



LED BY **IWM**

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Podcasts about *The Christmas Truce* and *Christmas at War* are available from the IWM press office. Please contact [press@iwm.org.uk](mailto:press@iwm.org.uk)

## **First World War Centenary Partnership marks the 100 year anniversary of the Christmas Truce**

The First World War Centenary Partnership will mark the centenary of the Christmas Truce, where allied and German soldiers paused fighting on the first Christmas Day of the First World War.

“One hundred years on the First World War Centenary Partnership will be commemorating the Christmas Truce of 1914, an event of hope and inspiration within the bleak conditions of the First World War. The simple acts of exchanging food and singing songs brought light to the dark and desolate Western Front. IWM is delighted to see partners across the world commemorating this unique event with thoughtful projects and events.”

**Diane Lees, Director General of IWM**

### **UK National Events**

**Football Remembers Week** will take place from 6-14 December. The collaboration between the Premier League, The FA, the Football League and the British Council, aims to engage football fans with the Christmas Truce. Matches that take place in the Barclays Premier League, the Sky Bet Championship and the FA Cup Second Round (6 – 8 December) will start with both teams posing together in a group photograph as a mark of respect to those that played football in the 1914 Christmas Truce. The pictures will be uploaded to a special website ([www.footballremembers.com](http://www.footballremembers.com)). Fans, teams and schools will also be asked to upload their pre-match pictures to the same site via social media over the course of **Football Remembers Week**. Any match of any size can be uploaded, from school to Sunday league fixtures, five-a-side matches to kickabouts in the back garden.

Football Remembers will also unveil the UK’s first memorial to the Christmas Truce. This newly commissioned memorial was designed by a ten year-old Newcastle schoolboy as part of nationwide competition and will reside permanently at National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

### **Performances**

**Royal Shakespeare Theatre** presents Phil Porter’s new play, *The Christmas Truce*. Inspired by the real events of the First World War and directed by Deputy Artistic Director Erica Whyman. This uplifting play for families runs until January 31, 2015 at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford. (29 November 2014 – 31 January 2015, Tickets prices vary [www.rsc.org.uk/whats-on/the-christmas-truce](http://www.rsc.org.uk/whats-on/the-christmas-truce) )

On 14 December 2014 **Fluid Motion Theatre Company** presents *Mrs Gill’s Grand Matinee* at The Chesil Theatre in Winchester. This immersive performance puts audiences at the heart of a local community during the First World War. Audiences are also encouraged to come dressed for 1914. (14 December, Tickets cost £8 Adult and £5 child (under 15). Half of all money raised goes to The British Legion. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/69616](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/69616) )

**Veritcal Line Theatre** will bring to life the gritty and visceral reality of the trenches in new play *Fear in a Handful of Dust*, showing from 6 December –till 9 January 2015 (Wed-Sun). The play follows Simon, an Englishman raised in India, and Buck, a ‘trench-rat’ from Ireland, alone in the middle of the Battle of

Guillemont. Trapped in a trench, one loses the threads of reality while the other must face the reality of the war. In order to survive the night they must learn not only to overcome the enemy, but also the stranger sitting next to them. (CogArtsSpace, London, N1 3JS, tickets £12 / £10 Concessions, book here: [www.cogartspace.com/programme/2014/12/6/fear-in-a-handfull-of-dust](http://www.cogartspace.com/programme/2014/12/6/fear-in-a-handfull-of-dust) )

### **Events**

Two schools from both the UK (Mildenhall College Academy, Suffolk) and Germany (*Gymnasium Theodorianum*, Paderborn) have come together this year to collaboratively design, fund and build a memorial to the Christmas Truce in Belgium. Amalgamating the ideas and drawings from both schools, the new memorial will be officially unveiled by the pupils involved on Saturday 6 December, 4pm at the Peace Village in Mesen, Belgium. For more press information please contact Sarah-Jane Dean, [s.dean@academytransformation.co.uk](mailto:s.dean@academytransformation.co.uk)

On Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December join the **National Memorial Arboretum** for a dedicated Christmas Truce tour, taking in the new Football Remembers Memorial and finishing with mulled wine. (1.30pm, £7.50 tickets include mince pies and mulled wine for bookings email [info@thenma.org.uk](mailto:info@thenma.org.uk) )

**Yorkshire Volunteers Brass Christmas Concert** will mix Christmas, and First World War music plus songs from the shows and movies of 1914 in the stunning surroundings of the Medieval Hall in the heart of historic York. (11 December 2014, [www.theyorkcompany.co.uk/events](http://www.theyorkcompany.co.uk/events))

**Visit the Discovery Museum**, Tyne and Wear for **A Night at the Cinema in 1914**, where a special compilation of films from the British Film Institute will be screened, recreating the glorious mix of comedies, dramas, travelogues and newsreels that would have been available during 1914. The selection includes a comic short about a face-pulling competition, a sensational episode of *The Perils of Pauline*, scenes of Allied troops celebrating Christmas at the Front, and an early sighting of one of cinema's greatest icons (10 December, Free but booking required, [www.twmuseums.org.uk/discovery/whats-on/events/a-night-at-the-cinema-in-1914.html](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/discovery/whats-on/events/a-night-at-the-cinema-in-1914.html) )

On 13 December help **The Woodland Trust** mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War by **planting trees** at their new woodland creation site in Langley Vale, Surrey. As well as planting trees as a living memorial join in with other fun family activities taking place on the day. An ideal day out for all the family simply bring along your spade, get muddy and join in. [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events)

Join **Bankfield Museum** in Halifax for a Christmas themed day looking at what life was like at Christmas 100 years ago, with stalls, refreshments, live music, activities and presentations. (Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax - [www.calderdale.gov.uk/leisure/museums-galleries/bankfield-museum](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/leisure/museums-galleries/bankfield-museum) )

### **International**

At North Kentucky University, Cincinnati, Ohio watch ***Soldier's Christmas, a play with song***, written by Phil Paradis and directed by Bob Allen. Inspired by the Christmas Truce of 1914, *Soldier's Christmas* presents the story of how front-line enemy soldiers emerging from trenches discovered their common humanity, negotiated a truce, and celebrated Christmas together in No-man's-land. Presented by **New Edgecliff Theatre** and **Actors & Playwrights Collaborative** at Corbett Theatre, Northern Kentucky University, Cincinnati. (12 December 2014 - 21 December 2014, Tickets \$22 for adults [www.soldierschristmas.net](http://www.soldierschristmas.net) )

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### **For further information contact:**

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### Related Content from IWM:

- **The Real Story of the Christmas Truce** - [www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-real-story-of-the-christmas-truce](http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-real-story-of-the-christmas-truce)

### Notes to editors

#### 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 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 brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London which opened in July. . For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

#### 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](#)