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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.



Woman picking olives and Olive grove: two oil paintings by Sliman Mansour, a Palestinian painter in his 70s. His work is said to reflect the concept of Palestinian "Sumud" (resilience). He gave us permission to use his beautiful paintings, many of which are of olive and orange groves. Do check him out!



Hanwell Friends
of Sabastiya

هانول أصدقاء سبسطية "حفصة"

In this issue: News from Sabastiya, our orange trees, Zaytoun products on sale, upcoming events and a transcript of Sir Vincent Fean's talk

HAFSA Christmas Bulletin

HAFSA Committee wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year Inshallah

A Word From the Chair

On top of Covid and the usual stress of living under military occupation, this year's olive harvest in Sabastiya was 70% down on last year, very likely due to poor weather conditions.

The pandemic has not stopped illegal Israeli settlers from vandalising olive trees and harassing families harvesting on their land. Home demolitions by the Israeli army have also increased, including the destruction of an entire community living in the Jordan Valley (See photo below). "The largest demolition for 10 years", according to the United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), making 74 people homeless including 41 children. Six hundred and eighty nine structures have been demolished this year, rendering 869 Palestinians homeless (UNOCHA).



There has been a surge of Covid-19. As of December the 2nd, active cases have doubled in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and tripled in Gaza (UNOCHA). In Sabastiya at the moment there are 30 active cases. All in all, not a great situation

On a cheerier note:

Thanks to your support we have been able to purchase **300 Jaffa orange trees** for Sabastiya at a cost of £3,760. These will be planted all over Sabastiya, in farms, homes, streets and schools. The Sabastiya volunteers, which we have supported since our beginning, will be helping with the planting. We still have orange tree cards for sale should you wish to purchase one or more (see below), and any more money raised for the this project will go towards helping with the long term maintenance of the trees.



The arrival of the first batch of Jaffa orange trees!

For the festive season, to cheer us all up, we are planning a festive Zoom on **Friday, December 18th at 6pm** with our friends in Sabastiya. We plan to put on a variety of entertainment which we hope you will enjoy. More details and how to book in the event section below.

We hope to see many of you on the night!

Andrée

ZAYTOUN FAIR TRADE PRODUCE



Marjorie says: I want to thank everyone who has so generously supported Zaytoun over the past years and this year in particular, where opportunities to sell Zaytoun products were severely limited.

With the prospect of a regular stall at the Brentford Market on the 2nd Sunday of each month, I have ordered in a good supply of Zaytoun products including the favourites: dates, sugared almonds and various size bottles of olive oil.

I am happy to deliver orders within the London Borough of Ealing. Payment can be made by cash or by bank transfer. **Give me a ring or text me on 07960 804650 with your order.** You can download the price list [here](#).

WHAT'S ON SALE !

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

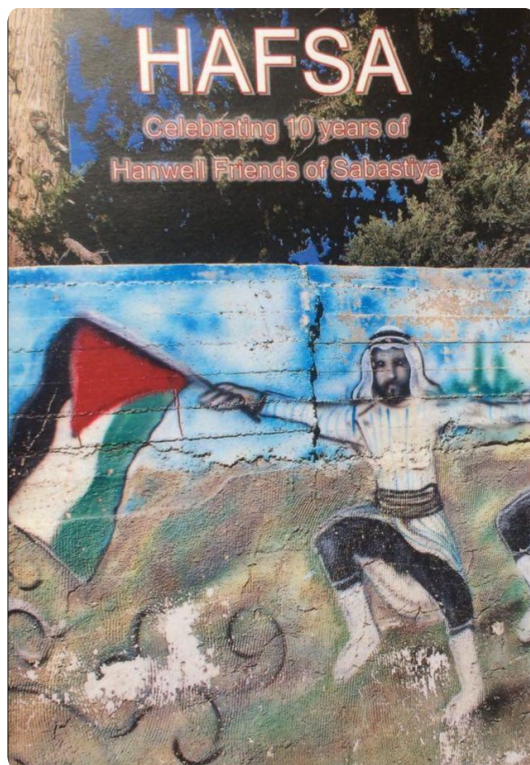
1) Buy a Jaffa orange tree for £12 and gift it for Christmas! You will get this lovely card with the orange insert. The picture size is A6.





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

3) The ideal stocking filler! 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, our patron.



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.

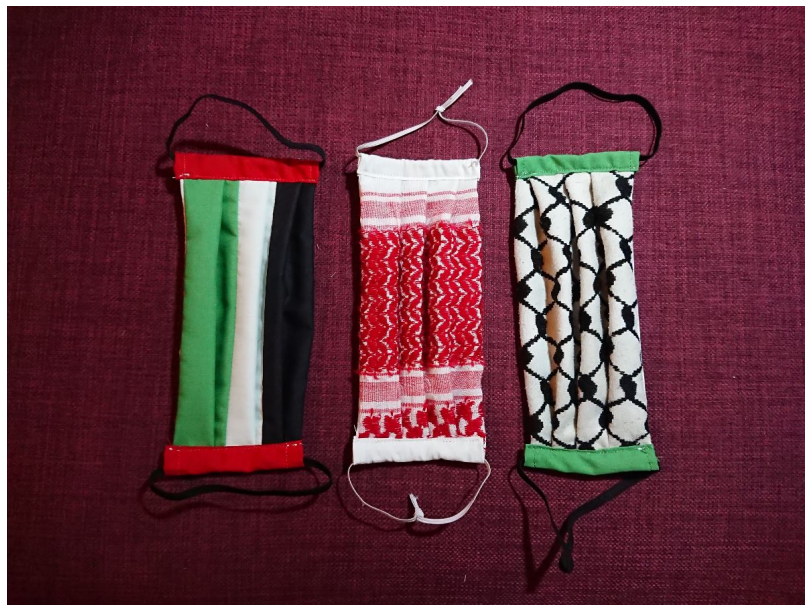
4) We still have some embroidered items left, please contact Cathie



5) We have run out of the coloured Keffiyehs - We only have a limited amount of Black and White traditional ones at £12 each



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



FUND RAISING

Following on our Orange tree project, we will now fund raise to organise a few First Aid workshops for women, and for the new upcoming young volunteers' team. Every participant will receive a certificate and a well equipped first aid bag. The last workshop we ran was very successful and we were asked to train more people.

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 - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HAFSA STALL: Sunday December 13th 11am - 2pm - At the Brentford Christmas Market: Market Place on the High Street, TW8 8AH. We will be selling

all our goodies described above and Zaytoun produce. You will now be able to pay by card or cash.

FESTIVE ZOOM: Friday December 18th 6 - 7:30pm - Put on your reindeer horns, grab a drink and sit back and enjoy an hour or so of festive fun with our friends in Sabastiya and beyond. Songs, poems, dance, games and more. We hope to have a live video from Manger Square in Bethlehem.

To register please click [here](#).

HAFSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Saturday February 6th 2021 - 3.00pm UK /5 pm Palestine - Further notice will be sent nearer the date. This meeting most probably will be on zoom meeting

BRITAIN PALESTINE FRIENDSHIP and TWINNING NETWORK AGM:
Saturday March 6th 2021 - more details at a later date

And finally....

The transcript of a talk which our HAFSA patron, Sir Vincent Fean, gave on 12 November to Balfour Project subscribers on Zoom is now available. He writes:

*"I say a few things about the last US effort to resolve the Israel/Palestine conflict (John Kerry's valiant effort of 2013-14, when I was still in Jerusalem), and speculate about Joe Biden's room to act. I hope you have time to read it .
Vincent"*

Please click [here](#) to download the transcript.

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