



The Marlborough Brandt Group
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Cover and opposite

photos from the November volunteer trip

working on the Community Multipurpose Centre in Gunjur – see Page. 7

Chair's Report 2017

This has been a transition year for the Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG).

During 2016, the difficult decision was taken to close the MBG office in April 2017. From this fundamental strategic shift and significant resulting drop in core costs, MBG has used its legacy funds to secure a sustainable future.

Considerable thanks go to the work of Anna Quarendon and the Trustee team, and the members of the Executive Committee for their efforts in drawing up and supporting this future direction. Thanks also to our former Director Karen Bulsara and especially to Theresa Ardley for co-ordinating most of the practical and financial processes of closing the office. We are grateful to the many supporters and volunteers, including Anita Bew, Steph Dale and of course Dr Nick Maurice, for their time, energy and sustained support during this year of change.

I had the good fortune to be supported as a volunteer to Gunjur by MBG in 2004, and have been involved in the charity ever since this life-changing experience, including leading a summer group, as a trustee and deputy chair and leading many other volunteer groups.

While only involved for a third of MBG's now 37 years, I have witnessed the remarkable impact our work has on people and experienced it myself. The challenge we set ourselves as a charity was to almost entirely remove our operating costs of over £50K per annum while not fundamentally changing who we are and maintaining the good work we do.

Clearly, difficult decisions had to be taken and in 2016 it was agreed to close the global education arm of MBG. In the summer of 2017 we submitted the impact report of our last project to the Heritage Lottery Fund and recognise what a loss our global awareness work is at a time where global barriers seem on the rise.

Going forward, our charity constitution remains unchanged and we have set out to maintain all other areas of activity through partnerships and grants.

Linking and volunteering

At heart we are a linking and community-to-community organisation and the experience of people interacting with other people is where we start.

Sadly, two-way linking remains extremely challenging, but maintaining methods for people in and around Marlborough to experience the culture and establish friendships with the people of Gunjur, whilst making a difference to the wider community, is paramount to us.

To that end we have partnered with a small expedition company called Venture Force. We had many meetings with directors Tom Tuckwood and Graham McDonald and concluded that our organisations' ethos and approaches were very similar and meshed easily.

Venture Force now own the trips and MBG helps facilitate the projects and work with local people wanting to travel. The Gunjur Community Link maintains its excellent existing in-country logistical and project management role and we could not offer these trips without their considerable efforts.

This partnership has allowed us to maintain our Summer Trip programme with students in Marlborough for a 16th visit, and support a second science trip with Raise Gambia.

Having the safety procedures that Venture Force provide has also allowed us to deliver trips for St. James's Place employees, restarting the approach used with the Lloyds Banking Group trips we provided between 2010 and 2015.

We anticipate that during 2018 around 80 local people will travel to Gunjur on MBG supported projects.

Projects

As a link, we work in equal partnership with the community of Gunjur and Gunjur Community Link. We look to work with the community on issues and activities identified by the community.

Specifically, we have maintained our support for preschool education, skills training and, to a lesser extent, health. Increasingly we are looking to support employment as a key way to change lives for the better. We have provided grants to charities that are working on the ground in Gunjur and empowered them to continue and grow these activities.

We have also secured the future of the Youth Development Programme through a partnership with United Purpose.

Our NGO partner TARUD is finding new funds from the EU and we are now looking to directly support them again as a critical positive resource in Gunjur.

Education and awareness

Lastly, we have maintained our commitment to raising awareness of global issues in the UK through the 35th Lent (or this year) Harvest Lecture.

We can maintain our website, newsletters and AGM to continue to inform our members and friends of developments in The Gambia.

We are also able to sustain, through the projects we support, our aim to provide education provision in Gunjur, both for children and adults.

The Future

Now a year into the new MBG structure we feel confident to say that the right decisions have been taken and that we are now on a much firmer footing for a long-term, sustainable future.

While linking is now less common and harder to do, The Marlborough – Gunjur



Link remains a powerful example of cross continent and cross culture understanding.

To be able to say that another 80 UK lives will be touched and changed though travel to Gunjur, while hundreds of lives in Gunjur are enriched and improved through the projects we support this next year, is no small achievement.

Like many charities we look to measure the impact of the work we do, six months, a year, two years later. Yet we work differently. After 37 years of focused partnership between two specific communities it is impossible to know the permutations of all our activity. Over 2,000 people have taken part in an activity in Gunjur through MBG, bringing back with them a changed personal world view and often a changed direction in their lives.

We believe the long term positive impacts of the work MBG does are secure for many years to come.

Alex Davies

Volunteering: 2018 Summer Trip

The biennial Summer Trip is the cornerstone MBG activity. Since the first trip in 1985 groups have worked on preschools, classrooms, market buildings, livelihood gardens and refurbished public buildings.

Now in 2017/18 we are supporting our 16th Summer Trip with 15 students from St. John's Academy. They are led by two returning volunteers from the 2016 group, Anna Gent and Ben Scott, and two professionals from Venture Force.

The group will spend three weeks living in the Community Multifunctional Centre in the heart of the village. They do the cooking and cleaning themselves, but will be connected with families to ensure a deep cultural experience. The Gunjur Community Link will support the trip and manage the community development project.

While there, group members will be working on the old Marlborough Garden, a 190 x 150m plot of land. This garden is currently underused and the crops from the mango trees planted there in the early years of the link are often wasted.

The group will work to fence the land securely from animals and again create a usable plot for women to grow crops. They will work alongside professional Gunjurian builders, carpenters and community volunteers.

We can provide a Summer Trip in 2018 solely thanks to the partnership established with Venture Force by our previous Director, Karen Bulsara, and link volunteer Anita Bew. Venture Force share many of our charity values and place long-term community partnership front and centre in what they do. Their ownership of the trip covers all aspects of health and safety and uses international travel practice and procedures.

The trip has changed in two ways. First, participants will not stay with families but live in the community centre to comply with the requirements of modern safety and



safeguarding standards. We are actively working to return to living with Gambian families in the future.

Second, previous Summer Trips have been four weeks long, but with the additional cost of professional leaders we took the decision to reduce the trip length. The feedback has been positive because this arrangement takes only two weeks out of a student's summer break giving more time to work, relax or obtain internships.

While the cost of the trips has increased, we remain extremely good value when benchmarked against comparable trips. MBG committed £2,500 towards project costs to bring the price down further and increase the scale of the project. The result was the largest sign-up we have ever had.

We wish the 2018 Summer Group the very best of luck.



2018 Summer Group acclimatise for Africa

Volunteering: St James's Place Trips



The pilot group with builders and volunteers from Gunjur

From 2010-2015 MBG supported over 100 young professionals from Lloyds Banking Group with travel to Gunjur.

During their week-long trips, these young professionals supported the community by working on projects while living as part of the community, which enabled them to experience the life changing personal development we know these trips provide. We are delighted to say that following a successful feasibility trip in April, a first St. James's Place employee group travelled out to The Gambia for a week in November 2017.

Most of the company's staff live in Wiltshire or Gloucestershire and the group included Jess Masters who has previously volunteered in Gunjur. The group of six employees was led by two staff from Venture Force who will also support future trips.

This pilot group stayed at the Footsteps Eco-lodge and travelled into Gunjur each day to help improve the Community Multifunctional Centre (the old TARUD preschool building) managed by the Village Development Committee. The group worked on putting in showers and providing a cooking area for the site.

A second group of 13 is travelling to Gunjur in April 2018 and, as usual, will be working with members of the Gunjur community. They plan to finish work on the site by improving the toilets, floor and windows, and pay for a water standpipe. The building will then be suitable for use by future groups as basic accommodation right at the heart of the village.

Participants' comments

Number one must be the people; they couldn't be more welcoming. In the UK we are often completely oblivious to one another whereas, in Gunjur, they greet each other with the same enthusiasm every day and they are always on hand to support each other. A key takeaway of the trip for me is to hold on to that feeling of togetherness.

Phil Bunton

Coming home was a humbling experience and it took a while to come back to reality. The experience put everything into perspective and we all individually reflected on what is important in life. A truly incredible experience where we had a wonderful opportunity to make a difference.

Jess Masters

Fundraising

Through the Efforts of Dr Nick Maurice, the 35th MBG Lent Lecture was delivered as a Harvest Lecture in 2017.

This year we were joined at St. John's Academy by Mark Goldring, CEO of Oxfam UK, delivering a lecture entitled 'Ending global poverty: great progress but what do we have to do to complete the job?'

Mark Goldring's message began optimistically, noting that over one billion people have moved out of poverty in the past 25 years.

But... there are still 800 million men, women and children who may go to bed hungry. Mark Goldring said that if the 'success story' about global poverty being more than halved was better known, there would not be such knee-jerk criticism of development funding. He stressed the key elements in this success; the provision of basic education, literacy, vaccination, with

the resultant fall in child mortality from 43 per 100 before their fifth birthday in the early twentieth century, to 4 per 100 now.

The good news about poverty reduction has been tempered by a recent UN report that numbers of those going to bed hungry has risen again - by between 20 and 30 million in the last year. This increase was caused largely by the rise in conflicts and the effects of climate change. Climate change, Mark Goldring explained, hits the poorest - tens of millions are being driven into poverty by climate change - it affects crops, fish stocks and deforestation.

We are grateful to all those who attended and gave a donation. The retiring collection raised £825 for Oxfam GB and MBG.



Robin Twelftree and Giles Goldring completed an epic 4,700 mile odyssey to drive from London to Gunjur in support of MBG.

After first visiting Gunjur 30 years ago, they wanted to celebrate the new democratic elections by driving Giles's old Mercedes to Gunjur and, in the process, they raised £1,032 for MBG. Along the way they recorded music with artists and studios and held discos from the stereo system in the boot of the car. An amazing adventure and thank you for supporting MBG. Find out more by typing 'Gambian Disco Express' into Facebook or visit www.mbg.org.

Grants: MBG Strategy

During the strategy meetings where MBG trustees and executive members met to plan a sustainable future for the charity, it became clear that we wanted to maintain as much of the existing Gunjur-based activity as possible.

We recognised that during the 36 years of the Marlborough-Gunjur link many other charities, many of them in and around Wiltshire, now operate in the Gunjur Area. It was agreed at the 2017 AGM that we would move from our own direct delivery to financially supporting these charities' operations in Gunjur.

In April 2017 when the new trustees looked to implement the second phase of the new MBG strategy (the first phase being to close the office and reduce costs) the charity had around £140,000 of cash assets. All had agreed that the distribution of these funds should be focused on Gunjur and be drip-fed into the community to provide long-term support, and for interest payments to provide extra income for the charity.

To this end, the Trustees have reached out to charities with which we have worked previously, or that we know operate around Gunjur, to look to maintain the activities and outcomes we have long fostered, but now to do so indirectly through them.

As a charity we set out the following criteria for grant applications:

- **The organisation must be a registered charity, ideally registered in the UK.**
- **The cap for any one charity or activity would be £2,500 a year to ensure a drip feed of funds.**
- **The activity supported must meet the aims of MBG and the operational standards we expect / expected from ourselves or which are industry standards.**
- **That a minimum of funds could be spent on management costs and that generally the charity should not be spending more than 15% of total turnover on management and overhead costs.**
- **That there must be clear reporting of inputs and outputs, and ideally also impact measurement, to understand the effectiveness of the grant use.**



As an overall objective MBG will look to maintain its previous annual spend in Gunjur (in terms of projects and trips) of around £20-£25K a year. With the continuation of the Gunjur Youth Development Project through United Purpose and TARUD of around £10K, this gives an annual grant allowance of around £10K to £15K.

Grants: Raise Gambia

MBG has worked with Raise Gambia, managed by Steve Atyeo, for several years and we are pleased to maintain our support for its excellent work, granting £1,500 towards the 2018 science trip made by students of St. John's Academy, Marlborough.

Set up in 2011 by the Institute of Physics, its aim is to enhance the teaching and learning of science in Gambian schools by promoting the use of practical classroom experiments.

Raise Gambia has set up and equipped a dedicated teaching laboratory at Sifoe Senior Secondary School (just outside Gunjur), where science teachers from across the country attend Teacher Development Workshops run by experienced Gambian and UK science teachers. Raise Gambia's Development Team organises and facilitates school visits to the laboratory for students and their science teachers from many regions across the country.

In February 2017, Raise Gambia's Development Team welcomed to the lab eight Year 13 students and two teachers from St. John's Academy in Marlborough. This outstanding weeklong trip gives young people who might not usually be attracted to international trips a chance to step outside of their comfort zones while enhancing their own scientific knowledge and personal development.

The group were based in Halahin Lodge just outside Gunjur and spent a week working with students from Gunjur Upper Basic School on peer-to-peer scientific activities.



The success of this trip means that in October 2018 another group of Year 13 students from St John's Academy will travel to The Gambia to work on a similar project. Venture Force has taken ownership of the health and safety aspects to give these trips a sustainable future, but also the chance of offering them to other schools.

"The trip was an incredible experience. It made me appreciate my undeserved and over-privileged position, growing up in the UK. However, I developed an unexpected jealousy of the Gambian people. Their inclusive way of life and relentless optimism were infectious."

Angus Hitchmough
St. John's Academy, Marlborough



For more information about Raise Gambia, visit www.raisegambia.co.uk

St. John's School and Gunjur Upper Basic School students working together in the Raise Gambia lab



Grants: Thriving Through Venture

Thriving Through Venture (TTV) is a new Wiltshire based charity formed by Caro Stover, an educational psychologist and Dr Nick Maurice, founder and one-time Director of MBG in partnership with the community of Gunjur. MBG has pledged £2,500 in support.

TTV aims to address the rising problems of low self-esteem and anxiety in young people by engaging students from schools in Wiltshire and Swindon in three pilot projects. Through these, they will volunteer both in their communities at home and in Gunjur - where they will work alongside young Gambians, many of whom face similar challenges.

Eleven students have been selected and they will work with a professional writer to record the untold life-histories of elderly people in both communities. They will also work with a professional photographer to produce portrait shots of the people they interview and use these to illustrate a book of those life-stories.

While in The Gambia, members of the group will each work alongside Gambian colleagues of the same gender and age to explore the barriers to the development of a potentially major industry - the export of fresh, juiced and dried mangoes. Working with Tesco in the UK the group will investigate the process of 'field to fork' Fairtrade production.

In meetings with the President of The Gambia, Adama Barrow, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Isatou Touray (who spoke about FGM at the 2014 MBG AGM), and the British Ambassador Sharon Wardle, all affirmed and encouraged the approach being taken by TTV, in particular, the collaboration between Wiltshire and Gambian young people, recognising the benefits that will accrue to both groups.

President Barrow and Dr Touray expressed their grave concern about the number of young people taking the dangerous 'back way' to Europe. So many young people see no future for themselves in The Gambia where there are a lack of business opportunities and employment. The President recognised the enormous potential for the development of the mango industry and the opportunities for employment and wealth creation this initiative could provide.

TTV is using robust academic research to evidence the impact of this pilot trip and funds are needed to support it. To find out more and donate go to www.ttventure.org



Caro Stover hands President Adama Barrow details of the TTV programme



Grants: Project Gambia

Project Gambia supports a cluster of seven preschools in the Gunjur area aiming to create a sustainable and high-quality provision of preschool education to the wider Gunjur community. Over 700 3-6 year-olds currently attend these preschools daily.

The charity focuses on the early educational curriculum, development of appropriate teaching resources and professional training for teachers. The charity also helps to support the sharing of educational health messages, for example on malaria and clean drinking water. Additionally, the preschools often work towards helping the provision of meals for the children.

In the years that both MBG and Project Gambia have supported preschool education in Gunjur an enormous amount has been achieved. Almost 30 teachers are now employed in the community and the high-quality training they receive is essential for sustainable teaching and providing the children they support with the best start in their education.

MBG is supporting Project Gambia with £2,500 a year for three years. Supporting education remains a key part of MBG's strategy and we know that, just as in the UK, the quality of the preschool education a child receives has a significant and enduring effect on their lifelong learning.

The money provided by MBG will be used to facilitate access to training for the 35% of staff who are not yet qualified, to increase the quality and depth of their professional knowledge. This will help to stabilise the teaching team and give teachers proof of their ability and professional status locally.



Trained early years teachers help ensure the curriculum is brought to life for children. This is what the Early Childhood Development Programme at The Gambia College in Serekunda will provide. The funding from MBG will support not only tuition costs, but also the cost of travel and study resources that can be a barrier to adult education.

Project Gambia also supports peer-to-peer learning and regularly facilitates workshops to share skills and develop learning resources. The preschool Head Teachers meet monthly to review the progress of their institutions and the professional development of their teachers. The teachers all meet bi-monthly for local training that includes workshops and presentations.

To find out more visit www.projectgambia200.wixsite.com/welcome or email projectgambia200@gmail.com



Grants: Business Education (Gunjur Project)

Led by Dr Nicola Swan in collaboration with The Gunjur Project Association charity and with support from MBG and The Arkleton Trust, this is a project to complement micro-finance projects in Gunjur to improve employment opportunities.

MBG has given £2,500 to support the 2018 pilot, which looks to work alongside the four-year-old employment project MBG has supported (see page 15). Young people are keen to start their own income generating micro-business; however, few have relevant education or experience. Gunjur has reached out for support in tackling this.

This pilot project will focus on Gunjur where the arrival of electricity and a new government has provided the opportunity for new business initiatives. It will draw on the lessons of the MBG project and look to fill some of the wider context gaps of that initiative.

The pilot will look to run an applied education programme to help people set up and run sustainable micro businesses effectively. It will offer vocational training in business management, provide a business hub for peer support and train Gambian employees to manage the programme long term.

The programme will be designed with the Gunjur community to best support younger people (aged 15-35), ensure long term sustainability and place ownership within the village.

The programme will be free for participants, both male and female, who will

be selected following UN principles of best practice. Joining the programme will not be restricted based on academic performance, although a good level of English will be needed. The pilot will be made up of approximately eight participants.

Providing local trainers alongside the programme managers and putting in place mentors will help to provide a more holistic approach to the learning. This is particularly important for the pilot group, most of whom will already be running a micro business.

The Gunjur Project is completing the construction of a skills training centre on its land, linked to its residential facilities. The centre has training rooms, training kitchen, WiFi and computer facilities. Established in 2005, the Gunjur Project provides on-the-ground support as well as excellent local knowledge and contacts.

This pilot is following best practice for impact analysis and hopes to use this evidence to secure increased future funding, and to extend the geographical reach of the project.

Find out more about the Gunjur Project Association at www.gpagambia.org



Grants: TARUD

In 2017 our long-time partner NGO in The Gambia, TARUD (Trust Agency for Rural & Urban Development), welcomed a new Managing Director – Baai Jaabang.

Baai who has a professional charity and development background, is well placed to take forward this important asset for Gunjur and The Gambia.

TARUD has long provided logistical support for groups and individuals while in Gunjur and delivered many projects for MBG. TARUD has secured funding from the EU and United Purpose, and now has three-year development programmes in place.

We recognise that being able to support an effective locally run NGO on the ground

is a benefit that many UK charities do not have. For that reason, we are giving TARUD £1,800 of unrestricted funds spread over the year to support their core costs. We also continue to support them indirectly through the management fees linked to the Youth Development Project.



Project Support: GYBDP

Established in 2014 by MBG and TARUD and funded by St. James's Place, the Gunjur Youth Business & Development Programme aims to improve the employment opportunities of young people in Gunjur by providing loans for micro-businesses and direct professional training.

It is estimated that male unemployment is 80% in The Gambia and that this is encouraging young Gambians to take the dangerous 'back way' to Europe. We know that employment changes lives, whatever the location and so this has been an area of focus for MBG over the past four years.

The programme was comprehensively reviewed after year two with the conclusion that it was working well but also identified specific ways to develop it further. During 2016/17 MBG took the decision to stop direct management of projects but fortunately this coincided with new project funding to TARUD from United Purpose (UP, formally Concern Universal).

In 2017 we handed over the management of the GYBDP from MBG to UP securing it for a fourth year of funding. In addition, MBG has granted £1,700 to support this project.

Now in its fourth year, and managed by Buba K. Touray in TARUD, the programme is revitalised and currently 65 18-35 year-olds are supported by it. In early 2018 the third distribution of loans took place, where 20 small loans (around £250 each) were distributed to 14 men and six women. Of these 15% are brand new initiatives and the rest existing small companies looking to expand.

The types of micro and mirco-businesses range from fish processing and preservation, satellite installation for the very first time in the community, restaurants and fast food, tailoring, workshops and a cosmetics saloon.

The loans are overseen by a committee drawn from the village community and includes the Business Steering Group, TARUD and VDC. The Loan Committee of seven includes Ousman Touray the Chairman of the Business steering group, Hon. Kebba K. Barrow (the Majority Leader) and also adviser to the Business steering group, Mr. Demba Jobe Touray the Chairperson of the Village Development Committee, Mr Baai E. Jaabang the Director of TARUD, Mr Boubou Touray the linking officer of Gunjur Marlborough Link and Mr. Buba K. Touray the Programme Manager.

This committee ensures that this is a fund for the village managed by the village with TARUD and UP co-ordinating and reporting. The loan repayment rate is very good and these funds can be reinvested into more loans.

UP is working on a new three-year bid to St. James's Place for this programme including additional support for business training. This should link in with the work being piloted at Gunjur Project.

Out of poverty

United Purpose

Financial Overview 2017

A summary of the accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting and copies of the full MBG financial accounts are available from the MBG website. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime; and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and have been subject to independent examination by a firm of chartered accountants.

Income	2017	2016
Covenant and Gift Aid	-	2,665
Donations and Gifts	18,950	16,548
Interest	32	185
Legacy	-	1,000
Membership MBG	2,896	12,571
Grants	11,300	72,457
	33,178	105,426
Expenditure	2017	2016
Direct Charitable Expenditure	49,532	44,368
Office costs, insurance and repairs	4,814	6,719
Office repairs	1,860	-
Wages	18,059	51,163
Redundancy	8,525	-
Travel	2,039	-
Computer and Website costs	346	1,993
Bank Charges	60	170
Bookkeeping and accountancy	1,020	1,203
	86,255	105,616
Balance Carried Forward	137,959	191,036

At the start of the year MBG looked to complete its outstanding delivery and reporting work with the education arm of MBG from the grants secured in 2015 and delivered over 2016/17. A significant amount of these restricted funds needed to be distributed in the first three months of the year which made the 2016 end of year balance look disproportionately high and thus shows high spending in 2017. The then Treasurer Theresa Ardley, working voluntarily, performed an outstanding role for us for which we are extremely grateful. MBG also looked to secure a partnership with United Purpose to take over the delivery and use of funds for the business project in Gunjur.

The significant task for the first three months was to deliver the financial practicalities of closing the office and its associated contracts, and managing staff redundancies. Some additional costs were unavoidable and the charity took the decision to pay above the minimum in redundancy payments to do the right thing to support our staff who gave so much time and energy in support of MBG.

Since the office closure costs are extremely low, limited to computer and website costs, bank charges and accountancy. We have continued to work hard on maintaining membership and events income and have secured further funding for the Business project. Sufficient reserves are held to deliver on our funding commitments to other organisations and 12 months of expenditure as a charitable organisation so that in the event of closure, we are in a position to wind up the business. In 2018 we will look to invest the funds we hold into higher yield interest accounts.

Summary of key points related to income and expenditure

Income

- £11,000 from St. James's Place in support of the Gunjur Youth Business and Development Project. Money to be used in partnership with United Purpose and TARUD.
- Other grant money has not been sought as MBG is no longer looking to directly deliver projects in the UK or Gunjur and so is not, at present, looking to secure project income during this transition phase.
- £1,032 raised by Robin Twelftree and Giles Goldring from the Gambian Disco Express adventure.
- £1,869 raised from six concerts Dr Nick organised during 2016/17 partly in support of MBG. As well raising funds, these also raised awareness about the charity. Nick is continuing these in 2018 to support the Thriving Through Venture programme and we very much hope they will continue to be a success and enable more young people to link with Gunjur.
- £412 raised from this year's Harvest Lecture. A mainstay of our calendar of events thanks again to the efforts of Dr Nick.
- Legacy income from the last study trip was received during the process of closing the office and concluding global education projects in the early part of the year.
- Membership income has increased slightly, the 2016 figure includes an accrued amount of around £7.5K which has been reversed against the income for 2017.
- We would like to thank the many individuals who continue to support us with ad-hoc donations or above the minimum level of membership. With our greatly reduced overheads and long years of partnership with Gunjur, you can be confident of your funds making the maximum difference.

Expenditure

- Charity expenditure this year falls into two phases. The first three months included:
 - Increased office costs as contracts were ended and repairs to the office building completed. We would like, once again, to thank James Parry for the support given in the use of the office space, without which generosity the MBG office costs may have become too high years earlier.
 - Nearly £40,000 for finishing existing global education programmes and staff costs.
 - £8,525 in redundancy payments which were above the statutory minimum.
- Once this process was complete the charity costs dropped to very little. Some remaining costs like email accounts and maintaining the MBG website remained constant while others like insurance and accountancy have dropped. Both office and wage costs are now zero.
- MBG has moved to deliver its charitable aims though the work of other organisations. Details of these are outlined in this report, although some funds are spread over 2017 and 2018.
- Over £11,000 was issued to United Purpose in support of the Gunjur Youth Business and Development Programme and we are working with United Purpose and TARUD to secure further funding.
- VIBE project funds in support of ongoing Gunjur student education are being distributed by The Gunjur Project to whom we are very grateful for their on-the-ground support and knowledge.
- While MBG no longer runs the group trips that Venture Force now provide to Gunjur, we continue to support their associated projects with funding.

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 Trustees are supported by an experienced and committed group of volunteers.

PATRONS

Founder Patron: Dr Nick Maurice

Professor Keith McAdam

Lord Judd of Portsea

Jon Snow

Robert Hiscox

TRUSTEES

Alex Davies

Janneke Blokland

Lilli Loveday



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 whom 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

Mail address:

St George’s Terrace, 21 Stallard Street
Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 9AA

Website: www.mbg.org

Email: info@mbg.org

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 the UK. 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 2017:

INDIVIDUALS

All the 2016 Trustees

Theresa Ardley

Steve Atyeo

Darren Bew

Anita Bew

Lamin Bojang

Sonia & Bill Buxton

Colin Crockin

Stephanie Dale

Richard Draper Darla

Dryland

David Du Croz

Giles Goldring

Angela & Gordon Hutt

Harriet Lamb

Michael Maude

Nick Maurice

James Parry

Anna Quarendon

Barney Rosedale

Bouba Touray

Ousman Touray

Robin Twelftree

Susan Suchopar

INSTITUTIONS

Arkleton Trust

Brewster Maude
Charitable Trust

Gunjur Community Link

Hiscox Insurance

Kempson Rosedale Trust

Kombo Sillah Association

St. James’s Place
Charitable Foundation

St. John’s Academy

St. Peter’s Trust

TARUD

Venture Force



Photos:

James Busby www.instagram.com/james_busby_images/

Alex Davies and partner organisations



Marlborough Brandt Group

Linking people for a fairer world



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