

Marlborough – Pewsey



POPULAR PAINTING: Marlborough artist Joannah May with one of her barn owls (6771/02/CWK)

First customer was a wise owl

WILDLIFE illustrator Joannah May has sold one of her paintings of an owl to the first customer who visited her Hughenden Yard gallery in Marlborough when it opened last November.

It was the fourth painting that Miss May, 37, has sold for £1,500 since taking over the former Studio Art Gallery last year.

A trained illustrator, she contributed to many wildlife publications before opening her own gallery, the Joannah May Gallery in Marlborough. She is particularly well known for her studies of local wildlife, including hares and owls.

Of the four paintings she has sold since opening in Marlborough, three of them have featured owls and the other a hare.

One of her best known paintings called *A Moment In Time*, features two hares squaring up to each other for a boxing match, a ritual she said she had regularly seen in the Wiltshire countryside.

Her latest painting called *Moon Rising*, is of a single owl.

Her gallery is open as part of the Marlborough Open Studios festival which opened at the weekend. The festival continues for the next two weekends with more than 40 local artists taking part, including painters, potters, blacksmiths and jewellers.