016

I was offered the difficult role of trying to fill the shoes of MBG's inspirational Founder/Director, Dr Nick Maurice, who finally retired as the Director of Marlborough Brandt Group in February 2016. I was aware that it would be a hard act to follow, but I hoped that I would be able to guide MBG forward into its next chapter. I had not known what I would find and quickly realised that an assessment was required to see if MBG could grow to become a viable charity with paid staff, rather than be run, as it had been for so many years, by volunteers. As I am sure you will all be aware from the last AGM – the future of MBG was by no means guaranteed, as there are many challenges facing small charities today.

Since joining MBG in February 2016, I was involved in a process of listening and learning about the history, the ups and downs and the issues that MBG was facing. The spectre of possible closure was clearly hanging over MBG, as the sustainability of the charity had been in question for some time. I worked with charity advisors to look at the viability of the charity as a going concern and all activities undertaken here and in Gunjur, in order to determine the activities that could be sustained.

Visits to Gunjur: Teacher Study Visit

I visited Gunjur for the first time in February and so have experienced the warm welcome that visitors receive from the community. It is clear that this is the unique offering that MBG has fostered – this incredible opportunity to live and work with a community that is immediately accepting of us as “friends” to their village. Much of the work of building trust has been done by Nick, Anita and the many Marlborough visitors over the years.



Gambian & UK teachers at the WGEC Linking Conference in Brikama

Loan Recipient Ndey in her hairdressing salon in Gunjur



Visit with Nick Maurice

I returned to Gunjur in July with Nick and stayed on to work with our partner in the GCL and TARUD to determine what they see as the future of the relationship. I have already had frank discussions with members of GCL (Ousman and Bouba), who appear to recognise the need for modernisation and indeed support the review process. I also met with other stakeholders to consider how to maintain the link in the interests of the communities of both Gunjur and Marlborough.

Programme activities

Thanks to the incredibly hard work of the staff, both paid and voluntary, in maintaining the good work of the charity over the last year. Caroline has worked particularly tirelessly this year in delivering her three funded programmes for Arkleton Trust Schools competition, the Commonwealth Clubs for the MoD and Trade Roots for the Heritage Lottery Fund, assisted by Sarah Lively, Steve Atyeo and Steph Dale; as well as offering study visits to The Gambia. Darren has been overseeing the work of the Youth Business Development Programme in Gunjur – which has put a second tranche of students through technical training and supported additional business through the loan programme. Anita joined a committed group of St Johns students on their Summer Visit, which built a school building for the community at Kulokochi and we hope formed lasting bonds with the community who welcomed them open-heartedly. Please see their individual reports for more details.

St Johns Science Visit

planned for Feb 2017

2 teachers and 8 students will be visiting Gunjur to raise money to support the Science Teaching Laboratory in Siphon and at the same time work with Gambian students to conduct low-tech science experiments together.

Future of educational trips

At the time of writing we are in talks with a like-minded venture travel company to enter in to collaboration with them to continue educational trips to Gunjur. All involved, including our partners in the Gunjur Community Link (GCL) are excited about exploring the opportunity to work together.

TARUD (the NGO in Gunjur) has been through a number of difficulties of its own, over the years and this year was particularly difficult. TARUD's Director, Sandang, has been very ill and the organisation has found it very difficult to sustain its operations with other projects and funding sources. It is hoped that TARUD's fortunes may turn around next year; when they may benefit from Concern Universal EU funding, which was discussed with Concern Universal staff, when meeting with them during the July visit.

I had a detailed look at the safety compliance for all trips that MBG takes our young people on and there has to be much work in this area if we are to continue and expand our work into schools. Times have moved on considerably since MBG was founded, and the requirements of any organisation, including charities, taking responsibility for young people have to be adhered to and this requires MBG to do considerable work. Unfortunately relying on its wonderful history and past successes is no longer enough. However, as mentioned, a potential partner organisation has been found with a similar ethos to MBG that hope to continue educational trips to the Gunjur, and could work with schools in the area to tailor trips as required, while at the same time, meeting all the LoTC and EPA travel requirements necessary today.

The Lent Lecture

The Lent Lecture was held in March, with Harriet Lamb, the guest speaker, introduced by Lord Joffe. As the new Director of International Alert, she



Harriet Lamb delivers the 34th Brandt Lent Lecture

gave an informative speech about the challenging, painstaking work in peace building in which IA are involved, often working with individuals and groups on a very small scale. Harriet was previously a Director of the Fairtrade Foundation and spoke passionately about Marlborough being awarded Fair Trade Town status. The evening raised £790 for MBG and International Alert.

The Annual Quiz Night

Our annual MBG Quiz night was held at St John's Academy on 27 April. As is the tradition, Alex Davies was the quiz master and responsible for preparing the gruelling rounds of questions for the night. It was another successful evening, with funds of £940.00 raised. Grateful thanks go to the tireless efforts of Angela Hutt and Sonia Buxton for recruiting teams and organising the generous wine and food platters.

Political situation in Gambia

As we were all aware the December 1st election win by Adama Barrow was contested by President Jammeh. This caused a great deal of anxiety at the time. Although friends visiting The Gambia were bringing back stories of the great relief and optimism of the community that there was international pressure being put on President Jammeh to stand down. We retained communications with the British Embassy who assured us that the January 18th 2017 deadline, the date of the handover of power to the new President, would be the crucial point in time when the situation would be resolved.

Future direction for MBG

Having reported my findings to the Trustees, in October, it was decided that in order for the work of MBG to continue and the link to remain, to offer most to the 2 communities, MBG should not become a commercial concern, but indeed streamline administrative functions to enable the voluntary nature and spirit of the charity as a linking organisation to continue. MBG are therefore closing the existing office and seeking partnerships which would enable the work of the charity to continue more effectively, with minimal overheads. The link will be maintained in the hearts of those it has touched over the years and the deep friendships that have been forged and will endure as it will be maintained in those individual relationships – in that sense the future of MBG is certain.

I am therefore stepping down as Director of MBG and thank you for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated team of people, over the last year, who have such an obvious loyalty to the charity and the community in Gunjur.

Wishing the continued success of the link through MBG.

Karen Bulsara

Link Report 2016

The main focus for the link this year has been the planning and the running of the summer group visit to Gunjur for thirteen students from St Johns Academy, plus their leaders Sophie Hay, Lauren Horwood and Darragh Bolger.



Students from St John's Academy and Marlborough College have been volunteering in Gunjur for over 30 years. It is an amazing opportunity to spend 4 weeks living with a host family and to work on a community project alongside Gambian volunteers. The project selected (by the local community) for this year's group was to build a new classroom block for Kulukochi pre-school level three children. The pre-school was started in Kulukochi, a suburb of Gunjur by the local Youth Development Group when they became aware that many children were not bothering to make the long walk to the pre-school in Gunjur. The Youth Development Group are already very active in raising funds for the pre-school locally and from external sponsors. This was one of the main reasons why MBG were happy to support the request for the classroom build.

We gave a presentation to the sixth form at St John's; the interested students were interviewed and selected, and the induction and fundraising began.

The students organised fundraising events including; cake sales, a quiz and a wonderful spoof production of Harry Potter that was written directed, produced and performed by the students. It was a fantastic event raising a large chunk of the funds needed for the project, in all, they

raised approximately £4,000 - a great effort on their part.

The members of the group all stayed with individual families, this is always a challenge at first, but after a few days everyone was happy and enjoyed the experience. The weather in Gunjur at that time is very hot and humid making working on the build very difficult and tiring, the group worked from 8.30am until 2pm during weekdays leaving the weekends free for other activities, I was impressed by their efforts and commitment to the project. The group returned home very happy and positive and were very keen for such visits to continue. A presentation of their visit was held in September at St John's Academy for their families, trustees and members of MBG.

During the preparation for the visit it became obvious that parents wanted more formal assurances than had been needed for previous trips. Karen, Alex and others worked very hard to seek advice and put together a British Standards document; this satisfied the parents but made us think about the future of these visits and whether we have the expertise and capacity to do this.

I have to thank Karen and the staff in the office for all their help and support during the last year.

Anita Bew

Top: school children taking lessons in their new classroom

Project Support 2016

The Gunjur Youth Development Project (GYDP) continues to grow in the community, with support from St James Place (SJP).

The GYDP is an initiative to engage with the youth of Gunjur by providing funding for vocational studies and small loans for local businesses and business start-ups. The programme was originally set up to incentivise young Gambians to remain in The Gambia and not risk taking the 'back way' to Europe.

The programme is currently funding 14 students to study at the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) in Serrekunda on courses ranging from plumbing, electrical work, construction, business studies, computer science, software application to financial accounting. The students are selected by each kabilo in Gunjur (wards), ensuring access to training across the community.

Business loans have now been issued to almost 30 local businesses, providing either start-up funds or the opportunity for established businesses to seek additional finance to support and facilitate growth. In 2016 the programme saw the initial loans repaid and redistributed to new loan recipients, this is really encouraging and

shows the commitment of local businesses to the programme. Success of an individual business has a far reaching impact, as families and extended family members are being supported, bringing additional money into the local economy.

A recent independent evaluation of this programme highlighted many strengths and achievements in the short amount of time the scheme has been up and running. Despite the strong start, the evaluation also recognises the weaknesses and plans are afoot to broaden the range of training courses available for students, provide higher loans for start-up businesses and provide local training in business management / administration for loan recipients.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the in-country team of Buba and Fatou for their dedication in administering the programme and the business steering group for their support and direction during the past year. I also extend my gratitude to the MBG team.

Darren Bew



Loan recipient Ebrima in his tailor's workshop

Volunteering in The Gambia

On the 13th July 2016, I embarked upon a journey to the little town of Gunjur on the smiling coast of West Africa with 12 other pupils from St John's Academy. We set out with the aim of building a classroom for the local pre-school, Kulukochi and with the intention of making a positive impact on the lives of the children and citizens of Gunjur.

On arrival, we were stunned by the vibrancy and beauty of our surroundings, the simplicity of the buildings and the wonderful sense of excited chaos on the streets. We were welcomed by everyone and instantly made to feel at home. Our welcome continued into our first full day in Gunjur, where we visited the elders of the village; the Nansimba (leader of the womens group), the Alkali (Mayor) and the Imam (Islamic leader) who all expressed their gratitude towards the project. There was a real sense of community in the small coastal town from the very beginning of our trip.

Throughout our time working on the project, we acquired a vast number of new skills and really got to experience what it feels like to endure hard labour under

dramatic weather and climate conditions. Some of the processes we took part in were; mixing and making up the cement and concrete used to structure the building, transporting hundreds of bricks onto the project site, laying the bricks, plastering and painting the walls and finally coming up with a design for the walls inside and outside the classroom. The team of Gambians who were guiding us throughout were extremely resourceful. We had no form of machinery and everything was carried out by hand, it was absolutely exhausting but that made it all the more worthwhile! We always received endless amounts of appreciation from the Gambian team and we really felt as though we were making a difference.



Darla and colleagues preparing concrete mix



As well as working hard on the project site and establishing a strong connection with the children who were going to be using the classroom, we also became fully immersed in community life and got the chance to engage in some of the Gambians' popular pastimes. One of my favourites was being taught some of their tribal language, Mandinka, whilst collectively making a traditional sweet green tea called Ataaya. We were also lucky enough to make a weekend trip to the beautiful town of Bintang Bolong, where we did some bird watching and bonded with our Gambian representatives. We discovered the history of the slave trade on a thought provoking trip to James Island. We learned about the natural wildlife and visited the local crocodile,

reptile and monkey parks and even had a football match against the Gambians!

By the end of the month, it became clear to us just how prominent the sense of unity and solidarity is between these wonderful people. Not only did we create a positive impact on their lives and broaden their opportunities for the future, but they also generated a massive impact on all of our lives, enabling us to realise the true importance of community. I feel privileged to have been a part of establishing such a fantastic relationship that can only grow and flourish over time. I cannot wait to see what other wonderful opportunities MBG presents to both the people of Gunjur and back home here in the UK.

Darla Dryland

MBG: the future

As we look ahead to MBG's future, there is much to feel hopeful for. Following an unsettled end to 2016, and an uncertain beginning to 2017 – not only with the inevitably challenging decisions made around the structure and scope of MBG, but more widely with the political situation and the risk of the unfolding crisis in The Gambia – we are delighted to be continuing our valuable friendship with Gunjur, and in a renewed country context.

In a remarkable and unprecedented outcome, The Gambia's elections in December 2016 saw the coalition of independent and opposition parties secure victory. Although initially the former president, Yahya Jammeh, conceded defeat following his 22-year rule, he subsequently rejected the outcome and filed a petition on the grounds of electoral discrepancies. On 19 January 2017, at a ceremony held in Senegal, the country's new president – Adama Barrow – was sworn into office. And, following an anxious period either side of this and ongoing mediation talks with regional leaders, Jammeh in the end departed office peacefully.

Now reinstated in The Gambia, with a new cabinet formed and ready to begin re-directing the country's trajectory, Barrow and the coalition government herald much optimism for a country that has only known two presidents since gaining its independence in 1965. With commitments to step down after three years and to institutionalise a two-term presidential limit, to open up the economy, reinstate freedom of expression as well as to re-join the Commonwealth and the International Criminal Court, there is a palpable sense that the 'New Gambia' will be more transparent, prosperous, free and fair. This optimism is, quite literally, spilling out onto the streets with people wearing #GambiaHasDecided t-shirts in celebration. And – in its first democratic transition of power – Africa's smallest mainland country, has sent a strong message across the

continent that the people really do have the power to decide. Quite an incredible feat!

Within this context, which offers potential for new opportunities both in terms of what we work on and how we look to collaborate, we are very enthused to be continuing the link between Marlborough and Gunjur. Although MBG has existed under different guises and with different emphases over its 35 year lifetime – it has always, fundamentally, been about a relationship founded on friendship between two diverse communities. Through that friendship, MBG's commitment has been to foster understanding between and support 'development' for (in a broad sense) individuals within the two communities, principally by undertaking exchange programmes and community-based projects in order to achieve this. We are looking forward to taking MBG forward in line with this same commitment – whilst necessarily acknowledging that the operating environment has changed significantly since MBG's beginnings, including around the current feasibility of Gambian friends visiting the UK due to changed visa requirements.

As such, and in line with our streamlined structure, overseen by a volunteer management group and with reduced administrative overheads, we will be seeking opportunities to channel more money raised to where the impacts will be felt the greatest. We will identify opportunities to partner with organisations/initiatives that share a similar vision and/or who are already 'on the ground' delivering projects and with a geographical focus on



Marlborough and/or Gunjur (or the capacity to work in these areas specifically). One example is an exciting collaboration with Venture Force who are currently providing support to the Student Science Visit to Gunjur in February 2017. Venture Force, an adventure and expedition organisation, describing themselves as 'big enough to cope, small enough to care', provide training, oversight and all the logistical/administrative inputs required for groups undertaking overseas trips and working on community-driven initiatives. Our hope is that Venture Force will be well-placed to facilitate youth exchange visits with students based in Marlborough that form such an invaluable (indeed one of the initial) components of MBG's linking work with Gunjur. MBG would then be positioned to support Marlborough-based students undertaking to go on the trips organised and overseen by Venture Force and/or to support funding for the community initiative.

We will be looking to discuss the ways forward collaboratively with the community of Gunjur over the coming months and are in the process of ensuring all the required structures are in place, including amalgamating the executive and the trustee board. However, we are confident that this approach will present exciting new openings and also enable us to ensure that maximum value is reached – whilst retaining a core focus of what MBG's 'founding' vision has been all about. Indeed, it is perhaps even more important than ever to retain this friendship that cuts across cultures and cuts across religions at a time when unity is more powerful than division and whilst there is such optimism for the 'New Gambia' and all its potential.

We very much welcome members to join us in maintaining the long established link between Marlborough and Gunjur.

MBG Trustee Lilli Loveday

Financial Overview 2016

A summary of the accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting and copies of the full accounts can be obtained by request. The accounts have been prepared to comply with the Statement of Recommended practice for Charities and have been subject to independent examination by a firm of chartered accountants.

Income	2016	2015
Covenant and Gift Aid		£4,549
Donations and Gifts		£35,066
Global Education		£9,619
Interest		£116
Legacy		£78,500
Membership MBG		£6,291
Membership Global Education		£2,174
Grants* (see summary)		£72,256
		£208,571

Expenditure	2016	2015
Public Events		£1,148
Office Administration		£2,695
Core Salaries		£10,920
Global Education Salaries		£16,247
Direct Charity Global Education		£7,673
Direct Charity Links		£13,984
Direct Charity Projects		£20,438
Direct Charity Core		£19,453
		£92,558

At the start of the year MBG had committed expenditure for the Business project in Gunjur received in 2015. The education arm of MBG; Wiltshire Global Education Centre secured two large grants in 2015 rolled over for work to be carried out in 2016/2017. They also secured a grant in 2015 for a joint business project with MBG and Wiltshire schools and the community of Gunjur in 2016.

Our Financial administrator has continued to be prudent with outgoing expenditure, keeping running costs to a minimum where feasible although there have been some outlays beyond our control. The new lighting and heating system installed in 2015 have increased our electricity costs this year. The appointment of a paid Director has significantly increased our expenditure. This is disproportionate to our income.

Fund raising activities have been minimal during 2016. Membership for Wiltshire Global Education has been significantly lower. Membership for MBG has also decreased although the generosity of a few members skews this income in terms of the number of members.

Our expenditure for administrative and running costs exceeds our income for these purposes; we have become reliant on previously accumulated funds and our legacy which the Trustees wish to be used for direct charitable purpose. The issue of the viability of the charity has therefore been addressed by the Trustees and reported by the Director and Chair of Trustees.

Sufficient reserves are retained as required as a charitable organisation so that in the event of closure we are in a position to wind up the business.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS RELATED TO INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income

- Grants have decreased this year because WGEC secured two major grants in 2015 for work carried out in 2016. MBG received £11,000.00 from St James Place towards the Business Project.
- Our rental income towards running costs for 2016 is up as ARC shared our office space.
- WGEC income has an apparent excess due to awaiting invoices for work carried out in 2016, and ongoing work for 2017 as roll over.
- Income from donations shows an increase; however this was specifically for the retirement of the previous Director. Generally donations are down due to fewer fundraising events in 2016.
- There is a decrease in membership for both MBG and WGEC.
- Capital and Reserves appear high as unrestricted funds; this is due to not spending the legacy received.

Expenditure

- Annual software licenses have increased IT costs.
- Direct Charity Links and Direct Charity Global Education is high owing to inclusion of travel flights for two group visits in February 2017 and the student summer visit in 2016.
- Running costs for insurance, rates, heating, lighting and water have increased owing to new heating system and the tourist travel insurance increase.
- Salaries have increased owing to appointment of a paid Director.

Theresa Ardley
Treasurer

The Marlborough Brandt Group

The Memorandum of Association of MBG signed in 1990 defines its objectives as:

- (i) to promote, foster and sustain educational projects between people of the Marlborough District and people living in areas of deprivation abroad (i.e. "the third world"); and for that purpose; to sustain the special 'Link' which MBG has built up with the people of Gunjur in The Gambia, West Africa and to establish links elsewhere.
- (ii) to promote activities that will relieve poverty, sickness, physical and mental handicap and the disabilities of old age among people living in the Third World.

Organisational structure

MBG is governed by a board of trustees, who are responsible for the financial probity of the organisation, for agreeing the strategy and ensuring that MBG's activities fall within its charitable purposes. The Trustees are elected by the membership at an annual general meeting. The management of MBG's activities is overseen by the MBG Director, and delegated to an Executive Committee.

PATRONS

Professor Keith McAdam
Lord Judd of Portsea
Jon Snow
Robert Hiscox

TRUSTEES

Anna Quarendon
Theresa Ardley
Geoffrey Findlay
Patrick Hazlewood
Sarah Giles
Lilli Loveday
George Cooper
Janneke Blokland
Trevor Kearley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nick Maurice *Director*
Karen Bulsara *Director*
Theresa Ardley *Treasurer*
Caroline Harmer *WGEC Manager*
Emma Henderson *MBG Office Manager*

Anita Bew
Darren Bew
Alex Davies
Barney Rosedale
Janet Polack
Gordon Hutt

STAFF

Karen Bulsara
Director
Caroline Harmer
Global Education Manager
Emma Henderson
MBG & Accounts Manager
Sarah Lively
MBG & WGEC Administrator

Relationships with related parties, other charities and organisations

MBG is a member of the UK One World Linking Association, Think Global and South West DEC's and the Consortium of Development Education Centres.

MBG Public Benefit Statement 2016

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and when planning activities.

Our main activities and who we have helped are described in this report. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes.

The Marlborough Brandt Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration no. 0256 7458 and registered charity no. 1001398.

Governing instruments: Memorandum & Articles of Association Incorporated 04.09.14

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Acknowledgements

MBG has many sources of support without which we would not be able to function. We act as a conduit for the support of our beneficiaries in The Gambia and in UK and in company with beneficiaries; we would like to extend our most sincere thanks for all the generous support we have received. Here are just some who have helped in our work during 2016:

INDIVIDUALS

Theresa Ardley
Steve Atyeo
Darren Bew
Anita Bew
Lamin Bojang
Sonia & Bill Buxton
Colin Crorkin
Stephanie Dale
Alex Davies
Richard Draper
Darla Dryland

David Du Croz
Angela & Gordon Hutt
Lord Joffe
Harriet Lamb
Michae Maude
Nick Maurice
Anna Quarendon
Barney Rosedale
Bouba Touray
Ousman Touray
Susan Suchopar

INSTITUTIONS

Arkleton Trust
Brewster Maude Charitable Trust
Community Covenant Grant
East Wilts Twinning Association
Heritage Lottery Fund
Hiscox Insurance
Kempson Rosedale Trust
Kombo Sillah Association
St James Place Foundation
St Peter's Trust
WISE
Woodward Charitable Trust

Photos:

Zoe Bulsara, Sophie Hay
Charlotte Harvey, Nikki Swann



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