

I don't like pose or stage photography because it makes people put on a front and become rigid rather than open and relaxed." And looking around Cathy's studio it is clear to see just how natural and comfortable every person feels within the photographs. No two pictures are the same to look at, though they all share the same warmth and energy.

"It's very important to me that my customers are not at all uncomfortable when I'm photographing them," she tells Profile. "Children are by far the easiest and best to photograph because they are not at all self conscious whereas adults — especially females — can feel almost frightened by the camera. Therefore, I do a lot of location work to capture people where they feel most comfortable, from two girls in a field with their pony to a teenage boy on his skateboard — it's all about capturing a certain frame in time and when you have got that you have got something really special that will be treasured for years.

"I also have a huge passion for black and white photography because it does not take anything away from what or who is being photographed. I do like working with colour but sometimes it can distract the eye away from the main focus. Photos are our memories and we should all have them to look back at and pass onto our relatives. I aim to create a picture — something more than a photograph that people can connect with.

"Everything from the location, to the shot and final framed product is tailor-made to what the individual wants. I am a real stickler for quality and do not let a single photograph go through my door that either myself or the customer is

not 100 per cent satisfied with. I truly love my job and it's so rewarding when you see the finished piece, knowing that the customer is happy and the photograph will be hanging on the wall in years to come." ■

■ For further information pop into Cathy's studio 'Cathy-Marie Robinson The Photographer' at 3 Station Street in Mansfield or contact her on **01623 430007**.

Samples of Cathy's work can also be viewed at: www.cathy-thephotographer.co.uk.



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