



Hanwell Friends of Sabastiya

أصدقاء هانويل سبسطية 'حفصة'

Update – November 2019

www.hafsa.org.uk - info@hafsa.org.uk

1. Sue O'Dell writes of the visit to Palestine:

“ A group of us visited Palestine and stayed in Sabastiya this autumn. The trip to see all our friends was a huge success and we were treated to wonderful hospitality and enjoyed some adventures together with Abu Yasser, his wife Samah and others.

There are changes taking place at the top of the village, near the ruins, with the area being paved and very modern street lighting installed. The women's mini enterprise is still going strong baking the snacks for the schools each day and most days we had some of the breads for breakfast – yummy!

Our visits to Nablus were fun and we travelled to Budrus where it was a privilege to meet Ayed, the community organiser who successfully led the nonviolent resistance against the building of Israel's separation wall through his village. Abu Yasser and Ayed are now networking and sharing one another's experiences.

The land grab continues and the increase in illegal settlements is noticeable with small outposts now becoming really big towns. It's a blot in the beautiful Palestinian landscape of rolling hills and olive trees.

During our visit there was a tear gas attack in Sabastiya whilst we were visiting the nursery school, however, we were not severely affected by it. The nursery school was informed and the children all immediately responded by going into their classrooms and closing the windows.



Our visits mean much to all the villagers and hopefully it helps to lift people's spirits as life continues to be difficult and stressful. Thank you again to Abu Yasser and Samah for all your kindness during our stay.”

2. Screening of 'Budrus' in Sabastiya

A screening of the film took place at the Al Kayed Palace and was attended by around 40 villagers, including the mayor, deputy mayor and many young people. It was an honour to receive Ayed and his daughter, both leaders of their village's successful resistance, to answer questions and to share experiences about organizing and non-violent resistance.



3. HAFSA supplying more gas masks for Sabastiya

The village's young volunteers have requested another 30 gas masks to protect residents during Israeli military incursions. The families who already have the masks are very grateful for our support and have them ready in their homes when the gas canisters land in their gardens. We hope to send another £1,500 to purchase more soon.



4. Christmas cards and Zaytoun produce

We continue to sell our HAFSA Christmas cards and fairtrade Zaytoun produce (price list below) at all our stalls and events. To buy directly contact: Marjorie on 07960 804650 (texts preferred), 0208 5678655 or mjkelly31506@gmail.com



Baladi Cookbook		£16.00
Extra Virgin Olive oil	250 mls	5.50
	500 mls	8.80
	750 mls	12.30
	1 litre	15.30
Organic olive oil	250 mls	5.90
	500 mls	9.75
	750 mls	13.75
	1 litre	17.30
Za'atar	80 gms	2.50
Dates	250 gms	3.30
	500 gms	6.50
Gourmet dates	25 pieces	14.00
Organic Maftoul	250 gms	2.50
Freekeh	250 gms	2.50
Almonds, chilli	140 gms	4.10
Almonds, caramelized	140 gms	4.10
Soap	100 gms	2.55

5. Proudly celebrating 10 years of HAFSA

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of HAFSA and we are planning to publish a small book about Sabastiya, our history and work.

Our next AGM will begin HAFSA's anniversary celebrations on Saturday 1st February 2020, from 3-5pm at St Thomas the Apostle Church, Boston Road, Hanwell.

Our guest speaker will be Holly Ryan, a researcher on friendship and twinning links, who will speak about benefits, challenges and best practices. There will be more details at a later date.



Above: Kebbeh, tabbouleh, mini falafel sandwiches and other treats made by the women's enterprise for local schools.

6. Dates for the diary

- West Ealing Christmas fayre, outside Sainsburys on Saturday 14th December, 12-4pm.
- HAFSA committee meeting on Tuesday 17th December at 10am. Please contact us if you would like to attend.
- 'Journeys to Palestine' talk for the Ealing Over-60 Network with Colin Lomas on Monday 13th January, 2pm in Ealing Quaker Meeting House.
- Annual conference and AGM of the Britain-Palestine Twinning Network from 9.30am on Saturday 29th February 2020 at St Anselm's Church, Kennington. To book or for more information, contact: Palestinetwinning@yahoo.com

7. Christmas greetings

We wish you all a happy Christmas and every best wish for a peaceful new year. Thank you for your continued support and see you all at the AGM!

Editor: Tom Robinson

robinsontl1994@gmail.com