



Optometry Wales Optometreg Cymru

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Optometry Wales Announces Winners of the 2025 OW Awards at Holland House, Cardiff

Optometry Wales held their second ever Optometry Wales Awards Ceremony on Saturday 29 November at Holland House Mercure.



The event was a well-attended affair with over 320 attendees from practices across Wales and other stakeholders and was hosted by Lucy Owen, who herself has witnessed the fantastic work delivered in primary care optometry and credits her optometrist with saving her sight.

There were 12 awards presented at the event with shortlisted categories of three to four entries from the 130 entries

received.

Photo of all the winners from the night:



The winners of the awards were as follows:

**Optometrist of the Year -
Sponsored by
Seiko**

Recognising exceptional clinical skill, patient care, and commitment to advancing the profession.

Winner: Andy Britton



**Multiple Practice of the Year -
Sponsored by
Birmingham Optical**

Celebrating excellence in service, patient experience, and team-led innovation in a multiple setting.

**Winner:
Specsavers
Merthyr Tydfil**



Independent Practice of the Year - Sponsored by HOYA

Celebrating excellence in service, patient experience, and team-led innovation in an independent practice setting.

Winner: MN Charlton (Concept Eye Clinic)



Student of the Year - Sponsored by Thea Pharmacy

Recognising dedication, professionalism, and contribution to the future of optometry.

Winner: Emily Taylor



Mentor of the Year - Sponsored by iLase

For outstanding guidance, support, and encouragement to colleagues and students.

Winner: Marc Drake



**Rising Star -
Sponsored by
Vale Eye
Surgeons**

Celebrating a newcomer already making a significant impact in the profession.

**Winner: Adib
Missaghi**



**Dispensing
Optician /
Contact Lens
Optician of the
Year - Sponsored
by Essilor**

Honouring expert care, professionalism, and patient support.

**Winner:
Samantha
Houghton**



**Optical Assistant
of the Year -
Sponsored by
Sana Health**

Recognising dedication, professionalism, and exceptional service within practice teams.

**Winner: Max
Horler**



**Sustainability
Practice of the
Year - Sponsored
by Atlantic
Optical**

Celebrating
leadership in
sustainable
practice and
environmental
responsibility.

**Winner:
Specsavers
Haverfordwest**



**Collaborative
Working Award -
Sponsored by
Newmedica**

Acknowledging
impactful
collaboration with
healthcare
partners to
enhance patient
care.

**Winner: Cardiff
University Eye
Clinic**



**Health Board
Support Award -
Sponsored by
RNIB**

Recognising
outstanding
support and
leadership
supporting
practices in
delivering eye
health services.



<p>Winner: HDUHB Optometric Team</p>	
<p>Technology Practice of the Year - Sponsored by Topcon</p> <p>Celebrating the adoption of innovative technology to improve patient care and accessibility.</p> <p>Winner: Specsavers Haverfordwest</p>	

Special Recognition Awards

The event also recognised two optometrists for their exceptional service and commitment, both awards were complete surprises to the two recipients.



Ian Jones was recognised for his work in supporting the establishment of Optometry Wales and his work with the South East Wales Regional Optical Committee. Ian's hard work over 30 years was recognised as paving the way for the delivery of the new optometry contract introduced in 2023. His award was presented by the Chair of Optometry Wales, Owain Mealing.

The second recipient of a special recognition award was Sharon Beatty, Optometry Wales Clinical Adviser who is taking semi retirement as of the end of February 2026. Sharon's award was presented by Judy Misra, Chief Executive, Optometry Wales and Professor Barbara Ryan, Cardiff University. Professor Ryan had reached out to the profession at all stages of their career and across



the whole of Wales to ask for their comments on Sharon and it is safe to say that there was not a dry eye in the house and Sharon received a standing ovation from all attending.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the OW Awards 2025. It was a wonderful evening celebrating the outstanding achievements, innovation, and dedication within the optometry profession across Wales.

The event was an incredible success, and we are grateful to all who attended, judged, nominated, and sponsored. The commitment shown by professionals across the sector continues to elevate the standard of eye care for communities throughout Wales. We look forward to welcoming you all again in 2027 for the next OW Awards.

For further information, please contact:

Judy Misra
Chief Executive

Optometry Wales
Judy.Misra@OptometryWales.com

END