

PRESS RELEASE



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OPTOMETRISTS CLICK WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Mature student Karen Green has won a photography competition sponsored by Robert Frith Optometrists, who have recently opened new premises in Princes Street, Yeovil.

The competition, on the theme of 'Spectacular Somerset', drew nearly 50 entries from first, second and third year Art Foundation and A Level Photography students studying at Yeovil College. The students showed imagination and skill in their interpretation of the subject, producing work in both colour and black and white and using techniques such as long exposure to create dramatic visual effects.

The images depicted many different aspects of Somerset, including the rural farming culture, historical buildings, landmarks and scenery. The students also took advantage of the effect of recent snow to produce some classic landscapes.

A Level student Karen Green's winning image depicts an atmospheric scene captured in the countryside between Wincanton and Yeovil. Karen (46) of Buckhorn Weston said *"I just love look at the sky and the way it changes. It's better than theatre and can have you on the edge of your seat! I'd been watching the sky and thought it would turn into something spectacular and fortunately it did! I'm over the moon that my photograph has won this competition. I've never won anything before and I never thought my work would go on public display."* Karen's prize was a Sony Single Lens Reflex (SLR) digital camera.

The competition was the idea of Simon Frackiewicz of Robert Frith Optometrists, who have recently opened new premises in Princes Street, Yeovil. He said *"We took one look at our blank walls and decided that we needed some good, local artwork to fill them. Well, where do you go for good local artwork? The nearby college! Our profession is all visual and all about light and sight, so it made sense that it should be a photographic contest. We chose 'Spectacular Somerset' as a theme because it links eyes, sight and the local area. I liked Karen's picture because I found it so peaceful and tranquil and I just kept coming back to it. It's very similar to a scene I drive past regularly, but works on so many levels. We're very proud to have had the opportunity to support the students and we were very impressed with how Kevin Samways and the College worked with us."*

Photography lecturer Kevin Samways said *"It's great that a company like Robert Frith wanted to give the students an opportunity like this. For them to see their work in a public exhibition like this is very important because it gives the students a sense of achievement. To know that people like Simon think their work is good enough to be displayed gives them confidence. We were very pleased to be involved."*

The winning photograph will be exhibited in Robert Friths new premises along with a selection of the other entries. Visitors are welcome to come and view the display at 18 Princes Street, Yeovil.

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Notes to Editors

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