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



**In this issue:** Report from our most recent Zoom, remembering Lynne, the Orange project, upcoming HAFSA events, our new 10 year celebration booklet - and a documentary to watch

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## HAFSA Bulletin Late Summer 2020

### A word from the chair

It is with great sadness that we heard the news of Lynne Ringuet's untimely death. Please read below Jean's tribute to Lynne on behalf of HAFSA.

As of August 21st, the number of Covid-19 cases has risen to 10,830 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). There has been **only one recent new case in Sabastiya** and he was swiftly quarantined in the municipality guest-house. Should you want up-to-date news about the civilian population in the OPTs please [click here](#) to visit the excellent UNOCHA website (United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

[Eid al-Adha](#) started on July 31st and HAFSA funded the purchase of clothes and shoes for fifty disadvantaged children and 15 special need young adults. We thank you very much for all your donations towards this project.

Our second Zoom session on August 4<sup>th</sup> attracted an attendance of 45 people. Abu Yasser, our contact in Sabastiya, opened the session by giving a brief history of our friendship link before introducing our main speaker, Sir Vincent Fean, who was the UK Consul-General, to Jerusalem from 2010 to 2014. Vincent talked about the benefits which friendship links with Palestine bring to both communities. He complimented the work HAFSA does in making Palestinian voices heard and supporting Sabastiya by responding to the needs of the village. He also updated us on the work the [Britain Palestine Friendship and Twinning Network](#) (BPFTN) to coordinate efforts and strengthen the network.

Vincent gave us his analysis of the **threatened annexation** of part of the West Bank by the Israeli government. He spoke of the two kinds of annexation, both illegal under international law:

- the systematic daily informal annexation that Palestinians suffer under occupation and
- the more blatant method of officially annexing swathes of land, eg the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and now part of the West Bank - perhaps the Jordan Valley.

This latest plan would jeopardise any hope of a two-state solution which is the preferred outcome for the international community. However, it is still UK policy to recognise the State of Palestine, but it has yet to do so. The Foreign Office says that the UK will recognise Palestine at a time of its own choosing and when it will best advance the cause of peace. It is important that we **press our Government to recognise the State of Palestine** according to the pre-1967 borders. With state recognition comes certain rights and it will equally be harder for the UK then to ignore the breaches of international law that are committed every day against Palestine. Finally, Palestinians do not seek sympathy but the right to self-determination and to be treated as equals in their own land. [Click here to read a fuller account of the talk.](#)

Vincent is currently the Chair of the Balfour Project charity and a Patron of the BPFTN and HAFSA. The Balfour Project holds regular interesting Zoom talks, free of charge and the next talk is on Sep 9th at 3pm when Israeli former Ambassador Alon Liel, who advocates the outcome of two states and an end to the Occupation, will discuss whether the move to annex (which is still on the table, whatever the UAE says) can be a diplomatic game-changer. [Click here for more details and to register.](#)

**We extend our grateful thanks to Vincent for speaking to us on Zoom, for writing the foreword of 10 years celebration booklet and, last but not**

**least, for agreeing to become HAFSA's first Patron!**

Andrée (Chair)

## REMEMBERING LYNNE

Lynne, whose funeral took place on 8 August, was a founding member of HAFSA 10 years ago. She was part of the small group who went on the very first visit, and she returned a few more times after that. She was a very active committee member for a number of years and so was very involved with all aspects of HAFSA.

Over in Palestine she was never happier than talking to people in the village, hearing about what life was like for them and seeing hafsa projects on the ground.

She, like the rest of us, loved staying in the guest house and having meals together and chatting. She also particularly liked to visit the girls school each time we went. We were always made very welcome.

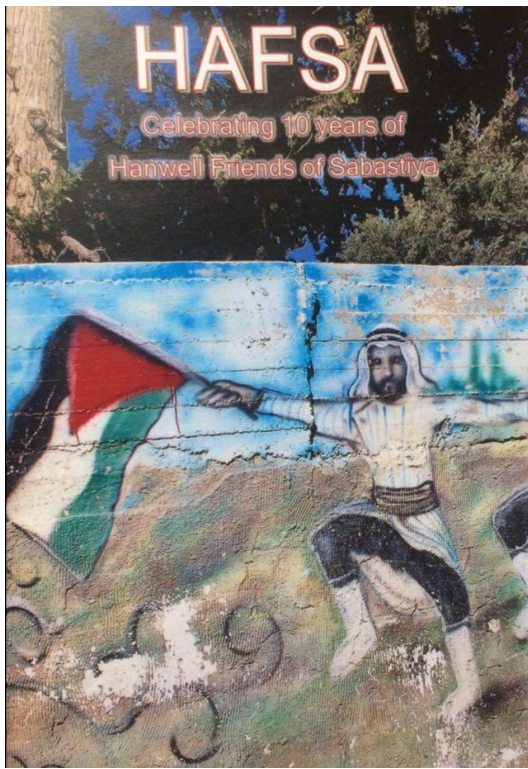
Back home, Lynne was a keen supporter of all our fundraising social events - especially being on the stall at the Hanwell Carnival where her delicious cakes became legendary!

We have so many photos of Lynne flying the flag for Palestine. We will miss her very much. HAFSA and Palestine were very important to her. Her spirit will live on I'm sure through what we do.



Lynne at the Apartheid Wall in Abu Dis, in the center with the black hat, and enthusiastic Lynn on our stall at the Brentford Festival

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This is a story of friendship between  
West London and the West Bank.

Hanwell Friends of Sabastiya (HAFSA)  
is a friendship and twinning group which links  
people in Hanwell, in the London Borough of  
Ealing, with people in Sabastiya in Palestine.

This book celebrates 10 years of friendship,  
support and exchanges and shares the history of  
Sabastiya and the story of our friendship,  
interviews with local people and cultural features.

**Our booklet celebrating 10 years of HAFSA** will be on sale at our **GARAGE SALE** on Sunday September 6th 2-5pm (details under Events).

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 sell them at £5 each. Why not buy a few to give as gifts? Stocking fillers?

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## OUR NEXT PROJECT

In their attempt to become more self sustainable and rely less on Israeli produce which floods the market at a cheaper rate than local produce, Sabastiya would like to plant lots of orange trees.

Before the creation of the state of Israel, Palestine's Jaffa oranges were renowned and shipped all over the world. For Palestinians, Jaffa oranges were a very strong symbol of their land. The film *Jaffa, the Orange's Clockwork*, which we are still planning to show once we can resume normal life, tells the story of the Jaffa oranges.

So, do come to our **Garage Sale** and the money raised will fund orange orchards!

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Grapes are now ready for picking in Sabastiya, inshallah next year we can visit and eat some!

## FUND RAISING

The tourist trade so vital for Palestine is now at a stand still with no prospect of re starting this year. More and more families are falling into poverty. Visitors to Sabastiya, usually numerous in summer/autumn, are not coming. Shops and guest houses are closing. Like us, the economy is suffering, with the difference being that there is no state help in Palestine - no pensions, sick pay, welfare benefits, nor a free-at-point-of-use health service, so our friends in Sabastiya need our support more than ever.

As we are currently unable to organise any of our usual social events and having had all our 2020 festival stalls cancelled, we need to consider how else we might generate funds. Any new ideas welcomed! We hope that our **Garage Sale** will raise a substantial amount. Please advertise it, come and bring friends!

If you are able, we need your generosity too! All donations will be greatly appreciated. all donations are used for Sabastiya - HAFSA has no overhead or expenses and we are all volunteers.

There are three ways you can donate so 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**

**Sunday 6th September: 2-5pm** We will hold a “**Garage Sale and Cream Tea**” instead of the cancelled Brentford Festival. This will happen at numbers **3,5,7,and 9 Cardiff Road, W7**. You can enjoy **tea and cakes** for £3. Our new booklet celebrating 10 years of HAFSA will be on sale at £5. There will be a Zaytoun stall,as well as: books, bric a brac and more...

We welcome any good quality items to sell on the stalls, some help with serving refreshments and most importantly cakes! cakes! cakes! Please email Marjorie with your offerings: [mjkelly31506@gmail.com](mailto:mjkelly31506@gmail.com)

**and please advertise this event to your friends, family and beyond!**

SHUKRAAN!

### **Tuesday 29 September- 11am start: Autumn Cruise on the Wey.**

Nick, a HAFSA member, and his partner Fiona, kindly invite us for a short cruise on Rosie, their canal boat. Departure no later than 11am from Guildford. There will be a delicious high tea picnic thrown in.

**Ticket are £40 a head.** For distancing reasons we are limited to five persons. First come first served, so book as soon as possible by contacting Andree: [hanwelltortoise@gmail.com](mailto:hanwelltortoise@gmail.com) or by phoning 07761 104609

**All proceeds to HAFSA of course!** The trip will be re schedule in case of heavy rain.

## **MORE TO SEE**

This is a 45 min. documentary entitled: ***Looted and Hidden, Palestinian Archives in Israel***

Released in 2018 this film deals with Palestinian archives that were looted or seized by Israel or Jewish forces during the 20th century and are controlled and buried in Israeli military archives.



And finally....



CONGRATULATIONS TO HOUNSLOW RAMALLAH  
TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Their long-pursued initiative to have their formal twinning marked on street-signs on selected thoroughfares at the Borough's boundaries has finally been realised, with the support of Mayor Cllr Tony Louki and Council Leader Cllr Steve Curran.



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