

## MBG May 23 update



**Dear friends,**

Welcome, in this update:

- Invitation from DR Nick to meet members from the Bristol **Kombo Sillah Association** in Marlborough - **6.00pm on Sunday 21st May**
- MBG update
- Gunjur in the BBC news.
- Update from **Project Gambia** preschools – Anita Bew
- Some recommended summer reading

### **Meet members of the Kombo Sillah Association**

From Dr Nick:

Dear friends,

As a long time supporter of the Marlborough Brandt Group and the partnership between Marlborough and Gunjur, in The Gambia, I'm pleased to say that several Gambian friends, representing the Gambian diaspora organisation, the Kombo Sillah Association, have been invited **to St Peter's Church in Marlborough at 6.00pm on Sunday 21st May** to give a presentation about the work of the Gunjur Development Forum, improving the lives of the people of Gunjur.

It will be a great opportunity to meet old Gambian friends including Masireh Touray and Lamin Manjang and hear them speak about some of the problems facing the people of Gunjur, not least the awful impact of climate change, which some will remember we heard about from Masireh Touray when we met with Danny Kruger MP to discuss this topic.

Refreshments will be provided following the meeting and there will be a retiring collection on behalf of the Gunjur Development Forum to which I hope you will make a contribution.

I do hope you will be able to come to the meeting and do please let other friends and family of yours, who might be interested in attending, know about the occasion.

Please do email me to let me know whether you and friends and family will be coming to the meeting so that we can purchase sufficient refreshment for us all!

[nmaurice613@gmail.com](mailto:nmaurice613@gmail.com)

I look forward to seeing you there. Nick.



## MBG update

This year we have continued to be busy supporting our partner charities working in Gunjur, but also getting ready for three youth groups heading to Gunjur.

MBG has provided funding to **Thriving Through Venture** to support their work with young people in Wiltshire and Gunjur. A group is travelling to Gunjur at the end of May, supported by The Gunjur Project. They will be looking to develop a replacement to the much used 'Islam in Gunjur' booklet developed by Dr Nick and others in 1996. The group will focus on capturing the social history and experience of those in Gunjur, developing an online resource for anyone travelling to the village to use. **Find out more:** <https://ttventure.org/thegambia-2023/>

We are also pleased to say we have again supported **Raise Gambia** with their summer school programme delivering science education to young people in and around Gunjur, supporting their core education and improving access to further education.

The long running **MBG Summer Trip** is also back after a gap for Covid with a large group of students from **St. John's Marlborough**. Supported by Venture Force our overseas trip partner, the group will be staying in the Gunjur Community Centre in the heart of Gunjur and working with Gunjur volunteers and professionals in the Health Centre. We are pleased to say that now the Summer Trip is a core part of the school itinerary and MBG has supported subsidised places for students taking part. Venture Force is also supporting a second school to travel to Gunjur expanding the cultural exchange MBG has delivered for nearly 43 years.

## Gunjur in the BBC news

In case you missed it, Gunjur was in the news a few weeks ago talking about the impact of the Chinese fishing factory on local fish stocks, prices and the environment. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-65204179>



TOM FORD

| Fishermen say the factory has upset the market as it buys in bulk and pays lower prices than other buyers

## Update from Project Gambia – Anita Bew & Neil Griffiths

Following a difficult three years for the whole world, our team finally returned to The Gambia in January. Our Gambia friends were as overjoyed to see us as we were them!

Despite almost three years absence we were able to continue to fully fund our schools thanks to your generous support. In return our schools continued to run themselves effectively and expand the excellent education they offer.

Our visit in January marked our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, which is hard to believe but is a testimony to our strong partnership between The Gambia and the UK, and both our desire to offer long term commitment. It was also the realisation that our staff are confidently running their own schools and need us to hold their hands less and less. MBG has focused its support into teacher training and professional qualifications.

In short, whilst our schools will always need to be funded, they are not fully self-sufficient in every other way. Our shared dream has become a reality!

All staff has been trained and completed and an early year's qualification; and the schools now run their own in-service programme and support each other's schools.

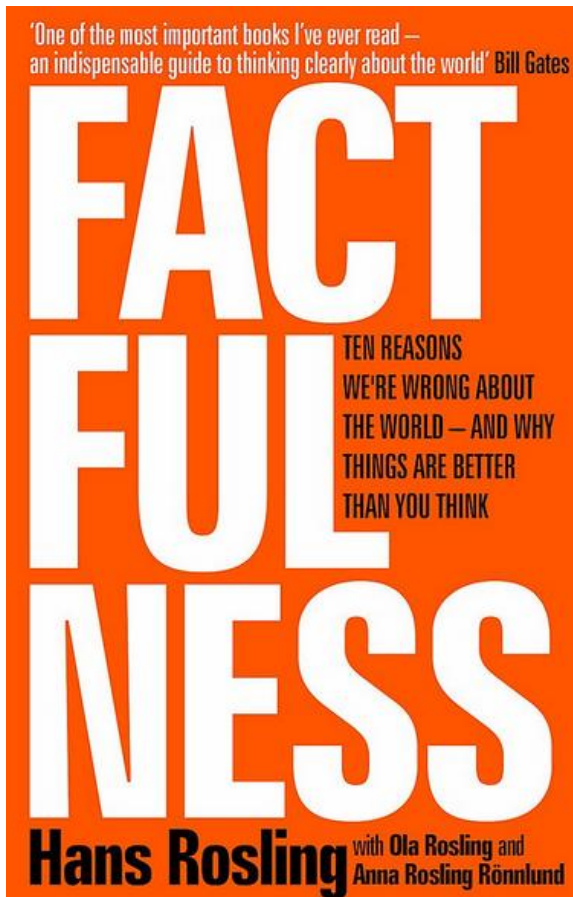
We want every child to have the best Gambian education possible that reflects a Gambian lifestyle.

We are delighted that we now fund a special needs coordinator who supports all our schools and runs a special Saturday club where children with a range of additional needs come and play securely with their parents and siblings.



## Some summer holiday reading

Heading anywhere this summer, take an amazing book and be up to date with global development: 'Factfulness'. Hans Rosling writes as if delivering one of his inspirational talks (have a look on youtube) and brings to life the optimism of the amazing progress made across the world. Still the current seminal work in international development, it's a must read that is also easy to read. Easy to get second hand online for a few pounds, or from the library to keep your carbon footprint down. Enjoy.



Thank you for your continued support for MBG and as always, you can reach us at [info@mbg.org](mailto:info@mbg.org)

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