A million candles to be lit in honour of war dead

Landmark buildings and tourist attractions lined up for shared moment of reflection to mark centenary

"THE LAMPS are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time."

A century after that ominous eve-of-war warning, the words of Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey are being used to inspire rather than terrify.

It is hoped a million people in the UK will light a candle on August 4, a century to the day that Britain declared war on Germany, "for a shared moment of reflection" between 10pm and 11pm.

Each candle or light will represent the estimated million servicemen and women who died.

Across Yorkshire, the Lights Out campaign is backed by local authorities, stately homes and Royal British Legion branches.

Leeds Council is planning a late-night service at Leeds Minster followed by a remembrance event at Victoria Gardens which is expected to include a light installation...
depicting poppies tumbling down the war memorial.

At Castle Howard in North Yorkshire a single light will illuminate the gilt lantern, 70ft above the home’s impressive Great Hall.

Royal British Legion branches will also play their part.

A service will be held by Wakefield’s Horbury, Sittington and Ossett Royal British Legion and in Filey, Legion members and sea cadets will carry 73 lights in remembrance of the 73 local men who gave their lives.

Pauline Richardson, of Filey Royal British Legion, said: “All 73 names on the war memorial are Filey men. We are doing this to remember them.”

The branch has acquired 73 glass jars, each bearing the name of a soldier and containing a candle and soprano Anna Shaw will sing I Vow to Thee, My Country at the Filey event.

Debbie Harding, area manager for the Royal British Legion in Yorkshire, said: “The Legion is bringing together communities across Yorkshire in support of our Lights Out campaign on 4th August, which aims to see over one million candles lit across the UK in remembrance of those who died in the First World War.

“These events will give the public an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who fought for the freedom we enjoy today.

“As the nation’s custodians of remembrance, the Legion encourages the people of Yorkshire to join the rest of the nation in turning their lights out and lighting a single candle to remember every service man and woman who died during the First World War.”

There will be a candlelit vigil at Malton war memorial in North Yorkshire, a candle will be lit at the Book of Remembrance at Halifax Town Hall and a special event is being planned for Blackpool’s famous Illuminations.

Lights out at heritage sites

TOWER BRIDGE, Imperial War Museums and the Houses of Parliament are among the buildings that will observe the Lights Out commemoration event from 10pm to 11pm on Monday August 4.

The project is being organised by 14-18 NOW, the official cultural programme for the First World War centenary commemorations.

The 14-18 NOW programme is funded by £10m granted from the National Lottery including The Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England which are contributing £5m each.

A candlelit vigil in Westminster Abbey is also taking place.

For Lights Out events go to: www.1418NOW.org.uk/ lightsout.
SOLEMN MOMENT: Main picture: the Hon Simon Howard in thoughtful mood in the chapel at the stately home. Castle Howard is one of the venues across Yorkshire that will take part in the Lights Out commemoration of the First World War. Above, left and right, scenes from the Western Front in the conflict that changed the world.