



**The Marlborough Brandt Group**

Marlborough to Gunjur community link

Annual Report 2018



## Annual Report 2018

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*Photos from the April and November 2018 volunteer trips working on the Community Multipurpose Centre and Marlborough Mango Gardens in Gunjur – see Pages. 8&9.*

*Photo of the Alkali of Gunjur.*

# Chair's Report 2018

**What a busy year it has been for the Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG). Back at the last AGM, following the significant structural changes during 2017 we said 'this will be a consolidation year for MBG'. It's been anything but.**

2017 represented a fundamental strategic shift in how we operate, and we are pleased to have seen the hoped-for significant drop in core costs. With the addition of two new Trustees and the careful maintenance of our legacy funds we are confident there is a secure and sustainable future for MBG.

In this report you can see the community trips that have been successfully delivered for both students and adults including our bi-annual flagship Summer Group trip. We outline the wide range of charities and initiatives we have supported through grants and the micro-finance project that has completed a fourth year of delivery.

I am pleased to say that the strategic aim of maintaining our core linking and Gambia based programme work, despite the move away from being an office-based charity, has been achieved. Our charity constitution remains unchanged.

Considerable thanks go Anna Gent for her work following the Summer Group trip as well as Venture Force who have worked hard to retain our unique linking experience while providing the very best practice in modern trip delivery and safety. Special thanks also goes to all in the Gunjur Community Link, especially Ousman Touray, Bouba Touray, Lamin Bojang and Essa Sumareh, without whom no trips would be possible or as welcoming.

## Linking and volunteering

We are a linking and community-to-community organisation. The experience of people interacting with other people is where we start.

This year saw 76 volunteers and 14 leaders over six groups travel out to Gunjur, four groups directly through MBG and two with the support of our grants programme.

Giving people in and around Marlborough the opportunity to experience the culture and establish friendships with the people of Gunjur, whilst making a sustainable difference to the wider community, is paramount to us.

That our trips are facilitated by volunteers from the community of Gunjur based on our 37 years of partnership means they remain a unique offering in what is a crowded and often cynically commercial market place. As 'voluntourism' is increasingly under scrutiny and under fire in the media, we are proud to remain an example of good practice.

To that end, the move to professionally led Summer Group trips and away from them being organised by MBG young leaders was a big test of our new model. I am pleased to say that it has worked very well. We have maintained two places for young MBG volunteer leaders and you can read Anna Gent's report on pages 6 & 7.

We have worked closely with Venture Force to retain the feeling of ownership that students have over the Summer trip. Again, this has worked well with the professional leaders always looking to quietly facilitate and guide. The Gunjur Community Link has become more important to us, training Venture Force leaders in the dynamics of Gunjur, organising the complicated projects and facilitating multiple trips, sometimes back to back. They are simply outstanding.

There is learning we will take on for the already booked 2020 trip. We will look to buddy participants with local young people and set up more time in the village as the reluctant move away from student home-stays has diminished the intensity of this.

However, with our adult trips (pages 8 & 9) we have been able to re-introduce some home stays which lifts the community

involvement greatly. St. James's Place, originally connected to MBG through our micro-finance work, is now sending three groups of 10 volunteers a year to Gunjur. MBG takes no money for these, focusing on driving funds into the community projects.

Further in this report you can read about the ground-breaking work of Raise Gambia (page 11) and Thriving Through Venture (TTV) (page 12) in creating bespoke trips to reach different populations of people in both communities.

## Projects

As a linking organisation, we work in equal partnership with the community of Gunjur and Gunjur Community Link. We support the needs of the community as identified by the community.

Specifically, we have maintained our support for preschool education, skills training and employability through the organisations we support and the projects our trips work on. You can read about the projects in this report, pages 13-16. Each of them carefully considers how they change lives and are sustainable. We know we are in partnership with Gunjur for the long term and our grants reflect this.

During 2019 we will be distributing a range of business and small project funds with long term NGO partner TARUD. We were able to meet with TARUD Director Baai E. Jaabang here in the UK to discuss his suggested initiatives and review a proposal to secure the micro-finance past 2021.

## Education and awareness

Lastly, we have maintained our commitment to raising awareness of global issues in the UK by working with Dr Nick and TTV to organise a community lecture. We also specifically supported the UK global awareness and community engagement side of the TTV trip.

We maintain our website, regular 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

In 2019 we expect another 60 people to be out in Gunjur and we hope to secure long terms commitments for our grants. There remains work to be done.

- *Our website is large and should better reflect what we are doing now while retaining a recognition of our long history and achievements.*
- *We will refresh our imagery and some of our language to keep best practice when talking about our work, always reflecting the equality of our community partnership and activities.*
- *We hope to provide website space for TARUD to help them have more presence online.*
- *We aim to better invest our funds where they can have a positive social impact in the world.*

After a period of change we are looking longer term again. Thank you to everyone, long standing members and new friends, who help this wonderful charity to do all it does, and facilitates so much more again, in both our communities.

**Alex Davies**

## Volunteering: 2018 Summer Trip



In July I had the pleasure of being a support group leader to 13 students from St. John's Academy for three weeks in the 2018 Summer Group. Two Venture Force professionals led the trip with Ben Scott (2016 Summer Group student) as the second support leader.

Our project was to build a fence around a mango plantation that future groups would also work on. The Gambia is full of mango trees, the supply is so big that much of the fruit goes to waste. The wider aim will be to farm the mangos and then export and sell to supermarkets. Our project was vital to the bigger picture as the fence stops animals from trampling the land and gives women ownership over the garden plots under the trees.

Prior to the trip, the group met several times to discuss fundraising and at the Wales training trip. Some participants put on a quiz night, others did a sponsored swim but most used money they had earned from part-time jobs. MBG supported the group by subsidising places and adding £2,500 to the project fund.

Students were nervous on arrival to The Gambia and were quickly hit by the heat and humidity of the country when stepping off the plane. We met our wonderful GCL volunteers, Lamin and Essa, and our bus driver Lamin, who were as friendly as ever and always happy to help. You could tell, just from the bus drive to Gunjur that it was a shock to the system for the students but they all had smiles on their faces and were full of questions for Lamin and Essa.



Our accommodation was very basic, but we made it ours. It was the old TURAD pre-school building. Past groups had done an amazing job cleaning, painting, turning it into a really nice community centre. There was a wooden divider in the main room where boys slept on one side and girls on the other. We all slept on camp beds in our mosquito net cocoon. While basic, many of the students' best memories was having a cold bucket shower after a long hot day at work.



Food was cooked by three lovely local ladies who accommodated to dietary needs splendidly. All the students loved the food and had a go at eating whatever was served. Our compound was a lovely relaxing and safe space where the workers would come back and join us for food and teach us new games. We would quiz each other on our different cultures and the children loved to visit.

Our project was a little hazy when we got there, the plan had changed from a wall to fencing, but that didn't stop us. We worked in the morning from 8am-12am and later on in the project, back in the afternoon to get the job done.

Our task was to remove all the old collapsed posts and rusted barbed wire



and replace it with new posts, barbed wire and then chicken wire over the top of that for more security.

The work was hard but very rewarding. A student would be chosen to be leader each day and they would split us into smaller groups to do different tasks. It was a joy to watch the students eager to work together with each other and the work men. We did encounter many obstacles, such as tools breaking and the heavens opening, flooding the garden and village. Some students dealt with this better than others, it's a real learning opportunity. I think the lowest point of the trip was when we were told that the new posts we had laid down were all too far apart. This meant that we had to go back around adding posts, that weren't as good of quality, in between to accommodate. The students faced the challenges head on and left the project with all new posts in around the site and one side with barbed and chicken wire fixed.

In the afternoons the time was ours to explore the village. At first students mainly stayed in the compound but soon they would go out and see the village meeting our family and friends we had met previously. GCL helped us to visit homes and families and so the students could see how their lives differed and reflected

their own. The students all came back with comparisons and comments about the different cultures which was great to hear.

Our days out included a long boat journey to James' Island (where we saw dolphins) to learn about the impact of slavery. This was a very emotional and educational day and you could see how this history was kept close to their hearts and effected many families on the island.

We visited the beach a couple of times and went to Lamin's beach and drumming hut via the fishing village as well as traditional visits to the local reptile farm and crocodile pool. Our up-country weekend away was to Bingtang Belong. This was lovely to relax and reflect on what we had achieved. Having some space meant we could catch up with how each other was doing, swim in the river, play a lot of games and sleep on proper beds!

Overall, the trip was a huge success. Returning students said how "eye-opening!" the experience was and "couldn't wait to go back someday". They were all really touched by how the people of Gunjur didn't need what we seem to need to be happy and relaxed. They said that they would "miss the friendliness of the place and how they genuinely cared about your well-being." What would you try to bring home? "Being more open to experiences and don't shy away from new things." "When things get tough and haven't gone to plan, to be relaxed about the situation, it can be easily fixed...also the bucket showers!"

**Anna Gent** group leader



## Volunteering: St. James's Place trips

In April 2018 a group of 13 volunteers from St. James's Place travelled to Gunjur to complete the work that the very first SJP group started on the community centre (old TARUD pre-school building) in November 2017.

The group of mostly Gloucestershire and Wiltshire-based employees were joined by a returning volunteer from the first trip and were once again led by two fantastic Venture Force leaders.

The group spent the week at the Gunjur Project lodge, walking into the Gunjur centre every day to work alongside local volunteers on the community centre to:

- clear, clean and repaint of the storeroom to repurpose it as leader accommodation for future trips;
- render and paint the outside of the shower block;
- clean and paint the inside of the community centre.

Alongside the project work, the group partook in cultural activities which included meeting Gunjur's Imam, Nansimba and Alkali. Performing these activities ensures that those who travel to the village continue to reaffirm our shared values and develop our long-term community partnerships. These activities are a key part of the SJP trips and will continue to be so.

After the April 2018 group left the village, further work was completed by the Gunjur community to add new glass windows, re-surface and paint the floor and install a water standpipe in the compound. This allows the compound to be more useful to the community and act as accommodation for future summer trips. This also acts as a good example of how the work we carry out as volunteers really is a joint venture with the local community.

In November 2018 two groups of 10 travelled to Gunjur for a week each to continue the work of the Summer Group to bring the old MBG mango gardens back to working standards.



### PARTICIPANT COMMENT

Phil Bunton

*As a returning mentor, I think my biggest highlight was watching the new group adapt and embrace the experience as the week went on. There is obviously a lot of apprehension as we build up to the week and the first few days certainly tested some comfort zones; simply getting used to the heat can be difficult for some!*

*A moment that summed up the experience for me arrived at the end of the trip, not only did half the group make more blocks than we had done in any day throughout the week, but the other half were able to clear the project site in*



*preparation for the foundations and blocks to be transported. As a group, we were mixing cement, using machetes to clear the bushes on the project site and breaking two pick axes in the process of removing stumps from the ground. All completely out of the ordinary for everyone in the group and yet all done with smiles on our faces and alongside the volunteers from the community that had supported us all week, many who weren't getting paid. I thought this was a real demonstration of what can be achieved together in such a short amount of time.*

*From the group's perspective, I think it was also rewarding to know this was an existing programme with ongoing development and that momentum will be maintained. Robert New, also part of my group said "I personally found the trip so rewarding, from the first day it amazed me that the smallest mention of Marlborough in any area of the community meant you are welcomed with open arms – this alone shows the massive impact the group has on the town. The community is amazing and the support that MBG provides can only help Gunjur go from strength to strength."*

### PARTICIPANT COMMENT

Fiona Yang

*In our groups ages ranged from 21 to 65 with the furthest volunteer travelling from Newcastle. Following on from the Summer project where, supported by SJP, students were able to build a new fence to protect the land from wildlife, the objective of the SJP group was to build a shelter and storage area for women to rest and prepare the produce they've grown for market.*

*Over the course of our two weeks, the Group were able to:*

- make 3000 concrete bricks;
- clear the vegetation from the site;
- dig the foundations of the shelter and storage areas;
- transport 3,000 bricks to the site;
- lay the building footings.

*Having returned to the UK the group receive regular updates on the project's progress. This not only keeps communication between SJP and the community of Gunjur alive but demonstrates the value of the project and the group's contribution to the community.*

*Rebecca Brough commented: "I felt proud to be part of a project that really will change lives for generations. This is so important to the people of Gunjur who were the most welcoming people I have ever had the privilege to meet. There were no lows for me, all aspects of the trip provided a sense that we really were making a difference."*

*The trips did not come without their complications - manual labour in 30 degree weather is not for everyone! However, as a returning mentor it was amazing to see everyone push themselves to get involved and thrive as a result.*

*We are delighted to confirm that SJP have signed up to a further three trips in November 2019 and three more in November 2020.*

## Grants: MBG Strategy

The Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG) promotes international understanding through linking and working with people in Marlborough, UK and Gunjur, The Gambia and their wider communities.



MBG operates in partnership with the community of Gunjur and The Gunjur Community Link (GCL) to provide opportunities for embedded cultural trips to Gunjur, UK based global education and grant support for sustainable Gunjur based programmes.

We recognise that during the 37 years of the Marlborough-Gunjur link many other charities, often based in and around Wiltshire, now operate in the Gunjur Area. Rather than manage projects directly, MBG now financially supports these charities' operations in Gunjur.

MBG aims to maintain an annual spend in Gunjur (in terms of projects and linking trips) of around £20-£25K a year. In 2018 we distributed £14,550 to Gunjur, £5,000 to UK linking support/global education and have £22,090 of restricted funding to be distributed in Gunjur.

MBG is a volunteer run charity that aims to place as much of our income and fundraising into Gunjur as possible. However, we accept that there are some unavoidable costs to running a charity, so MBG commits to spend no more than

15% of our total annual spend on charity overheads and core costs.

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.**
- **MBG will support core costs for recipient charities, however generally the charity should not be spending more than 15% of total turnover on management and overhead costs.**
- **There must be clear reporting of inputs and outputs, and ideally also impact measurement, to understand the effectiveness of the grant use.**

## Grants: Raise Gambia & St. John's Academy 2018 Science Trip

MBG is delighted to continue its support of Raise Gambia with a £1,500 grant towards the science trip made by students of St. John's Academy, Marlborough.

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

The 2018 trip was the second that St John's students have made to Gunjur and the first trip with our new partners, Venture Force. In October, Raise Gambia's Development Team welcomed to their lab 16 science students, supported by 2 members of the academy, and Raise Gambia's coordinator, Steve Atyeo.

The group returned to Halahin Lodge just outside Gunjur and spent their first weekend immersed in Gambian culture, visiting the market, crocodile pool and attending a lecture on Gambian politics.

After meeting their peers from Gunjur Upper Basic School and taking part in several lessons, the students spent two days at the Sifoe Senior Secondary School, where Raise Gambia's laboratory is based. Collaborating with their partners from the Upper Basic School, the students ran a number of Biology, Chemistry and Physics experiments, making use of pinhole cameras, microscopes and electrolysis techniques.

The St John's students commented that it had been a life-changing experience that had developed their confidence and communication skills through forming positive relationships with the Gambian students. The students realised that science experiments are very rare in Gunjur as the appropriate equipment is often not available. However, they were impressed with their partners' understanding of scientific concepts despite their lack of experience with practical experiments.

Following another successful trip, MBG will be supporting St John's students with another project in 2019.

For more information about Raise Gambia, visit [www.raisegambia.co.uk](http://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) delivered its first project this year which was supported by MBG with a £2,500 grant.



Founded by Caro Stover, an educational psychologist, and Dr Nick Maurice, the founder and ex-director of MBG, TTV engages and links young people in Swindon, Wiltshire and Gunjur, to undertake real life purposeful projects to address the rise of low self-esteem and anxiety.

TTV delivered its first programme this year with a cohort of 10 young people from a mix of state and independent schools in Swindon and Wiltshire. Throughout 2018 the students collaborated on individual and group projects in Marlborough, and a separately financed trip to Gunjur. In the UK, the group developed their skills in photography, writing and business development projects.

A 'bonding' weekend in Norfolk helped the group connect and form friendships with each other. A day with the Gambian community in Bristol prepared the young people for their trip to Gunjur, learning about the culture, food and importance of Islam in The Gambia. The day also helped the group to appreciate the multicultural nature of society in the UK and the important contribution that diverse communities make to life here.

*Visit to the Tesco pepper farm in Tangmere, to learn about "from field to fork" in selling fresh produce.*

*Photography work being exhibited in Calne supported Community Fairtrade Group, Calne.*



These real-life, purposeful projects connected and developed students' awareness of the importance of having a sense of belonging, building their resilience and self-confidence. MBG is delighted to have supported this UK part of the programme as part of our global education objectives, and to have seen the impact of the programme on the young people themselves.



## 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 950 3-6-year-olds currently attend these preschools daily, with MBG's grant of £2,500 being used to support teacher training in early childhood development.

This is the second of a three year funding grant that MBG has provided to Project Gambia, which aims to support early educational curriculum, development of appropriate teaching resources and professional training for teachers. MBG supports not only tuition costs, but also the cost of travel and study resources that can be a barrier to adult education.

Project Gambia currently has 14 students enrolled at different stages of a three-year Early Childhood Development Qualification at The Gambia College or the Arabic College. After graduating the teachers will join the 30 qualified teachers from the programme that are now employed in the community, and will work in one of the seven pre-schools across Gunjur.

The students all feel that they are developing personally and professionally and feel a lot more confident in their teaching abilities. To showcase this, in January 2019 the teachers from all seven pre-schools delivered a presentation to the Project Gambia Trustees on their training, and followed up with a taught class about fruit and vegetables. The Trustees observed first-hand the confidence and enthusiasm of the students, and the impact they will have once qualified.

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. We are proud to support the far-reaching nature of this investment, with the teachers going on to influence the lives of over 950 pre-school children in Gunjur.

Four more students are due to start training in July, with MBG providing a further grant of £2,500 to Project Gambia for 2019.

To find out more visit [www.projectgambia200.wixsite.com/welcome](http://www.projectgambia200.wixsite.com/welcome) or email [projectgambia200@gmail.com](mailto:projectgambia200@gmail.com)



*Student Mariama Darboe, from TARUD Preschool, presents to a staff group from all seven preschools*



*Some of our Early Childhood Qualification Students*

## Grants: Business Education BE REEL (Gunjur Project)

MBG granted £2,500 to support two pilots of the Business Education programme, led by Dr Nicola Swan, in collaboration with the Gunjur Project Association. The project aims to empower young entrepreneurs to build resilient micro-businesses and improve employment opportunities through business management training.

Young people looking to start a business in Gunjur face the challenges of high unemployment, low income and a lack of available business management training. The community has recognised the need for vocational training in this area for many years, seeing entrepreneurship as a solution to limited opportunities many face. Since 2016 Dr Nicola Swan has worked with TARUD, the GCL, United Purpose and other local stakeholders to understand what a successful business programme would look like in order to overcome these challenges.

MBG was delighted to support the two pilots in March and June 2018, with additional funds coming from the Arkelton Trust and Duke Corporate Education. The 'BE REEL' (Building Empowerment – Rural Economic Engagement in Life) organisation was set up to facilitate the programme and special recognition goes to Buba Touray and Lamin Touray, who have been integral to the promotion and success of the training.

The pilots were run the by the project's founder, Dr Nikki Swan, and Dr Trevor Long, with 40 participants attending over two five-day periods. They took part in lectures, workshops, and mentoring activities, with on-going development and micro-business support after the training. The project team also met with the British High Commissioner and the Minister for Youth and Sport, who showed their enthusiastic support for the programme and its impacts.

While the full effects of the project will take some time to develop, a two month follow up with participants showed some remarkable achievements: business growth, improved record and account keeping, and ongoing mutual support from the 'business



*Village Chief presenting certificates at the programme celebration*

hub' of participants. In his visits to some of the businesses, Director of TARUD, Baai Jaabang, commented that owners were displaying on their walls the conceptual tools that they found most useful, and showing a far better understanding of their businesses than they had previously.

Due to the initial success of the programme, MBG will continue to support the Business Education training through 2019.

Participant testimonial: *"This programme makes me to know how am I to start up my business, the calculation methods of profit and loss, to cover my loss on products, lessons on credit sales, margins... and so on"*

Find out more about the Gunjur Project Association at [www.gpagambia.org](http://www.gpagambia.org)



## Grants: TARUD

We are delighted to say that under the professional leadership of Baai E. Jaabang, TARUD has had another good year.

TARUD – Trust Agency for Rural Development – has long been a close partner of MBG and we are pleased to continue to support them with another £1,800 of unrestricted funds spread over the year to support their core costs. 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.

TARUD continues to manage the delivery of the Gunjur Youth Business & Development Programme reporting to United Purpose. While in the UK meeting St. James's Place, Baai was also able to discuss other projects that TARUD could deliver in Gunjur.

As a result, MBG is helping TARUD to work with St. James's Place to develop several smaller scale programmes. As always, Gunjur sets out the need and solution and we look at how we can help to put in place sustainable programmes that are owned by the Gambian experts and embedded in the community for the long-term.



*Kaddy Janneh received a micro-loan of £200 in Feb 2018. Kaddy has used the loan set up a food stall near to the lower basic school. The loan also allows her to manage her cash flow.*



## Project Support: GYBDP

The Gunjur Youth Business & Development Programme was established in 2014 by MBG and TARUD and funded by St. James's Place.

Baai E. Jaabang, "The GYBDP aims to improve the employment opportunities of young people through micro-business loans for a sustainable and vibrant means of wealth creation. The loans scheme will boost self-esteem and instil hope and confidence in young people, reducing poverty and dependence."

From mid-2017, through 2018, United Purpose (formerly Concern Universal) took over management of the project from MBG with MBG continuing to secure and provide project funding.

In early 2018 the third loans distribution 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-businesses range from fish processing and preservation, satellite installation for the very first time in the community, restaurants and fast food, tailoring, work-shops, welding and joinery and a cosmetics salon. The loans are overseen by a committee drawn from the village community and includes the Business Steering Group, TARUD, Gunjur Community Link and the Village Development Committee.

During 2018 United Purpose, with TARUD, has put forward a new three-year funding proposal to MBG and St. James's Place which we are confident will be soon approved. This includes funds to cover management costs for both United Purpose and TARUD.



### Case Study: Habiba Fatty

**Loan:** 15,000D (£250), 18 months

Habiba completed a course in tailoring at Gunjur Skills Training Centre and applied to the village loans committee for a small loan to buy her own sewing machine and fabrics to use for manufacturing clothes.

*"Now I am able to buy my own machine, now I am working the way I want. Now I can produce a quick service for my customers."*

Habiba works as an apprentice to a master tailor but they are not financially linked. Habiba works in their shop but does not pay rent or share the profits of her work. Habiba is able to use the master tailor's brand and reputation to establish herself. It is an agreement of mutual support as the apprentice will help meet the master's orders.



## Financial Overview 2018

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	2018	2017
Covenant and Gift Aid	-	-
Donations and Gifts	16,565	18,950
Interest	47	32
Legacy	2,428	-
Membership MBG	3,797	2,896
Fundraising	1,291	-
Grants	15,000	11,300
	<b>39,128</b>	<b>33,178</b>

Expenditure	2018	2017
Direct Chartable Expenditure	21,274	49,532
Office costs, insurance and repairs	1,207	4,814
Office repairs	-	1,860
Wages	-	18,059
Redundancy	-	8,525
Travel	542	2,039
Computer and Website costs	502	346
Bank Charges	75	60
Bookkeeping and accountancy	1,020	1,020
	<b>24,620</b>	<b>86,255</b>

Balance Carried Forward	2018	2017
	<b>152,467</b>	<b>137,959</b>

The financial target for 2018 has been to consolidate the charity following the office closure last year. Unrestricted charity costs have dropped from £21,332 in 2016 to £3,346 in 2018. During 2018 the Trustees distributed funds in support of visits and community projects in Gunjur while supporting other charity run projects also operating in Gunjur.

During the year the charity made a surplus of £14,508. The charity aims to be between £20,000 deficit and cost neutral during the year to sustain its grant making ability. A £15,000 grant from St. James's Place Wealth Management was received late in the year for 2018/2019 delivery of business projects in Gunjur.

Our operational cost represented 13.6% of expenditure, below the 15% maximum we aim for. This has dropped from 42.6% in 2017 and 20.5% with 38.7% restricted wages in 2016.

**Janneke Blokland** Treasurer

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

### Summary of key points related to income and expenditure

#### Income

- £15,000 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.
- We are grateful to a grant from the late John Maurice in support of our charity work.
- £780 raised after costs from the 2018 annual quiz night, won by team 'Universally Challenged'.
- Membership has remained stable with new members joining through our charity trips.
- While MBG has benefited from several funding grants from St. James's Place in 2018 in support of Venture Force run trip projects and a large grant to support micro-finance initiatives, MBG is entirely self supporting without them.
- We would like to thank the many individuals who continue to support us with ad-hoc donations of above the minimum level of membership. As a volunteer led charity with long years of partnership with the people of Gunjur, you can be confident of your funds are making the maximum difference.

#### Expenditure

- Details of the charities MBG supports to deliver our charitable aims are cited in this report.
- MBG has restricted funds which it will look to distribute over 2019, focusing mainly on business support in Gunjur working with both United Purpose and TARUD. There is some flexibility in the use of these funds and we are working with TARUD to consider how they can best be used.
- 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 have subsidised the cost for the student summer group trip and financially supported their community project.

## The Marlborough Brandt Group

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

- 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.
- 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.

*Governing instruments:* Memorandum & Articles of Association Incorporated 04.09.14

#### PATRONS

Founder Patron: Dr Nick Maurice  
 Professor Keith McAdam  
 Lord Judd of Portsea  
 Jon Snow

#### TRUSTEES

Alex Davies  
 Janneke Blokland  
 James Busby  
 David Johnson

#### MBG PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT 2018

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.

#### 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

Anita Bew  
 Theresa Ardley  
 Steve Atyeo  
 Lamin Bojang  
 Phil Bunton  
 Sonia & Bill Buxton  
 Colin Crorkin  
 Stephanie Dale  
 Richard Draper

Darla Dryland  
 David Du Croz  
 Anna Gent  
 Giles Goldring  
 Micky Graham  
 Angela & Gordon Hutt  
 Harriet Lamb  
 Michael Maude  
 Nick Maurice  
 James Parry  
 Anna Quarendon  
 Barney Rosedale  
 Susan Suchopar  
 Essa Sumareh (*left*)  
 Bouba Touray  
 Ousman Touray  
 Pam Tulloch  
 Robin Twelftree  
 Fiona Yang

#### Institutions

Arkleton Trust  
 Brewster Maude  
 Charitable Trust  
 Gunjur Community Link  
 The Gunjur Project  
 Hiscox Insurance  
 Kempson Rosedale Trust  
 Kombo Sillah Association  
 St. James's Place  
 Charitable Foundation  
 St. John's Academy  
 St. Peter's Trust



*Photos:*

James Busby  
[www.instagram.com/james\\_busby\\_images/](http://www.instagram.com/james_busby_images/)  
 Alex Davies, Fiona Yang and partner organisations



Marlborough Brandt Group

*Linking people for a fairer world*



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