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Vorking

'PHOTOGRAPHER' is a broad term.

All photographers use a camera to record images and information, but the subject and purpose of their work can be wide ranging. Examples include fashion, newspaper, industrial, wedding and medical photographers.

Newspaper or press photography has a alluring appeal. People are attracted by the possibility of travelling around the world, capturing history in the making and rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous. For the vast majority of press photographers the truth is nothing like this.

Most newspaper photographers work for one of the country's 90 or so provincial daily or evening papers or for one of the 1,500 weekly newspapers, such as our own Observer series.

Helen Long, 27, from Windsor Road, works as a newspaper photographer here at the Observer.

She first became interested in photography at school.

"As part of my Duke of Edinburgh award I did a photography project," she says. "I really enjoyed it." Helen didn't become a photographer immediately. She worked in regional newspapers, eventually studios as they are to do location work

Careers in photography

Photography can be an enticing and exciting career choice, but there are many options to consider. Richard Hill looks at these options and talks to Observer photographer, Helen Long.

working alongside photographers which rekindled her interest, "I realised that I just had to do it. I got some experience doing some freelance work and did a press photography course. The good aspect is that you can move into photography at any age, even changing career. There's no set route into the profession but I think you've got to love taking pictures."

Advertising, fashion and publicity photography are also considered to be another glamorous part of the industry. In reality, photographers working in these areas are just as likely to work in small, cramped Further Information: British Institute of

About 50 per cent of photographers are general photographers. They are usually based in a shop or studio, and their work is more varied, often including portrait, public and wedding photography, for example.

Commercial and industrial photography is also varied and challenging, ranging from the mundane to the exciting and sometimes exotic, sometimes dangerous.

It involves photography designed to promote products and services, often for corporate literature and marketing media.

Medical photographers work in hospitals or medical schools. Photographs are used for teaching purposes, diagnosis, scientific records and to illustrate medical and scientific publications. Medical photographers need a basic knowledge of anatomy, physiology and the origins and manifestation of disease.

Despite this realistic, perhaps pessimistic view of the industry, photography in all its forms is a highly rewarding

As Helen says: "I still get a buzz every time I see my pictures in print."

Professional Photography, 01920 464011.



■ IN THE PICTURE: Helen Long, who works as a newspaper photographer here at the Observer