

## Snapping the Stiletto Festival – Video Transcript

[Music]

**Amy Cotterill, Snapping the Stiletto Project:** The Snapping the Stiletto Essex Women's History Festival is the halfway point in a project that's been investigating the lives of Essex women in the hundred years since first winning the vote. We're working with eleven museums across the county to uncover hidden stories and to stamp out the negative Essex girl stereotype.

**Pippa Smith, Snapping the Stiletto Project:** Overwhelmed today to be honest, seeing all of these people come together to celebrate Essex women. I think you can get a bit sort of blinkered when you're working on a project for so long and to actually see so many people being enthusiastic and contributing, it's just brilliant.

We've had some great stalls today but one that I'm really pleased about is the Guides talking about period poverty and just demonstrating that having periods is nothing to be ashamed of, and girls shouldn't have to miss school because they can't afford sanitary protection. So hopefully some good will come off today, that we can get rid of some of the shame around periods and we will be helping youngsters as well.

**Guide:** Not everyone has access to the sanitary products that they need and they miss a lot of time off school and it's not the best. So by doing this we're trying to promote it and also make it not such a taboo topic. Pretty much every woman will go through it and it's just, I think, it's just a great topic for discussion, and how it can not only fuel female empowerment, but give that 'X-Drive' like, 'I can do this even though I've got something else going on at the same time.'

[Music]

**Alison Stockmarr, Artist:** I think every woman is inspirational in their own way. There are lots of my friends in Essex who are amazing, inspirational women. Days like this are really, really important because we need to formalise how to go forward. We've got the vote, yes of course we've had the vote for a hundred years, but it's really important to improve on that, and equality means exactly the same rights as men, and exactly the same pay grade, social standing, you know. And we haven't got that yet.

[Music]

**Participant:** It was great to take part in the dangerous pockets workshop, and I was talking to the artist's husband before, who was explaining where the idea came

from, and apparently women were not allowed to have pockets, only a small one to put a handkerchief in, in case they were disseminating dangerous material. I think it's great to bring women together at least once a year. Maybe lots of fun things spark off that and it makes you realize how much women are doing and coming together making changes in the world.

**Guide:** If I think of an Essex woman it inspired me I probably think of Emma Russell. I kayak once a week down at my local club and she used to kayak there and she's gone on to world championships and she's inspired me to try and get the drive even though I'm not that good, I could be that good one day and it's just a great inspiration.

**Pippa Smith Snapping the Stiletto Project:** For anyone that thinks that stereotype of the Essex girl is anywhere near accurate they just need to be here today to see strong Essex women celebrating what it means to be an amazing Essex woman, and I'm surrounded by them today and it's brilliant.