

A DAY OF FUN FOR THE BODY MIND AND SOUL

Festival Vernissage



The Armenian Institute held its second Armenian Festival and Vernissage on December 6th at the St. Mary Abbotts Church Hall in Kensington. The daylong festive event included hand-made crafts, wood ornaments and jewellery from Armenia, books, CDs and other gift items displayed on a colourful array of booths. Armenian and Middle Eastern food and pastries were served throughout the day. Jakobs Café provided delicious sandwiches. New CDs and books provided a variety of reading and listening pleasure. They included a series of traditional and other instrumental classics, as well as modern jazz, produced by Libra Music in Greece and the New York-based Traditional Crossroads. The well-selected music and publications came from around the world, including Armenia, the US, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria. Many visitors enjoyed a coffee and

The Story of a Forgotten Community

Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian, Research Fellow and Associate Director of Eurasia Research Programme, Cambridge University, presented a lecture on the "Armenians in Abkhazia" on 25 November 2003. The talk was based on his recent fieldwork in Abkhazia, a former Soviet Autonomous Republic within Georgia, once considered the Soviet Union's "Riviera" on the Black Sea. Following an inter-ethnic war in the early 1990s, Abkhazia declared independence from Georgia in 1999, which is not recognised by any state. Dr. Tchilingirian presented a general background about the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict and focused on the large Armenian community in Abkhazia, which makes up about 40 percent of the population. He concluded with a discussion of the key political and socio-economic challenges facing the Armenians in particular and the Abkhazians in general.



The talk was jointly organized by the Centre of Contemporary Central Asia and the Caucasus at SOAS and the Armenian Institute.