

WHO SAYS ART DOESN'T PAY?

Paul Matthews will spend this year creating more paintings than ever before in a bid to make his art pay in difficult circumstances. Joanna Davis reports

An artist is determined to make his paintings pay their way. Paul Matthews has taken on the financial pressure of singlehandedly paying the mortgage on his Puddletown stone cottage after his partner returned to Denmark to care for her elderly father. The former county council worker relies

on commissions for people and animal portraits and is determined to exhibit as much as possible this year so he can gain commissions, sell his artwork and pay the mortgage. Paul has won awards for his animal artwork and his life portraits have been shortlisted for national awards.

His long-term Danish partner Annie had to go back home five months ago to care for her 86-year-old father and is now paying for accommodation in Denmark, leaving Paul with the sole responsibility of paying the UK mortgage. He said: "This means that my painting career has now really got to pay its way."

ARTIST: Paul Matthews

