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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.



Hanwell Friends of Sabastiya

هانول أصدقاء سبسطية "حفصة"

In this issue: All about the Jaffa orange project, buying your Christmas gifts/cards, a bench for Lynne, what is the "akub"?



From Sabastiya Secondary Co-educational School

Zaid Samer Gazal and Noor Emad Kayed displaying the school drawing.

HAFSA and the JAFFA ORANGE - Autumn Bulletin

A Word From the Chair

We are gearing up to help Sabastiya plant at least **200 Jaffa orange trees at a cost of £2,276**. They must be planted in November. Read below Cathie B's short article about the story of the Jaffa orange. As with many of our projects, we aim to help Sabastiya become more self-sufficient and less dependent on Israeli produce. The orange project has been received with great enthusiasm by Sabastiya. The schools are putting on history lessons on the Jaffa orange and would like ten trees each. The municipality is looking for suitable public sites to plant some trees. The young volunteers are designing orange T-shirts and a banner.

Please see below our gift cards that you can purchase to support this project.

Our garage sale raised over £1,200. A big thank you to all who helped, attended, baked cakes, donated goods, etc. The money will go towards buying the trees - each Jaffa orange tree costs £12.



Marjorie says: *"We have a number of larger items left over from the garage sale, these include: a table ironing board, TV stand, framed pictures, headboard for a double bed, three shelf free standing bookcase. we also have left over fruit cake and cupcakes in the freezer. So come over one of these fine days have a cup of tea in the garden and I can show you the items in the garage we still want to sell. Give me a ring on 07960 804650.*

In these trying times, one way of helping Palestinians is to buy their produce.

Please consider buying some of your Christmas presents and cards from us. We have a limited amount of handmade embroidery items featuring the handiwork from many Palestinian women's group and 100% cotton Keffiyehs from the original Hebron factory. Our beautiful cards of an orange tree painted by local artist Saadeh George are back by popular demand, Monika is making more Palestinian masks and of course let's not forget our 10 years celebration booklet which had great reviews from those who have read it!

Read on for details and how to order all these goodies!

The primary schools in Sabastiya have re-opened and we bought 50 school bags complete with stationery, which have been distributed to children from disadvantaged families.



There are only two cases of Covid-19 in Sabastiya at the moment. Nevertheless all social gatherings such as wedding parties and funerals are banned. The schools are open and operate staggered attendance.

Andrée (Chair)

THE JAFFA ORANGE

Reclaiming Jaffas for Sabastiya - A Wee Bit of Jaffa History
by Cathie B



Prior to the expulsion of Palestinians from their land (The Nakba) and the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, the city of Jaffa(Yafa) was the cultural and economic heart of Palestine.

In the 19th century, Palestinian farmers developed a variety of orange – Jaffas or shamouti in Arabic - which became the pride of Palestine as they were sweet, almost seedless, and with a tough skin which made them ideal for export. Oranges became the largest Palestinian export; by 1939 15 million crates were being exported from a total of 30,000 hectares cultivated.

For Palestinians, Jaffa oranges were not only a strong symbol of their land and national identity, but also a fine example of Palestinian ingenuity. Sadly, after 1949, oranges began to represent the lost ancestral homeland.



A Palestinian man displaying Jaffa oranges in the 1930's

Following the forced exodus of thousands of Jaffa Palestinians due to bombardment by the Israeli army in 1948, only 4-5000 of the 70,000 Palestinians who lived in Jaffa remained. The orange groves that belonged to Palestinians were illegally confiscated, (considered 'abandoned assets') seized and became the property of the Israeli state.

During the 1950s, Jaffa oranges began to represent Israel internationally - they became the new state's foremost export. The Jaffa logo was considered the second most recognised sign by the public after Coca Cola. Essentially, the Jewish immigrant population appropriated Jaffa oranges as a symbol of the State of Israel. But of course, according to international law, they were being cultivated on illegally acquired land.

In the 1980s, owing to European competition, oranges lost their value in the global market and the export of citrus fruits by Israel dropped considerably. As a result, any orange groves were either destroyed or abandoned. Since then, Palestinians have largely had to purchase oranges from Israel. Recently, some Palestinians have begun to consider growing their own oranges again, hence our **Reclaiming Jaffas for Sabastiya** project.

WHAT'S ON SALE!

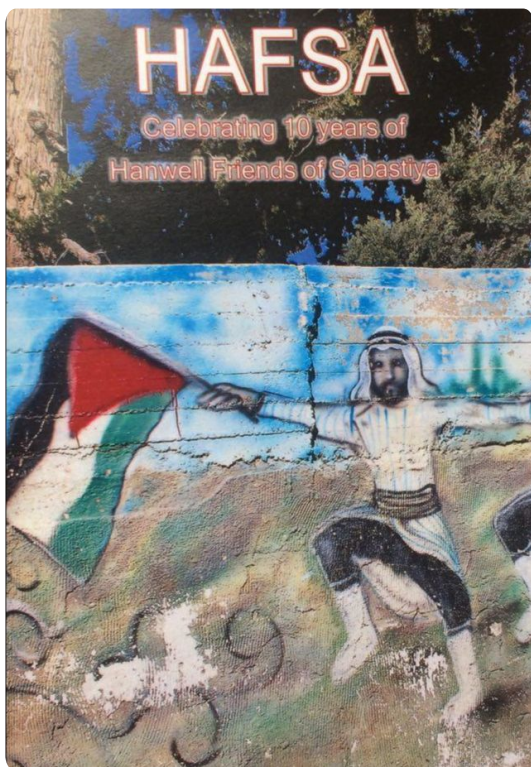
All the items described below can be bought from Cathie- give her a ring to arrange delivery/viewing : 07875 470183

1) Buy a Jaffa orange tree for £12 and gift it for Christmas! You will get this lovely card with the orange insert. The picture size is A6.



2) You can also just buy the cards. They are blank inside and cost £1.50 each or five for £6.00.

3) Our booklet makes a great read and costs only £5. It tells the story of HAFSA and what we have achieved. It has lots of photos, interviews with villagers, recipes and more! The foreword has been written by Sir Vincent Fean.



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.

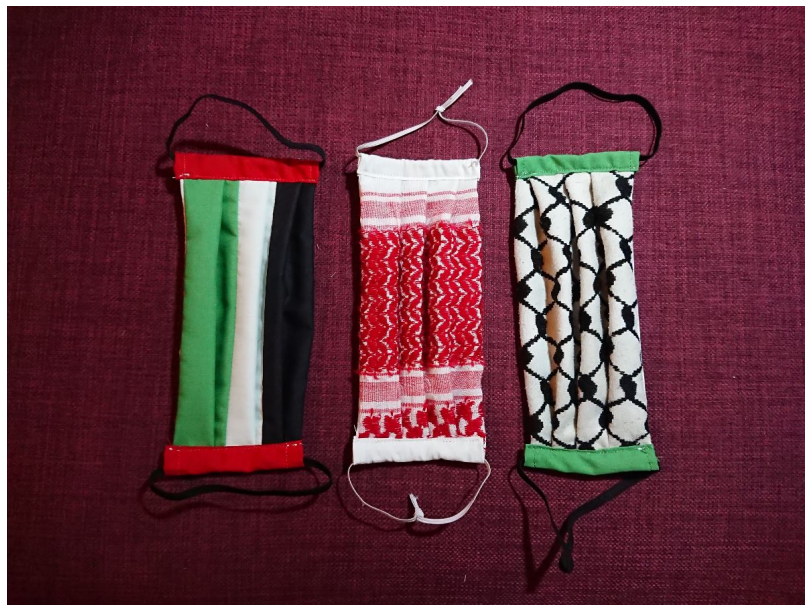
4) These unique handmade embroidery goods will make a great gifts! Just arrived from Palestine, we have a limited range of items: purses, wallets, mobile phone cases...ranging from £3 (book marks) to £20 (shoulder bag)



5) We also have on sale these 100% cotton traditional Black and White or Coloured Keffiyehs, made in Hebron. £12 each



6) Monika's Palestinian masks are selling like hot cakes, a bargain at £5 each, chose your design and contact Monika: 0208 567 5613



COMMEMORATING LYNNE RINGUET

The HAFSA committee, together with Lynne's daughter Anna, and in agreement with Sabastiya's Municipality, decided to buy a bench to commemorate Lynne who was one of our founding members. It will be placed on the road that leads up from the bus station and the girls's school to the village centre. It is a steep hill, which Lynne would have walked often. Many stop half way to catch their breath.

The bench will cost approximately £300. **Anyone who knew Lynne and would like to contribute towards this project, please send donations to our treasurer** (see below under Fund Raising how to donate)

FUND RAISING

This time last year a group of us had a trip to Sabastiya. It was wonderful seeing all our friends and spending time visiting many of the familiar places and exploring new villages and sites.

Now we are finding ourselves staying closer to home, as are many others from around the world. Naturally, this has a huge impact on tourism and is affecting Sabastiya badly, as many people's income is dependent on the tourist trade. There is NO safety net for Palestinians in the way of benefits, which is resulting in severe hardship and poverty.

Currently, we are unable to fund raise in our usual way and this appears to be on-going for the foreseeable future. Our September Garage Sale was a huge success but we are committed to a

number of projects and so need more funds to undertake them. Should you have any ideas, as to ways in which we can fund raise, do please let us know-we are open to looking at all suggestions.

In the meantime, you can play your part by generously donating to HAFSA. All the proceeds go directly to Sabastiya as we have no overheads and the committee members are all volunteers.

There are four 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 (our preferred mode)
- **online** by clicking [here!](#)
- **cheque** payable to HAFSA and sent to our HAFSA Treasurer: Deborah Conolly, 5 Rockford Avenue, Perivale, UB6 8AH
- **and** if you are able, we would be very happy if you would set up a **standing order** with your bank to our account.

With sincere thanks
Stay safe and keep well

HAFSA Committee

EVENTS

A big THANK YOU! to Nick and Fiona for welcoming us onto their boat. We had a lovely time on the river Wey and we raised £240 = 20 Jaffa orange trees. We all agreed that we should repeat the trip.



We are sorry that we have not been able to organise any HAFSA events for this

autumn. The rule of 6 is not making our work easy. We hope to soon be able to organise a Zoom with young people in Sabastiya. Meanwhile here are a few Zooms that you may be interested in joining:

Wednesday October 7th - 1.30pm : *Live From Jericho via Zoom!* organised by Zaytoun, We'd would love you to join us for this opportunity to hear directly from a Palestinian date grower about how COVID and the complex politics of the Jordan Valley are impacting farming communities there. This will be followed by a Q&A. [click here](#)

Tuesday October 27th - Study Day 10am-6pm - *Jerusalem : From Past Division to a Shared Future* - Organised by the Balfour Project. Click [here](#).

And finally....



Here is a short story about the "Akub", a wild plant that Palestinian women forage every spring, and how an Israeli law has made this traditional harvest a crime. [Click here to find out more.](#)

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