

Rebel Stories.



When Kerry Barton developed a late love of learning, she went on to achieve academic distinction, leaving West Kent College, part of the University of Kent, with a First in BA (Hons) Photography.

It was only later that she realised that while she had studied hard to reach her goal, nothing she had been taught would help her set up a business or earn a living from her skillset.

“There was no practical help with what to do next; all they wanted me to do was sign up for another course elsewhere,”

That missing piece of the jigsaw, the business advice she needed, was supplied by the Rebel Business School, which photographer Kerry attended in 2019 at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge, picking up the vital information she needed to launch Studio 23 Photography.

Having not enjoyed school, Kerry went back to studying later to sort out basic skills like maths and English. She did so well that after passing her GCSEs she went to West Kent College and earned a place on a degree course, **emerging with first class honours at the age of 38.**

It was while attending a council meeting in Tonbridge as a member of the public that Kerry heard a representative from housing association Optivo talking about the Rebel Business School approach to helping people make money by doing something they loved. That presentation changed her life.

“I really wanted to use my photography skills to earn a living, but my degree course hadn’t taught me how,” she said. “I was a bit nervous about attending the course but I absolutely loved it and absorbed every bit of information I could across the five days. The Rebel team was inspirational and gave me so much useful, practical information – and I’ve never looked back.”

“I took the Rebel advice and put a message on Facebook asking if anyone had any premises available. A shop owner with an empty outbuilding in Barden Road, Tonbridge, offered it to me and they worked hard to fix it up and turn it into my studio. I’ve now been there almost two years.”

Kerry, who was inspired by grandfather Arthur Norman, a keen amateur photographer who also photographed weddings and events, has become well-known in her home town of Tonbridge for her documentary style, covering events and concerts with her favoured Nikon kit.

“I like to cover the whole event, beginning, middle and end, building a story to share with the community,” she said, “whether it’s a wedding, a birthday or a concert.”

The enthusiastic **entrepreneur also turned a competition winning firework picture into a top-selling greetings card** and invested the money she made into setting up a website, reflecting Rebel advice on marketing. She has also been **commissioned by Tonbridge Council** and taken pictures of well-known faces including **Dame Kelly Holmes and MP Tom Tugendhat.**

“One of the Rebel suggestions is that you should write down the top 12 things you want to achieve,” Kerry added.

“I did that in 2019, and I’ve so far achieved eight of them.

I’m working on the rest.”

Find Kerry at:



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