

## A Designer in Iron

Phil, my husband, and I run a traditional blacksmith's forge in Ascott-under-Wychwood making wrought iron candelabra, lamps and wall lights for the home.

Pippa, our daughter, is six years old and in her first year at Wychwood Primary School. She has just become the inspiration for a new range of hand-wrought iron curtain poles for children's bedrooms



checking with Pippa all the way. She chose the colours of the paints, how the butterflies would look and the colour of the Murano glass ends. She was also inspired by the Royal Wedding and suggested a *Best of British* theme with Union Jacks.

### Butterflies, Horses and Dolphins

It was her idea in the first place, "Mummy, you don't make anything for children," she remarked during a family business meeting. She left the room for half an hour and came back with drawings of butterflies, horses and dolphins. "That's what children want," she told us firmly. "Put it in your diary."

I admit that at first I just paid lip service, but when the diary entry came up a week later, I researched the idea and found that there were no wrought-iron items specifically for children's bedrooms. So Phil set to work to make some,

### Pippa's Poles

Now the children's curtain poles, including daisies, pink butterflies, blue dolphins, roses and even a rugby ball (for boys) are the pride of his show room. And naturally they are called "Pippa's Curtain Pole Collection" giving credit to their designer.

Pippa thinks that other children will like them a lot. All her friends love beautiful things and they all want the curtain poles in their bedrooms.

You can get further information from:

Helen and Phil on: 01993 832850

Or email

[helen.pratley@wychwoodwroughtiron.com](mailto:helen.pratley@wychwoodwroughtiron.com)

or: [www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com](http://www.wychwoodwroughtiron.com)

**Helen Pratley**

## Gail's Plant Stall

The weather was not too bad and the people certainly turned out in force to support Gail Huntingford's plant sale on Shipton Village Green on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Almost everything was sold in record time and Gail raised £610 and Jill Mavin added another £210 from her cake stall. Gail and Jill would like to thank everyone

who supported them, whether with donations of plants, cakes or just by coming along and buying. All the money raised will go to support the work at the Wild Garden. Gail assures me that this will be her last plant sale but have we heard that before?

**Christine Halliday**