



## First World War Centenary Partnership explores the Centenary of the Easter Rising

This spring, the First World War Centenary Partnership presents a rich programme of new exhibitions, participatory events and performances taking place throughout the UK and Ireland to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising

The Partnership is led by Imperial War Museums (IWM), and full details of all of the events to commemorate the First World War can be found online at [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org).

### Exhibitions:

At the **National Museum of Ireland** a major exhibition, [\*Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising\*](#) explores the ideas, movements and personalities of early 20th century Ireland, the dramatic events of the Easter Week and its impact on Irish citizens. The objects on display – including many that haven't been seen before – represent the stories of civilians, rebels and leaders, from the flag of the Irish Republic to the 1916 Proclamation. Ongoing; Free.

The mythology surrounding the Easter Rising will be explored at the **National Museum of Northern Ireland**. The exhibition [\*Remembering 1916; Your Stories\*](#) focuses on community stories, the commemoration of 1916 anniversaries as well as the legacy of these events. Opens **25 March 2016** at the **Ulster Museum, Belfast**; Free.

**Donegal County Museum's** new exhibition [\*County Donegal in 1916; Our Story\*](#) explores the events of 1916 both nationally and internationally from the perspective of the county, and offers visitors a glimpse of how everyday life was affected in this pivotal year. On Easter Sunday there will be a special viewing of the exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. 24 April 2016; 1 – 5pm; Free.

### Performances:

[\*The Casement Project\*](#) is a new dance project from **Fearghus Ó Conchúir** and **14-18 NOW** inspired by the British peer, Irish nationalist and humanitarian Roger Casement who was hanged at Pentonville Prison in 1916 for his support of Irish nationalism during the war. This project will include stage performances, a film, an academic symposium at The British Library (3 June), a summer beach dance festival and a series of other opportunities for the public to participate in the project. The performance will premiere at **The Place, London, 11 & 12 June**.

**Taylor Mac**, the Obie Award-winning New York performer and **14-18 NOW** will present [\*The WW1 Years and More\*](#), a series of participative concerts at **Belfast International Arts Festival**. In two concerts, his astute take on music and culture spans the years before, during and after the First World War from 1896 through to 1926. His third concert will be a ten-decade spectacular from 1916, the year of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising, through to 2016. **Belfast, Northern Ireland. October 2016**

### Join in:

[\*Radio Relay\*](#) will explore historic moments in the development of radio, from the first pirate broadcast during the Easter Rising, to the trench radios that were first used at the Battle of the Somme. Supported by **14-18 NOW**, artists including **Graham Fagen, Paddy Bloomer, Gareth Moore, Philip Hession** and **Mhairi Sutherland** will create new works for a nationwide programme with participation at its core. As part of a unique midsummer weekend at **Belfast's ancient Giant's Ring**, visitors will be invited to work with artists to build their own lo-

fi radio transmitters and make silver kites to recreate early experiments in radio antennae. **18 - 20 June 2016**;  
Free.

***Reflecting the Rising*** is a large-scale public event taking place in **Dublin** on **Easter Monday 2016**. The event includes walking tours, dance, music, street art, and theatre. The event will provide people of all ages with a chance to explore the Easter Rising and their relationship to it both historically and in contemporary society. The event takes place from **11am – 6pm on Monday 28 March 2016** and runs over eight city centre public zones. Free, tickets are needed for indoor events.

### Ends

For more information, or to be put in touch with the relevant PRs for each event please contact Faye Jackson in the IWM press office on [fjackson@iwm.org.uk](mailto:fjackson@iwm.org.uk) or on 020 7416 5420

A small selection of images from IWM's collections is available to press. Please contact Faye Jackson for images or further information.

### Notes to Editors

#### The Easter Rising

The Easter Rising began on Easter Monday 24 April 1916 when Irish republican leader Patrick (or Pádraig) Pearse proclaimed independence for Ireland and around 1,000 Irish republican rebels seized public buildings in Dublin. Six days of street fighting with British forces followed before the rebels were forced to surrender and Ireland was placed under martial law. An estimated 130 British soldiers and police, 60 rebels and 300 civilians had been killed or wounded. After the failed uprising, the leaders of the Irish rebels were tried and 15 were shot.

#### IWM

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.

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, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. 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 the First World War Centenary**

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, five year programme of cultural activities across the world. This year is the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. IWM will be announcing its programme to mark the anniversary later this year. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org).

### **About 14-18 NOW**

14-18 NOW is a programme of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the UK's official centenary commemorations. It aims to engage as many people as possible with the First World War, exploring how the war has impacted on the society we live in now. 14-18 NOW commissions new work by leading contemporary artists from all art forms, inspired by the period 1914-1918. The commemorative period is marked by three key seasons - the first season centred around 4 August 2014 (Anniversary of the Declaration of War), the second is March to November 2016 (anniversary of the Battle of Somme) and the last in 2018 (centenary of Armistice Day). 14-18 NOW is responsible for the UK tour of the iconic poppy sculptures by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper. 14-18 NOW is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and by additional fundraising. 14-18 NOW has commissioned over 80 artworks to date that have been seen by over 20 million people. **For details of the full programme please see:** [www.1418now.org.uk](http://www.1418now.org.uk)