

where he suffered a nervous breakdown and was discharged in February 1917. Following his return to England he made a good recovery and just five weeks before the accident he started work as a tram driver having never driven a tram before. It became clear that he had made a mistake by not switching the engine off at the appropriate place and time and, due to his lack of experience, was unable to rectify the situation.

Nine members of the Bissenden family came from all over England for the centenary presentation including Albert Bissenden's grandsons David and Alan. Following the

presentations the family members, accompanied by the Chairman of the Dover Society – Derek Leach and Lorraine Sencicle – the Dover Historian gathered at the place where the accident occurred. There, beneath the Dover Society plaque, after a short but moving speech given by David the two brothers laid a bouquet in memory of those killed and injured that day 100 years ago.

Although seating on tram 20 was for 48 passengers on the day of the accident it was evident that the tram was seriously overloaded, the number of passengers given as being 70, a factor which exacerbated the number of casualties.

Refurbishment Committee

Jeremy Cope

Matters with which we have been concerned included:-

Old St James' Church - the tidy ruin. Not so tidy or cared for but we understand this is now on DDC's to do list. We were grateful for DDC's Mandy Pile organising the clearance of rubbish from the William Muge site in Harold Street although it now requires attention again Jim Pople is prompting. We are very pleased that the A roads roadside litter is much reduced - thanks to DDC. The lesson to all of us is if there are litter problems do contact DDC - they can hardly sort things out if they do not know about them.

Jenny Olpin and Mike Weston had a positive meeting with KCC Rights of Way and Pam Brivio (DTC and Walkers are Welcome) to press the case of improvements to the walk from the Bleriot Memorial to the Cliff Path. The main problem is the danger of walkers using Upper Road which has fast cars aplenty and virtually no safe roadside paths - a recipe for an accident. A safe way already exists but

this needs to be properly signposted and hopefully we will make progress. Mike also prepared a plan of a walk (including the Bleriot / cliff section) which would encircle the Castle. This could include the "Zig Zag" with information boards to record matters of historical and other interest. Again this was positively received but now begins the work.

The Discovery Centre has had an unloved look of recent times but is undergoing improvements. One effect has been a reduction in the number of adult education courses but KCC tell us that once the improvements are in place the shortage will be rectified. To be monitored.

Jenny and John Cotton regularly meet with the local Chief Inspector of Police - any problems please contact Jenny - details on the front inside cover.

Have we any volunteers for the committee? You can contact me - again details on the front inside cover.