

WALWORTH



Cooltan's designs being modelled

'Twisted' fashion

By John Prendergast

johnp@southwarknews.org

A WALWORTH charity has promised to give fashion designer Vivienne Westwood a run for her money as they take part in Alternative Fashion week.

The women in the Batik class at Cooltan Arts have been working feverously in order to put their wares on display last Tuesday.

The class, which uses dyes and wax to create pattern on materials, have been creating modern versions of tar-

tan much like the fashion dame who revitalised the material as a product by using it in her punk outfits during the 1970s.

Lydia Honeybone, CoolTan Arts' batik tutor said: "This year we're giving Vivienne Westwood a run for her money with our 'Twisted Tartan' collection. We will be swathing our models in our take on the Scottish weave like you've never seen it before."

The charity, which supports people in mental distress through a variety of creative arts, is based on the

Walworth Road where they have been based since 2006. When they were set up in 1990 they were based in a former sun tan lotion factory in Brixton, from which they get their name, before upping sticks to Southwark four years ago. Alternative Fashion Week ran from April 19 to the 23, and the Walworth girls' designs went on display at a show at Spitafields Market. In total 20 different dresses and scarves will be on display. For more information about Cooltan Arts and their work visit www.cooltanarts.org.uk or call 0207 701 2696.