

Remembering heroes of WWII, 65 years on

THIS year we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the victory in World War II.

The Sputnik Association of Russian Women and Russian School Druzhba invited the lo-



Children enjoy the celebrations

cal community to Shoreditch Church Hall on Saturday, May 1 to commemorate the heroes of WWII and remind our children and grandchildren how their grandfathers fought together in this terrible war.

Children of Druzhba school and of the Intermix World movement drew pictures of how they feel about the war. The exhibition of their artwork, *The War Through the Children's Eyes*, received very good reviews from the public. The best drawings by the public vote will be published as postcards.

The teenagers of the Sputnik Association prepared a slide presentation of photos from the Soviet archives. The guests

also commended the display of the wartime photographs, showing how soldiers of different nationalities, ethnic backgrounds and religions stood shoulder to shoulder against fascism.

The event continued with the concert of Russian-British Victoria Choir, folklore group Kumushki-Golubushki, children's group Nevalyashki and performances by the children from the Sunshine choir.

The guests were happy to hear wartime songs in Russian and English, including Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again* and Russian folk songs.

Despite the heavy rain outside, inside the hall the atmos-

phere was exceptionally warm and friendly. All guests had a chance to try on Russian traditional clothes and headpieces designed by Zinaida Petrucenia of the Sputnik Association.

Food and drink, including Russian traditional dishes, was available after the performances.

"It is very encouraging and uplifting to see such interest in the community to the Russian culture and especially to see young people looking at the history of both our countries with much greater understanding," said Oxana Gouli, chair of the Sputnik Association.

**By Ivan Khokhlov, age 13
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