

## HAPPY 111TH BIRTHDAY *by Derek Leone*

Henry Allingham attained the grand age of 111 on 6th June. An invitation to join the celebration from the Personal Assistant to The Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command was extended to Michael Calvey, Chairman of The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled, together with Derek Leone. They attended the celebration at the Queen's Hotel in Southsea.

Henry Allingham, who a few days later joined other war veterans at the annual Worthing outing organised by the LTBAWD, was born on 6th June 1896 in Clapton, East London. He is the oldest survivor of the First World War and also The Battle of Jutland. On leaving school, he worked as an instrument maker for various companies and then in 1915 joined The Royal Naval Air Service. At the end of the War, he returned to engineering for a living. It was during the Second World War that Henry was involved in devising a device to neutralise magnetic mines. He was married to Dorothy and they had two daughters. His extended family now lives in America.

The celebration at Southsea, Portsmouth included a special lunch on board HMS Victory and a flypast of Tornados of 111 Squadron RAF and the historic flight of The Royal Navy. Celebrations continued at the Queen's Hotel and included family and friends, as well as members of The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, as well as pilots and crews from Yeovil ton who Henry had visited previously, as well as pilots and crews from the Royal Air Force who have taken Henry to France for the Remembrance Day Service.

Henry blew out the candles on his large birthday cake, although this was three candles and not 111! The Chairman and I were honoured to have been invited to the birthday celebrations of a gentleman of his age.



Henry enjoying the Worthing outing in 2006.

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The Hon. President, Hon. Chairman and Committee would be deeply grateful and look forward to seeing you on the day

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