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HAFSA is pleased to be upgrading its website and mailing system.

Visit <http://hafsa.org.uk/> to learn more about recent projects, as well as the history of Sabastiya and its inhabitants.



**In this issue:** CV-19 in Sabastiya, our latest projects, our book, upcoming HAFSA events and a short YouTube video explaining the annexation of the Jordan Valley of Palestine

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## HAFSA Bulletin July 2020

### A word from the chair

The virus situation in the West Bank and Gaza has worsened in the last few weeks. From 500 cases in mid-June there are now 7,037 confirmed cases. Hebron has the worst record at 4,786 cases, Bethlehem 404, Nablus 228, Ramallah 267, Gaza 72 and **Sabastiya has its first two cases** who were removed to a quarantine centre. Everyone in the village is being tested. We are keeping an eye on the situation and await directions from Sabastiya on what to do next.

We heard the sad news that on June 8th **the Israeli army arrested the niece of Ahmad Kayed** (aka Abu Yasser, our committee member in Sabastiya) Layan is 22 years old and a graduate of Bir Zeit University. She is detained in a prison near Haifa. Her case has been constantly deferred and she has now been held over for another month when her trial will continue. We hope that she will soon be released.

**HAFSA funded the delivery of 125 hens to 25 of Sabastiya's families.**

These hens are already laying eggs to the delight of the families. **A huge thank you for all your donations** and special thanks to the West Ealing Branch of the Unite Union, who raised money for this project. Abu Yasser had quite a job sourcing all the hens: everyone, including Israelis, are seeking out hens to purchase as the price of eggs has doubled.



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This week, we sent a further **£1,650 to Sabastiya to buy clothes and shoes as EID gifts for children in economically struggling families.** We wish all our Muslim friends a Happy Eid for July 31st.

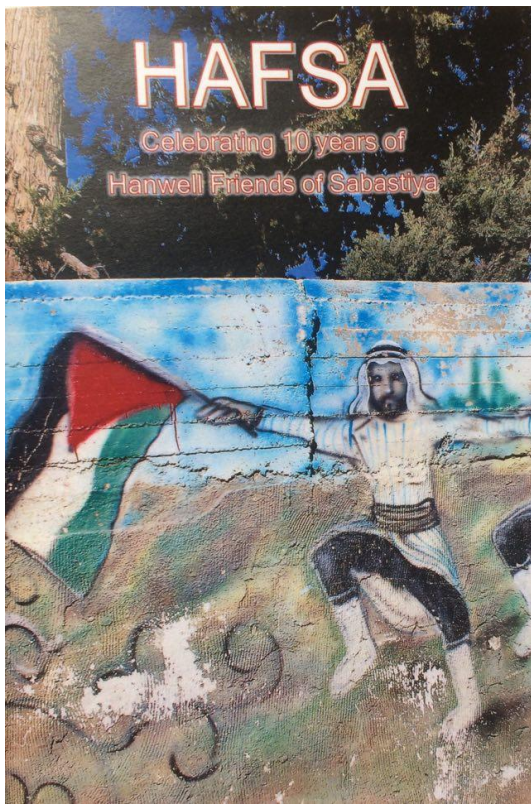
**Eid Mubarak !**

We held our **first HAFSA Zoom session on July 7th.** Abu Yasser gave us an update on the situation in Sabastiya. We then split into groups to discuss the film ["The Last Shepherds of the Jordan Valley"](#), and to suggest ways forward for our work with Sabastiya. All in all, it was nice to reconnect with friends and welcome new faces.

We have planned another Zoom on **Tuesday August 4th at 6pm.** Our guest speaker will be **Vincent Fean: "Strengthening Friendship with Palestine, Countering Annexation"** Details for registering will be sent soon.

A group of UK charities has recently issued a **statement condemning the annexation of parts of the West Bank.** You can see the full statement [here](#) and may wish to use information from this to lobby your MP. The group meets 3 or 4 times a year with a government minister to discuss Palestine.

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Our book celebrating 10 years of **HAFSA** is almost finished and will soon go to the printers. It has around 45 pages, lots of photos, information about our projects, interviews with villagers, recipes and a foreword by Sir Vincent Fean. It looks good! We plan to publish 250 copies and will sell them at £5 each. Why not buy a few to give as gifts? Stocking fillers? Below is a preview of the cover which is a photograph of a mural in Sabastiya

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As a fund raiser, Monika has produced these **washable Palestinian masks**, you can order them from Marjorie at £5 each: [mjkelly31506@gmail.com](mailto:mjkelly31506@gmail.com)



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## **FUTURE PROJECTS**

In conversation with Sabastiya's various groups and societies, through our contact Abu Yasser, we are considering future projects, funds permitting of course!

- Ways of recycling grey water
- Buying orange trees for planting this autumn
- Purchasing a wheeled water tank that can be tracted to outlaying land and land close to the Illegal Israeli settlement in order to water the olive and fruit trees
- Organising another first-aid workshop

Andrée (Chair)

## **FUND RAISING**

As the tourist trade dies, more and more families are falling into poverty. Visitors to Sabastiya, usually numerous in spring/summer, are now non-existent. Shops and guest houses rely on tourism to survive. Teachers and workers cannot count on being furloughed. There is no state help in Palestine - no pensions, sick pay, welfare benefits, free at point of use health service, so our friends in Sabastiya desperately need our support.

As we are currently unable to organise our usual social events and having had all our festival stalls cancelled, we have, nevertheless, organised two events, which we hope you will attend (see below). However, we need to consider how else we might generate funds to support our friends as they struggle through the pandemic.

We need your generosity to build up the HAFSA bank account in order to be able to send further funds to Sabastiya as and when needed. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

there are three ways you may donate, please choose the one which best suits you.

- **bank transfer** Co-op Bank : Acc no:65449004 Sort code: 08 92 99
- **online** by clicking [here!](#)
- **cheque** payable to HAFSA and sent to our HAFSA Treasurer: Deborah Conolly, 5 Rockford Avenue, Perivale, UB6 8AH

With sincere thanks. Stay safe. HAFSA Committee

## **HAFSA EVENTS**

HAFSA events are a great opportunity to raise funds for Sabastiya, see friends and to introduce new people to HAFSA. The current situation does not permit us to hold events where we can be in very close proximity, but see below what we have in store.

**Tuesday August 4th at 6pm** Our guest speaker will be **Vincent Fean:**  
**"Strengthening Friendship with Palestine, Countering Annexation"**  
Details for registering will be sent soon.

**Wednesday 5th August at 5 pm** We will have our Summer Social fund

raising event. This year it will take the shape of a **"Peace Picnic" in Blondin Park**: 40 Blondin Ave, Northfields, London W5 4UL. The entrance in Boston Manor Road is north of the station. As we will be in the park, possibly with other people about, we will be flying the Palestinian flag to show you where we are located, so look out for us.

Please will you each bring your own blanket/chair, food and drink etc. There will be a raffle with prizes.

Most importantly this will be an opportunity for us to meet again, out in the open. As this picnic is one of our major fund raising events of the year, please give generously, there will be a bucket for your donations... See you there! (cancelled if it rains)

**Sunday 6th September: 2-5pm** We will hold a **"Garage Sale and High Tea"** instead of the cancelled Brentford Festival. This will happen at numbers **3,5,7,and 9 Cardiff Road, W7**. You can enjoy **High Tea** for £3 . **On sale:** books, fabric, Zaytoun produce and more. Please advertise this event to your friends, family and beyond!

## **MORE TO SEE**

**The Truth About ANNEXATION - a short film from "Breaking the Silence"** an organization of veteran Israeli soldiers who have served since the start of the Second Intifada and have taken it upon themselves to expose the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories





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