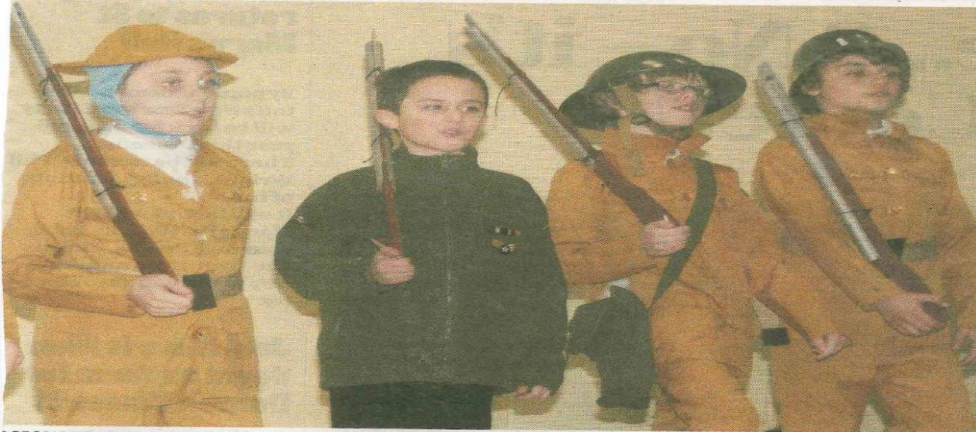


Christmas production



POIGNANT: The youngsters performed Christmas 1914.

Reflecting on Christmas 1914

Children at an academy took a reflective look at the past in place of the traditional Nativity.

Henlow Church of England Academy's Key Stage 2 children this year decided to present Theresa Kane's Christmas 1914 as its Christmas production.

The youngsters from Year 5 and 6 were treading the boards as soldiers, nurses and families left behind, as the story of the Christmas truce during the First World War was told from all angles.

Particularly poignant was the simultaneous singing of Silent Night and Stille Nacht in both English and German.

Directors Lissy Malt and Julie Stock are rightly proud of their extensive cast.

They said: "It can be very difficult to imagine yourself in a situation which is so far removed from your own personal experiences.

"However Henlow pupils have managed to portray the frustrations of being left behind, the futility of war and the hope for a brighter future in a way that really brings a lump

to your throat."

Headteacher Caren East added: "It is an outstanding achievement to bring such a meaningful production to stage with children who are young as nine years old.

"However, guided by our two directors, Henlow pupils have really managed to bring across the full meaning of this historically significant event."

The school production ran for two nights, with the first half being a musical extravaganza of pieces by Henlow's various musical groups.