

# Ukranian art helps plans for St Anne's

**PAINTINGS** from the Ukraine went on show at St Anne's Church in Limehouse on Thursday to help towards the £2 million restoration appeal.

But the Ukrainian Ambassador himself, Ihor Mitiukov, failed to arrive for the opening.

Instead, he sent apologies and his cultural attaché read a speech in his absence.

The atmospheric evening in Hawksmoor's beautiful church included music from the Sonyashnyk choir, whose name means sunflower, in traditional Ukrainian dress.

Rector Gordon Warren spoke about St Anne's major restoration programme and guests enjoyed food and Ukrainian vodka.

The paintings on display in the gallery have been chosen by Danusha Fine Arts to suit the low light and surroundings of the 18th century church.

They range from Socialist Realism to traditional landscapes and still life oil paintings, and were painted between the 1960s and 2000.

The eight artists have been honoured and officially recognised in the Ukraine and draw inspiration from the country's wildlife, industry and customs.

The exhibition is open to the public and the paintings are for sale, with one-fifth of the proceeds going towards the restoration appeal.

St Anne's is one of the East End's three majestic Hawksmoor churches, together with St George-in-the-East at Shadwell and Christ Church, Spitalfields, and was completed in 1725.

The Grade I-listed building includes



*Cossack's Dancing, by Leonid Karlyavtsov is showing at St. Anne's church*

BY CHARLOTTE SMITH

the highest church clock in London, a prize-winning Victorian organ and a mysterious pyramid in the churchyard.

Care for St Anne's has been working

for 20 years towards the restoration and maintenance and now needs around £2.3 million for the fourth phase.

This includes repairs to the interior,

which was ravaged by fire in 1850, and changes to make the building more adaptable and accessible.

The church and exhibition are open from 12 noon to 2pm and 5-7pm Monday to Friday as well as on Sunday mornings.