

# Rescue plan for Rolf's doodles

Paintings may be 'cut down to size'

THE EXPERT in charge of restoring two murals by cult entertainer Rolf Harris says he is close to coming up with a remedy to save them . . . but it could involve cutting them down to size.

Bart Luckhurst has been drafted in to rescue the paintings which the antipodean entertainer donated to Ancaster School on Lincoln's Shannon Avenue following a show he filmed there in 1981.

After contacting plastics experts all over the country, Mr Luckhurst, who is based near Nottingham, says he hopes to protect the murals by covering them with specially toughened clear sheets.

"We decided against using glass on safety grounds but this specialist plastic conforms with health and safety regulations," said Mr Luckhurst.

"There is a problem in that the murals are too large for most plastic sheeting moulds to deal with.

## Negotiation

This could mean we have to cut a couple of inches off the handling borders to cover them. This shouldn't prove difficult as the murals have large clear borders around them."

Mr Luckhurst is now studying samples of six millimetre plastic covering made by a Manchester-based

Rolf's wall doodles need 'art surgery'



Flashback: Echo April 24.

by Jason Moller

firm he has been in negotiation with. The cost to cover the two paintings is estimated at between £750 and £1,000.

School officials had been worried the paintings — which depict a Lincolnshire Poacher and a head and shoulders portrait — would deteriorate further if restoration work wasn't carried out immediately.

But Mr Luckhurst, who has had work commissioned for the royal family, said that although work is needed to get the paintings back in pristine condition, there is no urgent need to start work immediately.

Following an appeal in the Echo, the school was inundated with offers of help from art experts interested in saving the works which have been described as 'priceless' by one who visited the school.