

**SCULPTURE:** Hedgehog design could be installed at bottom of sign for Trowse

# Artist makes a point with village railings

Pictures: BILL SMITH

Dangerous spikes from a Norfolk school's railings are being put to new use – as a work of art.

Appropriately they are on their way to becoming a hedgehog – in the hands of sculptor Rebecca Kemp.

Trowse parish councillor Martin Kentish noticed workers removing the razor-sharp tops of the village school railings because of health and safety concerns.

"I immediately thought of my neighbour, Rebecca," he said. "So I talked to her about doing a sculpture and now it's going ahead."

Rebecca is finishing her MA at Norwich School of Art and Design and plans to create a one-and-a-half feet tall hedgehog.

She and Mr Kentish hope it will then be placed at the base of the Trowse sign.

"It's beside the road into Whitlingham Country Park, which seems appropriate," said Mr Kentish.

The unusual recycling project came about after schools started removing the spikes after a child was

injured in another part of the country.

Rebecca's art is already elsewhere in the city. A sculpture of angel's wings she completed in March for St Elizabeth's Church, Earlham, crafted from the old church gates, hangs over the sanctuary of the church.

So far, Trowse Parish Council has pledged £250 for the hedgehog. Mr Kentish is looking for some more donations and hopes the firm May Gurney will help by installing the hedgehog securely into the ground.

In the meantime, Miss Kemp, who also works as a children's community worker with Oak Grove Chapel in Catton Grove Estate, has just a month to finish the Trowse hedgehog. By then, she will be finished at art college and will lose her studio privileges.

She has finished grinding the century-old paint off the spikes.

But, even with the deadline, she is enjoying the project. "Since I live in Trowse, I'm pleased to give something visual back to the community. There's a good community spirit in Trowse."



**ART:** Rebecca Kemp will be making a hedgehog sculpture out of railings for Trowse.

