

**CYPRriot POPULAR TRADITION**  
**A CULTURAL EVENT DEDICATED TO OUR OCCUPIED LAND**  
**ORGANISED BY THE CYPRUS EDUCATIONAL MISSION**

Under the auspices of his Excellency the High Commissioner of Cyprus, the very successful cultural event on Cypriot popular traditions took place on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> May, in the packed great hall of the Hellenic Centre, Paddington, London. The event was organised by the teachers of the Cyprus Educational Mission to the United Kingdom and coordinated by the Head of the mission, school inspector and educational attaché to the Cyprus High Commission, Mrs Maria Papalouca.

The event was honoured by the presence of his Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus, his Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyatera and Great Britain, his Excellency Mr Kostas Kadis minister of education and culture of the Republic of Cyprus, the Director of Primary Education of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Elpidophoros Neocleous and other prominent members of the Cypriot community.

Mrs Papalouca emphasised that the purpose of the event and the Cyprus Educational Mission was to maintain our cultural identity and never to forget our homes and land that are under the illegal military occupation of the Turkish army.

The honoured guests, in their speeches praised the efforts of the Cyprus Educational Mission in organising such a special event and stressed the importance of keeping alive our traditions.

The event was opened by the Byzantine music choir of the Archbishopric of Thyatera and Great Britain. This was followed by traditional songs from the children of the community schools of Hazelwood and Potters Bar; traditional dances from the children of the community schools of Manor Hill and the Holy Cross, Mill Hill; recital of poems from the children of the community schools of Finchley and East Barnet. There were also two splendid theatrical performances from the children of the community schools of Saint Demetrios Edmonton and Bowes.

The event was accompanied by a marvellous exhibition of traditional everyday artefacts of days gone by, from Cyprus which rekindled the memories of the older members of our community, who remembered how these objects used to be used many years ago.

Finally all the guests were able to taste samples of traditional sweets and enjoy a drink of Cypriot traditional wine, Commandaria.

The head and the members of Cyprus Educational Mission express thanks to all those they help to the success of the Event.