

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

18 June 2020

TRIBUTE TO DAME VERA LYNN

The Mayor and Councillors of Burgess Hill Town Council were saddened to learn of the passing of Dame Vera Lynn earlier today. This national icon touched the lives of millions the world over, not only as the Forces' sweetheart but as a champion for children and the arts.

Dame Vera kindly agreed to be a patron for the proposed Beehive Community centre and fully supported the council's efforts to establish this venue to promote theatre and the arts. Her involvement in the local community saw her attending events such as the town's Millennium Tea Dance for older residents making them very memorable occasions. She charmed everyone who met her, particularly the veterans of World War 2, who never forgot her contribution during the war years.

She was a force for good not only in the local community but nationally and will be remembered and appreciated for decades to come. Paying tribute, Council Leader Robert Eggleston said, "Dame Vera was the voice of hope through some of the darkest days in our nation's history and retained that same spirit of hopefulness

throughout her life. She committed much of her later life to her charity work and was a true champion for children and the arts”.

Our sympathy and condolences are with her family who we hope will reflect with pride on a mother who lived her life to uplift and benefit others.

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