

Cohort 4 Newsletter

Mar 2016



Slipstitch are pleased to announce that, after 12 months of heavy hinting, Jackie finally has an iron and is now in her element!



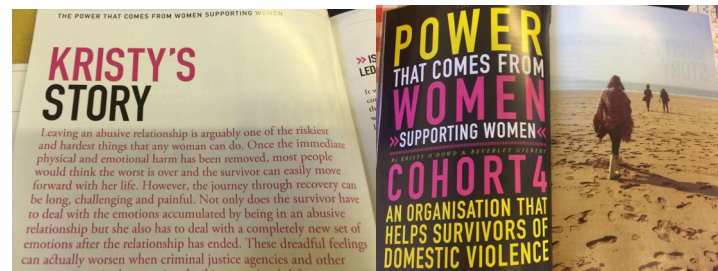
'After a great deal of prevaricating, Victoria had a go at cross-stitch!'

As of the 18th of February, **Cohort 4 is 3 years old!** We look forward to the many years yet to come of women supporting women and working towards empowerment and fun.

Cohort 4's Clare has recently had one of her photographs featured on the front cover of 'Credible Witness', a book about police officer sightings of ghosts and paranormal activity. She has written a little about her photography and why this interests her.

"Being an 'urbexer' (urban explorer), I have always felt a great need to improve and keep on improving my photography. There are some very skilled photographers within the 'urbex' community and I want my documentations to be something more than bland and boring. I've taken to taking photos of not just abandoned buildings but of nature, sunsets, cityscapes, anything I can take a photo of that defines angles, shadows, silhouettes etc.

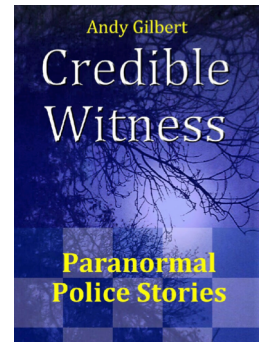
I would like to learn night photography; so one I got in my car roughly 2am minus decent camera equipment to try out a full moon shot. The full moon shot that was taken on my Samsung S6, became a published photograph on the front cover of a book."



Once again, Cohort 4 has had its work published. A piece written by Beverley and Kristy was chosen as the feature piece in **Women in Prison's 'Ready, Steady, Go'** magazine; the magazine for women transforming their lives. We are glad to share our stories with other women that may have survived abuse and been effected by the criminal justice process. We look forward to making further contributions to relevant publications in the future.

Cohort 4 were invited to attend a celebration to mark 10 years since Baroness Jean Corston wrote her report regarding the treatment of women within the criminal justice system. Beverley and Kristy attended the House of Lords on 7th March and met women's groups from all around the UK, campaign organisations and members of parliament, all joining together to mark the occasion. We were the only group from Warwickshire attending.

Speeches by The Secretary of State Liz Truss, Baroness Corston, Vera Baird PCC and others all voiced a commitment to reduce the imprisonment of women for non violent offences and to treat women according to their lived experience of surviving abuse and mental ill health. Cohort 4 are part of Women's Breakout, a national umbrella representing 56 women's centres across the UK, working with women who present with vulnerabilities and are in contact with, or Who are at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice process.



Here is Florence Margat Whippet, modeling a Cohort 4 hound neckerchief! Crufts?

For **International Women's Day**, on the 8th of March Cohort 4 attended an event hosted by the University of Worcester focusing on the resilience and courage of women refugees. A host of inspirational women spoke at the event, including our own Director. It was an eye opening experience

