



Hanwell Friends of Sabastiya

هانول أصدقاء سبسطية "حفصة"

In this issue: News from Sabastiya, a message from the British Consul in Jerusalem, your new committee for 2021, upcoming events and a song!



HAFSA Winter Bulletin

We hope that you are all keeping well through this pandemic

A Word From the Chair

First of all, a BIG thank you to all those who attended our 10th AGM, renewed their memberships and donated to HAFSA. If you have not yet renewed, please see how to proceed below.

60 people joined us for our Zoom AGM. You can read all about it [here](#).

Sabastiya is now facing a potentially very worrying development: the nearby illegal settlement of Shaveh Shomron plans to take over all the surrounding ruins areas of Sabastiya, calling it *Judea and Samaria and claiming that, according to the Bible, it belongs to the Jews*. Visits by settlers and Members of Parliament (Knesset), as well as coachloads of Israeli tourists are now regularly entering Sabastiya accompanied by the Israeli army. The army has been closing roads and shooting tear gas to ensure the villagers cannot move around and must stay indoors.

We will keep you updated on any further developments regarding this issue and advise of any action we might take.

We have recently bought a further 30 gas masks for those living in the affected areas. There is very likely to be a need for more. These very effective masks, costing in the region of £52-58 each depending on the exchange rate, enable families to stay in their homes when tear gas enters, plus they greatly help elderly people and those with respiratory conditions.

Thanks to you all, we were able to achieve a great deal during 2020 despite the pandemic and we will ensure that 2021 will be just as productive. We have a new committee, see below for details, that will carry forward our work. We also say **THANK YOU** to **Colin Lomas**, founding member and committee member for a decade. He leaves the committee for pasture new and we wish him success in his new tasks forwarding twinning and friendship between Britain and Palestine

Unfortunately, 2020 was the first year in our eleven year existence that we were unable to visit Sabastiya, inshallah, we will be able to go soon.



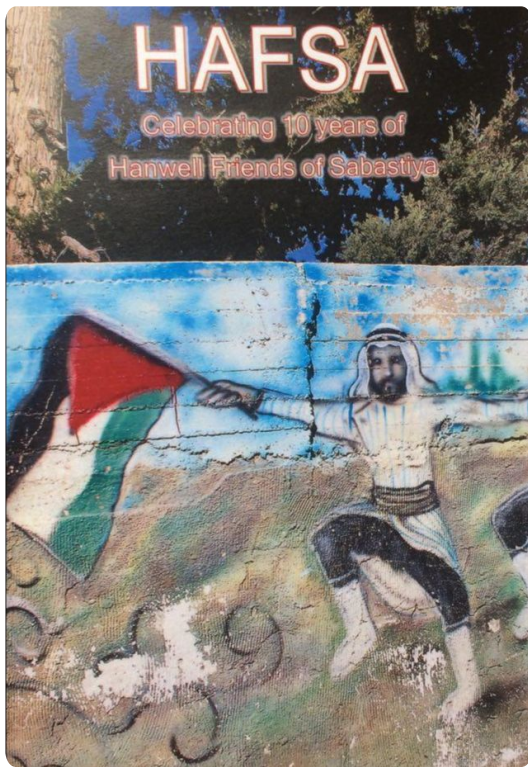
Hugging Sabastiya's Roman columns on one of our visits

British Consul Visits Sabastiya

The British Consul General in Jerusalem, Philip Hall OBE, visited Sabastiya this month with his family. He spent a night at the Al Kayed Palace Guest House and was welcomed by Abu Yasser (our HAFSA Committee Member in Sabastiya) who also gave him a copy of our HAFSA booklet. Philip has sent us a lovely message. Click [here](#) to download and watch his short video. (The British Consulate General in Jerusalem represents the UK government in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza.)

Get your HAFSA booklet !!!

Our booklet makes a great read and **we will send you a copy if you email us your address:** info@hafsa.com. It tells our story 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.

Get your 2021 membership for £10 .. and donate!

**Thank you to all that have renewed their membership for 2021. If you
have not done so yet, please see below how to pay.**

Following from our Orange tree planting, we have, together with the Sabastiya community, identified new possible projects. We will start next month with a **First Aid course for 20 women**. Each women will leave the course with a fully equipped first aid bag. This will include a blood glucose monitor and an oxymeter. Future plans are: workshops on organic farming, an IT lab for women and we are still researching ways to recycle "grey" water.

Ramadan is coming up in April and HAFSA would like to provide, as we did for the last two years, food parcels for the most disadvantaged families, so they are able to cook the traditional food for this festival. **Any help most welcome!**

There are four ways you can donate /renew your membership /become a member, 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

YOUR NEW 2021 HAFSA COMMITTEE

Ahmad Kayed aka Abu Yasser - Sabastiya
Andrée Ryan -Chair
Cathie Bjarnason - Co Vice Chair
Sue O Dell - Co Vice Chair
Deborah Conelly - Treasurer and Co Membership Sec.
Nicky Caddish - Secretary
Mary Short - Co Membership Sec, IT and Website
Nazir Ahmad - IT and Bulletin Editor
Maria Roe - Minute Taker
Marjorie Kelly - Zaytoun Volunteer Distributor
Bunny Veglio - Committee Member
Nick George - Committee Member

EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Balfour Project Zoom - Raja Shehadeh on Britain and Palestine, a family history- **Wednesday March 3rd at 4pm (6pm in Palestine)**. Click [here](#) to register for this event and future interesting events.

Britain Palestine Friendship and Twinning Network, Annual Conference- Saturday March 6th - You can join this Zoom conference by emailing: palestinetworking@yahoo.com giving your name and the group you belong to. You must register by Thursday 4th March. To see the full programme click [here](#).

Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd Feb - 7th March

- **Hadeel**: the suppliers of Fairtrade Palestinian crafts (with a shop in Edinburgh) are holding a series a fortnightly series of LIVE virtual tours to

a number of their suppliers' social enterprises in Palestine. check their website for the program: <https://www.hadeel.org/news/>

- **Zaytoun:** Suppliers of fair-trade Palestinian produce, check for their forthcoming events on their [website](#). We have supported Zaytoun for many years by selling their produce on our stalls. Marjorie Kelly is the HAFSA Zaytoun Volunteer Distributor. You can contact her by emailing mjkelly31506@gmail.com

Brentford Market Sunday 14th March 11-2pm

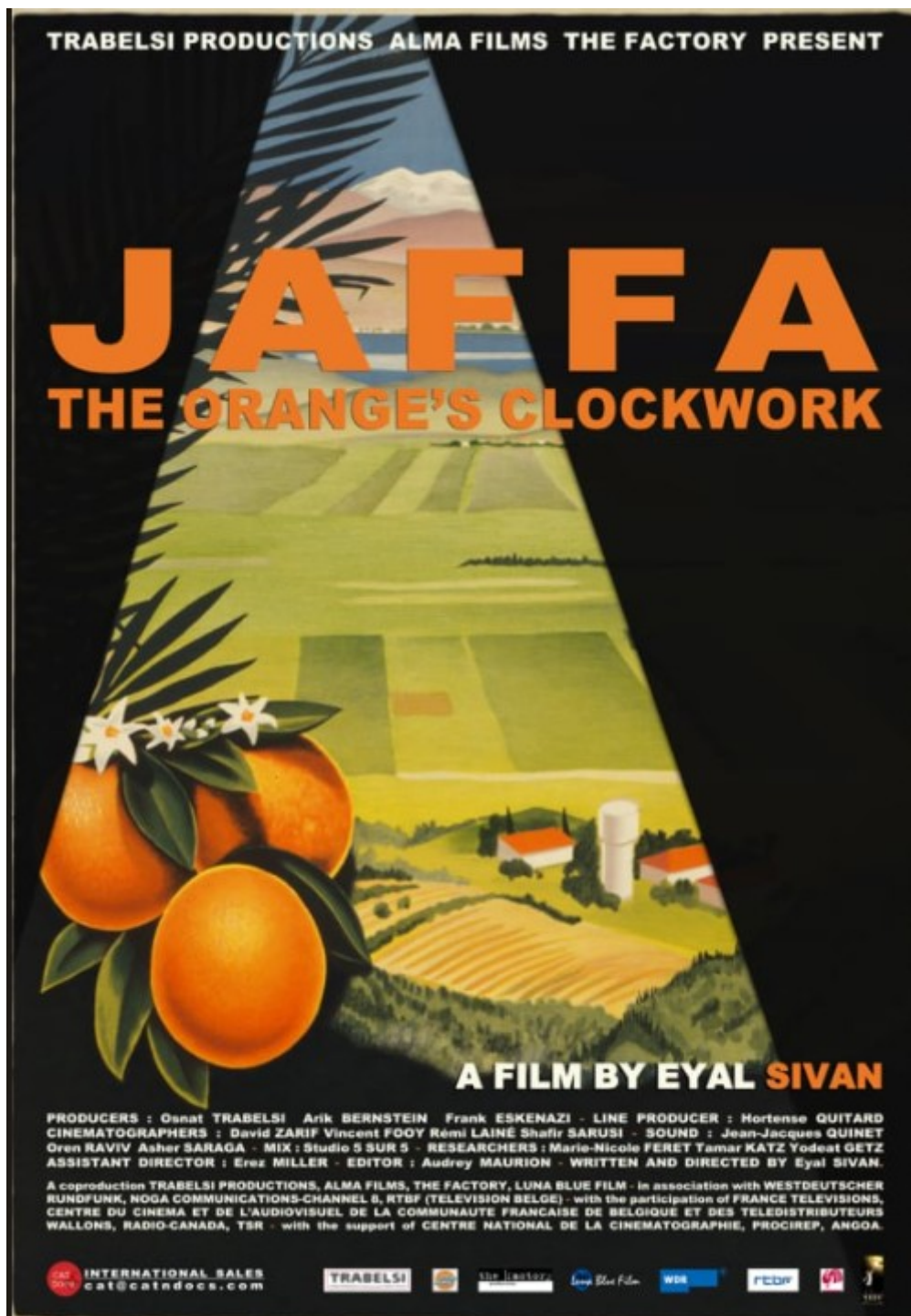
We will have our usual HAFSA stall there and you can buy our cards (suitable for all occasion as they are blank inside) , the traditional black and white, pure cotton, made in Hebron keffiyehs, Monika's best selling masks, Zaytoun produce and much more! You can also purchase these by phoning **Cathie on: 07875 470183** or **Marjorie for Zaytoun: 07960 804650**. If government regulations restrict the market to food products you can still buy your Zaytoun products - and if you want to buy HAFSA products such as cards and masks please contact **Cathie** in advance so you can "click and collect" at the market which is in Market Place TW8 8AH, in front of the old Magistrate's Court.





Oranges - from then until now - Friday 19th March - 6 pm Treat yourself to a glass of fresh orange juice and some tasty Zaytoun Palestinian dates when you join this HAFSA fund-raising even inspired by the informative and moving 90 minute documentary film by [Eyal Sivan](#) **Jaffa, the Orange's Clockwork**. This on-line meeting is your opportunity to discuss the film and also hear about farming and growing orange trees in Sabastiya, direct from a local farmer there. It is particularly relevant given the current HAFSA project which started in late 2020 to enable the planting of 300 orange trees in and around

Sabastiya. Click [here](#) to book. NB Zoom is updating its security and other features so please be sure to update the version you are using before the meeting.



Be sure to view the film in advance which you can do via Vimeo on your computer, TV, tablet or smartphone by clicking [here](#). There is no charge to view the trailer and it is £3.47 to view the main film. In "normal" times this would have been one of our regular event held locally at which people donated generously in cash to support HAFSA. Sabastiya is more needy than ever of our support so if you can, [please kindly donate](#) in whichever way is easiest for you.

And finally....

You can listen to Song of the Olive Tree [here](#), written by Leon Rosselson and sung by Reem Kelani and Leon which we played at our AGM.



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