



*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



persuaded to release the land although it could not even be considered before the 2007/8 financial year. The downside would be that the town would have the expense of maintaining both bandstands. It was felt by members the bandstand was VERY UNDERUSED in its present position and that the Granville Gardens site would give many people the opportunity to listen to music in a more attractive setting with seating and parking available on the seafront. This is also the area where

Dover originally had a fine bandstand. After Members discussion time the vote was as follows:

Leave on present site	15 votes
Investigate moving it to Granville Gardens with a request to DHB to provide finance as a celebration of their Anniversary in 2006	17 votes
Move to a different site on the seafront	2 votes

## Dover Pride

*Reported by Jack Woolford*

Chief Executive Nadeem Aziz says: "Dover Pride has commissioned regeneration consultants, Urban Practitioners, to produce a Master plan for Dover Town. The Dover Pride initiative seeks to promote an integrated approach to regeneration in Dover combining the renewal of the local economy, support for the community, improvements to the infrastructure of the town and enhancement of the local economy. Dover Pride consists of a partnership between Kent County Council, Dover District Council, South East Economic Development Association (SEEDA), Dover Harbour Board, Government Office for the South East (GOSE), East Kent Partnership, Kent and Medway LSC, Business Link Kent and representatives of the local business community.

The Master plan will undertake options and appraisal work on a series of areas within the urban area of Dover. The work will develop the recommendations of Dover Pride Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan (Feb 2005) and will also play a role in assisting the preparation of the Dover Area Action Plan which forms part of the Dover District Council's Local Development Framework ..."

This is in addition to the Local Development Framework (10,000-20,000 more houses for Dover), which replaces

the former Dover Local Plan, the Kent and Medway Structure Plan, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's South East Plan, and its accompanying Kent and Medway proposed amendments, to all of which the Dover Society has responded. We have uniformly asserted that the key to the replacement of Dover's lost industries and garrisons, etc, etc, is connection to the High Speed Rail Link, the restoration of the rail-freight link to the Western Docks, the dualling of the A2 from Lydden, the improvement of the stupid Townwall Street deadlock and the upgrading of Dover Priory. Without all these we shall not get commuters and tourists from London or developers to complete the uptake of the White Cliffs Business Park Phase I in addition to the White Cliffs Business Park Phase II. Dover's prime need is JOBS. Jobs by the thousand will fill Dover's many empty houses (and even justify building new ones), improve local shopping, stimulate educational improvement, promote the re-development of Buckland Paper Mill and even necessitate a new hospital. The employment horse should lead the housing cart.

Dover District Council has hired many consultants in the past. It will be more than interesting to see how Urban Practitioners compare. We shall, of course, be on hand to help.