

INTERNSHIPS

'Charity has helped us gain skills'

An education charity scheme which places interns with Canary Wharf firms has been hailed a success.

Career Academies UK placed students for six-week paid placements with 10 Wharf companies this summer.

Ahead of their final days on the job on Friday, two of the beneficiaries told *The Docklands* about their impressions of life in the Wharf.

Courtney Peach, 19, from North West Kent College, was placed with Barclays in Churchill Place. She said: "The working environment in Canary Wharf is amazing and it has made me even more determined to work hard and ensure that I end up working in a place like this."

"My time at Barclays has been very interesting and challenging."

Charli Love, 18, from the same college, said of her time at Morgan Stanley: "At first I did not know what to expect but I am so pleased that I took part."

Students follow a two-year programme alongside an A-level or equivalent which includes one-to-one business mentoring.

ART

Artist for rock legends will give lessons on how to paint

Free workshops are designed to encourage community use of woodland that is 'jewel in the crown'

He once created album covers for Jimi Hendrix and Elton John, and now John Gustard will be giving a masterclass in painting to showcase a hidden gem in Rotherhithe.

The 64-year-old is visiting the Russia Dock Woodland, a Green Flag ecology park which, along with Stave Hill ecological park, runs through the middle of the peninsula.

He is holding two free art workshops for all ages and abilities against a backdrop of woodland, water spaces and even nesting kingfishers.

Graphics

Mr Gustard, who used to live in Leytonstone and now lives in Salisbury, has moved on from doing graphics for rock stars and movies in the 1970s to working as an oil and watercolour painter. He has previously painted his own landscape of the park.

He said: "It's not like London parks in the West End. It's been left to develop."

"I'll be giving people a bit

of encouragement and a few tips and they will get out there and do their best."

The event, designed to encourage community use of the site, is being organised by the Friends of Russia Dock Woodland (FRDW) and is part funded by the UK Lottery Awards for All.

Guru Kaur, a Rotherhithe resident and FRDW supporter, said: "Russia Dock Woodland is a jewel in the crown of urban London."

Mr Gustard created covers for a Jimi Hendrix compilation album called *Real Time* and an international release for Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* among others.

He also designed the film posters and soundtrack album covers for the films *That'll Be The Day*, starring Ringo Starr, and *Stardust* with David Essex.

The two art masterclasses will run at 10am and 2pm on September 25.

■ For details and to register visit www.meditationinthepark.com



■ A painting of Russia Dock Woodland by John Gustard



■ A Jimi Hendrix cover



■ A design for Lightnin' Hopkins

PERFORMANCE

Be a star at the Olympic ceremonies

Olympic organisers have begun searching for 10,000 volunteer performers for the 2012 Olympic opening and closing ceremonies.

Oscar-winning film director Danny Boyle, who is in charge of the opening ceremony, and choreographer Kim Gavin, who is directing the closing ceremony, are looking for dancers, actors, percussionists and all-round performers.

Successful applicants will perform in a packed Olympic Stadium and to a worldwide broadcast audience of more than one billion people.

Applicants must be able to participate in up to two auditions during evenings and weekends in November and early December, up to three rehearsal sessions each week for up to four hours per session from March next year, and a number of all-day rehearsals in the three weeks leading up to each ceremony.

■ Visit www.london2012.com/ceremoniescasting for an online application form. The deadline August 31. You must be 18 or older on March 1, 2012.

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