



LED BY IWM

Wednesday 5 March 2014

First World War Centenary Partnership remembers Women of the First World War

The First World War Centenary Partnership is presenting a collective programme of exhibitions, events and activities that will consider and commemorate the role of women during the First World War. Together, partnership organisations from across the UK will mark the indisputable contribution made by women from 1914-1918.

A number of First World War Centenary Partnership events will take place this month, marking International Women's Day. These include; *Women in the War Zone* at the National Portrait Gallery London (6 March), *What did you do in the Great War Grandma?* a panel discussion at Kingston Central Library and Kensington Central Library with author Louise Miller (6 & 8 March), *Extra Ordinary Women* a lecture at Valence House Museum, Essex (8 March), *Nostell's Women at War*; *International Women's Day Event* Yorkshire (8 March), *The Hospital in the Oatfield -The Art of Nursing*, a new exhibition at the Florence Nightingale Museum, London (13 March -26 October) and *Gas Girls*, a play by acta Community Theatre, Bristol (19-21 March).

Diane Lees, Director-General of Imperial War Museums says; "We are delighted to see so many members of the partnership hosting events about women who served at home and on the battle field. Within the Centenary Partnership's five year programme, museums, schools and galleries across the world will commemorate and remember the great sacrifices made by one particular generation of inspiring women, the women who lived through the First World War."

Culture Secretary Maria Miller who is leading the Government's First World War Centenary Programme said: "Women rose to the challenge during the First World War, often defying cultural and social barriers to achieve quite incredible things at the front and back at home. Whether at local community level or more nationally, the spread and depth of the cultural events on offer today to commemorate their achievements is inspiring and I am delighted that the contribution of women during the war years will be a focus of the Centenary Partnership"

The First World War Centenary Partnership, established by IWM in 2010, is presenting a programme of events and activities from 2014-18 to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. This collective international programme will enable millions of people to discover more about life during the First World War, connecting current and future generations with the stories and impact of this conflict. The First World War Centenary Partnership is made up of 2,485 not for profit cultural and educational organisations from 45 countries across the world. 1914.org is the official website for the First World War Centenary Partnership. Throughout the centenary new events and activities will be added each week to the events calendar produced in partnership with Culture 24.

Exhibitions...

The **National Trust at Dunham Massey** will present *Sanctuary from the Trenches – A Country House at War* (opens 1 March 2014), which will focus on the three remarkable women who transformed the country estate into a temporary hospital during the war.

The Florence Nightingale Museum will display its newly acquired oil paintings by Victor Tardieu of the volunteer field hospital at Bourbourg near Dunkirk in 1915 in major new exhibition *The Hospital in the Oatfield - The Art of Nursing in the First World War* (13 March – 26 Oct 2014). This display will use these paintings to examine the history of nursing in the Great War and the crucial role played by women volunteers in the battlefields of France and Belgium.

London Transport Museum exhibition *Goodbye Piccadilly – from the home front to the Western front* (16 May 2014 - 8 March 2015) will look at the huge social change accelerated by the outbreak of the First World War. The exhibition will underline the fact that while the men were away at war, women were employed for the first time by the London General Omnibus Company as conductresses and clerks.

From 14 June 2014 at **Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery BMAG, the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter** will be displaying *An Adaptable Trade: The Jewellery Quarter at War*. The exhibition will explore the effects of the First World War on the jewellery trade and the different ways in which it adapted. Focusing on the stories of local jewellery firms and through the display of artefacts, posters, photographs and personal items, 'An Adaptable Trade' tells the history of recruitment of soldiers from the Jewellery Quarter and the changing role of women in the industry.

At the **Fashion Museum** in Bath *The Great War in Costume: Family & Fashion on the Home Front* (19 July – 5 September 2014) will tell the story of how the Great War changed women's life forever; in terms of status, class, position and what was acceptable for a woman to wear. This exhibition will trace women's lives and roles during the conflict; their work on the home front and how that influenced the dress that they adopted. The exhibition will feature examples of uniforms and civilian dress, memorabilia and propaganda, and numerous costumes from the series Downton Abbey.

The National Football Museum is presenting an exhibition opening in late 2014 on football and the Great War. One of the seven themes explored in this exhibition is Women and Wartime football. The exhibition will specifically look at the formation of women's munitions factory football teams. All themes explore how football can provide a new and unique perspective of our understanding of the war.

Lectures/talks...

Valence House Museum is celebrating International Women's Day by hosting a talk, *Extra Ordinary Women* (8 March 2014), about inspirational women during the First World War.

Kensington Central Library will also mark International Women's Day (8 March) with a panel discussion on women's roles in the war, with speaker to include Louise Miller, author of *A Fine Brother: The Life of Captain Flora Sandes*. Sandes was the only Western woman to enlist to fight for an army in the Great War.

Meet the author of *Great War Fashion*, Lucy Adlington, at the **York Castle Museum** (19 March 2014). This delightful 'costume in context' presentation celebrates the publication of Lucy's new book, *Great War Fashion*. The Great War was a period of slow but eventually startling evolution for women's clothes, reflecting changes in outlook and aspirations.

Trent to Trenches presents *Arms and the Women* (10 Sept 2014) at Bromley House Library in Nottingham, a lunchtime talk given by Sheelagh Gallagher about the war and women's fiction from Mrs Dalloway to Pat Barker, and how these themes have been seen through time.

Women's Suffrage in Nottingham (26 Nov 2014) is a talk presented by **Trent to Trenches** in Bromley House Library in Nottingham. Rowena Edlin-White will discuss the campaign for suffrage in Nottingham in the years preceding WWI and specifically looking at the intriguing story of Helen K. Watts.

Conferences...

University of Oxford Faculty of English Language and Literature are hosting the conference "*British" World War One Poetry* (3-5 April 2014). The conference will question the notion of a corpus of purely British literature from 1914-18, specifically discussing women poets, as well as Irish and "Empire" poets.

Performances...

Harvest Heritage Arts and Media are offering *War, Women and Song*, a touring performance about the songs and the female singers that contributed to the war effort and the on-going legacies of those half remembered tunes, such as Danny Boy and Pack up Your Troubles.

acta community theatre in Bristol will preview riveting and moving new play *Gas Girls*, about Bristol women munitions workers in the First World War. Featuring a cast of twenty local people of all ages, the special performances will run from 19 – 21 March.

-Ends-

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- <http://press.iwm.org.uk>
- Username: First World War
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Notes to editors:

About the First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org

Context to the First World War Centenary Partnership

IWM established the First World War Centenary Partnership in 2010 to encourage a programme of activities and events to mark the centenary, developed at grass roots levels. The founding ambition for the Partnership was that its members would collectively organise and present a vibrant, diverse and far-reaching programme to reflect how people want to remember, commemorate and debate the conflict in their own communities, in a way that is meaningful for them.

About IWM

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) was established in 1917 while the First World War was still being fought, to ensure that future generations would understand the unprecedented scale and impact of the war, and to record the contributions of the men, women and children who played their role. IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

IWM's extensive programme for the Centenary includes new First World War Galleries at IWM London (opening 19 July 2014), *Truth and Memory* an exhibition of First World War art collections, contemporary art commissions, a major exhibition Street to Trench at IWM North (opening 5 April 2014) and events. Later this year, IWM will also launch *Lives of the First World War* – an innovative and interactive digital platform that will tell the life stories of over 8 million people.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, is transforming with new First World War Galleries and a new atrium with large object displays which will open on 19th July 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War (Please note IWM London is currently closed). Our other branches are [IWM North](#), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](#), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](#), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](#).

About Culture24

Culture24 is a non-profit digital cultural publisher, supporting arts and heritage venues to reach audiences across digital platforms. They aggregate venue, exhibition and events data directly from venues and share it with a range of partners. This work is funded by Arts Council England.

www.WeAreCulture24.org.uk

About Heritage Lottery Fund

In 2013, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) launched [First World War: then and now](#), a £6million small grants programme to help communities across the UK mark the Centenary of the First World War. At least £1million per year will be made available for six years until 2019. HLF will provide grants between £3,000 to £10,000 enabling communities and groups - especially those involving young people - to explore, conserve and share their First World War heritage and deepen their understanding of the impact of the conflict. www.hlf.org.uk

Government's First World War Centenary Programme

On 4 August 2014 it will be 100 years since Britain entered the First World War. Within government the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is leading plans to build a commemoration fitting of this significant milestone in world history. As the Prime Minister made clear when he launched the programme in October 2012, the main theme will be remembrance with a particular focus on bringing the centenary alive for young people. There will be a number of national events across the four years, as well as cross-Government programmes to help deliver this. Further details can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary