POPPY SCULPTURE OPENS AT ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL IN ORKNEY, MARKING THE START OF BATTLE OF JUTLAND COMMEMORATIONS

The iconic poppy sculpture Weeping Window has opened today at St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, marking the start of the UK’s Battle of Jutland commemorations taking place in Orkney throughout May and June 2016. Orkney is the furthest location the poppies have travelled to on their UK-wide tour organised by 14-18 NOW, the official arts programme for the First World War centenary.

The Battle of Jutland was the largest and most significant naval engagement of the First World War. Over 100,000 men in 250 ships fought in the battle, which took place in the North Sea off the coast of Denmark’s Jutland Peninsula. On 30 May 1916, the Royal Navy’s Grand Fleet sailed to battle from its base at Scapa Flow in Orkney, under the command of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. The confrontation began on the afternoon of 31 May 1916 and more than 6,000 Royal Navy and 2,500 German sailors lost their lives.

The commemorative events in Orkney include a morning service at St Magnus Cathedral on 31 May, followed by a ceremony at the Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery in Hoy, where over 400 Commonwealth servicemen and German sailors from the First World War are buried. During the course of the following week, a full commemorative programme of events will take place across Orkney, culminating on 5 June with an event to commemorate the loss of 737 men, including the Secretary of State for War Lord Kitchener, when HMS Hampshire was sunk by a mine west of Orkney off Marwick Head.

Weeping Window is one of two sculptures taken from the installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper. The installation was originally at HM Tower of London in 2014 where 888,246 poppies were displayed, one to honour every death in the British and Colonial forces of the First World War. The installation was by Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces. Weeping Window is the cascade of poppies that was seen pouring out of a high window down to the grass below.
14-18 NOW has commissioned a number of other major projects across Scotland in 2016 to mark the Battle of Jutland and the Battle of the Somme. Turner Prize-nominated artist Ciara Phillips will “dazzle” a ship in the historic port of Leith as part of the 2016 Edinburgh Art Festival; award-winning composer David Lang will premiere his choral piece *Memorial Ground* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus at the East Neuk Festival; and a new musical theatre trilogy by the National Theatre of Scotland will explore the lives of three soldiers shot for cowardice during the First World War.

Jenny Waldman, Director, 14-18 NOW, said:
“The Poppies have a profound effect on everyone as we take them on tour around the UK. They have an incredible ability to bring generations together to share stories of the First World War. It will be a particularly poignant moment to see the poppies frame the entrance of St Magnus Cathedral as it hosts the national commemorative service for the Battle of Jutland.

“I am hugely grateful to the government and all our supporters, in particular the Backstage Trust, and our transport sponsors DAF Trucks and NorthLink Ferries, for enabling this landmark presentation to happen.”

Orkney Islands Council Convener Steven Heddle said:
“Providing the first opportunity in Scotland for people to experience the poppies is a tremendous honour for our community.

“Today marks the start of commemorative events marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland and the loss of HMS Hampshire in our local waters.

“The Cathedral will be at the heart of those commemorations and provides a wonderful setting for the *Weeping Window* cascade. The poppies reflect the service and sacrifice of those who took part in the First World War. They provide a very moving tribute to those who lost their lives during the conflict a century ago.”

Following the installation in Orkney, *Weeping Window* will go on show at the Black Watch Museum in Perth from 29 June to 25 September. *Wave* will be on display at Lincoln Castle from 28 May to 4 September and at Caernarfon Castle from 12 October to 20 November 2016.

The two poppy sculptures, *Wave* and *Weeping Window*, which together have over 10,000 poppies, have been saved for the nation by the Backstage Trust and the Clore Duffield Foundation, and gifted to 14-18 NOW and Imperial War Museums. 14-18 NOW is touring the sculptures to places in the UK with particular First World War resonance.

14-18 NOW is funded by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, and by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. 14-18 NOW is an independent programme hosted within Imperial War Museums. 14-18 NOW would like to acknowledge their partnership with the BBC and Scottish Commemorations Panel on projects in the 2016 season.

Financial support for the tour of the poppies has been received from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Heritage Lottery Fund. DAF Trucks are the transport sponsor for the UK presentations and Northlink Ferries have enabled the poppies to travel to Orkney. 14-18 NOW are delighted to partner with DAF Trucks and NorthLink Ferries on making this historic project a reality.

**For details of the full programme please see:**
www.1418now.org.uk

**For further press information please contact:**
Erica Bolton or Sylvia Ross
Notes to Editors:

**Dazzle Ship by Ciara Phillips**

*From 25 May 2016*

*Leith Docks*

Co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW and Edinburgh Art Festival with support from the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland and The Royal Yacht Britannia. The Dazzle It app is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

**Memorial Ground by David Lang**

*2 July 2016*

*Cambo Barn, North Lodge Cottage, Kingsbarns, Fife*

Commissioned and produced by 14-18 NOW and the East Neuk Festival with the support of Creative Scotland and in partnership with the Big Big Sing.

**Poppies: Weeping Window**

*22 April – 12 June 2016, St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney*

*29 June – 25 September 2016, The Black Watch Museum, Perth*

**The 306: Dawn**

*24 May – 11 June 2016*

*Dalcrue Farm, Pitcairngreen, Perth*

A National Theatre of Scotland, 14-18 NOW and Perth Theatre co-production, in association with Red Note Ensemble.

**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 Jutland and the Battle of the 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 and by additional fundraising. 14-18 NOW has commissioned over 80 artworks to date that have been seen by over 20 million people.

**DCMS**

4 August 2014 marked 100 years since the start of the First World War. In recognition of this significant milestone the Government is leading a five-year commemorative programme of national ceremonial events, cultural and educational activity and community engagement. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, DCMS, manages this cross government programme working with key delivery partners including Imperial War Museums, 14-18 NOW, Arts Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England.

**DAF Trucks**

DAF Trucks has been market leader in the UK for twenty years, now accounting for almost one in three of all new trucks sold here. The company is also the only volume truck maker to design and build trucks in Britain at its state of the art plant, Leyland Trucks in Lancashire. Both DAF and Leyland are subsidiaries of PACCAR Inc, the worldwide quality leader in the design and manufacture of premium light, medium and heavy-duty commercial vehicles.
NorthLink Ferries
Named as ‘Best Ferry’ at the Guardian and Observer Travel Awards 2016, NorthLink Ferries operate throughout the year with the MV Hamnavoe operating to Orkney on the Pentland Firth and MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey sailing to Orkney and Shetland from Aberdeen. MV Hildasay and MV Helliar provide regular timetabled freight services to both Shetland and Orkney. NorthLink Ferries has offices in Aberdeen, Kirkwall, Lerwick, Stromness and Scrabster.

For further information visit www.northlinkferries.co.uk

Backstage Trust
Backstage Trust is a relatively small grant-giving charity whose primary focus is live performing arts, mainly theatre. The Trust has a particular interest in projects involving disadvantaged children and young people. The Trust is aware of the complexity of running small arts organisations and is able to consider providing consultant time and advice on fundraising, management and feasibility studies for capital projects.

The Clore Duffield Foundation
Founded in 1964, the Foundation is a grant-making charity which concentrates its support on cultural learning, creating learning spaces within arts and heritage organisations, leadership training for the cultural and wider charitable sectors, and enhancing Jewish life. The Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield, the daughter of the founder, Sir Charles Clore. www.cloreduffield.org.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund
Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk @heritagelottery #UnderstandingWW1

Other HLF-funded First World War projects include:
- First World War Galleries, Imperial War Museum London - £6.5m
- The Yorkshire Film Archive – £52,400
- HMS Caroline, the last surviving First World War battleship - £12m
- Herts at War - £98,400
- 1914 London B-type ‘Battle’ Bus, which drove out to the Western Front - £750,000

First World War Centenary Partnership
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.