

# Getting the point

## Sculptor finds a new use for dangerous rails

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**SCULPTOR** Rebecca Kemp is transforming dangerous spikes removed from the railings at a Trowse school into a work of art.

Appropriately enough, the spikes are on their way to becoming a hedgehog.

Trowse parish councillor Martin Kentish noticed workers removing the razor-sharp tops of the railings because of health and safety concerns and wondered if they could have a future.

"I immediately thought of my neighbour, Rebecca Kemp, because she's great with a welding torch," he said. "So I talked to her about doing a sculpture and now it's going ahead."

Miss Kemp is finishing her MA at the Norwich School of Art and Design and plans to create a one-and-a-half feet tall hedgehog. She and Mr Kentish said they hoped it would be placed at the base of the Trowse sign.

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

The unusual recycling project came about because schools started removing the spikes after a child was injured in another part of the country, Mr Kentish said.

One reason he thought of Miss Kemp is the sculpture of angel's wings she completed in March for St Elizabeth's Church in Earlham. Crafted from the old church gates, the wings hang 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 the 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," she said. "There's a good community spirit in Trowse."

**BRIGHT SPARK:** Rebecca Kemp starts work on her hedgehog sculpture. Photos: BILL SMITH



**SPIKY:** How the sculpture might look and right, Rebecca in the welding workshop at Norwich School of Art and Design.

