

Annual Report & Accounts 2013/2014

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MaK Directory

MaK Trustees for the year 2013/14

Stephen Raw (Chair)
Pam Dawes (Treasurer)
Fazli Blakcori (Secretary)
Kelly Bucher
Paul Guest
Louis Harris

MaK Mission

Our purpose

MaK supports recovery in Kosovo (and the UK) by providing opportunities, resources, and developing partnerships.

Who we are

MaK is an independent organisation, registered as a charity, operating throughout the UK and Kosovo with partners, volunteers and supporters of several nationalities. We have several partners in the UK and Kosovo. We have a small core group of long term volunteers and many short term volunteers. We have many dedicated supporters in the UK. We also have two staff in Kosovo.

What we do

We help to relieve poverty, sickness and distress in Kosovo. To achieve the

greatest impact, we work on three interlinking fronts:

- providing opportunities for young people and adults in Kosovo to learn new skills
- providing resources and developing programmes to address emerging needs
- developing partnerships with organisations in the UK and Kosovo with similar objectives

MaK works in the following areas:

- Education
- Construction of the Manchester Peace Park
- Art and Music
- Promoting justice and equality
- Collecting and Distributing Aid
- Family support
- Sport

Our approach

All our work comes from a needs-based approach. Through closely working with the community in Kosovo and the Kosovo community in the UK we establish projects to address emerging needs. All of our projects can be linked back to the main areas in which we work. We work within a network of partnerships. The key organisations which we have built partnerships with have all worked with work with MaK in both the UK and Kosovo: Castle Fine Arts Ltd., Eden Project, Imperial War Museum North, Municipality of Podujevë, Nova International (Great Run) and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

We organise a summer school in the schools local to the Manchester Peace Park in Kosovo. We support ecology education and equip schools with computers. We arrange training programmes to increase skill and leadership potential. We are building the Manchester Peace Park in Kosovo to provide a resource for the community for recreation, rehabilitation and education. We have created a garden for reflection and a central arena for meetings and performance. We are building play areas for children and various sports pitches for all ages. With the Eden Project we are developing a horticultural programme for Peace Park staff. We develop partnerships between artists in the UK and Kosovo to provide increased strength and opportunity through collaboration. We also support artistic projects that further our purpose including the creation and installation of sculpture work in the Manchester Peace Park in Kosovo. We work with musicians in the UK to raise both funds and awareness of Kosovo and are developing a music programme involving records and performance of Manchester music and UK/Kosovo collaboration.

Other projects benefit from the financial support and outreach generated from music events.

We aim to promote justice and equality by leading by example and undertaking projects that encourage peace and understanding. We support victims of war crimes to help bring those guilty to justice. We encourage equality by actively supporting the professional development of women and young people in Kosovo involving many short, intensive residencies in the UK and have a women's business initiative involving 20 women from Podujeva.

We collect medical aid and educational equipment as needed. We support the Psychiatric Day Centre in Podujeva. We respond to changing needs. We organised the first Kosovo Run around the Manchester Peace Park. We build partnerships with sports organisations in the UK to provide sport event management training to young volunteers in Kosovo and we actively support these volunteers to organize this now annual athletics fixture. We support families in South Manchester who were evacuated to the UK from Kosovo during the war.

Structure, Governance and Management

MaK is a registered charity (registration number 1087178). Its objects and powers are set out in its Constitution.

Trustees

MaK's governing body is called The Executive Committee (also known as the trustees). This body comprises of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight Members: 3 officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and at least one (up to five) other Members. They each serve a term of one year after which they can be re-elected to serve a further year. There is no limit on the number of terms a trustee can serve. Executive Committee members are responsible for controlling the management and administration of MaK.

They serve as volunteers, and receive no payment (other than to repay necessary out-of pocket expenses incurred). Executive committee members work together as a team, and have collective responsibility for the charity. Executive Committee members have, and accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of MaK, ensuring that it is solvent and well run, and delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it was set up. Executive Committee members who are not officers take on other responsibilities, e.g. Membership Secretary.

Risk Management

The Executive Committee has overall MaK's system of internal control. Such a system of control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against inappropriate or ineffective use of resources, or against the risk of errors or fraud. These risks are further heightened, given the difficult nature of communications, institutional and financial infrastructure in Kosovo. The risks that MaK faces throughout the year are assessed by the Executive Committee at meetings and more informally via email and telephone. Action is taken to mitigate the risks and where necessary the Executive Committee are able to respond quickly to deal with any problems.

Communicating with Volunteers and Supporters

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, MaK holds regular informal meetings to enable supporters to raise questions and interest. During each main visit to Kosovo, MaK holds meetings with staff, volunteers, local businesses and the community. MaK also attends and arranges meetings with other partner organisations. MaK maintains a website that provides information to the public on MaK's activities, and how people can make a donation and/or get involved in addition to Facebook pages. MaK also has webspace for volunteers to share photos from their visits to Kosovo and other MaK events. Key volunteers from MaK frequently give talks to groups of regular supporters. MaK uses email to allow all staff, volunteers, supporters and others to ask questions of the Executive Committee directly. MaK also uses email to disseminate timely information about events in the UK and Kosovo.

Volunteers

This year more than 120 volunteers contributed their time to MaK in a variety of ways in the UK and Kosovo. Several make a regular commitment ranging from a few hours a month to many hours a week. Some use their professional expertise, while others give their time and energy in work that is not related to their everyday jobs. Some volunteers may be retired or not in paid employment. MaK attempts to apply the principles of involvement and equality to its many volunteers. A few volunteers organize fundraising events and others contribute to specific projects for MaK.

Trustees' Report

Chair's Introduction

All in all, it has been another very full year for MaK with the network of those in the UK and in Kosovo ever widening. The reality of there being no one fully employed by MaK, excluding our Peace Park gardeners, has its drawbacks, nonetheless all volunteers can fully see how their contributions of time, money and skills really does make a difference.

Here, below, is my last résumé of most of the events and activities from the past year as I am standing down as Chair. I wish whoever is elected to fill the post all the very best. . .

The Peace Park

The Peace Park continues to thrive – in part due to both the original concept with the Eden Project's help and the dedicated work from the gardeners over nearly 10 years! Little wonder that it is still so pivotal in MaK's ongoing work.

'Our' two excellent gardeners, Jakup Bahteri and Rexhep Sheholli have worked under all sorts of conditions throughout the last year. As well as the daily tasks of watering and tending to the plants, they deal with special groups wanting to be admitted to the garden. Such groups include Handikos, MaK Women's group and Podujeva Psychiatric Day Centre staff and clients. Jakup and Rexhep have also now

helped to develop a garden at the Podujeva Psychiatric Day Centre, transplanting some of our shrubs. (It is as if the Peace Park is following its parent Eden model in doing 'outreach' work!)

Alex Dunning took over as project leader for the Park and led a working party there in the autumn. The area was measured and facilities planned. Repairs and improvements were carried out and a full inventory of tools and materials made. The completed final proposal was duly presented to the Municipality.

Summer Club

The Summer Club goes from strength to strength and every year is eagerly awaited by a considerable number (over 300) of the town's young people (and probably by the parents as well). This is, in no small measure, due to the highly motivated and experienced staff from the UK led by Naomi Hamill, allied with the growing number of Kosovar volunteer leaders who have emerged over the years. Pre-planning is now an essential part of the Summer School's success not only in choosing themes but also in introducing any first-time teachers to the others in the team.

The theme for 2013 was a story, written by leaders, involving many forms of travel. It was drama, art and construction – and much more besides, as well as being highly successful. Alice,

our new sports leader, introduced tennis for the young people and new dance leader, Molly, got a great response from all who joined in.

Prior to the Summer Club opening there was a children's English course led by Kosovar leader Rinna Sheholli and friends.

Athletes visit to Manchester

Two athletes and two athletics leaders joined other MaK runners in the BUPA Great Manchester Run in May. A junior runner, Rita Hajdini, was invited for the first time and proved to be a highly successful entrant, coming second in the Junior race. She received a silver cup from international sprinter Kim Collins. Apart from her personal achievement it was very encouraging to their 'Llapi Athletics' club in Podujeva which regularly uses the Park. Once again we had a stage with 'MaK-friendly' musicians playing during and after the run for which BUPA paid us.

Art

While on their residency in the UK, sculptors Agron Sheholli and Lumjeta Sheholli recast the (previously stolen) 'Thinking Man' at Castle Fine Arts Foundry under the tutelage of staff member Mike Annit. The two sculptors also made additional visits to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, London galleries and commercial film puppet makers.

Stephen and Matt Raw spent a week

drawing up proposals to use the Park as a catalyst for art exhibitions and installations - some permanent (adding to 'The Thinking Man'), others brought out as and when appropriate, some created 'for a season' only. Security and longevity were considered in the overall plan. A programme for a residential week for Kosovan and other European sculptors was drafted and costed. A meeting with Jeanette Robinson at Yorkshire Sculpture Park was held in the autumn to explore the next stage.

IT suites

Phil Young kindly agreed to take over leadership of the IT project from Mireille Gomes who had returned to Canada having really established a successful educational project in her work. A further large donation of machines was collected from 'Moneyplus Group' in Manchester and arrangements made for their preparation for Kosovar schools by Computers for Charities.

Web site

New arrangements for MaK web training has been started.

New MaK base

A new Kosovan base for visitors from the UK is conveniently situated near the Park and hospital in Podjueve. It is above an ante-natal clinic organized by Sanije and Fitim Topanica whose work we will also try to support.

Psychiatric Unit

Volunteer Fitim Topanica helped to develop support work. Some materials were donated and shrubs transferred from the Peace Park garden to the Unit to develop the work started with Eden horticulturalists. Staff in charge have been encouraged to use the Peace Park garden with their clients.

Embroidery

Work with group in summer and autumn by UK based group leaders. Women's Group continues to receive training and most work sold, all proceeds to the group members except fabric and thread costs. Connection made with Falmouth University regarding development of teaching programme for disadvantaged women in developing countries with a University visit with us to Kosovo planned.

Visits and residencies

Six people came to the UK, 4 athletics representatives and 2 artists (as described above).

Armend

Mandi has worked hard throughout the year helping to lead things in Kosovo.

Funding Sources

MaK received another donation from MPM Charitable Fund for our educational work (£4000) and also

donations from a church, the public and both new and long-term MaK supporters. The Great Manchester Run once again raised around £4000 net. Five MaK swimmers had a successful sponsored swim as a new (to MaK) way of fundraising.

Arja made a donation of £1000 for sports facilities and Marie Kierney's birthday fundraiser raised £645 donation for the children's play area. It was kindly arranged for a MaK donation from St Thomas Moore Primary School to be received in lieu of payment for work carried out by one of the trustees. A new fund supported by MaK leaders has been developed to provide individual educational support where there is suffering caused by a lack of parental and state support.

A donation was made to help develop Podujeva Run.

Applications

Several meetings and training were held during the year at the Heritage Lottery Fund whilst MaK developed a funding application.

Material donations

A large donation of hundreds of new baby clothes were given by an anonymous supporter, most of which were taken to our new base above the ante-natal clinic and our women's group. More donations of blankets and children's knitted clothes (Wallington

(Craft Club) we donated to families in need. Blackheath Bluecoats summer school volunteers transported to Kosova much of the donated educational and summer club equipment pupils had fundraised for.

Speakers

Saranda and Pam were invited to speak at Abraham Moss Community School, North Manchester.

A major fundraising effort was also carried out by Bluecoats, Blackheath where Saranda was invited to speak. A second major donation of educational materials was made by this school in 2014.

As outgoing Chair, I want to say that it has been a privilege to be part of a charitable enterprise which seeks to include as many talents as possible. Civil reconstruction is a long-term and, sometimes, messy business but still vital – the arts of peace-building were never easy. The background reasons and unresolved issues of justice must not be avoided or tagged with a facile ‘forgive and forget’ mantra. One day in the future the work of MaK will not be needed and that is our long-term aim: to make ourselves superfluous. In the meantime, we respond as best we can to the needs of a community that still bear the scars of war and will for many years to come.

Stephen Raw
MaK Chair

Finance Summary

2013 - 2014

£13,962 + opening balance in the UK and Kosovo of £8,180 giving total funds of £22,142.

2012-13

£24,292 + a variance on Exchange Rates conversion of £189 and balances in the UK and Kosovo of £2,362 and £822 giving total funds of £27,665

2011-12

£35,309 + opening balances in the UK and Kosovo of £7,513 giving total funds of £42,823

2011-12

£35,309 + opening balances in the UK and Kosovo of £7,513 giving total funds of £42,823

2010-11

£25,769 + opening balances in the UK and Kosovo of £12,376 giving total funds of £38,145

2009-10

£26,533 + opening balance of £3,300 giving total funds of £29,833

2008-9

£32,090 + opening balance of £8,206 and cash in hand of £454 giving total funds of £40,750

2007-8

£27,293 + opening balances in our current account of £5,785 and £10,000 in our tracker account giving total funds of £43,078.

2006-7

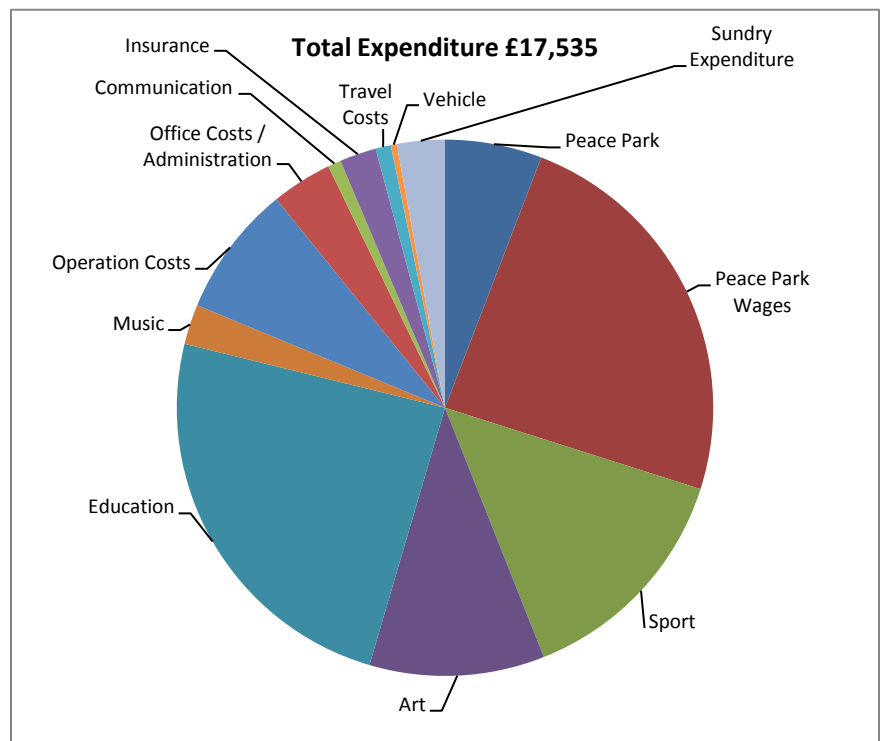
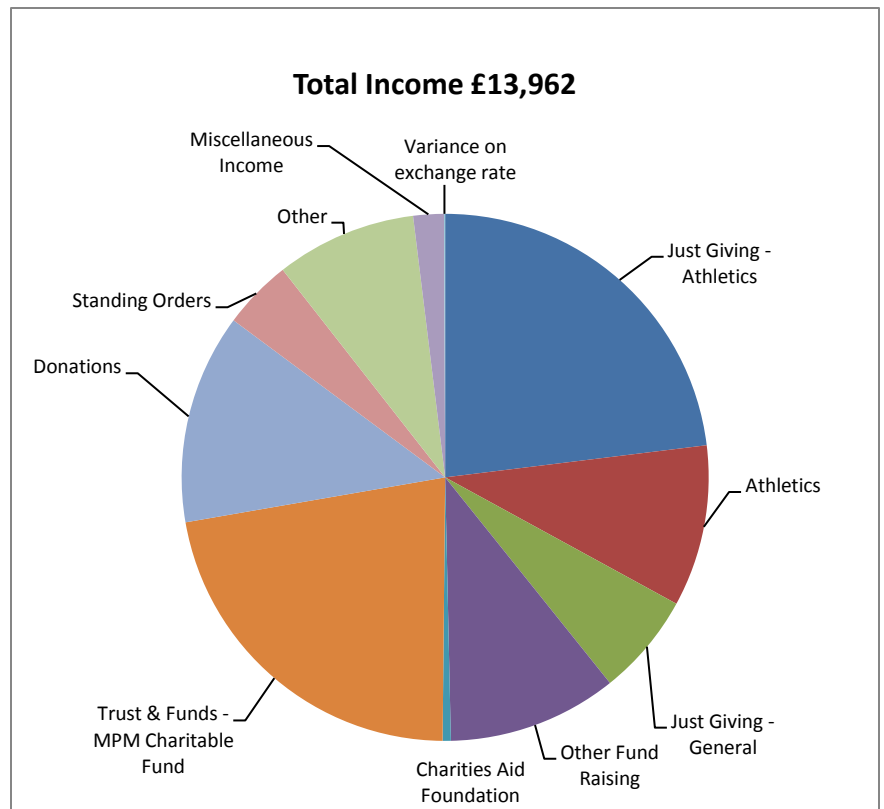
£33,347 + opening balance of £1,679 giving total funds of £35,026

2005-6

£15,569 + opening balance of £4,251 giving total funds of £19,820

2004-5

£10,135 + opening balance £4,406 giving total funds of £14,541 of £14,541



Financial Position

Our opening balance was £8,180. Our income was £13,962 this financial year to giving a total of £22,142. Expenditure was £17,535. Although our income reduced this year, MaK has continued to receive support from donors, grants and fundraising events. Much work was also spent this year on a successful heritage grant application with HLF which will be recorded in the next financial year.

We spent £4,625 on our educational work in Kosovo including our Summer Club and IT projects. A priority project remains the 22 acre Manchester Peace Park in Kosovo. Payments for planting and construction were £1,113 in Kosovo with the addition of wages for Peace Park staff of £4,583. MaK spent £2,011 on art projects and £458 on music projects. £2,683 was spent on athletics including Great Run, for residencies for Kosovar athletics leaders, and our donation to the Peace Park Run in Kosovo.

Our operating costs including insurance were £1,512. Sundry expenditure was £550. At the end of the financial year the balance in our account was £ 4,099 and £386 (€463) giving a total of £4,485.

MaK is extremely grateful that a further grant of £4,000 for education was received from the MPM Charitable Fund.

Sport has continued to be a highly successful fundraiser with a total of

£5,962 received through the Great Manchester Run including some advance sponsorship also received this year for the highly successful Great Manchester Swim which was held in the next financial year. This year the Great Run again invited MaK to provide a Manchester music stage and the total includes a donation of £800 from Nova International (Great Run) for stage programming. Jo Dudderidge curated a very successful stage and artists performed free. MaK also provided a team of 20 for a water station at the Great Manchester Run which led to a further £400 grant (included in this total also) to MaK which we donate, with related race equipment, to the Podujevë Run in Kosovo.

£65 was also received for the medical appeal through Just Giving. £1,136 was paid by several MaK Summer Club leaders into to a new fund for educational support in Kosovo.

Other donations and socials including £772 from standing orders raised £2,332. Exceptional donations were received from Arja Suddens (£1,000 donation for sports facilities on the Peace Park) and from Marie Tierney who fundraised for her birthday (£645 for the children's play area on the Peace Park). Special thanks are given for the continued support of several MaK supporters who donate monthly through Standing Orders and CAF and to churches which support our work. Additional income was received from MaK album sales and from the sale of

donated baby clothes although the bulk of these volunteers took direct to the anti-natal clinic below our new base in Kosovo. Income was received from the sale of our women's group's embroidery, paid to the makers. A MaK donation from St Thomas Moore Primary School was received kindly in lieu of payment for a trustee's work.

It is clear that personal involvement of MaK in organisations, either as members, employees or visitors, encourages giving. Fundraising initiatives are most welcome. We hope to retain the long term support of churches, clubs, schools, companies, musicians and private individuals who have contributed so much to MaK's growth over the last 12 years. We are delighted to have received new support, including several new runners amongst the 25 strong Great Manchester Run team, new swimmers, and to have new relationships with musicians, artists and universities in the UK through our wider activities throughout this year. We are grateful to the team who have led our oral history project this year and will reap financial benefits from the team's efforts in the next financial year.

In 2013-14 we continued commitments to Kosovar staff on the Peace Park and strived to complete the basic structure of the site. This will continue.

Just giving is very successful. The direct link to fundraising www.justgiving.com/mak/raisemoney proved to be very effective, raising

£5,371 including Gift Aid mainly through sports sponsorship and monthly donations. A gift aid payment is pending.

MaK funds jobs in Kosovo, employing gardeners for the Peace Park. It must be noted that as well as our cash input the bulk of our work is achieved through volunteering with considerable donations in kind. Volunteers raise their own costs, including flights, and donate skills and labour, whether this be art and design, management, building, digging and planting, curating, administration, PR, giving hospitality to Kosovar visitors training in the UK, or musicians donating music and performing concerts for MaK. The contributions of all our members and supporters is received with grateful thanks – MaK could do little without this and certainly would not be close to completing a 22 acre Peace Park, leading highly successful children's work, or have collected many computers for more IT suites this year. This year's achievements reflect fully the range of volunteer efforts and the considerable scale of donations in kind MaK receives, seen particularly in our IT, park construction, education and community projects.

We want to encourage increased regular giving either by standing order or e-giving. Some of the challenges of the next financial year are to secure more regular funding, to develop our sport sponsorship, and to encourage regular giving.

We are encouraging MaK presentations and attempting to reach out to colleagues and friends about giving. Our financial needs for the ambitious projects we are developing are considerable. We encourage all our members to share our aims, achievements and our needs and to tell MaK's success story. This often results in long term support including volunteering and funding for future projects.

MaK builds up assets of sports memorabilia, music related art work memorabilia, and vinyl. We continuously collect for auction. We are extremely grateful for the support of Kelly Bucher in this area and also for her fundraising through Music Magpie.

We are honoured to now have 6 tree dedications in memoriam. This is possible through our website or a committee member.

Additional assistance with book keeping grant applications and fund raising would be very greatly appreciated. MaK is extremely grateful to Glyn Chatterton for his continued generous support including the preparation of our accounts.

MaK is extremely busy and our diverse projects are thriving. MaK's greatest asset, as always, is its ever increasing team of committed volunteers, who donate skill, time and effort to achieve MaK's aims: the relief of poverty, sickness and distress.

This year 28 UK based MaK volunteers worked in Kosovo. Each paid their own expenses (travel to airport/flights and accommodation) totaling **£10,136** averaging a minimal £362 per person + food/travel insurance costs. We recognise this as a substantial form of giving on the part of numerous highly committed UK based volunteers, many of whom make repeated trips to lead projects with MaK in Kosovo.

Pam Dawes (Treasurer) November 30th 2014

Patrons

Badly Drawn Boy
Lt. Col. David Vassallo
Mireille Gomes

Thanks

Special thanks to all who make MaK's work possible.

We are grateful to all MaK volunteers, who give so much, both in the UK and Kosovo.

Thank you to MPM for continued financial support for MaK's diverse educational projects.

Thank you also to Money Plus Group, Computers for Charities and Hope and Aid for equipment donation, preparation and delivery in MaK's school IT projects. This long term support has made a significant impact on schools in Podujeva already improving educational opportunity for thousands of students.