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# The Cowbridge

# GEM

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/09 - 43,445 (GEM Series). Audited by Grinter Johnson Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, MEYRICK! 100 years old and he is 'still as sharp as a knife'

by TIM CHAPMAN

DOZENS of people visited Longmeadow Court sheltered housing in Cowbridge on Monday, April 19 to wish old soldier Meyrick O'Connor a very happy 100th birthday.

Despite his advanced age, Meyrick remains very active, with a daily trip on his zimmer frame to his favourite haunt, The Bear Hotel, where he is always welcomed warmly.

He told The GEM: "I had my first pint with my father there when I was 14, and I've been a regular ever since."

Meyrick was born on April 19, 1910 to Cornelius O'Connor and Elizabeth Jane O'Connor (nee Thomas) and was one of 12 children - there were eight brothers and four sisters.

He said: "I was born in Bridgend and grew up at Wolf House Farm, Llyswoyney. I can still



**LEFT:** Still going strong - Meyrick celebrates his 100th birthday with Cora Gould of the Angels care team.

two years ago.

Family and friends gathered to wish Meyrick a happy birthday, and he was given a telegram from the Queen.

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Emlyn Williams, and the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, were also on hand to wish Meyrick 'many happy returns' for the day.

Linda Flanagan, the sheltered housing warden, said: "We've never had anything as big as this at Longmeadow Court sheltered housing. Julian Hitchcock of The Bear Hotel gave a speech of congratulation to Meyrick, everyone sang 'Happy Birthday', and we drank a toast to him."

Meyrick attributes part of the reason for his longevity to the fact that no woman could ever pin him down to getting married!

His nephew, Dr Monty Edwards, who had travelled from the Gower for the special birthday celebration, told The GEM: "He has still got a wonderful memory and is as sharp as a knife!"

remember my first day at the local school!

"My father, who was originally from Waterford, was a cattle dealer who used to travel a lot to Ireland. After fin-

ishing school, I became a farm worker."

Meyrick served with the Signals during the Second World War, and demonstrated his mischievous side as he recalled his time abroad.

"I served in Egypt and Italy, and knew General Montgomery - he used to clean my boots!

"While I was in Egypt I even got a chance to climb the pyramids."

Meyrick is the last survivor of the 12 siblings - his sister Blanche died

ON Wednesday white vapour crossed the bl

Vale as air traffic to normal, but as darkness fell flying ban stopped aviation history at Cardiff Air

A British Air flight, bearing Willie Walsh, was from Heathrow into the Atlantic Vale - the only plane in UK airspace at the time. After a six-hour restrictions were National Air Traffic 10pm on Tuesday were being advised lines for information struggled to get b

The frustration

## Am fun Lor

LOCAL resident Amy Williams gearing up to the Virgin London Marathon this Sunday to help raise funds for disability charity Livability.

Amy (23), who family home is in village of Llandochy just outside Cowbridge, jumped at the chance to support a cause



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