

Comments from the floor: Training must be available for those over 20 years old if we are to make the best of our existing workforce. At present the Government concentrates all resources on those under 20 years of age.

We should make the best of what we have: Victorian and older buildings in town centre, green spaces and surrounding hills, River Dour, neighbouring areas of outstanding natural beauty, the sea and the historical buildings and sites.

The lorry park, an idea floated by DHB was the subject of a leading article in the Dover Express of 10th November. This was seen as a way of dealing with the shortage of space in the docks and the traffic jams on the A20. Mike Weston was in favour - the park is necessary to safeguard the position of the port and hence to conserve jobs. The park must be close to Dover so that shipping operators can call off vehicles to quickly load ships. The dock area is sometimes insufficient to contain the lorry demand. The parking space required must be adequate to deal with the worst conditions caused by bad weather or strikes in France.

Views against: Destruction of natural habitats. Alternatives proposed were a widening to A20 with a 3rd lane for stacking, using the railway sidings above Shakespeare Beach together with the unused Hoverport and having a parking area further away i.e. Ashford or Folkestone. Terry Croft asked, why do it at all? We are sending our manufacturing jobs to Poland.

Bleriot Memorial

Reported by Sheila R Cope

Those who lived in Dover in the 1950's and early 60's may remember a Sunday afternoon stroll which took one up the East Cliff path, across the parade ground on Northfall Meadow, past the Bleriot memorial and the north walls of the Castle, to the summit of Castle Hill with the choice of returning to the town either via the zig-zag path to Laureston Place or through

Connaught Park. Now, I understand, the middle section of this walk requires the utmost determination in order to complete it. Scrub encroachment, described by Kirk Alexander at our meeting in January 2004, has all but enveloped the Bleriot Memorial. We understand that Dover District Council has kept the immediate area clear but may not continue to do so. Indeed visitors who



Bleriot's landing at Dover 1909



Bleriot's landing memorial 1909

can no longer envisage a grassy meadow must wonder how such a small frail aircraft could have landed amidst all those trees.

2009 marks the centenary of Louis Bleriot's first flight across the Channel in a manned aircraft. Now that the Langdon Cliffs area is so popular and "Bleriot" is en route for many tourists it is surely time to try to improve the status and accessibility of this historic but neglected memorial. Initial enquiries indicate that the land is the



Bleriot's route across the Channel 1909

responsibility of English Heritage. The Society's committee will attempt to further Bleriot's cause and would welcome any practical help and suggestions.

Pencester Gardens Bandstand

Reported by Adeline Riedy

The Committee had a discussion on what the Members would like them to suggest to Dover Town Council regarding the future of the Bandstand.

At the General Meeting a short history informed the meeting that the Town Council had the Bandstand built in 1999, as a Millennium Project, at the cost of £80,000 pounds. It was not the preferred site, but after consultation with the police and security *blind spots* were identified which resulted in the decision to build it in the position where we see it today. At the time Granville Gardens was also a preferred site, but Dover District Council would not give permission to release the land.

The Bandstand is now in need of repainting and the costing has been approved by the Town Council for the current financial year. The Dover Society has an interest by having previously purchased two flagstones, on the present

site at a cost of £290, with the two historic events commemorated being 1066, the Norman Invasion and 1520, Henry VIII and the Cloth of Gold. St Mary's School have also placed a *Time Capsule* in the base of the Bandstand.

It is not possible to move the Stand as a complete unit as the base is mainly brick. It would therefore be cheaper to leave the present one in position and built a new one *IF* the District Council could be

