**Scene 3 – Work after the War**

1919 - 1920 – movement focused piece

**Characters:**

**Lucy**

**Female work force x 4**

**Gertrude** (Lucy’s best friend, neighbour and cousin to Lucy’s fiancé who died, Bob))

**Mabel** (Gertrude’s older sister)

**Hilda** (The village pharmacist’s daughter)

**Annie** (Lucy’s cousin)

Lucy immerses herself in her work in the bank - driving her father’s car – who is very poorly and is looked after by her mother and Florrie. Her sister, Molly is working as a teacher in Cheltenham so does not come home much. Lucy’s wages from the bank are relied upon.

* Essentially a movement section representing Lucy and all the other women who, unable to marry or choosing not to marry, became hugely important in the workplace and often found solace among like-minded women.

Song or music for movement piece for the girls at work

Needs a fairly regular rhythm in places to depict the nature of work but the girls love it. They also enjoyed socialising after work – going for drinks and dancing. Types of work were

* typists/ secretaries
* teaching
* nursing
* bank clerical work (Lucy & her friends’ work)
* shop assistants
* domestic service
* nanny/nursemaid
* cotton factories

Just some background really.

If you can do another song, these are some words which might make up some of the lyrics. It would be good to be a lively song showing the camaraderie of the girls, support for each other against the moody or lecherous bosses who thought they could do anything and get away with it and enjoyment of their work – doing something fulfilling & being independent.

There were jobs for women although often temporary until the men came returned and took over.

With a job you enjoy comes independence and a reason to wake up in the morning

Make friends and socialise.

Learn to be careful money and be frugal. Contribute to the family budget.

Rationed food. Always slightly hungry. Spent 9p for lunch – cup of tea & sardines on toast, a sausage or a scotched egg. Longed for some fresh or tinned fruit but too expensive. Needed to keep the costs down and save.

Travelled to work on a bicycle.

Clerical work – didn’t have to be particularly clever but as long as you behaved yourself and got on with it no one complained

Having to put up with the changing moods of the bosses – The ‘Chief’ is in a bad mood

Can’t get married otherwise you would have to give up work.