

MEET THE MAKER

KATIE ANDREWS AND CARLY POWELL OF THE DRAPERY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

After having my second child a little over 2 years ago, I decided a change of career was necessary. Commuting to London everyday and the long hours I'd be away from my young children just wasn't going to work for me. I wanted to find something I could do to earn money that would work around my children's routines, but also to do something that I was passionate about and enjoyed doing. I have always had such a huge interest in interior design, so taking on one aspect of this made total sense. Starting with soft furnishings. My sister Carly and I researched a local curtain and blind making course and we found Ginny Peace Interiors, not too far from Tunbridge Wells. Firstly, we booked onto Ginny's curtain making course for 2 days. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. We couldn't wait to get back there for the roman blind course. We were both amazed at what we'd manage to learn in such a short space of time. And the samples that we made were beautiful and made to such a high standard. There was no doubt about it, we were absolutely certain that this was the way forward for us and decided to start up a business. Ginny also helped us with this, she ran an intensive business course for us, helping us source suppliers, showing us how to set up trade accounts, recommending the best stock to purchase etc, she was brilliant. We were amazed with all the information that we walked away with. We had our first 4 clients lined up immediately after attending Ginny's courses and we felt 100% confident dealing with each of them. Whilst working with these clients, word spread and we had lots of work coming our way. Our business has taken off hugely from the very first day of starting up. We have even been commissioned by a local hotel to design and make the curtains and blinds for their restaurant, bar and private dining room. We both feel such a sense of achievement every time a project is completed and we see our work finished and fitted in the room it was made and designed for. We have also made many friends along the way as all of our clients have been so lovely. I definitely have no regrets leaving my job behind in London. The last two years since setting up The Drapery with my sister have been amazing and we both couldn't be happier.

Thank you Ginny, we couldn't have done it without you!