

November the British and French forces had penetrated only 6 miles into German-occupied territory. The Anglo-French armies failed to capture Péronne and were still 3 miles from Bapaume, where the German armies maintained their positions over the winter.



Early Tank on the Somme 1916

Notable for the importance of air power and the first use of the tank the battle remains controversial over its necessity, significance and effect.

The dreadful irony of the situation would be that within 14 months the ground won

at such great cost to the British Army in 1916 would be swept back under control of the German Army in the Spring Offensive of March and April 1918.

Refurbishment Committee

Jeremy Cope

We continue to lobby and work for improvements to standards of cleanliness and of reduction of litter in our town. It is not easy to affect standards which can only come from how all who live in Dover conduct themselves. One area that has improved is the verges alongside the A2 and the A20 roads. Not, I fear, because car and lorry drivers have improved their behaviour but simply that those responsible have sorted matters. A thank you to Alan Sencicle for his lobbying.

The planters in the middle of town have been really very good this year. One area that Sylvie Parsons continues to lobby about is the care and maintenance of the topiary in the Market Square which could do with some TLC.

Jenny Olpin and John Cotton continue with their liaison with the police through their regular meetings. They take forward members' concerns so that if you have any matters you feel are appropriate do please let Jenny know tel: 01304 825011 or jenny.olpin@uwclub.net

Other matters

I understand that we can still keep our old fashioned street lampposts if they need to be converted to use LED lighting. Our particular concerns are the lampposts in, for example, Castle Street. Jenny and Mike Weston continue to work at getting signs for tourist use on the paths that include the Bleriot Memorial and Langdon Cliffs.

If our members have concerns on any of the matters covered by the committee do please let me know on 01304 211348