

**LANDMARK CELEBRATION**

# Special greetings for White Cliffs of Dover singer PM adds her good wishes to 100th birthday tributes

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One of Britain's most remarkable women got a 100th birthday greeting from the Prime Minister last week.

Theresa May gave her congratulations to Dame Vera Lynn during Prime Minister's Questions just after noon on Wednesday.

Mrs May made her remark after encouragement by Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke as he raised a point about Brexit.

She said: "I didn't have the opportunity to do it a couple of days ago so I'm happy to join in wishing Dame Vera Lynn a happy 100th birthday this week.

"I think it's right that we should recognise the service that she gave to this country as many others did."

Mr Elphicke had first asked Speaker John Bercow: "Mr Speaker - will you join in wishing Dame Vera Lynn a happy 100th birthday this week and thanking her for her service to the White Cliffs and the nation?"

Mr Bercow said that he had already wished Dame Vera well on Monday last week, her actual birthday.

A flypast for that day, over the South Foreland Lighthouse at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, was cancelled because of bad weather but rescheduled for the following day.

Vera Lynn was known as the Forces Sweetheart during the Second World War, singing for for British troops. One of her most famous songs was The White Cliffs of Dover.

Mr Elphicke had originally brought up the question of whether the Kent port would be ready for Brexit.

He said: "For centuries Prime Ministers have taken a close personal interest in the effectiveness of Dover and the Channel ports as gateways and guardians of the kingdom.

"So can I ask that Kent ports are ready for Brexit on day one - not just for Customs but that the M20 lorry park is on schedule and the A2 upgrade and Lower Thames Crossing are taken forward."

Mrs May replied: "This is an important issue of transport links in Kent.

"It's one we have discussed on a number occasions and one I have discussed with other Kent MPs.

"In addition to the M20 lorry park, the Department for Transport is fully committed to delivering a long term solution as quickly as possible.



Prime minister Theresa May responded to Dover MP Charlie Elphicke's invitation to wish Dame Vera Lynn well

Pictures: Alan Langley FM4414809/Charlie Elphicke/Terry Scott



**'It's right that we should recognise the service that she gave to this country'**

"It is currently considering findings of the Lower Thames Crossing consultation and Highways England will be doing more detailed work on the A2.

"The Home Office will be looking very closely at what measures need to be in place for Brexit for those coming across the border into Dover."



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