



Francesco's staff Jenny Nicholls and James Earnshaw put the finishing touches to Susan Barker's rocking horse

Rocking horse drops in for colour and trim

By Russell Roberts

It may not be your average customer asking for a cut and blow dry but a Shropshire stylist has proved it doesn't horse around when it comes to unusual challenges.

Jon Durrell and his staff at Francesco's in Shrewsbury were yesterday asked to give a final trim and hair colouring for an age-old children's toy.

But far from being a Barbie doll or Action Man, the customer was a rocking horse.

Susan Barker, based near Atcham, outside Shrewsbury, makes the traditional hand-crafted items and called on the salon to ensure it received the perfect finish.

She said: "I asked if I could bring one of the dapple rocking horses to my hairdresser next time I had my own hair cut - and they kindly agreed to colour and trim its mane and tail."

Francesco's receptionist Jenny Cowles said the rocking horse had some customers looking on in amazement.

She said: "It's the first time we have done anything like this. I think it raised a few eyebrows considering this is a hairdressers, but it was all good fun."

The trim was performed by Mr Durrell with Jenny Nicholls doing the colouring.

Ms Cowles said: "It took about an hour to do. I think Susan was pretty happy with it and apparently she has got quite a few people wanting them so we might get a few more horses coming in."

Ms Barker's business, Shropshire Rocking Horses, is based at Uckington Farm Studio in Uckington, near Shrewsbury.

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