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## **IWM announces the First World War Centenary Partnership Programme**

**The First World War Centenary Partnership's Programme presents over 500 new exhibitions, 1,500 events across the country and 700 new digital resources to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War.**

Established in 2010 by IWM (Imperial War Museums), the First World War Centenary Partnership is a network of over 1,800 cultural and educational not-for-profit organisations from 37 countries, who are producing a collective programme of events, activities and resources from 2014 – 2018 to mark the centenary.

Of the 500 new exhibitions and galleries opening around the world, 200 of these will launch in 2014 in 14 countries, and they will include over 50 new art commissions. In 2014, over 150 members of the Partnership from 10 countries will be launching their events as part of the global commemorations. These events include film screenings, performances and festivals, lectures, tours and hands-on workshops encouraging the public to interact with the objects, stories and issues presented by the conflict. 700 digital resources about the First World War will be created for the Centenary including digitised collections, virtual exhibitions, games, podcasts, films and videos and online courses as well as nearly 100 mobile apps relating to the First World War.

**Diane Lees, Director-General of IWM said:** "The First World War Centenary Partnership's Programme is vast and continues to grow on a daily basis. The thousands of events, exhibitions and resources being produced will allow people to mark the centenary in their communities, in a way that is meaningful to them.

This outstanding level of activity shows that discussions about marking the centenary are not only taking place at Governmental, academic and institutional levels but also in homes and communities in the UK and beyond. The First World War centenary really matters to a huge amount of people. It may be because of a personal and family connection, the effect the First World War had on their hometown, how it changed our wider society or because of their beliefs about war and the importance of peace. We are all connected to the First World War and this huge and growing programme shows that millions of people want to remember and learn more about its impact."

[1914.org](http://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.

### **Highlights of the Centenary Partnership Programme:**

#### **Exhibitions....**

New ground-breaking **First World War Galleries** will open at **IWM London** (from July 2014) drawing on IWM's First World War collections which are the richest and most comprehensive in the world, as well as ***Truth and Memory: British Art of the First World War*** - the largest and first major retrospective of British First World War art for almost 100 years featuring over 110 paintings, sculptures and drawings from IWM's collections, will assess the immediate impact and enduring legacy of Britain's First World War art.

The largest exhibition ever created exploring the North West of England during the war - ***From Street to Trench: A War That Shaped a Region*** will open at **IWM North** (from 5 April 2014) revealing the region's role in a global conflict and how it was shaped by this landmark conflict. Meanwhile at **IWM Duxford**, visitors will be able to find out about the nature of land warfare and mechanisation in the Land Warfare exhibition as well as First World War aircraft in its AirSpace exhibition.

**Tate Modern** will present ***100 Years Later: Conflict, Time, Photography*** (from 19 Nov 2014, working title), where the relationship between photography and different sites of conflict is explored over time. Highlighting the fundamental aspect of time in photography, the exhibition will include different perspectives which artists using cameras have brought to the sites they have depicted over different passages of time: from works made a few moments or one day after an event, to those made one year later or 10, 20, 30 and 100 years later.

The **British Library** will present ***Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour*** (19 June – 12 October 2014), a free exhibition in the Library's Folio Society Gallery which will examine the question of how people coped with life during the Great War, from moments of patriotic fervour to periods of anxious inactivity, shock or despair.

***Hope in the Great War*** is **RNLI's** four year touring exhibition highlighting the extraordinary achievements of ordinary people who volunteered for the RNLI throughout the First World War. Starting at the RNLI's Henry Blogg Museum in Norfolk (from 4 Feb 2014) the exhibition will convey a sense of hope with many lives saved at sea by the charity; it offers an ideal way for young children to learn more about life in the First World War.

**The Thackray Medical Museum** in Leeds, West Yorkshire are focusing on the medical advances that came out of the First World War with their ***Unknown Heroes*** exhibition (from July 2014 – working title). Drawing on modern day parallels with contemporary theatres of war, the exhibition will examine the complex relationship between war and medicine.

**National Museum Cardiff** will host ***The Great War: Britain's Efforts and Ideals*** (from 2 Aug 2014) – a series of lithograph prints from the Museum's collection, which was commissioned by the Ministry of Information in 1917 with the aim of encouraging a war weary public and to raise support for the war effort. The exhibition will explore the varying attitudes such as the changing role of women as a result of the War.

***Choices Then and Now*** is both a multi-media exhibition (in 2016) and education project (from Jan 2014) produced by the **Peace Museum UK** in Bradford. Drawing on stories linked to artefacts and documents from the Peace Museum's UK collection, the project focuses on the choices available and made by young people then and now and reflecting on the consequences of the choices made.

**Ryde Social Heritage Group** in the Isle of Wight, are planning ***The Changing Face of Ryde*** a range of events including two open days with displays and trails in Ryde Cemetery (24 and 25 May 2014) with an opportunity to visit the graves of the fallen and find out what happened to their families and businesses and how the social life of Ryde changed with the onset of war.

### **Music and Performance....**

Award-winning British choreographers Akram Khan, Russell Maliphant and Liam Scarlett are creating new works for **English National Ballet's *Lest we Forget***, a programme of British dance inspired by the centenary of the First World War performed at the **Barbican** (2 – 12 April, 2014).

Forming part of the **National Portrait Gallery's** commemoration plans the display ***Keep the Home Fires Burning***, will feature stars of Music Halls of the Great War period and First World War-inspired performances by the Portrait Choir.

A specially commissioned production of poetry, prose and music of the First World War, ***Never Such Innocence*** will be taking place at **Australia House**, London (14 – 15 May 2014). Organized by Lady Lucy French in conjunction with the Australian High Commission, the piece will also include the

letters and diaries of Lady French's great grandfather, Field Marshal Sir John French.

For armistice this year (10 Nov 2013) **National Theatre Productions** are putting on ***Anthems for Peace*** a special night of readings, art and music where you can hear from Olivier Award-winning designer Rae Smith's describing how her designs for War Horse were created, hear Michael Morpurgo reading extracts from the book before he is joined by BAFTA award-winning actress Virginia McKenna.

In **Whitchurch**, Shropshire a community led classical music extravaganza, ***The Sir Edward German Music Festival*** (28 April – 2nd May 2014) will include performances of works by Sir Edward German and his contemporaries, including composers who failed to return from the war. The Festival is both a celebration of the life and times of this quintessentially English composer of note and a commemoration of the sacrifices made during the Great War

The **Birmingham Bach Choir** will premiere a new specially commissioned choral symphony at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham (13 Sept 2014). The symphony by the choir's conductor Paul Spicer reflects on suffering, sacrifice and bravery and is dedicated to heroes in all generations, and takes its text from '***Unfinished Remembering***' a poem by Euan Tait.

### **Education and Digital Resources...**

IWM will launch ***Lives of the First World War*** (Feb 2014), a permanent digital memorial to more than 8 million men and women from across Britain and the Commonwealth who served in uniform and worked on the home front. From those who served from across the country, the million who served from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the 1.5 million people from the Indian sub-continent served in uniform through to those from Africa, the West Indies and many other parts of the 'Empire.' It will be the official place for communities across the world to connect, explore, reveal and share even more about these people's lives. IWM is inviting everyone to discover their stories, connect their records and remember their lives.

**The British Library** is leading the UK's contribution to a pan-European commemoration of the Centenary, [Europeana Collections 1914-1918](#), which will make hundreds of thousands of newly digitised materials relating to stories and events of the war available online for free. 10,000 items from the British Library's own collections will be accessible via Europeana, and as part of the project the a new online resource offering curated access to around 500 of the items on the site for schools and lifelong learners will be launched. The Library's digitised content will showcase both the British and international experiences of the war, including poetry, postcards and propaganda posters, trench journals, handwritten letters and children's accounts of the war, as well as an astonishing collection of censored mail sent home by Indian troops serving on the front line.

During the centenary **Quakers** across the UK will be focusing on their opposition to war and the role in the creation of legislation to allow conscientious objection. A **real-time social media storytelling project** will introduce five Quakers who blog about their daily lives and dilemmas: faced with conscription, should they go to prison, go to war or seek alternative service? ***The White Feather Diaries*** will run over three years leading up to the anniversary of the Act which brought in conscription.

**Weetwood Hall** in Leeds are running a conference, ***The First World War in Retrospect*** (28 July – 1 August 2014) in partnership with organisations such as York Army Museum, the Royal Armouries, Leeds University Library and The Liddle Collection and showcases screenings from the Yorkshire Film Archive. Subjects range from 'War Readiness in Britain' through to 'The Public Response to the National Crisis' with keynote speakers from the University of Wolverhampton and the Western Front Association to name a few.

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

Bryony Phillips, Corporate Communications Manager, IWM  
Tel; 020 7416 5316 / 07791 098 745

Email: [bphillips@iwm.org.uk](mailto:bphillips@iwm.org.uk)

Nina Dellow, Senior Press Officer, IWM  
Tel; 020 7091 3069  
Email: [ndellow@iwm.org.uk](mailto:ndellow@iwm.org.uk)

**To download images, visit:**

- <http://press.iwm.org.uk>
- Username: First World War
- Password: IWM/press

**Notes to editors:**

**Background on the data:**

In February, May, July and October 2013 we circulated a survey to all member organisations of the First World War Centenary Partnership that asked for information about their programming and plans for the First World War Centenary. A total of 424, more than 25%, of the members responded to our survey.

**Supporting Quotes from First World War Centenary Partnership members:**

**Alan Davey, Chief Executive, Arts Council England;** “We are delighted to be working with IWM and the organisations involved in the Centenary Partnership. The First World War changed the world as we know it – from society, through to art, politics, and family life – nothing was untouched by this momentous part of history. As such it is truly inspiring to see so many arts and cultural organisations working towards this common goal of commemorating the First World War.”

**Robert Thomson, 1914 - Centennial - 1918: The World Remembers said:** “A fallen soldier can lie forgotten in an archive as well as in the earth. It is inconceivable that one hundred years after, we would not publicly acknowledge those who were killed. It is respectful. It is so simple. The dead and their present day families deserve the honour of our remembering. And in so many cases we are dealing with family memories that no longer have borders. For that reason IWM's First World War Centenary Partnership is very important. Interconnectivity both within nations and between nations is a powerful tool for remembrance and education. The World Remembers is happy to be part of the Partnership and appreciates IWM's imaginative outreach.”

**Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, President, National Library of Wales and Adviser to the First Minister of Wales on the First World War said:** “The centenary of the First World War is one of the most important commemorations of our time because so many changes were wrought in Britain and in Europe in those four years of conflict and the consequences need to be properly understood. The eye-witness memory is fading rapidly but IWM's First World War Centenary Partnership can, through identifying a rich variety of historical sources; ensure that the experience of war, military, civilian, political, economic and social, can be related to a new audience through digitisation and other means. The National Library of Wales' own extensive work in this field will be greatly enriched by the collaboration with other members of the Partnership.”

**William Kenefick, Senior History Lecturer, School of Humanities, University of Dundee said:** “During the First World War Dundee gave an astonishing 63% of its eligible men to the armed forces and with a casualty rate of 15% was double that of Glasgow and one of the highest of any British city. But this only forms part of a much bigger and as yet untold story of a city at war. The Great War Dundee partnership of museums, archives, libraries, businesses and historical trusts and societies, together with Dundee City Council and staff at the University of Dundee, is delighted to collaborate with the IWM's First World War Centenary Project. We hope our citywide range of events will bring together the Dundee community and raise awareness of its involvement in the war.”

**Stephen Scarth, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland said:** “The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) values being part of the First World War Centenary Partnership and recognises the importance of collaboration with institutions from different nations. The Centenary offers us a unique opportunity to promote and explore the events in both a national and international context.”

**HE Dr the Rt Hon Sir Lockwood Smith, New Zealand High Commissioner to the UK said:**

“WW1 brought people from across the globe together in the most horrific of circumstances, what’s great about the Centenary Partnership is its ability to bring people from around the globe together again, but this time to remember and share information about each other’s involvement and the huge sacrifices our countries’ bore.

“New Zealand’s participation in WW1 was hugely significant for such a small nation. Ten per cent of our population served overseas and we hope that through centenary commemorations our story will be told around the world.”

**Dorothy Hall, North East War Memorials Project said:** “The Partnership is a wonderful opportunity for our project to raise its profile on the national stage. We will use the Partnership’s website to tell the world about the North East War Memorials Project’s launch in August 2013, of its revamped website, the addition of newspaper articles and *Every Name a Story* project. The Partnership will give the members of the group the opportunity to participate in training of a high standard and sharing this new knowledge with other members and associates. It will also increase opportunities for the many historians who want to delve deeper into aspects of the Great War to communicate with likeminded individuals and groups.”

**Mike Churcher, Wokingham Remembers said:** “There are thousands of people up and down the country who want to tell the story of the Great War from their family’s perspective or of those who lived in their community.

“Starting up a centenary project in your local area can seem a daunting prospect, especially when approaching large groups who might question your ability in achieving such a task. Being able to say one is a member of the IWM’s Centenary Partnership and explaining its objectives provides the necessary credibility to get your project off the ground.”

#### **Members of the First World War Centenary Partnership include:**

- **International:** New Zealand High Commission, Deutsches Filminstitut, Museo Della Grande Guerra, Namib Desert Archaeological Survey, Australian War Memorial, Flemish Government (Flanders House)
- **National:** Arts Council England, British Future, Heritage Lottery Fund, Houses of Parliament, National Children’s Football Alliance, Sing UK, The National Trust, The Wilfred Owen Association, Woodland Trust, 1914 - Centennial - 1918: The World Remembers.
- **Scotland:** University of Dundee Museum Services, Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Education Scotland, John Gray Centre, Historic Glasgow, Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum, Scottish Council on Archives.
- **Wales:** National Library of Wales, Friends of St Julitta’s Church, Capel Curig, Welsh Government, Glamorgan Archives, Powys County Council, Royal Mint Museum.
- **Northern Ireland:** Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum, Ballymoney Museum, National Museum Northern Ireland, Shackleton and Aviation Museum.
- **London:** The British Postal Museum & Archive, Jewish Museum, London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT), London Transport Museum, Royal Air Force Museum, National Portrait Gallery.
- **South East of England:** Army Medical Services Museum, Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archeology, University of Oxford First World War Digital Projects, Step Short, Surrey Heritage (part of Surrey County Council), The Trenchard Museum, Wokingham Remembers, Gravity and Levity.
- **East of England:** Cambridgeshire Association for Local History (CALH), Cambridgeshire County Council, Diss Museum, Essex County Council, Redbridge Museum.
- **South West of England:** Cheltenham Festivals, Devon Libraries (part of the Devon Remembers Project), Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, South West Artwork, La Folia, Finding the Forgotten, Museums in Cornwall.
- **North East of England:** Tynemouth World War One Commemoration Project, North East War Memorials, Ingenius Theatre, Literary & Philosophical Society of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade.
- **North West of England:** Feelgood Theatre Productions, Tatton Park, The Mersey Forest, Lakeland

Arts Trust, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, Greater Manchester Police Museum and Archives.

- **Yorkshire and the Humber:** Legacies of War 1914-18/2014-18 (University of Leeds), Allied Air Forces Memorial, Kiplin House, Victoria Cross Trust, Free Range Choir.
- **East Midlands:** Nottinghamshire County Council, Synergy Grimsby CIC, Trolleybus Museum Sandtoft, Grimsby Chums Community Project, Leicester City Council and Rutland at Risk War Memorials Project.
- **West Midlands:** Birmingham Museums, Arts Alive, Black Country Living Museum, Carribean Family History Group, Cavell Nurses' Trust.

### **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](http://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. 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 in summer 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War (Please note IWM London is partially open, and in summer 2014 the museum will fully reopen). 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 a partners. This work is funded by Arts Council England. [www.WeAreCulture24.org.uk](http://www.WeAreCulture24.org.uk)

### **Heritage Lottery Fund**

Earlier this year, 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](http://www.hlf.org.uk)