



21. Bark Avenue.
Sandy Mount.
Dublin.

Dear Lord Kitchner

I am an Irish boy
9 years of age and I want
to go to the front I can
ride jolly quick on my
bicycle and would
go as despatch rider
I wouldn't let the
germans get it. I am
a good shot with a
revolver

of the IWM's new permanent exhibition, which brings together over 1,000 objects, plus digital and interactive displays.

Visitors may be surprised at what they find. The galleries explain how the war began, why it lasted four years, how it was won and what its impacts have been. But by using descriptions expressed in letters and diaries, Taylor and his team are seeking to introduce people today to the people of 100 years ago. 'It would be wrong to say they were just like us but what we're trying to do is find the connections,' he says.

IWM North in Manchester is also commemorating the centenary of WWI through the exhibition, *From Street to Trench: A World War that Shaped a Region*, running until 31 May 2015. This show examines the role of the North West of England in the war, offering a local route into a global conflict. Like the new galleries at IWM London, it zooms out from the front line to include an aspect of the war most of us know very little about: the home front.

'The war affected absolutely everybody,' says Taylor. 'From those involved in munitions to those who sheltered in the London Underground during air raids. We often think of the First World War as a futile war, but the people at the time did not see it like that, by and large, and they wouldn't have been able to carry on for four years if they had felt like that. People do live through it, and they live, they don't just exist.'

IWM London reopens on 19 July iwm.org.uk

Harry Patch was one of 8.7 million British men who fought in the trenches in World War One. He was the last surviving veteran and died in 2009. But the voices of those who experienced every aspect of the terrible conflict live on in photographic archives and personal papers.

They are to be unveiled at the new First World War Galleries at the Imperial War Museum (IWM), London, which reopens on 19 July following a major refurbishment to mark the centenary of the beginning of the war.

'This is not just a story about trenches,' says James Taylor, curator

In memoriam

Expect the unexpected at the Imperial War Museum's WWI centenary exhibitions in London and Manchester

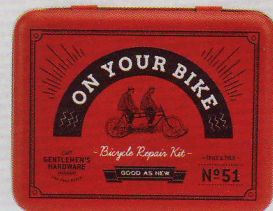
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IS WORSE THAN
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