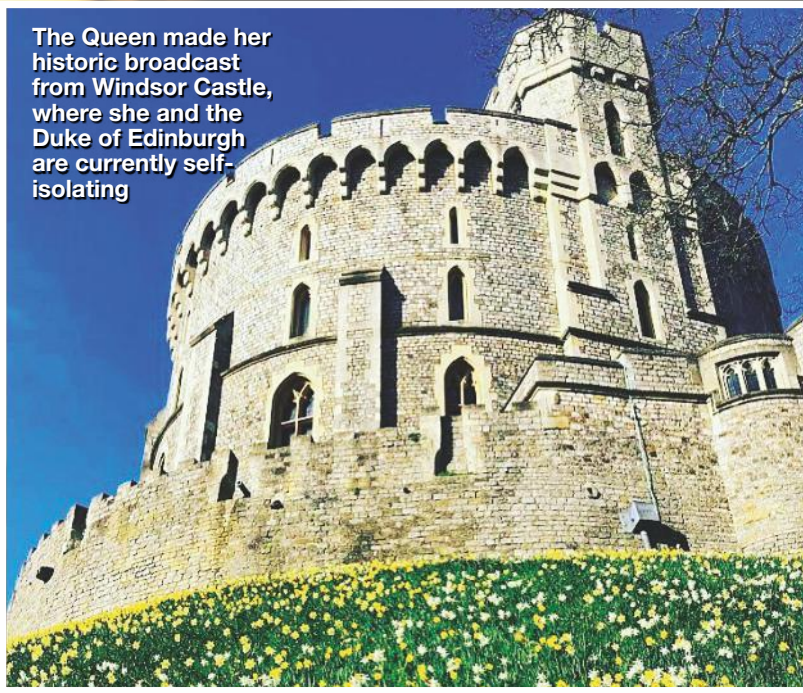


The Queen made her historic broadcast from Windsor Castle, where she and the Duke of Edinburgh are currently self-isolating



OFFERING COMFORT AND HOPE THE QUEEN

BOOSTS MORALE IN A RARE AND ROUSING SPEECH AS SHE ADDRESSES THE NATION

'We will be with our friends and our families again. We will meet again'

The Queen's speech attracted an audience of more than 24m viewers across the UK, as the nation looked to their monarch for support in this "challenging time" and welcomed her words of comfort and hope.

Her Majesty gave a rare and rousing address to audiences around the world, broadcasting to 50 Commonwealth countries and boosting morale with her historic broadcast.

Speaking from the White Drawing Room at Windsor Castle – where the 93-year-old and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh are currently isolating – the Queen praised people for "coming together to help others" and thanked NHS staff, care workers and other essential personnel fighting on the front line for their continued efforts. The Queen called on her country to act nobly during this "different" challenge, championing typically British qualities of "self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling" to see the nation through.

'WE WILL MEET AGAIN'

Invoking the poignant words of the legendary Second World War-era song *We'll Meet Again*, made famous by Dame Vera Lynn, the Queen ended her address with the hope of what lies ahead: "We will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

Dame Vera, 103, praised the Queen for sharing the moving words to the 1939 song that gave hope to wartime Britain. She said: "I watched the speech, which was wonderful, but I



The Queen's message of hope to the nation lights up a 146ft digital billboard on London's Piccadilly Circus (inset left)

THE QUEEN'S ADDRESS IN FULL

I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time. A time of disruption in the life of our country: a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all.

I want to thank everyone on the NHS front line, as well as care workers and those carrying out essential roles, who selflessly continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of us all. I am sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times.

I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones. Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it.

I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded

to this challenge. And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any. That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet, good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country.

The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

The moments when the United Kingdom has come together to applaud its care and essential workers will be remembered as an expression of our national spirit; and its symbol will be the rainbows drawn by children.

Across the Commonwealth and around the world, we have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort.

And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths – and of none – are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and

reflect, in prayer or meditation.

It reminds me of the very first broadcast I made, in 1940, helped by my sister. We, as children, spoke from here at Windsor to children who had been evacuated from their homes and sent away for their own safety.

Today, once again, many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones. But now, as then, we know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do.

While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavour, using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal. We will succeed – and that success will belong to every one of us.

We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.

But for now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all.

**'The pride in who
we are is not a part
of our past, it
defines our present
and our future'**

The Queen moved many to tears last week with her supportive and inspiring message, speaking to the nation in only her fifth public address in times of crisis during her 68-year reign




1940 PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S FIRST SPEECH

Radio days: The future Queen (above with her sister Princess Margaret) addresses child evacuees during the Blitz; (below right) speaks to the Commonwealth from South Africa in 1947 on her 21st birthday, when she famously declared that her whole life "shall be devoted to your service"; gives her first Christmas message from Sandringham as Queen (below); and releases a heartfelt message (right) last week for World Health Day



1952 FIRST CHRISTMAS MESSAGE


 WINDSOR CASTLE

On the occasion of World Health Day, I want to thank all those working in the healthcare profession for your selfless commitment and diligence as you undertake vitally important roles to protect and improve the health and well-being of people across the Commonwealth, and around the world.

In testing times, we often observe that the best of the human spirit comes to the fore; the dedication to service of countless nurses, midwives and other health workers, in these most challenging of circumstances, is an example to us all.

My family and I send our enduring appreciation and good wishes.



'In testing times, we often observe that the best of the human spirit comes to the fore'

didn't know she was going to finish with the words 'we will meet again'.

"I have met the Queen on a number of occasions. You have to have something and someone we can look up to and rely on in times of trouble – and Her Majesty is that person."

Following the address Dame Vera and popular soprano Katherine Jenkins released a version of *We'll Meet Again* with all the proceeds going to NHS Charities Together.

The Queen's address, filmed by a single cameraman in protective equipment, marks only the fourth of her reign in times of crisis.

While British audiences are accustomed to her Christmas Day message – her first as Queen was in 1952 – Her Majesty has additionally addressed the nation during key historical events. She also gave a celebratory televised address for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

The first time she addressed the nation in a time of crisis was in 1991, which saw her record a brief broadcast during the First Gulf War, when allied troops tackled Iraqi forces in occupied Kuwait.

Her second speech followed six years later, acknowledging the public's shared grief on the eve of Diana, Princess of Wales's funeral.

In 2002, she returned to the nation's screens to commemorate the passing of the Queen Mother.

Yet it was her first broadcast in 1940 with her sister Princess Margaret that she recalled in her latest message. Speaking from Windsor, the then 14-year-old Princess Elizabeth addressed children who had been evacuated from their homes during the Second World War.

Touching once more on a time when "many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones", the Queen shared her condolences to family members currently living apart, but said it was "the right thing to do".

Stressing the need for solidarity, her message was clear: "If we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it."

'AN EXAMPLE TO US ALL'

Last Tuesday, the Queen marked World Health Day by thanking healthcare workers in a heartfelt new message released on the royal family's social media accounts.

In the statement, she said: "In testing times, we often observe that the best of the human spirit comes to the fore. My family and I send our enduring appreciation and good wishes." **H**

REPORT: EMILY STEDMAN

The Queen urges people to unite and pray for the armed forces' success during the Gulf War and expresses her hopes for "a just and lasting peace"



1991 GULF WAR



On the eve of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Queen speaks "from the heart" as "your Queen and as a grandmother"

1997 FUNERAL OF DIANA

The mourning Queen thanks her country for the support, love and honour shown to the Queen Mother after her death at 101: "She had an infectious zest for living, and this remained with her until the very end"



2002 DEATH OF THE QUEEN MOTHER

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, PA PHOTOS, REX FEATURES