

INTRODUCTION

§ Tonight we have gathered to commemorate the end of the First World War, § The Great War, the so called “war to end all wars”. The Armistice, which signified the end of hostilities, © was signed 100 years ago after 4 years and 114 days of fighting resulting in a catastrophic loss of life and injury for all the nations on either side. § In all between 8 and 10 million military personnel died and § 22 to 23 million were wounded. § In addition there were 6 million civilian deaths caused by military action, disease and malnutrition. It is no wonder that news of the Armistice on that November day in 1918 brought overwhelming joy and relief to all nations that took part.

This evening’s programme of narrative, words and music will run without a break. It will cover the events leading up to the end of the war, the Armistice, and the period immediately afterwards.

RESUME OF THE WAR

§ The catalyst which led to the start of the war was the assassination of the Austro Hungarian, Arch Duke Ferdinand and his wife, who were shot in Sarajevo by a Serbian nationalist. § This resulted in the Austro Hungarian Empire declaring war on Serbia. Over time acts of aggression drew in other nations through treaty obligations and political opportunism, until war was being fought on a worldwide scale in several theatres at once.

We shall now just very briefly run through the progress of the war. © Great Britain declared war on Germany on August 4th 1914 because of a treaty obligation with Belgium. © On the same day Germany, having previously declared war on France, launched an offensive through neutral Belgium threatening Paris. © British and French troops stopped the German advance 43 miles from Paris at the battle of the Marne. © The Germans then withdrew and dug in. Here troops confronted each other in a war of attrition during which little ground was gained and huge casualties were sustained.

§ August 1914 also saw the Germans defeat the Russian Army in Northwest Poland. © In November German forces were themselves defeated by the Allies at the first battle of Ypres. © During this year the Ottoman Empire which spread over vast

areas of the Mediterranean, Middle East and the Balkans, declared war on the allies, ☺ and the Royal Navy began a blockade of Germany's ports.

☺ In 1915 German submarines began attacking Allied shipping around the UK. ☺ The Lusitania, a passenger liner, was torpedoed and sunk off the southern Irish coast with the loss of 1200 civilian passengers. ☺ April 1915 saw the start of the disastrous Gallipoli campaign during which so many Australian, New Zealand and British troops were killed in a failed attack from the sea against the Turks.

☺ In February 1916 a titanic battle began between the French and German armies at Verdun. ☺ This proved to be the longest battle of the war, ending in December with a French victory, but at devastating cost. ☺ This year also saw the battle of the Somme, the Allied offensive and victory, which lasted until November with an equally devastating number of casualties. ☺ The greatest naval battle of the war took place between the 31st May and the 1st June when the German fleet was attacked and defeated by the British off the Danish coast at Jutland.

☺ The battles fought in Europe during 1917 included ☺ Arras, ☺ Vimy Ridge, ☺ the Anise, ☺ Passchendaele and ☺ Cambrai to name just a few. ☺ In April of this year the United States was brought into the war.

☺ Following the Russian Revolution early in the year, and the overthrow of the government by the Bolsheviks in October, Russia agreed peace with the Central powers and left the war.

☺ By 1918 the war was drawing to its close. ☺ The German Spring Offensive was defeated and ☺ it was only a matter of time before Germany sought an Armistice.

☺ **VERSE**

Attack Siegfried Sassoon

*At dawn the ridge emerges massed and dun
In the wild purple of the glow'ring sun,
Smouldering through spouts of drifting smoke that shroud
The menacing scarred slope; ☺ and, one by one,
Tanks creep and topple forward to the wire.
The barrage roars and lifts. ☺ Then, clumsily bowed*

*With bombs and guns and shovels and battle-gear,
Men jostle and climb to, meet the bristling fire.
Lines of grey, muttering faces, masked with fear,
They leave their trenches, going over the top,
While time ticks blank and busy on their wrists,
And hope, with furtive eyes and grappling fists,
Flounders in mud. O Jesus, make it stop!*

BAND

Mars the Bringer of War

Gustav Holst

§ THE HOME FRONT

ATTACKS ON THE UK

Meanwhile mainland Britain was not immune from attack.

§ The first such incident was in December 1914, when Scarborough, West Hartlepool and Whitby were fired upon by ships of the German Navy. © West Hartlepool suffered the most because of the docks and factories. ©

§ The first air raid on the United Kingdom was carried out by two Zeppelin airships on the night of 19th/20th January 1915. The target was Humberside but they were diverted by high winds and their bombs were dropped on Kings Lynn, Sheringham, Great Yarmouth and the surrounding villages resulting in four people being killed and sixteen injured. Zeppelin airships had their limitations as they were very susceptible to high winds but none the less they were still reasonably successful. © The main target area was London and the southeast, particularly the ports, but on occasions they ventured to the Midlands. Notwithstanding the material damage caused by these raids they had a considerable effect on the morale of the civilian population. © In May 1917, following the advances in aviation technology, aircraft bombers were used for the first time. These were less dependent upon the weather, able to fly at lower altitudes and resulting in more accurate bombing.

§ **READING**
Raid

Penny Feiwei's account

Zeppelin

ZEPPELIN

On the night of 2nd September 1916 Penny Feiwei who was 7 years old at the time recalls:

Living where we did, with factories nearby and Woolwich Arsenal, we were a target for the raids. When there was a raid warning, we used to go down the big arches, that is, where the railway ran across the end of the road, taking a blanket with us. We'd go out and they would say, "Get in, get in" because the search lights were going all around. There was hay under the arches and we would try and sleep on the floor until the all "All Clear", when we would go home. But on this night, Mother said that we were not going to the air raid shelter yet again. We were to stay in our rooms instead, because very often there wasn't a bomb dropped anywhere near us. So instead of going to bed I was looking out of the window. It was a clear cloudless night, very bright because of the moon, when, all of a sudden I saw a Zeppelin caught in the searchlights that criss-crossed the sky. I watched transfixed by this huge silvery object in the sky, then, suddenly there was a flash and a terrible explosion and I saw the flames coming down. The Zeppelin was falling and everyone began coming out of the arches, shouting and clapping and cheering. I've never forgotten it.

I felt very sorry, that fact that there were people in the Zeppelin, and to have been burnt like that, all in flames coming down. It made a very great impression on my mind and I spoke to my brother a few days afterwards and he said he was quite adamant that they were the Germans and if we hadn't done anything, they would have killed us.

CONSCRIPTION

Conflict on the scale of the First World War had a market effect upon the population at home. The call to arms in 1914 was met with a rush of volunteers to enlist from all walks of life. However as the war progressed the rate of attrition increased and conscription was introduced in 1916. All single men aged 18 to 40 years old were liable for military service. There were a few exemptions, widowers with children, ministers of religion, and men in reserved occupations. However, within 6 months of the introduction of conscription married men were no longer exempt and the age limit raised to 51 years.

§ CHOIR

Bugles and Drums

Trad, arr. B. Kenyon

§ WOMEN AT WORK

With the men in the services the needs of the Nation still had to be met and many women stepped forward to contribute to the war effort. © As well as working in the professions there was a high demand for manual labour in agriculture, industry, transport and the medical services. © Every day jobs such as postal workers, butchers, bakers, bus drivers, police, fire fighters, and farm hands were undertaken by women.

Initially there was resistance to hiring women for what had previously been seen as “men’s work”. Employers claimed it was too expensive to employ women because it was thought it took two or three women to do the work of one man. However with the introduction of conscription the need for women workers became urgent, with many working 12 hour shifts and 13 consecutive days. © By 1917 munitions factories, which primarily employed women workers, produced 80% of the weapons and shells used by the British Army. Many of these ladies became known as ‘canaries’ because handling TNT caused their skin to turn yellow. They also risked their lives working with poisonous substances without adequate safety measures and protective clothing. Around 400 women died from over exposure to TNT.

§ READING

Daisy Collingwood’s account armaments factory worker

Armaments factory worker

Early in 1918 Daisy Collingwood was working in a cordite factory:-

“We were proud of our shift. It was hard work and a bit dangerous but you never thought of that. Then one day all that changed. The stove exploded. There was a sudden blast of air that drew me out of the door, down the steps and shot me head first into this gooey mud outside. I didn’t really know what happened at first. I faintly remember seeing a body flying through the air but whose it was I don’t know. I think it must have been the chap who was cooking the cordite when the stove blew up. I was just suddenly plonked in ice cold muddy water and there was a terrible bang. When I look back, I often wonder that the noise didn’t kill me because it

was so awful. It was as if the whole world shook with it. I don't know how long I laid there but of course there was always a medical team on duty.

I was lucky. I only had one or two bruises, nothing serious but Dad said, "No, that's finished, you're not going back". The after effects of the shock stayed with me for quite a while. When I look back I only wonder that I kept my nerve as much as I did.

§ Work in agriculture was equally important. Records show that only 16,000 women coming almost entirely from well to do middle class backgrounds joined the official Land Army. The majority of the labour force of 300,000 were country ladies, farmer' wives, craftsmen, and country girls doing what they always had done when there was work to be done on the farm. Added to this were 30,000 POWs and 80,000 disabled soldiers unable to fight.

§ Jobs were also undertaken by children who were meant to be in full time education until they were 14 years old, however there were many exemptions. Whilst the utilisation of children was liberating for some, for others it was sheer exploitation. This was particularly evident in family businesses where the men folk were away. It was not uncommon to find children as young as 6 working on farms.

§ By 1918 military hospitals in Britian were employing 12,000 nurses and 60,000 unpaid volunteers working in auxiliary hospitals. § There were three such hospitals in Newmarket, © Severals House Hospital, © Rous Hospital and © Red Cross Hospital Sussex Lodge.

§ VERSE
Pope

War Girls

Jessie

War Girls BY JESSIE POPE

- © *There's the girl who clips your ticket for the train,*
- © *And the girl who speeds the lift from floor to floor,*
- © *There's the girl who does a milk-round in the rain,*
And the girl who calls for orders at your door.
Strong, sensible, and fit,

*They're out to show their grit,
And tackle jobs with energy and knack.
No longer caged and penned up,
They're going to keep their end up
Till the khaki soldier boys come marching back.*

- © *There's the motor girl who drives a heavy van,*
- © *There's the butcher girl who brings your joint of meat,*
- © *There's the girl who cries 'All fares, please!' like a man,*
- © *And the girl who whistles taxis up the street.*
- © *Beneath each uniform
Beats a heart that's soft and warm,
Though of canny mother-wit they show no lack;
But a solemn statement this is,
They've no time for love and kisses
Till the khaki soldier-boys come marching back.*

BAND

Whistle While You Work *Frank Churchill*

Heigh-Ho *Frank Churchill*

§ RATIONING

Soon after the outbreak of the © War the German Navy attempted to halt the flow of imports to Britain by introducing unrestricted submarine warfare. © In March 1917 alone, ships bringing food and other supplies to Britain suffered a record loss of 507,001 tons as a result of the U-boat campaign.

© At the outbreak of war agriculture was in decline, however, even with the loss of men from the land and the unavailability of imported goods and food, Britain managed to increase its food production and the wheat harvest of 1917 was a record year. People also dug vacant land and gardens to provide for themselves in some way. Country folk were able to glean from the hedge rows but by the end of 1917, the country was running out of food. Children in poorer households unfortunately were at the bottom of the food chain because the main “bread winner”

was considered more important for the overall wellbeing of the family. © Panic buying led to shortages and so, in January 1918, the Ministry of Food introduced rationing. Sugar was the first to be rationed followed by meat, flour, butter, margarine, potatoes, and milk. Fuel was also rationed.

§ SPORTING EVENTS

Most sporting events ceased entirely or were undertaken in a very reduced fashion. © Football was suspended in the early part of 1915, © Wimbledon ceased during the war years, and © first class cricket was abandoned. § Surprisingly, racing continued on the July Race Course at Newmarket with occasional meetings elsewhere.

BAND *Short Fanfare*

The classics were run here as well as having its own calendar. Despite objections from the military concerning the availability of oats for cavalry horses the decision was taken because of the lack of other employment in the town and the need to ensure the continuity of breeding in the thoroughbred industry. Hunting continued in some areas assuming that the horses had not been requisitioned by the Army.

§ SOCIAL ISSUES

Life was hard for many and there were many social issues at home. © Inflation caused poverty and hardship for many. Some families were evicted being unable to pay the rent. At the time there were little or no benefits available other than that some parishes had limited charitable funds. Men who legitimately did not, or could not go to war were often singled out as cowards and refused service in shops and pubs. © Strikes for better pay and conditions were on the increase. About one million horses used domestically pulling carts, wagons and farm machinery were requisitioned for military service. Even pigeons and dogs were donated as message carriers in the field. © Censorship was introduced. © German nationals who were not interned were ostracised, sometimes attacked, their shops and houses

vandalised, and German goods were destroyed. Many were deported after the war even though they had been settled for years and were married with children.

© To alleviate the hardship faced by the soldiers on active service the population were encouraged to maintain contact with their menfolk by knitting socks, jumpers and scarves and © sending parcels with tobacco, chocolate and small items to improve the soldier's lot. These were usually shared with their comrades and much appreciated.

§ BAND
Dvorak

Largo from the New World Symphony

§ ARMISTICE

The Armistice, which only means a cessation of hostilities, was signed at five o'clock in the morning of the 11th November 1918 in a railway carriage of Marshal Foch's train in a siding in the woods at Compiègne, 73 kilometres north east of Paris. This was to become effective at 1100hrs on the same day. The Treaty of Versailles, the actual peace treaty between was not signed until the 28th June 1919.

How did the war end? In November 1917 the German high command prepared plans for an offensive in the following spring. The mission was to penetrate the Western Front at its weakest point then to pursue two objectives. The first to threaten Paris and force the exhausted French to sign an armistice. Secondly and simultaneously, to outflank the British forces pushing them to the North Sea coast forcing a surrender.

The plan however was flawed due to the over extended lines of communication resulting in a shortage of food, ammunition and reinforcements. Although this offensive gained ground initially it was at significant cost. Germany lost nearly half a million men in six months. By mid-1918 the Allies were being reinforced by the Americans at the rate of 10,000 a day, these, together with fresh troops from Australia and Canada, played a significant role in driving back the German Army.

At this point German military planners calculated that a further 1.1 million soldiers would be needed to sustain the war effort into 1919 but the realisation was that conscription would barely fill a

quarter of that number. Their navy mutinied and soldiers started deserting.

The German situation was further imperilled by deteriorating domestic conditions. By the winter of 1917/18 the availability of food in German cities had become critically low. The British naval blockade of German ports had halted food imports, and Berlin's reallocation of agricultural labour to industry affected domestic production. There were reports of malnourished factory workers collapsing at their machinery, of widespread outbreaks of dysentery, and of seriously undernourished children begging in the streets. Civilian deaths increased by more than 200,000 from the previous year.

Germany's position was further weakened due to the loss of their allies who began signing their own armistice agreements. The pressure on the government, now alone, was immense.

A German delegation crossed the front line in five cars that were escorted for ten hours across the devastated war zone of Northern France and were taken to the secret destination of Marshal [Foch's](#) train.

Foch appeared only twice in the three days of negotiations: on the first day, to ask the German delegation what they wanted, and on the last day, to see to the signatures. The Germans were handed the list of Allied demands and given 72 hours to agree. The German delegation discussed the terms which amounted to complete German demilitarization with few promises made by the Allies in return. There was no question of negotiation. The Germans were able to correct a few impossible demands for example, the decommissioning of more submarines than they actually possessed. Also they were able to extend the schedule for the withdrawal as well as registering a formal protest at the harshness of the Allied terms. However they were in no position to refuse to sign.

On Sunday 10 November, the German delegation was shown newspapers from Paris to inform them that the Kaiser had abdicated. After receiving a communication from the Chief of the German General Staff, the German President, requested that the armistice be signed even if the Allied conditions could not be improved. Consequently the German Chancellor instructed the Armistice be signed

The Armistice

Written by May Wedderburn Cannan in a War Department Office in Paris

© *The news came through over the telephone:
All the terms had been signed: the War was won:
And all the fighting and the agony,
And all the labour of the years were done.*

© *One girl clicked sudden at her typewriter
And whispered, 'Jerry's safe', and sat and stared:
One said, 'It's over, over, it's the end:
The War is over: ended': and a third,
I can't remember life without the war.'
And one came in and said, 'Look here, they say
We can all go at five to celebrate.*

© *As long as two stay on, just for today.'*

*It was quite quiet in the big empty room
Among the typewriters and little piles
Of index cards: one said, 'We'd better just
Finish the day's reports and do the files.'
And said, "It's awf'ly like Recessional,
Now when the tumult has all died away."
The other said, 'Thank God we saw it through;
I wonder what they'll do at home today.'*

*And said, 'You know it will be quiet tonight
Up at the Front: first time in all these years.
And no one will be killed there any more,'
And stopped, to hide her tears.
She said, 'I've told you; he was killed in June.'
"The other said, 'My dear, I know; I know ...
It's over for me too ... My man was killed,
Wounded ... and died ... at Ypres ... three years ago ...
And he's my Man, and I want him,' she said,
And knew that peace could not give back her Dead.*

§ **BAND**
Harper

Path to Peace

Phillip

§ **CELEBRATION**

Once the news of the Armistice was received jubilation and relief was felt across the country. People poured out onto the streets, from houses factories, workshops and children from their schools, all shouting “The War is Over”. Trains and ships blew their whistles, church bells rang out, and people danced in the streets. § Motor vehicles of all kinds drove through the streets festooned with people waving flags.

§ Crowds filled the main squares in London including Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square, § as well as Buckingham Palace where King George Vth and Queen Mary appeared on the balcony with other members of the Royal family who were, it was reported, greeted by scenes of indescribable enthusiasm.

§ Prime Minister Lloyd George addressed a Crowd from a first floor window of no. 10 Downing Street.

READING

Lloyd George’s brief address

§ At the Western Front the news of the imminent German surrender was greeted in several ways, many threw their helmets into the air and cheered. However a few were more philosophical reacting in stunned silence, disbelief and bewilderment.

§ For most men returning home was a joy. § Cheering crowds and waving flags welcomed them home, bands played and soldiers were embraced everywhere on their homecoming.

Just before the formal peace treaty was signed the government declared a Bank Holiday. § On the 19th August a Victory Parade passed through the streets of London with 15,000 servicemen taking part. Entertainments were arranged, bands played in the parks, and there were street parties everywhere. Similar events took place in cities, towns and villages across the country.

§ **READING**

An account by a lady called Maud Cox

The following is an account by a lady called Maud Cox who was about 8 at the time

When the war ended, everybody celebrated, we marched through the streets till we were exhausted, waving our little Union Jacks and singing "When the Boys Come Marching Home", "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag", and "Keep the Home Fires Burning", we sang until we were hoarse. When I got home at night, I could hardly speak. My mother had to send one of my big sisters out to drag me off the street because we marched round and round and round and then one of the bands came out, the colliery band, and it started to lead us and everybody was exhausted they were dropping off, especially the younger ones who were getting dragged indoors. People were bringing bottles of wine on to the streets, anything they could get hold of, and drinking each other's health.

§ **BAND**
Handel

See the Conquering Hero Comes

§ *Rule Britannia*
Rule Britannia

Thomas Arne **CHOIR**
Thomas Arne

REMEMBRANCE

Once the euphoria died down it became a time for reflection and remembrance.

§ **VERSE**

The Wind On the Downs

Lilian M Anderson

*I like to think of you as brown and tall,
As strong and living as you used to be,
In khaki tunic, Sam Brown belt and all,
And standing there and laughing down at me.
Because they tell me, dear, that you are dead,
Because I can no longer see your face,
You have not died, it is not true, instead
You seek adventure some other place.
That you are round about me, I believe;
I hear you laughing as you used to do,
Yet loving all the things I think of you;*

*And knowing you are happy, should I grieve?
 You follow and are watchful where I go;
 How should you leave me, having loved me so?*

*We walked along the towpath, you and I,
 Beside the sluggish-moving, still canal;
 It seemed impossible that you should die;
 I think of you the same and always shall.
 We thought of many things and spoke of few,
 And life lay all uncertainly before,
 And now I walk alone and think of you,
 And wonder what new kingdoms you explore.
 Over the railway line, across the grass,
 While up above the golden wings are spread,
 Flying, ever flying overhead,
 Here still I see your khaki figure pass,
 And when I leave meadow, almost wait,
 That you should open first the wooden gate.*

Marian Allen

§ BAND
 Elgar

Nimrod

Edward

§ The cenotaph in Whitehall was built at the request of Prime Minister Lloyd George. It was a temporary monument built of wood and plaster, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens who was given just two weeks to complete the work. Its location was to be in Whitehall at the end point of the Victory Parade. Within an hour of the Parade passing, onlookers piled wreaths of flowers high around its base and streams of people stretched back to Trafalgar Square waiting to add their tributes.

Pressure mounted for a permanent memorial and an identical structure was commissioned in Portland Stone. This was unveiled by King George Vth. on 11th November 1920 and it became our national war memorial. § The unveiling coincided

communities as the official policy was not to repatriate the dead.

269 men from Exning are believed served in the armed forces during the war but only 189 returned. Exning's memorial commemorates the 80 souls who died of which 18 have no known grave. Most were killed in action, some died of their wounds, and some from disease. § The village war memorial was erected in June 1921 at a cost of £624-12s -6p, raised by public subscription. Designed by Messrs W J Nutty of Cheveley and made of Cornish granite, it was unveiled on Sunday 5th June by Col. The Hon. Walter Guinness Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds who had been awarded the DSO twice for personal bravery. § The dedication was conducted by Canon Farmilea. Well in excess of 5000 people attended the dedication.

Please stand as we take a moment to remember all those who lost their lives during WW1 and tonight, particularly the fallen of Exning.

§ *CHOIR Remember Lyrics Christina Rossetti Music S Chapman*

§ THE AFTERMATH

Despite the celebrations the joyous mood in the country was short lived. Political, economic and social problems had to be faced with a return to peacetime.

Post War Britain continued the social change brought about by the war. § Previously underrepresented groups such as women and the working class became more powerful. Attitudes became less deferential due to cross class experiences in the trenches and the strict hierarchy of Edwardian Britain disappeared for ever.

The major change was the introduction of the Representation of the People Act passed in February 1918. This gave the vote to all men over 21 and women over 30 none of whom had been able to vote before. This increased the total number of people eligible to vote by nearly 14 million of which over 8 million were women. This change started a shift in the political framework and it wasn't until the 1924 that any government had a clear majority.

During this period the demise of the Liberal Party began in favour of Labour who for the first time in their history were able to form an administration.

BAND first couple of bars only of *The Red Flag* trad.

This however quickly collapsed and the Conservatives regained power for the next 4 years.

§ The war had left the country with a huge National Debt that had risen to its then historical high of 11.3% of GDP. © This was not paid off until March 2015. Heavy industry such steel, ship building and coal were cut back and the country, no longer geared to the war effort, § saw unemployment rise to 2.5 million by 1922. Swingeing cuts in public expenditure were introduced in 1922 to curb inflation.

§ Returning soldiers were promised “A Land Fit Heroes”, instead they were confronted with years of strikes and high unemployment. Many soldiers' lives were never the same again. © Of those who returned 1 3/4 million suffered some kind of disability, half of these were permanently disabled. © Many suffered from shell shock and from what we know of today as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for which there was little or no help. © Hardship was also felt by widows and parents who had lost sons in the war who had often contributed to the household income. © Unemployment benefit was paid to men for 15 weeks at a rate of 15 shillings a week, for women it was 12 shillings, but people naturally wanted work to support themselves.

§ © A Lancastrian and former Lance Bombardier by the name of Tom Lister, decided that as the government was either unable or unwilling to do anything to improve the lives of ex-Servicemen, he would do something about it. © He formed the British Legion in May 1921 by bringing together 4 national organisations of ex Servicemen. © This organisation has grown to become the charity familiar to us which continues to this © day to care and support ex-servicemen and their dependants.

© BAND
Bidgood

British Legion March *Thomas*

§ The aftermath also saw a tangible shift in social order and culture. The Roaring Twenties emphasized a break with traditions. It was marked by a general feeling of novelty associated with modernity, and a new social, artistic and cultural dynamism spread quickly and widely. © There was a boom in the popularity of jazz and © dancing, in opposition to the austerity of the war. © The flapper defined the modern look for British and American women, and © Art_Deco peaked.

§ BAND

The Charleston *James P. Johnson*

§ Post war the developments in engineering saw an increase in production and use of © automobiles, © telephones, © radio, and © electric appliances. Aviation became a business. Nations saw rapid industrial and economic growth, accelerated by consumer demand, and significant changes in lifestyle and culture.

§ So far so good....then came the Wall Street Crash of 1929 which was the precursor to the Great Depression which brought years of worldwide gloom and hardship.

§© The reparations demanded by the Allies of Germany were punitive. © They were required to pay 22 billion pounds, nearly 2 trillion in today's money. © 6.6 billion of the 22 came to the UK, to repair the damage and repay the allied war loans. © However, in 1923 Germany defaulted and the Ruhr was invaded by French and Belgian troops who liberated what they thought they were owed. © The situation stabilized but the economic crisis got worse for Germany. Notwithstanding that it lost the war and was blamed for starting it, Germany was a country struggling to recover. © At Lausanne in July 1932 it was agreed by the Allies to suspend all reparations indefinitely, © but this was too late.

© Storm clouds were gathering over Germany as the country turned to National Socialism, the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party, but this ladies and gentlemen is another story.

§ Now ladies and gentlemen, before the band bring the evening to a close, it would be a good time to show your appreciation for those who have taken part in this evening's event.

Newmarket Town Band, and Newmarket Community Choir, our readers Hilary Sage, Clive Hook,... John Saville our Power Point director and all those who have encouraged and supported this evenings event.

BAND

Songs of the Great War

Rob Wiffen.

