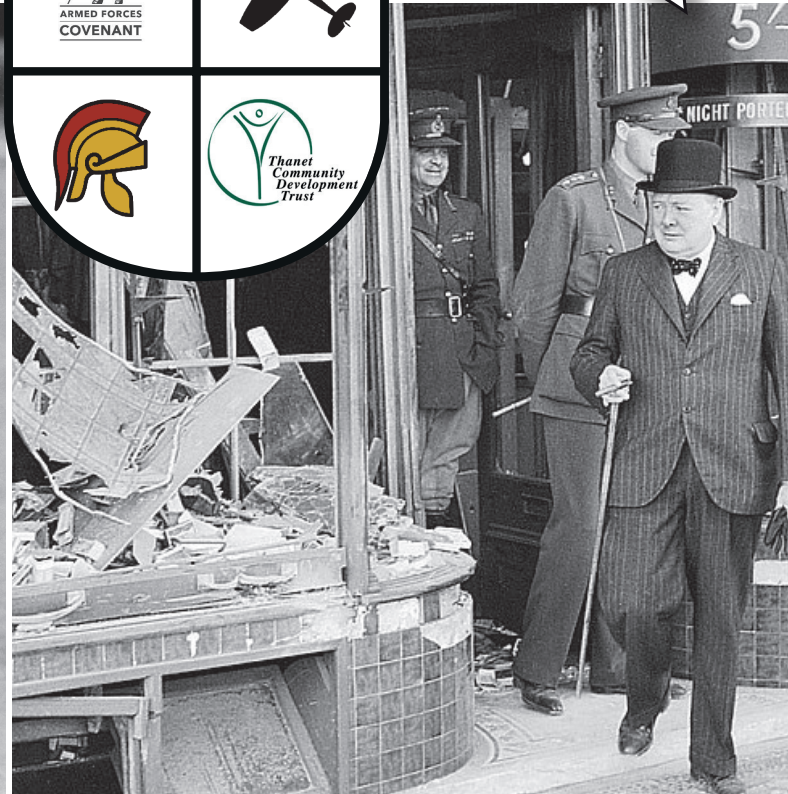




RAMSGATE MILITARY & HERITAGE TRAIL

 <p>ARMED FORCES COVENANT</p>	
	 <p>Thanet Community Development Trust</p>





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the support of so many different people and organisations, this Military and Heritage Walking Trail of Ramsgate would not have been possible. We give our sincere thanks to:



The Armed Forces Covenant for funding this project and making it all possible;
And to their local officer, Tracy Evans, for her guidance in the early phases of the project;

Our very many volunteers, whom provided countless hours of dedicated effort to researching, writing, designing and helping with the creation of the Trail.

Ralph Hoult
Zoe McCready
Vanessa Kemp
Maria Brown
Jenny Humphries

Wendy Morris
Jayne Evelyn
Kyel Martin
Simon Kirby
Terri Greaves

Thanks to Nick Dermott and Edwina Crowley, both of Thanet District Council, for their help and advice throughout the project.

A very warm thank you also goes to Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School for their students' research into Chatham House School during World War One, with special thanks to Charlie, Gayain, and Liam whom gave a wonderful presentation of their findings. Thank you also to their teacher, Mick Moody, for his support for the students.

Thanks also go to Thanet District Council and all the owners, managers and stewards of the buildings whom gave permission for the blue plaques to be on their property;

Alongside the support of the Armed Forces Covenant, Persimmon Homes South East very generously provided funding towards another plaque and an exhibition of the work produced by our volunteers and the WHSmith Foundation were kind enough to provide funding towards stationery costs.

And thank you to anyone we may have forgotten to mention!

FOREWORD

Ramsgate is a town rich in heritage, with an amazing history having played a large part in our nation's past. This booklet seeks to bring that heritage to life by walking you through history and allowing you to see and feel some of the events of Ramsgate's past. The trail was the idea of Andrew Morris, the Heritage Manager at Thanet Community Development Trust (TCDT). This small local charity set about fundraising for the project (see the Acknowledgement's Section for a list of supporters) and over two years – and with a little help from their friends – they have brought this proud town's military heritage to life. I love Ramsgate, I especially love its history, and I'm very proud to put my name to this project.

Ramsgate's documented history started over 2000 years ago, when Julius Caesar landed at Ebbsfleet in 54BC, where he built his fort which was recently rediscovered. Later, in AD 449 we had the Saxons, when Hengist & Horsa with 40 ships came to our aid. 1,500 years later, the Viking ship Hugin was rowed across the North Sea in celebration of their visit and now sits in Pegwell Bay, not far from the original landing site.

In AD597 we had the arrival of Saint Augustine, who went on to Canterbury to convert England to Christianity. During the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815), Ramsgate was the main embarkation & disembarkation port for troops.

This is a trail, supported by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, which has our local military history at its heart. For example, very few people realise that during World War One (1914-1918), Ramsgate was listed as the most bombed seaside town in the UK. These were terrifying times when Zeppelins filled the sky raining bombs down onto the people below.

Twenty years after the end of the war to end all wars, and due mainly to the suffering endured during the Great War, the then Mayor, Councillor ABC Kemp approached the Government in 1938 three times to get permission to build air raid shelters for the whole population of Ramsgate. The government of the day insisted that there was not going to be a war, however, in the end "ABC" got his permission to build. Calling on East Kent's proud coal mining history it took the Kentish Miners just nine months to build three and a half miles of tunnels all over Ramsgate saving thousands of lives over the next 6 years of bombing and blitzkrieg.

Please, dip in and out of the booklet and follow the trail wherever it leads you. Enjoy.

Ralph Hoult OBE
Honorary Freeman of Ramsgate
AKA "Mr. Ramsgate"

CONTENTS

PAGE 5	About the Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail
PAGE 7	West Cliff
PAGE 10	Regency Ramsgate
PAGE 16	Town Centre
PAGE 25	East Cliff
PAGE 40	Harbour
PAGE 48	West Cliff Return
PAGE 52	Bonus Sites
PAGE 56	About Thanet Community Development Trust

ABOUT THE RAMSGATE MILITARY & HERITAGE TRAIL

Welcome to the Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail. We hope you have a great time looking around the town and learn plenty of new and interesting things.

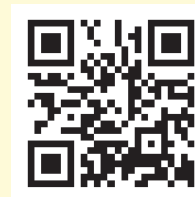
The Trail is supported by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund, having provided the money to make this possible.

Through this Trail, we will showcase some of the most interesting, as well as the lesser well-known, sites of historic importance. By bringing these areas to life, we hope both locals and visitors will appreciate the hidden significance of the area in which they're standing.

Through this booklet, the Blue Plaques, and the website, you will find out all about Ramsgate's past and present. The full walk is a loop, starting and ending at the same spot; allow for a full day to complete this. Otherwise, it has been broken down into smaller sections, each one focusing on a particular geographical district of Ramsgate. These sections are one-way routes, so you will need to find your way back, but are shorter and last between 30 minutes and two hours.

While every effort has been made to credit photographers where necessary, it is believed that the photographs and pictures used are out of copyright. If you know the copyright owner of any pictures used, do get in touch so we can correctly credit them.

Be sure to visit our website, which contains many additional sites and links to other walks around the area. It also has free, educational fun-packs for schools and families to enjoy. Either type www.ramsgatetrail.co.uk into your browser, or use a QR reader to scan the QR code.



USING THIS BOOKLET

There is a full map located in the centre of the booklet, showing the full route, with all of the blue plaques highlighted, but you will also find mini-maps at the start of each walk. To help you to choose which walk to follow these pages also show the length of that walk, whether there are any stairs or other accessibility issues, the route to take, and the locations of the blue plaques. We have also tried to point out some of the local points of interest you'll find along the way such as cafes and pubs. At the time of writing, any establishments mentioned are open for business and are waiting to offer you a typically warm Ramsgate welcome.

Each walk has been colour-coded, so you can find the walk you want by looking at the page edges.

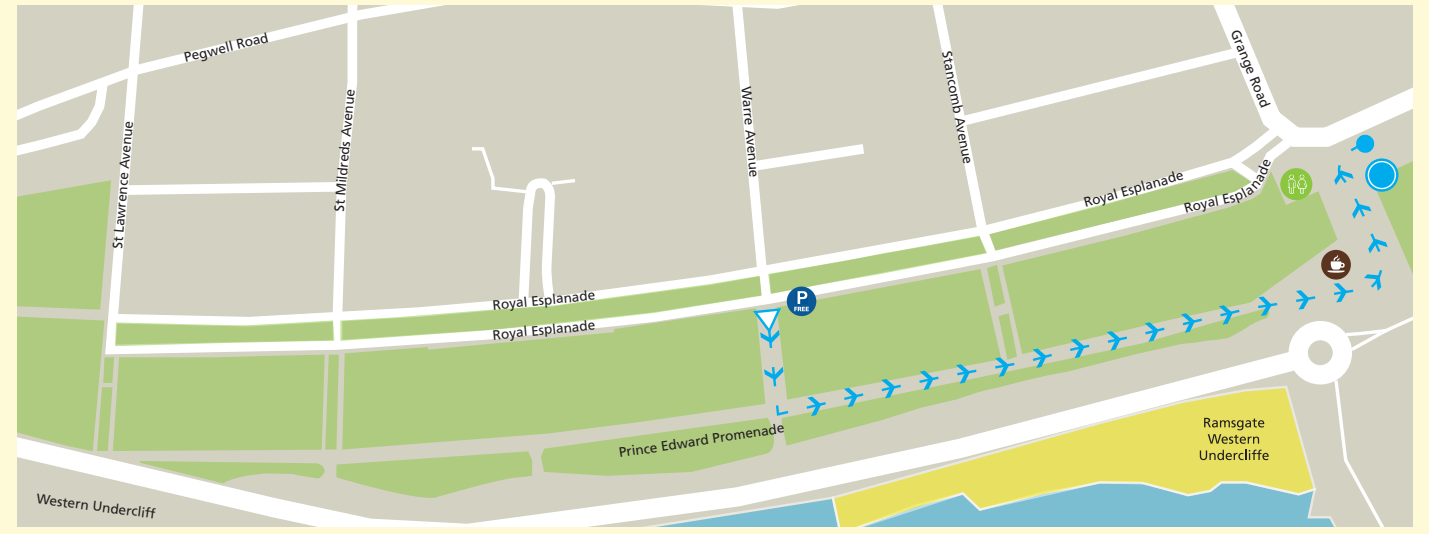
While every effort has been made to credit photographers where necessary, it is believed that the photographs and pictures used are out of copyright. If you know the copyright owner of any pictures used, do get in touch so we can correctly credit them.

If you don't have time to do the whole walk and want certain amenities along the route, have a look at the map pages of each walk, as they will show which amenities are available and the accessibility of each walk. Where a walk is both accessible and has stairs, it means there is an alternative route available to avoid the steps. Each walk has the approximate distance and time to allow in order to see all that walk has to offer.

KEY

	BLUE PLAQUE		FREE PARKING
	WC		PAY & DISPLAY PARKING
	RESTAURANT/CAFÉ		APPROX. WALKING TIME
	ACCESSIBLE ROUTE		APPROX. WALKING DISTANCE
	STAIRS ALONG ROUTE		

WEST CLIFF WALK (WALK 1)



Royal Esplanade • Shrine of St. Augustine and The Grange

KEY

	BLUE PLAQUE		FREE PARKING
	WC		10 MINS
	RESTAURANT/CAFÉ		0.3 MILE
	ACCESSIBLE ROUTE		



Floral archway constructed for the Duke's arrival and opening of the new promenade in 1926. The archway was built by G. J. Attwood & Co. Contractors of Ramsgate and Broadstairs, their phone number was 10.

ROYAL ESPLANADE

The Royal Esplanade was opened by the Duke of Cornwall in 1926 (future Edward VIII and then Duke of Windsor). It stretches from Government Acre, by the West Cliff Lift, down to the recreation park. The entire West Cliff, including the esplanade area, was part of the St. Laurence parish and was once separate from Ramsgate.

Government Acre is an area of grass used mainly for events and fairs. The original government stone boundary markers can be seen along the edges of the grass.

Walking from Government Acre, go towards the town centre, keeping the main road to your left and St. Augustine's to your right. Walk down St. Augustine's Road to see the first blue plaque on the Trail.

SHRINE OF ST AUGUSTINE'S AND THE GRANGE



Brilliant 19C architect and designer Augustus Pugin (1812-1852) whose iconic works include 'Big Ben' and the magnificent interiors of the Houses of Parliament, purchased land west of Ramsgate's Royal Harbour on the clifftop promenade. He then surprised Regency Ramsgate and built a large detached Gothic house, the Grange. In 1844 he moved his family down from London to take up permanent residence here, intending to live a healthier life working from his seaside home. Next door he built his ideal Gothic church to commemorate the nearby landing in 597AD of his name saint and England's Christian Apostle, Augustine. Both house and church were designed and funded entirely by Pugin. Man of action and vision, he generously gifted St Augustine's to the Catholic community for generations past, present and future.

Pugin's Ramsgate house and church, his passionate, illustrated books, his major contribution to the Palace of Westminster and the successful exposure of his extensive Gothic designs at the 1851 Great Exhibition,

all rapidly and radically influenced architecture in the growing towns and cities of late 19C England. Gothic became the dominant style of the Victorian Age, shaping much of the nation's vast new build. Pugin's prominent cornerstone position on London's Albert Memorial testifies to his leading role in this Victorian Gothic Revival.

The Grange and St Augustine's Church are Grade One Listed and, after almost two centuries of continuous use, have recently undergone substantial restoration and development. Renovated and maintained by Landmark Trust, the Grange is rented out for short stays to those eager to experience Pugin's brilliantly designed and crafted home. Weekly guided tours include his magnificent entrance hall, ground floor living and work rooms. Twice yearly during UK Heritage Open Weekends the whole property can be viewed.

Pugin's exquisite church has been painstakingly restored to former glory, thanks to £1.2 million Heritage Lottery Funding, plus private and

public sponsorship. Lighting and heating have been upgraded. Recent acquisition of a rare, authenticated relic of Saint Augustine, has made it a Shrine and important pilgrimage site. Also, the burial place of Pugin and his family, visitors come to honour England's leading 19C Gothic architect and designer. The National Pugin Centre has been set up in the north east wing and state-of-the-art installations tell the histories of England's early Christian evangelisation and Pugin.

Now a world-class UK Heritage destination for adults, seniors, families and organised groups, St Augustine's has outstanding new facilities: multi-purpose entrance hall with back-lit glass wall panels, film screen and multimedia equipment; exhibition display cabinets; audio guided tours; family trails; varied year-long programme of special events, including St Augustine's and Pugin's Festivals in May and September respectively; giant statue of Augustine, carved in oak and robed in his Archbishop's vestments; souvenir shop; disabled facilities; Pugin archives; welcome desk with trained local volunteers to assist visitors. Open seven days a week from 10am to 4pm. Free entrance.

For further information:

Visit www.augustine-pugin.org.uk & www.landmarktrust.org.uk

Email office@augustineshrine.co.uk for guided tours of St Augustine's. For the Grange, call **01628 825925** or email bookings@landmarktrust.org.uk

REGENCY RAMSGATE (WALK 2)



Spencer Square (plaque can be found on the Coffee Hut) • Addington Street (plaque can be found on the Falstaff Hotel) • Tidal Ball • Foy Boat • Liverpool Lawn (plaque can be found on no: 18) • Cliffhouse and Westcliff Arcade

KEY



BLUE PLAQUE



PAY & DISPLAY PARKING



RESTAURANT/CAFÉ



1 HOUR



ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



1.1 MILE (1.7KM)



STAIRS ALONG ROUTE



A panoramic view of Spencer Square, taken in 1920s. The tennis and bowling greens are in the back of the gardens, whereas today they are in the front. The coffee hut is visible in the centre, surviving today.

SPENCER SQUARE

As you walk along the road past St. Augustine's and then Regency School of English, you will see tennis courts to the left. Cross the road, when clear, and you will be at Spencer Square.

Opposite the tennis courts is Royal Road, Vincent van Gogh taught at Number 6 for six months in 1876.

Initially the site of a parade ground for troops readying for deployment to fight Napoleon in the early 1800s, the square was large enough to hold both foot and mounted soldiers at the same time. It is likely the ground stretched at least as far as back of the current houses, if not farther.

The houses making up Spencer Square today are all Grade II listed and have housed many notable people, particularly van Gogh who lived at number 11 in 1876 and John Gibson Lockhart, son-in-law of Sir William Scott, lived in number 4.

In the middle of the square are Spencer Gardens, the tennis courts, and the coffee hut.

With the coffee hut to your right, walk to the far-left corner of Spencer Square, then walk along Spencer Street. On the right are a few old cottages, along Spencer Place; one of which has original fixtures on its walls.

At the end of this short road is Addington Street. To see the entire street, first walk to the left and then back up, past Spencer Street and continue to the end. See the next page for more on Addington Street.



Street celebrations after the relief of Mafeking in May 1900

● ADDINGTON STREET

Entering the road from Spencer Street, you are now stood in the centre of what was once the High Street for the West Cliff. During the 1800s, Addington Street was filled with garrison buildings and mess halls, some of which survive today as houses. With the influx of the well-to-do after the Napoleonic Wars, the street became a shopping centre, catering to all needs.

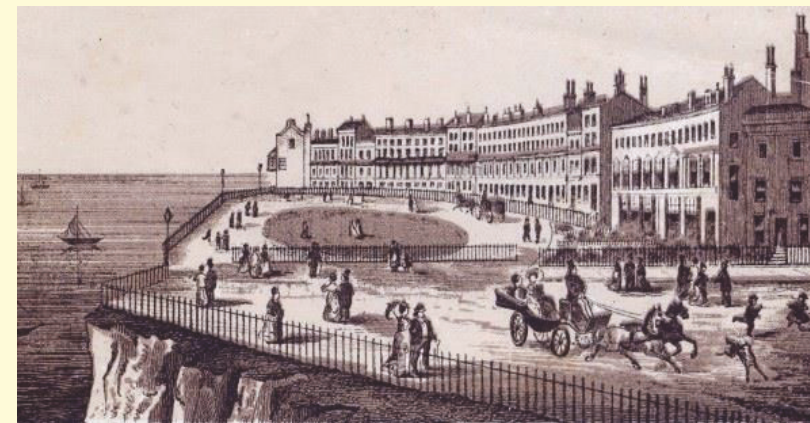
The Falstaff Inn, to the left as you came to the street, was created in c.1840s from two smaller houses, later another house was added which is now the kitchen area. It was recently refurbished, incorporating original features with modern design.

Addington Street suffered heavily during both World Wars. Many zeppelin and blitz raids resulted in the loss of large portions of the street and the deaths of many residents. During one of the many air raids, on the 20th March 1941, numbers 63 and 69 both received direct hits and were destroyed. They were among 12 buildings in the area to be demolished in this raid. George Crompton and Bernard Woodfield both died in this raid, survived by their wives. If you walk towards the sea, you will notice a series of new houses on either side of the road, built in-keeping with the rest. A reminder of what was lost during the wars.

Some of the information used in this booklet has come from Thanet at War 1939-1945 by Roy Humphries (1991). A very good book with detailed lists of raids, bombings, lost houses, and deaths throughout the war. An interesting survival tip for air raids seems to have been to go shopping, as many people survived air raids while at the shops.

There is an annual Addington Street Revival Fair every September. A fair celebrating everything Addington Street has to offer, while displaying its history and heritage.

It has also been, and still is, the site of many street parties – from the relief of Mafeking during the Second Boer War, the end of World War Two, and Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.



NELSON CRESCENT

Turn left as you leave Addington Street at the sea end. Built in the early 1800s, the houses of Nelson Crescent, like Wellington Crescent on the East Cliff, have fine Chinese Pagoda-style canopied balconies and intricately designed ironwork railings and supports. The novelist Wilkie Collins stayed at number 14 in the 1870s and Alfred Luck lived at number 11.

TIDAL BALL

Walking from Nelson Crescent to Sion Place, you will see the tidal ball. It was in operation until relatively recently and would have been used by sailors to determine high and low tides, based on the ball's position on the staff representing a time of day. There is speculation that the site of the tidal ball may have been a gun emplacement during war-time.



Tidal Ball as of November 2018 © TCDT

FOY BOAT

A former Tomson & Wotton House, this building has a unique name and is on a prime site overlooking the Royal Harbour. It is thought to have evolved from an old watch house dating from the early 18th century, during the Napoleonic Wars. It had a good vantage point on the cliff next to a flagstaff (now the tidal ball). The old tavern was damaged by enemy bombs in 1941. It was completely rebuilt as one of Ramsgate's few Mackeson tied houses. The name comes from the foy boats, which serviced the vessels anchored in the downs as they waited to enter the harbour. They also doubled as lifeboats in pre-R.N.L.I. days. Walk past the Foy Boat, keeping it to your right, through to Liverpool Lawn.



Liverpool Lawn's crescent terrace, looking from Sion Place. © TCDT

● LIVERPOOL LAWN

As you walk into Liverpool Lawn from Sion Place, look up and left, you will see the crest of the Earl of Liverpool above Numbers 10 & 11. Walk to the right of the street, along a narrow road devoid of cars and canopied by the trees in the lawn. The buildings here are all Grade II listed, due to their architectural interest and design.

Built between 1827-1840 in the Regency style, Liverpool Terrace (the side with the sweeping terraced houses) and Liverpool Place (the pedestrian side) joined to become Liverpool Lawn in 1867. The area was named after Robert Jenkinson, Second Earl of Liverpool. He was Prime Minister from 1812-1827. He is currently the third longest-serving Prime Minister, having served in office for 14 years 305 days.

As you come to the end of this section of Liverpool Lawn, look right and you can see Adelaide Gardens with a blue plaque above the house, opposite, for Sir William Jordan. If you look left, back along Liverpool Lawn, you will see one of the Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail plaques, above the door of Number 18. Walk towards it and then turn left.

During the Second World War, the lawn in the centre had its iron railings removed for the war effort (as happened in many places across Ramsgate and the country), the remains can still be seen along the edge of the lawn.

Leading up to the war, Liverpool Lawn was chosen as one of the locations for an entrance to the newly constructed Ramsgate Tunnels. Although sealed and covered by grass, you can still see the outline during dry periods, when the grass above browns.

For other Regency style buildings, see Paragon (West Cliff Return walk) and Wellington Crescent (East Cliff walk).

Walking back to Sion Place, keep the harbour to your right and walk down the short flight of stairs, onto West Cliff Arcade.



West Cliff Arcade, seen from Sion Place. © TCDT

An image of the original Cliff House, part of which is now the multi-storey carpark.



CLIFF HOUSE AND WEST CLIFF ARCADE

Going back to the days when Ramsgate harbour became royal, there was a great house that played a very important part in this great honour. Cliff House was a very attractive mansion situated on the rise to the West Cliff and the grounds were extensive, covering the site of the multi-storey carpark and up to Rose Hill.

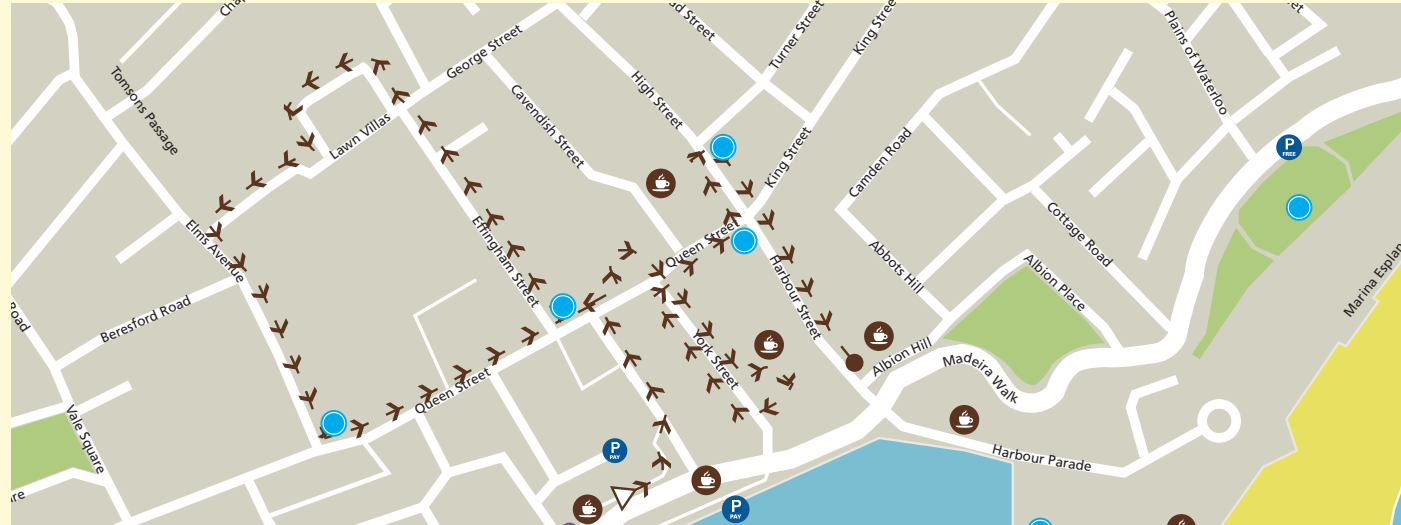
This was the home of Sir William Curtis Bart whom was a great friend of King George IV. Sir William was also known as 'Billy Biscuit' as he owned the biscuit factory which supplied the Royal Navy. This friendship included several visits by His Majesty to Cliff House in 1821 when he stayed in Ramsgate on his journeys to and from Hanover. These visits and the amazing reception His Majesty received from the people of Ramsgate convinced him to bestow the title 'Royal' onto the harbour; it is the only Royal Harbour in the United Kingdom.

The building was later used as the site of the local Law Courts and a Mother Care Clinic. As mentioned, the site was completely demolished and is now the Multi-Storey Car Park and the site of the Royal Temple Yacht Club.

As you walk past the current Cliff House, with its own blue plaque to Sir William Curtis, keep it on your left and the harbour to your right, walk down the stairs and you will find West Cliff Arcade, a quaint alley filled with restaurants overlooking the harbour. A great place for lunch or a quick rest-stop. Alternatively, avoiding the stairs, turn back and walk along Nelson Crescent, keeping left, then walk down Royal Parade, turn left and left again to reach West Cliff Arcade.

From here, turn left onto Leopold Street, walking until you turn the corner and Effingham Street is to the right, bracketed by estate agents.

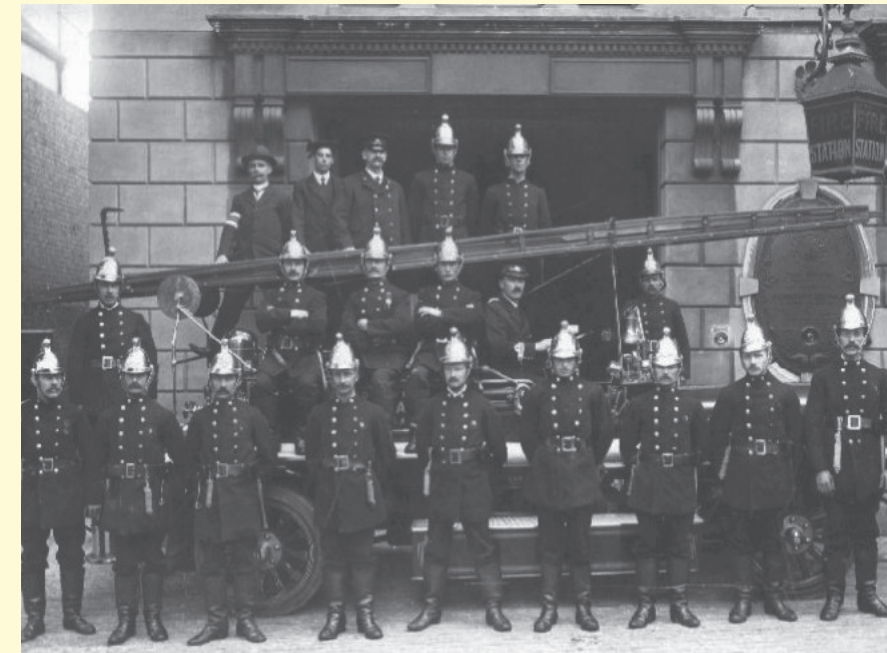
TOWN CENTRE (WALK 3)



Effingham Street (plaque can be found at the bottom of Effingham Street, on Miles & Barr Lettings) • Guildford Lawn • Ramsgate Library • Clarendon School • Tomson's Passage • Tomson & Wotton Site (plaque can be found on the wall facing Elm Street and Queen Street) • Vye & Son Site • Queen's Cottage • York Street • The First Zeppelin Raid and The Bull & George Hotel (plaque can be found on Holland & Barrett) • Town Hall Site (plaque can be found on the Halifax building)

KEY

- BLUE PLAQUE
- WC
- RESTAURANT/CAFÉ
- ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
- PAY & DISPLAY PARKING
- 1.5 HOURS
- 1.1 MILE (1.7KM)



Ramsgate Fire Brigade, pictured in 1915 with their first mechanically propelled fire engine, called Lord Winterstoke, donated by Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills. The copper plaque to the right of the picture still exists today and is pictured below.



© TCDT2018

EFFINGHAM STREET

Turn into Effingham Street and pay close attention to the buildings on either side of the road. The building opposite the RM&HT plaque has some fantastic decorations. Some of the houses' doorways appear to have been built after the houses, perhaps filling in an open, arched walkway, giving the off-centre, mismatched appearance seen today.

Formerly known as Brick Street in 1728, then Effingham Place in 1785. It became Effingham Street between 1849 and 1872, based on surviving maps of the period. It may be difficult to see now, but back in the 1780s it was considered to be 'the place to live for people of refinement', and was the most popular and favoured residential road in Ramsgate.

It was the home of nobility and amongst the residents, you would have found Lord Conygham, Lord Mount Charles, Lord Verney, Lady Westmorland, and several retired admirals. One of which was Rear-Admiral Fox, a friend of King William IV. His house, Effingham Lodge, was the former Ramsgate Fire Station. The Ramsgate Corporation bought the house and grounds in 1905, converted the house into the Fire Station, and on his former grounds were built Clarendon House Girls' Grammar School, on what is now Elms Avenue, and the Ramsgate Library, on George Street.

Many of these houses are Grade II listed, these are: 10; 12 (late 18th century); 24 Pines Lodge (late 18th century and 17th century); 32; 34; 36; and on the other side, 1 Chancery House; 5 (both late 18th century, altered 19th century); 35; and, 39. You can see the remains of their elegance in the architecture of these former stunning houses.

GUILDFORD LAWN

As you walk to the top of Effingham Street, walk across the road into Guildford Lawn (slightly left of Effingham Street). This was built by William Saxby in 1842 with curved bays and round doorways. The area in the centre, between the older houses of Guildford Lawn and the Library, used to belong to the original houses as their garden area. After 1904, these gardens were bought and Lawn Villas were built in their place. The comic actor Will Hay lived at number 3 Guildford Lawn.



Photo of Guildford Lawn, taken from a window in the library prior to Lawn Villas being built, c.1904



View of Ramsgate Library taken from Guildford Lawn. The gardens can be seen in the centre, covered in snow, before being built on to create Lawn Villas.

LIBRARY

As you leave Guildford Lawn, you will be facing Ramsgate Library. This was built in 1904 on the grounds of Rear-Admiral Fox's estate, bought by the Ramsgate Corporation. It was funded by American steel tycoon, Andrew Carnegie. The library used to be the home of the Ramsgate Town Museum and housed many original maps and blueprints. These were all destroyed during a massive fire in 2009. The only original feature from the library is the front fascia, everything else has been rebuilt in a modern style.

CLARENDON HOUSE AND CHATHAM HOUSE

With the library on your left, walk down the road and you will see the site of Clarendon House Grammar School, recently merged with Chatham House to form Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School. Clarendon was also built on the grounds of Rear-Admiral Fox a year after the library in 1905, showing the extent of his estate.

For Chatham House, if you have a chance, walk from the High Street with Argos on your left, until you reach a hill on the right, this is Chatham Street. Walk up here and you will see Chatham Grammar School, an imposing red-brick building with a lot of history. During World War One the entire site was evacuated in 1916 and requisitioned as a Canadian Hospital, as was the adjacent Townley Castle. Also, along this road is Townley House, built by architect Mary Townley in 1792. Queen Victoria stayed here in her days as a princess.

TOMSON'S PASSAGE

To the right of Clarendon House is a small walkway, Tomson's Passage. This used to stretch from Ellington Road down to Queen Street and was the only connection between the two, as there used to be a house built across the road between Ellington Road to Elms Avenue. Clarendon was built across much of the Passage, after the roads were opened up.

It is likely the name came from Tomson of Tomson & Wotton, as the passage went down to the Tomson & Wotton Brewery. It possibly acted as a direct path for the workers. Turning left at the end of the street, walk down the hill towards Waitrose and Queen Street.



A portion of the 1872 map of Ramsgate (full 1872 and 1849 maps can be found on Michael's Bookshop's website: www.michaelsbookshop.co.uk) showing the majority of the passage. Note the absence of Lawn Villas, Ramsgate Library, and Clarendon House. The latter two being built on Rear-Admiral Fox's former estate, visible here as the garden area around the letters 'RAMS'.



Late 19th century image of the brewery, looking up Elm Street to the left. The gates at centre left mark the current vehicle entrance to Waitrose. Some of the original walls from the brewery survive on the site.

● TOMSON & WOTTON SITE

The nation's oldest brewery, Tomson & Wotton, began in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, with extant records showing it was brewing no later than 1634 with hints of it having been in operation much earlier. It was still trading during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

This site took up a very large part of the small town of Ramsgate and was a major employer in the early days. Most of the pubs in Ramsgate were tied to Tomson & Wotton. It existed on both sides of the road where Waitrose now sits.

The company was sold to one of the national breweries, who promptly closed it down in 1968 and the site was taken over by Waitrose. This made Thomas Neale of Whitstable the Oldest Brewery in the UK; this title is now held by Shepherd Neame Brewery, founded in 1698.



Looking at the older picture of the intact building, you can see the section shown here to the left of that image. This is after a bombing raid during WWII on the 24th August 1940.

Vye and Son in Queen Street. The initials GR can be seen all over the building, including a crown above the shop's name and various flags and bunting, suggesting the photo was taken around the time of King George VI's coronation in 1937.

VYE AND SON

Keep Waitrose on your left, until you walk past its exit on Queen Street. As you walk along Queen Street, to the right is a newly built apartment block, called Vyeson Court. This is the site of one of the main Vye and Son properties, which burned down in the Second World War, during the town's first blitz. The bombing killed both the manager, 46-year-old Miles Leach when he was thrown through a plate glass window and also Milers Wrigley, a civilian, was killed outside the shop.

After the Napoleonic Wars ended, Captain Vye brought his wife Sarah to Ramsgate for a visit. This was Sarah Vye's first visit to the town and

she loved it straight away; so much so she decided to open a small corner shop selling groceries in 1817. This project was an amazing success and she expanded at a great rate. Eventually, the chain had over 200 branches across the South Coast. Sarah was one of many of the 'well-to-do' to move to the town after the Napoleonic Wars.

There was an office block HQ, which stretched the length of Cliff Street just off Queen Street. There was also one of their largest shops in Queen Street. Eventually, the chain would be bought by Lipton's.

QUEEN'S COTTAGE

Queen's Cottage, take a short detour into Cavendish Street on your left and you find possibly the oldest house in Ramsgate, built c.1680. It is Grade II listed. This is an easy place to miss, tucked away behind Queen Street and next to Cavendish Street. It is opposite the public toilets and the old Police Station. Walk back onto Queen Street and you will be opposite York Street.



YORK STREET

The now dilapidated police station in Cavendish Street was preceded by a station in York Street. The building still exists today and can be seen on the left of York Street.

The old police station has a small archway, leading through to an enclosed area, with an 'Upholstered Brick Three Piece Suite' by Rodney Harris; worth a look and easily missed by visitors. It leads out to the other end of York Street, only 100 yards from the archway. At this end are a few old buildings, opposite Wilkinson's, and a few nice eateries.



York Street: German POWs at Ramsgate Police Station 1917

York Street is one of the oldest streets in Ramsgate. After the Second World War, many of the old houses and shops had been bombed and destroyed, leaving a large area of derelict space. The area was considered a bit of a slum for a long time, until the stretch opposite the police station was pulled down for modernisation, and the derelict area was built on in the 1990s. This area became the hotel and retail shop, currently Travelodge (previously Ramada Jarvis) and Wilkinson's (previously Tesco).

Now walk from York Street back to the Town Centre. As you walk along Queen Street you will reach the centre square, turn left and you will come to Holland & Barrett on your right and Poundland on your left. Poundland was once Woolworth's and before that, The Bull & George Hotel.



Similar view of York Street as of September 2018. © TCDT



York Street, future site of Wilkinson's in 1937, decorated for King George VI's coronation



Three Piece Suite as of September 2018. © TCDT

THE FIRST ZEPPELIN RAID AND THE BULL & GEORGE HOTEL

The Bull & George Hotel was once the focal point for many; a popular pub and hotel used by locals and visitors alike. This was the case until the Great War when the town centre was attacked in a Zeppelin Raid on 17th May 1915, at 1:48am. This was one of the very first air raids of the First World War. Until this time in the war, people were still holidaying in Ramsgate.

Unfortunately, three people were injured and two of these holidaymakers would be among the first civilian fatalities in Ramsgate. An inquiry into the 2 deaths accused the German Kaiser of 'wilful murder'.

After this event, and the increasing frequency of Zeppelin raids, tourism in Ramsgate ceased until the end of the War. This raid and many others gave Ramsgate the unfortunate title of the UK's most heavily bombed seaside town during WW1.

This site was reused in 1916 as a purpose-built department store for F.W. Woolworth's. It would later become the 99p Store and is currently Poundland.



The original Bull & George Hotel the morning of the zeppelin raid. The bombs had fallen through the entire building and detonated in the cellar. The damage was too severe and the hotel had to be pulled down.



Much of the original architecture of Woolworth's (and the buildings opposite) survives, including drawings from World War II of fighter plane silhouettes, so a lookout could tell apart friendly and enemy planes. In the stock room of the 'new' building survives an original frieze and wall fragment from The Bull & George Hotel, pictured above.



Similarities can be drawn between these stores: the first claimed 'Nothing over 6d'; with the later stores claiming nothing over 99p and £1. A 6d and a £1 were similarly valued coins for their periods.

The Woolworth's building, much as it is today, taken in the 1930s. The original building from 1916 is everything to the right of the 'oo' in Woolworth. Everything to the left is a later extension, probably built in the 1920s.

The photo of the Town Hall shows the open marketplace underneath, which later became enclosed shops. On the first floor would have been the civic centre. The decorations in the photo are for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee which was celebrated on the 22nd June 1897. The words 'GOD SAVE THE QUEEN' can be seen across the top of the building and the initials VR are either side of the picture of her in the centre.



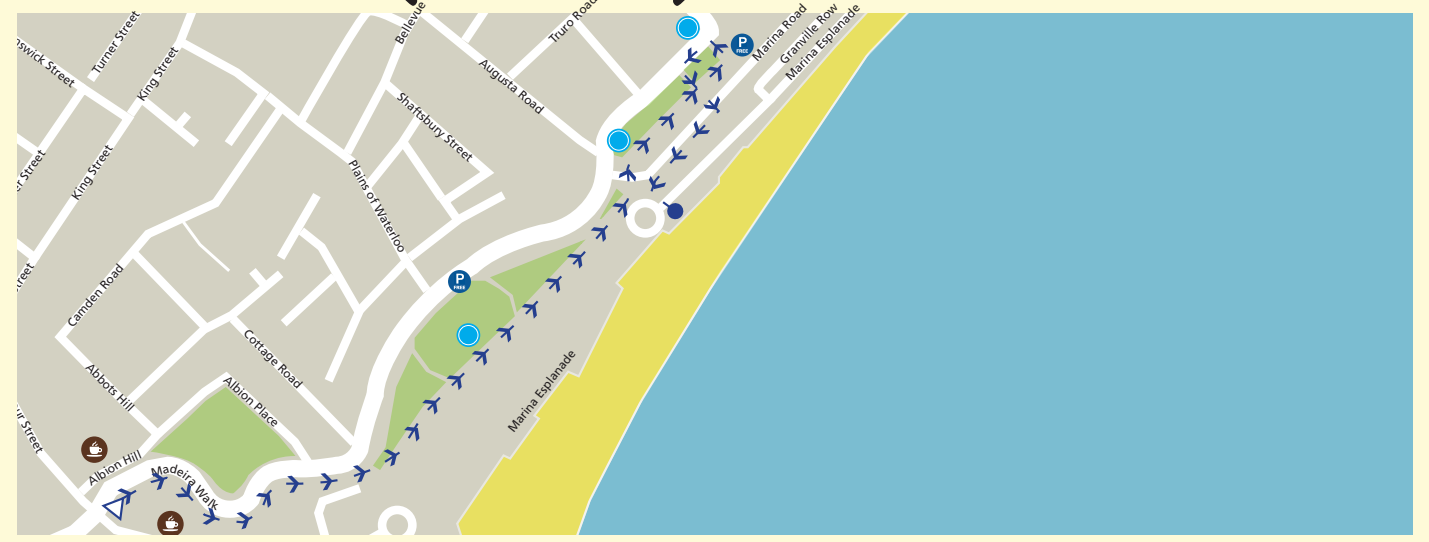
● SITE OF THE TOWN HALL

Walking back towards the centre square and Harbour Street, keeping the old Woolworth's building to your right, you'll come to the site of the old Town Hall; now the site of Halifax. The original Town Hall was built in the 1860s and knocked down in the 1950s/60s to widen the town centre.

Evidence of attempts to widen the town centre can be seen in buildings where some are further forward than others. Where a building pushes out into the path more than another, this is an older building which would have been intended to be moved back, in line with those already altered. If you look at King Street, left, you will see the older buildings are on the righthand side and the newer, pushed back, buildings are on the left.

Keeping Halifax to your right, walk down Harbour Street. This has many old buildings with fewer pushed back than Queen Street and King Street. At the end of Harbour Street, turn left to see Albion Place and Madeira Walk. Madeira Walk has a waterfall, this is the next path to take.

EAST CLIFF (WALK 4)



Albion Hotel • Madeira Walk and Albion Gardens • Albion House • Kent Steps and Albion Café • Wellington Crescent (plaque can be found on the wall opposite the bandstand when stood on the promenade) • Toll Gate (plaque can be found on the Toll Gate Kiosk) • Granville House (plaque can be found on the front of Granville House near the main door) • Granville Theatre • Napoleonic Camps • Roman Finds • Augusta Steps • King George VI Park

KEY

	BLUE PLAQUE		FREE PARKING
	RESTAURANT/CAFÉ		30 MINS
	ACCESSIBLE ROUTE		0.5 MILE (0.8KM)
	STAIRS ALONG ROUTE		



ALBION HOTEL

This was a very well to do hotel and the site of several banquets hosted by the Duke of Wellington, where he often brought news of the War. It was built around the start of the 1800s. The area behind the Albion Hotel was a high cliff with no access to the East Cliff and, like the Royal Parade, it was changed dramatically in the late 1890s when Madeira Walk was built, giving greater access between the two cliffs. After the demolition of the Albion Hotel, the current building was erected in 1897 and would be the National Provincial Bank, which became the NatWest Bank and is now Pizza Express. James J. J. Tissot stayed and painted in the original Albion Hotel in 1876.

Keeping Pizza Express to your right, walk up Madeira Walk. It is best to stay on the left side, for a good view of the waterfall.

MADEIRA WALK AND ALBION GARDENS

In 1894 The Borough Council of Ramsgate decided to change the town's appearance from that of a busy fishing port to one with picturesque gardens and promenades. This involved linking the harbour to the East Cliff, by demolishing a section of Albion Hotel and creating Madeira Walk.

James Pulham and son built the stratified Pulhamite 'rocks' along either side of the road. There is also a picturesque waterfall which you can walk over on a little footbridge in Albion Gardens. Albion Gardens belonged to part of the estate of Albion House, existing at a time before Madeira Walk had been built. There is a World War I memorial at the top of the stairs leading into the gardens. You can also see house sized gaps among the buildings here, now car parks. These were houses and hotels bombed during World War Two.

It is a delightful small public garden, ideal for a quick rest or for picnics with views of the harbour. The gardens are also home to a rare species of newt and a bat colony.

Continuing up the road, you will see Albion House.



Yeomanry Parade along Madeira Walk, early 1900s. Madeira Gardens can be seen to the left, with Pulhamite rocks lining the walk. Tram lines can still be seen here, before being removed during the war effort. Also, the waterfall has been turned off or may not have been installed yet, though everything is built in readiness for it.

ALBION HOUSE

Albion House was built 1791/2. Mary Townley purchased the property c.1810. This was sold in 1839 at the time of her death. Mary Townley was one of England's earliest female architects. The Duchess of Kent, with her daughter Princess Victoria, later Queen Victoria, stayed at Albion House from September 1835 to January 1836.

The house was again sold in 1900 by Montague Kingsford, a solicitor, to Ramsgate Council who used it as offices until 1974 when it transferred to the ownership of Thanet Council. In November 2014 it reopened as a boutique hotel.

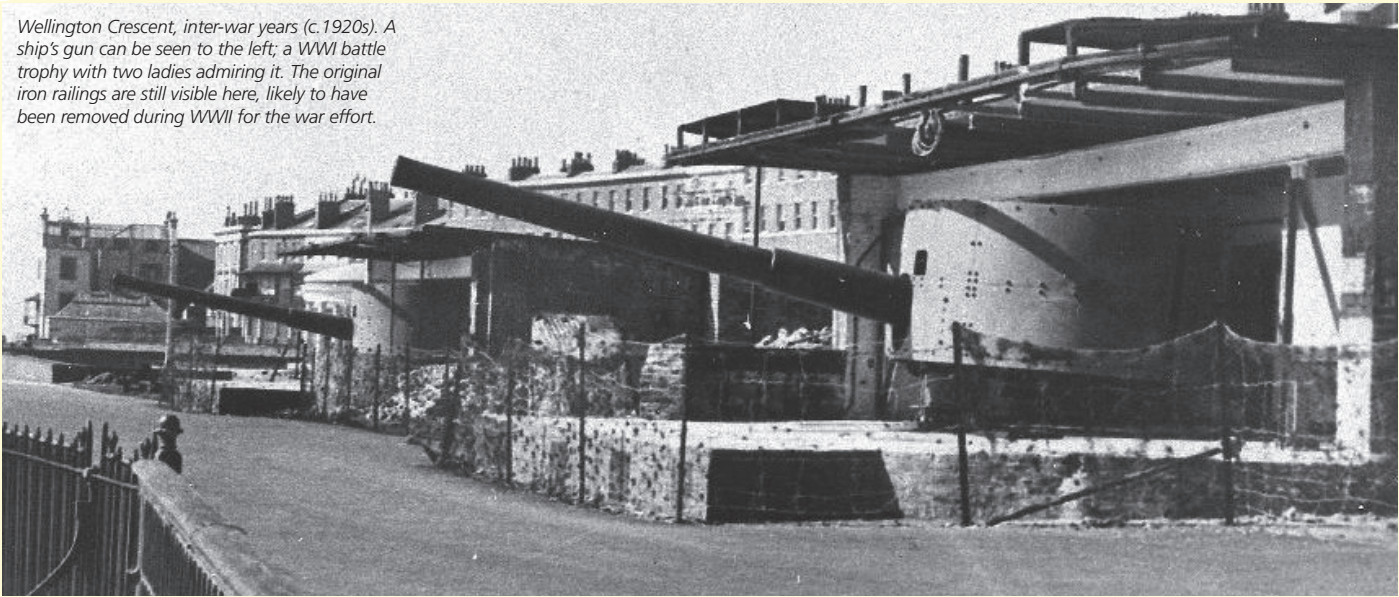
KENT STEPS AND ALBION CAFÉ

Looking to the right of the road, you can see Kent Steps. This was once the only way to get from the harbour to the East Cliff, without having to walk through the town centre. Essentially, the original Madeira Walk. If you walk down these steps, you will come out at the Royal Victoria Pavilion, now Wetherspoon's flagship location.

The building at the top of Kent Steps was called Albion Café. It was one of the oldest, continuously running cafés in Ramsgate, having been in operation for almost 200 years, before closing in 2016.

Keep walking up Madeira Walk and you will reach Wellington Crescent.

Wellington Crescent, inter-war years (c.1920s). A ship's gun can be seen to the left; a WWI battle trophy with two ladies admiring it. The original iron railings are still visible here, likely to have been removed during WWII for the war effort.

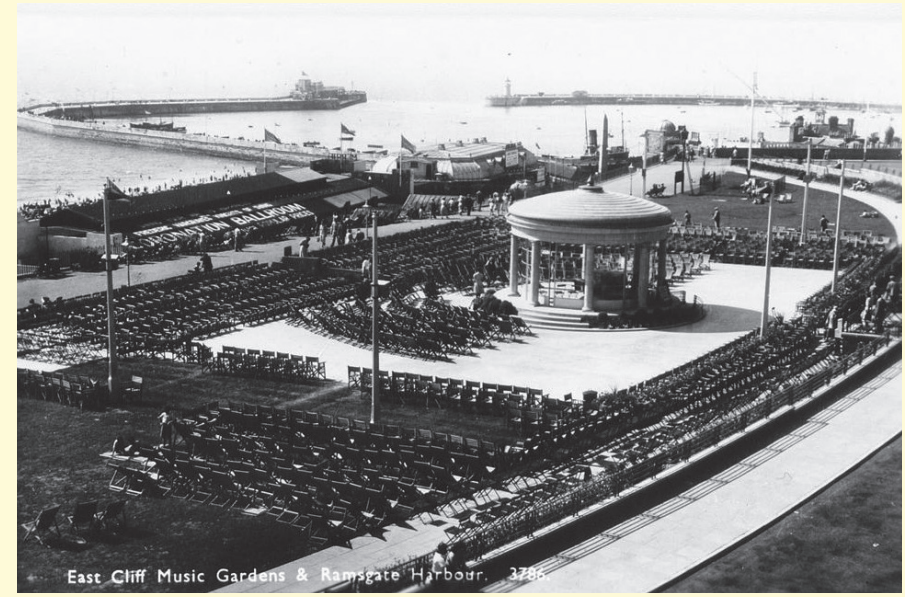


Large gun emplacements on Wellington Crescent. When tested at less than full power, they blew over the cliff top fences and cracked the chalk beneath!



Ramsgate Wellington Crescent

N.9.



Wellington Crescent with the new bandstand and dancefloor, built 1939, ready for a band to perform with deckchairs at the ready. In the background (left to right) you can see: The Royal Harbour; Coronation Ballroom (above Merrie England); Royal Victoria Pavilion; Obelisk; East Cliff Lift; and, Clocktower/ Maritime Museum. Photo likely taken post-WWII.

● WELLINGTON CRESCENT

As you walk into Wellington Crescent from Madeira walk, you can see the Edwardian lift to the right, built in 1912. One of two surviving cliff lifts, this is still working and operates during the tourist season.

Looking left, you can see the homes built in the same Regency style as Nelson Crescent on the West Cliff. East Cliff's Wellington Crescent was also constructed in the early 1800s, during a time of domestic expansion as the town became increasingly popular for the 'well-to-do'. The sweeping, balustraded buildings bordering the crescent are original to this period and are Grade II listed. During World War II, a fighter plane crashed through the front rooms of some of the houses along the crescent furthest to the left.

Wilkie Collins also stayed at number 27, as well as having stayed at Nelson Crescent on the opposite cliff. Samuel Taylor Coleridge stayed at numbers 3, 7, 28, and 29 in the 1830s.

Opposite these buildings, the area of the crescent on the cliff top has been home to many gun emplacements throughout both World Wars. Beneath the ground is a series of tunnels which served HMS Fervent; a naval base of operations throughout WWII and used as shelters from air raids in both World Wars. Above ground you can see the band stand and surrounding walls, which are also Grade II listed, with the band stand having been there since WWII.

Walking on from here, we come to Victoria Parade and the original toll booth, now a kiosk.





Toll Gate, left, with iron turnstiles to its right and fixed fence.

● TOLL GATE

Now the Toll Gate Kiosk, looking very similar now as it did then. Built in the 1860s, probably in conjunction with Granville House and the privatisation of this stretch of clifftop.

Originally a toll gate to ensure only the wealthy could walk along the promenade. In the photo above, notice the lack of the Granville Theatre and San Clu Hotel. Granville House appears to be newly built here and without its later fascia, when it became a hotel in 1869. Photo is likely to be from 1866-1869.

The toll gate appears to have been in use for a short period of time. Later photos of the site show it either without the fence and turnstiles, or with a moveable trellis fence.

This hints at either the toll only being active during the brief period where Granville House was being sold as individual holiday villas, to give the impression of a well-to-do area, or possibly it was only tolled during festivals and events.

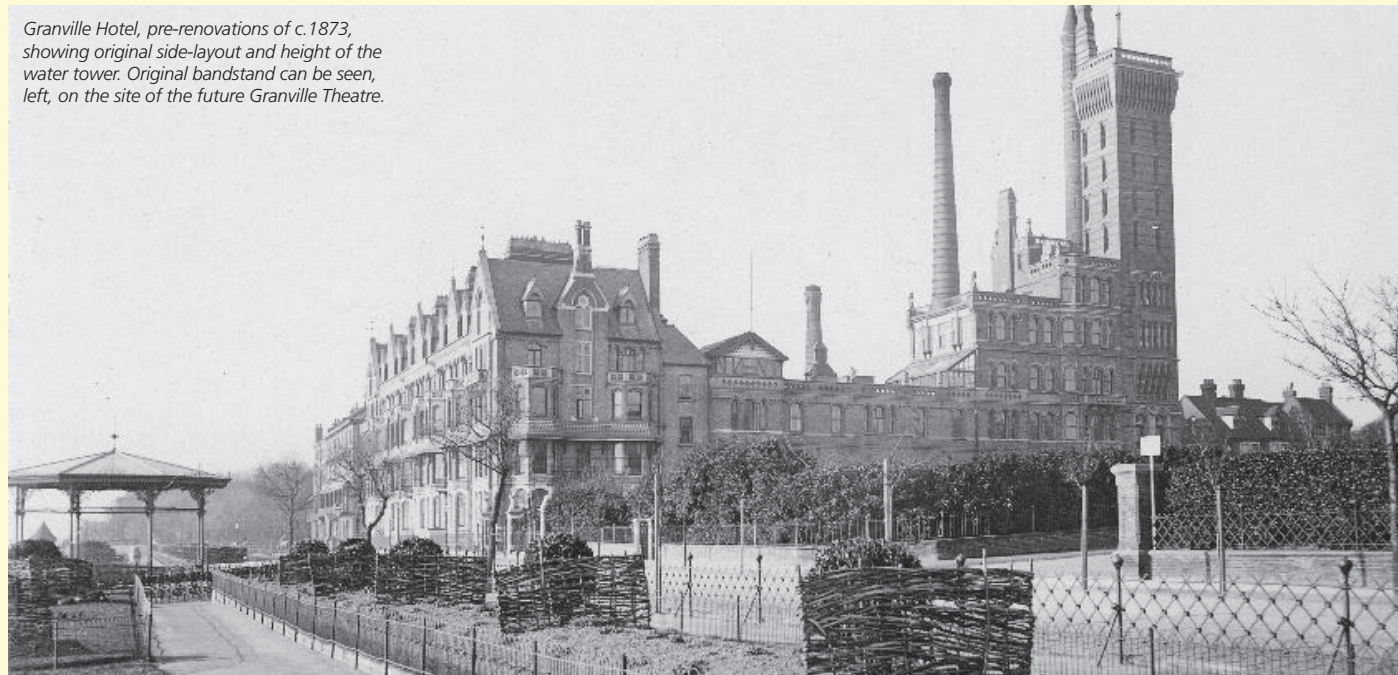


Celebrating the end of the Second World War, taken along Boundary Road.

Granville Hotel during its use as a Canadian Special Hospital between 1915-1917.



Granville Hotel, pre-renovations of c.1873, showing original side-layout and height of the water tower. Original bandstand can be seen, left, on the site of the future Granville Theatre.



Granville Hotel showing bomb damage during World War Two. The west wing was destroyed and later rebuilt to more closely match the surviving end on the corner of Royal Road.

● GRANVILLE HOUSE

The Granville is a Grade II listed building, built in 1866 by Edward Welby Pugin, son of Augustus Pugin who designed 'Big Ben' etc., altered after 1873 and again c.1900. It's in the Gothic revival style, with later Neo-Georgian details. It was originally built as a series of holiday villas, each the size of a small mansion. The peak of each roof shows the size of each villa. Pugin was unable to sell these properties and in 1873, he filed for bankruptcy. One Mr. Edmund Davis purchased the site and converted the building from houses to a hotel, adding facilities such as the ballroom and the 25 different types of baths.

At the rear of the site was the ballroom and at the front right is a bar currently waiting for someone to give it the love and attention it needs to bring it back to life. There is an original feature in this room, from E. Pugin; a highly stylised and intricately designed fireplace, shown above.

During the height of its popularity in the late Victorian Era, the Granville Hotel had its own named destination on London trainlines to Ramsgate. It is thought there was a tunnel from the hotel down to the sands coming out in one of the properties on the seafront but was closed when the Granville Theatre was built. Much of the lower prom was named after the hotel and became an addition to the entertainment at the former railway site.

During the First World War it was used as the Canadian Special Hospital for soldiers from 1915- 1917. The building was badly damaged in 1940 and partly demolished since. The front of the building still stands and is currently private apartments.

The Promenade and Bandstand, East Cliff, Ramsgate



c.1905. Original bandstand which became increasingly developed, with permanent fences, enclosed seating and eventually turned into the Granville Theatre. Granville Hotel can be seen behind, right, showing the new elevation after the c.1900 alterations. The Toll Gate Kiosk can be seen in the distance to the left.



Performed at the Granville Theatre, before the current building was rebuilt.

GRANVILLE THEATRE

Across the road from The Granville is Granville Theatre, named after the house.

The Granville Theatre was founded in 1947 and is located on Victoria Parade, East Cliff, Ramsgate, with views of the Royal Harbour, where it replaced the old Granville Pavilion that was damaged beyond restoration during World War II. Soon after the war the borough engineer, R.D. Brimmell, and architect W. Garwood, decided to reinvent the space with all of the materials from the old pavilion, due to a general shortage of goods in the post-war years. Originally known as 'The New Granville Theatre', its name derives from the nearby former Granville Hotel designed by Edward Welby Pugin, son of Augustus Pugin who designed 'Big Ben' etc., architect of the Houses of Parliament, as an honour to George Leveson-Gower, 2nd Earl of Devonshire. It cost c.£10,000 to create the only cinematic and theatrical venue in town, with the declaration of its opening given by the Mayor of Ramsgate, Alderman S.E. Austin, in the summer of 1947. In May 1986 the cinema became the first to show films on Sundays. The Granville is now comprised of an auditorium with two cinema screens, performance space for lectures and main stage for in-house and visiting productions. It is under the patronage of the Laurence Olivier Award-winning local actress and Oscar-nominee, Brenda Blethyn, OBE and Honorary Freeman Ralph Hoult, OBE.

Walking back towards the Toll Gate Kiosk, cross the road and turn left to go down Augusta Steps.

NAPOLEONIC CAMPS

Ramsgate was a busy garrison town in the years throughout the Napoleonic Wars from 1803-1815. Tens-of-thousands of troops trained, stayed, and embarked for France. Though little trace remains of this period in the surviving buildings, many roads and areas are named after this period and some archaeological digs have uncovered evidence of training grounds in Spencer Square, the Granville area, and West Cliff's Government Acre.

ROMAN FINDS: VENI, VIDI, VICI

As with the Napoleonic period in the town's history, we had many Roman camps and burials in the area. There have been many high-quality finds on both the East and West Cliffs, including human remains, encampment areas, glass bottles, and quite spectacularly, the horn of a white rhino on the site of Granville House.

Recently, the original landing site of Julius Caesar has been uncovered in a field in Ebbsfleet, Ramsgate. It has been dated to mid-first century BC and is likely the first landing spot Caesar found to begin his invasion of Britain. Although he left for the continent without conquering the island, he set up treaties with the local royal families, which may have aided the later invasion by Claudius in AD43.

AUGUSTA STEPS

Located opposite the Toll Gate Kiosk, the steps run down the cliff face. The original Augusta Steps were built in the 1850s and after collapsing in 1947 were later replaced by the current, rainbow coloured steps in the 1950s/60s, receiving their current hue in 2014.

The steps were named after Lady Augusta Murray (1768-1830), later Augusta De Ameland, the illegitimate wife of Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, sixth son of King George III. The marriage was annulled under the Royal Marriages Act 1772 due the marriage being morganatic and happening without the King's consent. This prevented Lady Augusta being styled Princess or Her Royal Highness and her children could not inherit their father's titles, instead being given the name D'Este. The family names of D'Este, Truro and Augusta can be seen in the street names around the Granville area of the East Cliff.

You can walk down Augusta Steps to reach the seafront, the next area to visit on this walk. If you need an alternative route, there is a long slope down the side of the cliff, which will turn right at the bottom and lead to the base of the steps. From the steps, turn right and you will see the main entrance to Ramsgate Tunnels.



An old print of East Cliff Villa during Moses Montefiore's ownership.

KING GEORGE VI PARK (BONUS SITE)

At the far end of the East Cliff is the King George VI Memorial Park, which was formed from the grounds of East Cliff Lodge. The park, named in honour of the father of the current queen, is of particular significance because the Lodge was the home of Sir Moses Montefiore, considered to be one of the first truly global celebrities. Sir Moses was a renowned "humanitarian, philanthropist, and campaigner for Jewish emancipation on a grand scale".

Montefiore bought East Cliff Lodge in 1831 after visiting Ramsgate on his honeymoon and renting the Lodge for a year subsequently. He lived in the house for more than 50 years. During this time, having acquired a considerable fortune from his business activities, he devoted his life as a devout Jew to improving the lot of the Jewish people all over the world. His many trips included visits with two Tsars of Russia, a meeting with the Sultan of Morocco and seven trips to the Holy Land, the last of these being made when he was aged 91.

Little more than the stable courtyard and an adjacent refurbished early 19th century Italianate glasshouse now remain of the Lodge which dated back to at least 1794. Montefiore bought the glasshouse, a Grade II listed historic monument, from Bretton Hall in Yorkshire after seeing it in an auction catalogue.

Montefiore was made Sheriff of the City of London and knighted in 1837 in recognition of his work. In 1847 he received a baronetcy from Robert Peel for his efforts 'to improve the social conditions of the Jews in other countries by temperate appeals to the justice of their rulers'.

Montefiore died in 1885 aged 100. He is buried with his wife in a nearby mausoleum the design for which was copied from the legendary tomb of Rachel, the biblical wife of Jacob, which lies on the road to Bethlehem. The synagogue built soon after his purchase of East Cliff Lodge is also nearby. The park although named after George VI can be regarded as a fitting memorial to Montefiore.

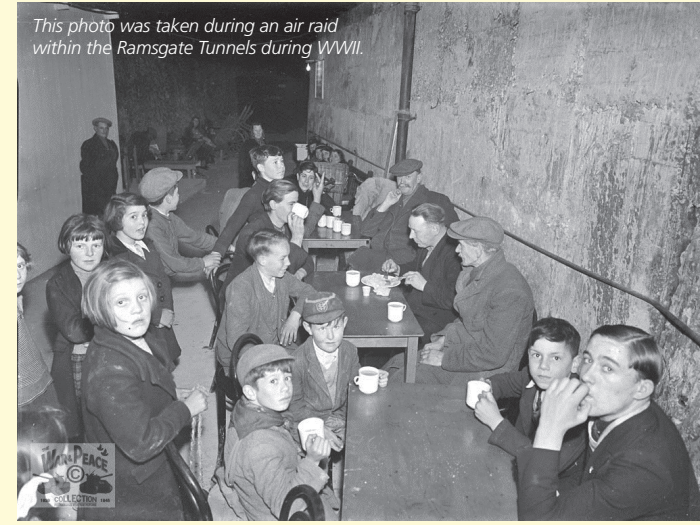
HARBOUR (WALK 5)



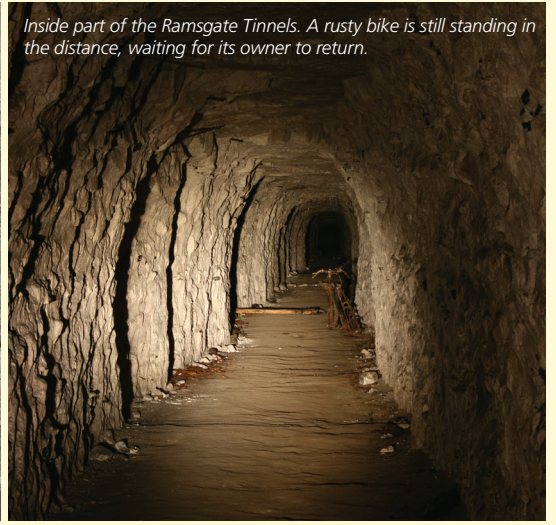
Ramsgate Tunnels • Royal Victoria Pavilion • Obelisk • Maritime Museum • Sundowner • Royal Harbour and Little Ships • Military Road • Sailors' Church • Jacob's Ladder • The Ramsgate Smack Boys' Home

KEY

- BLUE PLAQUE
- WC
- RESTAURANT/CAFÉ
- ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
- STAIRS ALONG ROUTE
- PAY & DISPLAY PARKING
- 50 MINUTES
- 0.7 MILE (1.1KM)



This photo was taken during an air raid within the Ramsgate Tunnels during WWII.



Inside part of the Ramsgate Tunnels. A rusty bike is still standing in the distance, waiting for its owner to return.

RAMSGATE TUNNELS

During the Great War (WW1), Ramsgate had a very difficult time and was the most heavily bombed seaside town in the UK – this was in the National War Weekly, which featured reports on the nation's Wartime Progress. There were some tunnels under the town which were made good use of.

In 1938, the Town Mayor, Councillor ABC Kempe, was aware of Ramsgate's situation during the previous war and decided to build air raid shelters for the entire town's population of up to 30,000 people. He drew up plans not to build many shelters, but one big shelter in the form of a three-and-a-half-mile tunnel to be accessible within a two-minute walk from all parts of town. The main entrance to the Ramsgate Tunnels used to be the railway tunnel and terminus for the Ramsgate Harbour train station. Which had closed in 1926.

With the expert help of the Kentish Miners, the project was completed in nine months with a capacity to shelter 60,000 people for long periods of time. 12 entrances were built in public locations, such as council owned squares. Many of the bricked-up and covered entrances can still be seen today.

Many people thought this was a waste of money. Kempe was known as the 'Mad Mayor' due to his conviction that another war was coming and readying the town for it. This title did not last too long, as on 24th August 1940 Ramsgate received one of the world's first blitz raids, when a squadron of enemy aircraft were flying towards Manston Airport to bomb the Spitfires. The squadron leader was shot down as he approached the coast and his squadron dropped 500 bombs on the town in five minutes, making this one of Britain's first blitz raids. Only 31 people were killed in this raid; without the Tunnels, it could have been hundreds of deaths. Suddenly, the 'Mad Mayor' was now a local hero.

The tunnels were used by the people of Ramsgate throughout the war, with many people taking up permanent residence underground. To keep up morale while in the tunnels, there were parties, games, shops, etc. Almost everything you would need to live could be found in the tunnels, even a hospital operating theatre!

Tour times are advertised on the notice boards outside. You can also find a tea room and a museum within the entrance of the Tunnels. Leaving here, keep the sea to your left until you've passed the sandy beach and you reach the Pavilion and Obelisk, both to the left.

ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION

The long, large building on the left is the Royal Victoria Pavilion. Which has always attracted royalty throughout the years, especially during the 19th century when the Duchess of Kent and her daughter Princess Victoria (later to become Queen Victoria) holidayed in Ramsgate. When the Royal Victoria Pavilion opened in 1904 (after the original structure was destroyed in a storm the previous winter), Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise, officially opened the building in the presence of a large crowd and a military escort. The Pavilion opened as a traditional seaside theatre with different shows every night. It would also become a cinema, a nightclub, and a casino over its lifetime. After being neglected for several years, in 2017, it became Europe's largest Wetherspoon's and the UK's biggest pub. To the right is the Obelisk.



Opening of the Pavilion in 1904 by Princess Louise.

OBELISK (THE ROYAL TOOTHPICK)

Another, earlier, royal visitor was King George IV. On one of his journeys to Hanover in 1821, he arrived in Ramsgate Harbour on the 25th September and stayed with his good friend, Sir William Curtiss Bart 'Billy Biscuit' (whose factory supplied the Royal Navy with biscuits). The King returned to Ramsgate on the 8th November to another great welcome by the local people. This prompted His Majesty to name the harbour 'Royal'. The Obelisk arrived the following year as a gift from another Royal Harbour in Ireland and took a year to erect in the small area next to the ship building yard on the site of the Pavilion today. In 2021 the Royal Harbour of Ramsgate will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Standing 52 ½ feet high (16m), made of Dublin granite and weighing 100 tons, it is inscribed in English and Latin 'To George the Fourth, King of Great Britain and Ireland. The inhabitants and visitors of Ramsgate and the Directors and Trustees of the Harbour have erected this obelisk as a grateful record of His Majesty's gracious condescension in selecting this Port for his Embarkation on the 25th of September in progress to His Kingdom in Hanover and his Happy Return on 8th November 1821. If the weather is nice, a walk along the East Pier arm is worth a stroll. At the end is the Royal Harbour Brasserie, a restaurant built to look like a ship. Back on land, keep the sea to your left and you will see a carpark with a long building, very close to the marina. This is the Maritime Museum.



Royal Victoria Pavilion and Obelisk as of September 2018. © TCDT

The Maritime Museum, left, stands relatively unchanged today. A sail ship is in the dry dock, right. Photo taken late 19th century.



The Maritime Museum as of September 2018, with Sundowner berthed to the right. © Andrew Morris

MARITIME MUSEUM

The clock on the Ramsgate Maritime Museum, the old harbour offices, proudly displays Ramsgate mean time which is 5 minutes and 41 seconds before Greenwich meantime.

Before Greenwich meantime was established as a reliable measure of time, a sailor on England's south coast set their chronometer by the clock atop Ramsgate's old clock house tower. Ramsgate mean time was a commonly used reference for south coast sailors prior to Greenwich becoming a new standard in the 1840's.

Though Ramsgate mean time is no longer observed, the clock still shows this 'local' time as a unique Ramsgate curiosity.

The clock house is now a maritime museum, bursting with memorabilia of Ramsgate's seafaring heritage. Outside the museum, almost forgotten, is a moving memorial to the pilots who perished during Operation Fuller 'The Channel Dash', a vain attempt to stop German boats leaving Brest harbour during World War II. Opposite the Maritime Museum, berthed in the marina, is the Little Ship, Sundowner.



The Sundowner as of September 2018.
© TCDT



Charles Lightoller

● SUNDOWNER

The Sundowner was built in 1912 as a steam pinnace by the admiralty. It was bought by Charles Lightoller and his wife, Sylvia, in 1929 and converted into a cruising yacht. It currently sits in the Royal Harbour and is owned by The Steam Museum Trust, who currently run the Maritime Museum.

The Sundowner has two claims to fame. The most notable is its use as a Little Ship during Operation Dynamo (the evacuation of Dunkirk). The admiralty requisitioned the Sundowner to go to Dunkirk to assist in the evacuations. Lightoller insisted that he would be the only person to take his ship to Dunkirk, which he did and managed to save 130 men in one trip. He was unable to make a return trip as the Sundowner could not reach 20 knots, the requirement for ships returning to Dunkirk.

Her second claim to fame is her link to the Titanic. Built in 1912, the year the Titanic sank and owned by Lightoller, the second officer on board when the Titanic sank and the most senior officer to survive the disaster. Lightoller was one of the very last people to leave the sinking ship, ensuring as many women and children were in lifeboats as he

could. He managed to survive by climbing aboard Collapsible B and captaining the people within until the Carpathia came to pick up the survivors.

The Sundowner, named after an Australian word for 'tramp', served in both world wars. In WWI she was a Capital Ship's steam pinnace and throughout WWII she was a coastal patrol vessel, assisting in numerous rescue operations. Lightoller and his wife also carried out reconnaissance missions for the admiralty prior to the outbreak of WWII.

Since the Second World War, the Sundowner has taken part in Dunkirk celebrations, the Queen's diamond jubilee leading a flotilla of Little Ships, and is likely to take part in the 2020 Return to Dunkirk celebrations. There are currently three Little Ships in Ramsgate's harbour: Sundowner; Lamouette; and, recently, Lazy Days. Lazy Days' entry on the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships' website calls the marina 'The Harbour of Happiness'. The marina with the Little Ships is part of the Royal Harbour.



The inner marina of the Royal Harbour, looking across to Military Road and Royal Parade. © TCDT

● ROYAL HARBOUR AND LITTLE SHIPS

The Story of Ramsgate Harbour takes us back to Henry VIII when our harbour consisted of a single wooden pier capable of giving refuge to ships in trouble. This was followed by a stone pier similar to that at Broadstairs.

Around this time Sandwich was still a major port and mediaeval Cinque Port, Ramsgate was merely a limb. Sandwich, being the larger partner, was to be developed with a massive financial boost from the government, but because of a major storm in the channel and the fact that so many ships were saved in Ramsgate's modest harbour, the Government decided use these funds to develop Ramsgate Harbour instead of Sandwich.

This totally transformed the harbour; the inner basin was to store the water so that the seven sluice gates on the cross could be opened and the flow of water took the sand and mud out to sea giving full access at all times.

In the years that followed, Ramsgate was vital to our efforts in the Napoleonic Wars as the main embarkation port for thousands of soldiers.

In 1821 HM King George IV made good use of the port on several occasions while staying in Ramsgate. He received such a great welcome that he named our harbour 'Royal', being the only one of its kind in Britain.

During Operation: Dynamo, Ramsgate's Royal Harbour was on the front line and vital to the success in bringing back 338,226 soldiers, between 26th May – 4th June 1940 from the beaches of Dunkirk. Three ships involved in the evacuation are still in the harbour today – The Little Ships (Sundowner, Lamouette, and Lazy Days).

Recently Ramsgate has played host to many sea activities, including the World Class Power Boat Grand Prix, the European Water Ski Event, Round Britain Races and is acknowledged as the second-Best Sailing Regatta to Cowes in the Isle of White. Ramsgate also had the first International Hover Port and the world's first ship with a screw propeller was tested off Ramsgate.

From here, walk along the harbour, keeping the marina to your left and the stretch of bars, restaurants and hotels to your right. Once you've passed the little roundabout, you'll be on Military Road.



Military Road, c. 1870, as it was before the construction of Royal Parade in 1893. The bollards along the edge of the road can still be seen in some of the cellars of the businesses in the archways along the new Military Road. Giving an idea of the scale of the expansion.

MILITARY ROAD

The original Military Road was built by prisoners during the Napoleonic Wars to allow access around the inner basin of the harbour and to build workshops for boat building and repair work. In 1881, a new addition to this was the building of the Harbour Offices and the Sailors' Church with the Smack Boys' Home above. This part of the building is now home to the Ramsgate & Broadstairs Sea Cadet Corps and the 6th Ramsgate Sea Scout Group.

The access road to the cliff was a slope with steps half way up and is still there today. The steps made it impossible to take horse and carts up the cliff, so in the 1893 plans were drawn up to build a main road from the harbour to the West Cliff, this was contemporary with the building of Madeira Walk and improving access to the East Cliff.

SAILORS' CHURCH

At the end of Military Road, you can see the Sailors' Church and Jacob's Ladder to the right, with the harbour to your left. The church was built in 1881 with a home for smack boys above. More information can be found on the panel outside the church.

Royal Harbour showing Jacob's Ladder, centre-left, with Smack Boys' Home yet to be built, to the right of the ladder and a tall-ship in the foreground, with a smack boy looking at the boat. Possibly taken in the 1860s.



JACOB'S LADDER

In the early days, the only access to the cliff top from the harbour was a wooden staircase built by Jacob Stead and named after him. In the years that followed, the wooden stairs were replaced by the stone stairs of today, keeping the name of Jacob's Ladder.

To return to the West Cliff, either walk up Jacob's Ladder and turn left, or walk back along Military Road and turn left, up the hill.

THE RAMSGATE SMACK BOYS' HOME

By 1906, when fishing was the main industry at Ramsgate harbour, there were 168 fishing smacks registered here and a smack boy was an apprentice on one of these smacks. Indentured apprentices were bound to their Masters for five years and, as an indenture was a Board of Trade Certificate completed through the Custom House, it was unbreakable.

Fishing expeditions lasted between eight and ten days and enough food was carried to feed the four-man crew but once the boat had docked an apprentice had only the pay that the Master was required to give him. A cook received 1d per day which went up to 6d per day on promotion to deck boy. From this meagre amount boys, some as young as 12, had to feed and house themselves and it seems half ended up in prison during part of their apprenticeship.

The Vicar of Christ Church, Canon Brenan, urged the Board of Trade to provide a home for the 200 hundred or more smack boys of the fishing fleet, as he was concerned about the 'degradation' of the boys' living conditions.

He sought permission to rent land under the cliff on Military Road to build a Home, where the boys could be housed, fed and kept under control. On the ground floor there was to be a mess room, offices, storerooms and lockers for clothing while on the upper level there was a washroom and individual bunks for 58 boys.

By 1880, a 60-year lease had been signed and the Marchioness of Conyngham laid the foundation stone. The Home was opened in November 1881 with Nathaniel Taylor and his wife as the Master and Matron.

Ramsgate was the first, and possibly only, fishing port in Britain to provide such accommodation for smack boys.

© Dr Maria Brown

WEST CLIFF RETURN (WALK 6)



Paragon • West Cliff Hall • West Cliff Promenade • Regency Hotel • Model Village • Roman Finds • Edwardian Lift • Royal Esplanade Gardens • Chine • Public Park

KEY

- BLUE PLAQUE
- WC
- RESTAURANT/CAFÉ
- ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
- FREE PARKING
- 1 HOUR
- 1.6 MILE (2.5KM)

PARAGON

When you reach the top of Jacob's Ladder, either by walking up the steps (turn left) or up the hill (keep walking straight). As you walk towards the West Cliff promenade, have a look at the houses lining the road. Built during the early 1800s, these Georgian and Regency homes were sold as individual plots of land, with the design left to the land owner, explaining the higgly-piggly look of Paragon. Charles Darwin stayed in 8 Paragon on his holidays in 1850.



Paragon, early 1800s

WEST CLIFF HALL

At the start of the West Cliff promenade, there is a sunken building, entirely beneath your feet: The West Cliff Hall, opened in July 1914. The site was once a bandstand and entertainment area, with the Regency Hotel behind. West Cliff Hall was originally a theatre, also hosting wartime dances and an early the Rolling Stones concert. The building then became the Motor Museum from 1985- 2005, set up by Lord Cranford. He also introduced the Bucket and Spade Run to Ramsgate, now an annual fixture. Currently empty, the old West Cliff Hall is waiting for somebody to invest and refurbish this unique piece of the town's history.



West Cliff Hall not long after opening, c.1914

WEST CLIFF PROMENADE

Regency Hotel: As you walk along the West Cliff promenade, you will pass a very long building, just after the West Cliff Hall. This is the old Regency Hotel, now Regency School of English and private apartments.

Model Village: There is a patch of grass, very close to this area. It was once the site of the old Model Village. Opened in 1953 and lasting 50 years, it attracted over 1 million visitors and was one of the most intricate model villages in the country.

Roman Finds: All around Ramsgate, there have been Roman artefacts discovered. The East Cliff has uncovered a white rhino horn, among other finds. At the West Cliff there have been many finds, such as: large vases; cinerary (burial) urns; bronze brooches; animal bones (pigs, boars, and deer); bottles; glass lachrymatory in museum condition; and, a possible burial site. There were various Napoleonic military training camps along this area, too. As recently as 2017, two Roman skeletons and other artefacts were discovered by southern Water in the Royal Harbour Approach area.

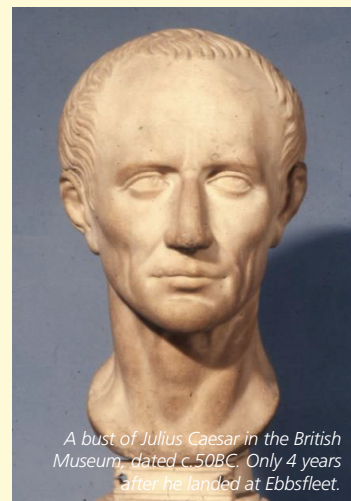
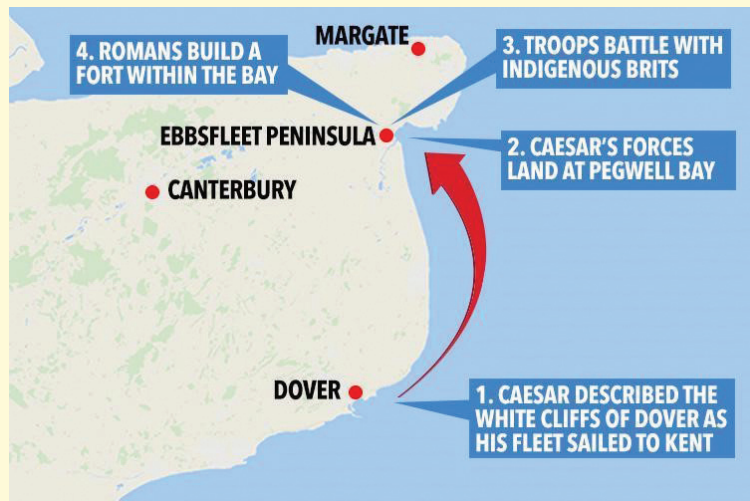
Edwardian Lift: As you enter Government Acre, you will notice West Cliff Lift, Grade II listed in 1998, out of service since 1993. The West Cliff Lift is bold and functional, built not only to fulfil a need, but also to be admired. Sir Burnet and Partners are believed to be responsible for its construction, the lift opened c.1926, capable of carrying 20 passengers. It was built in the Art Deco style of the period. The most notable feature is the blue glass tiling that runs the entire length of the shaft, making a soft contrast to the stark concrete casing.

Royal Esplanade Gardens: Walking further down the promenade, you will notice a boating pool, to the right. This used to house a bandstand and seating area, used for many ceremonies, pageants, celebrations, and other events. To the right, the curved building was once a monkey house, from which there were several 'escape attempts' by primates. The opposite building is a café and small arcade area.

Further down the promenade is the **Chine**, a walkway to the beach lined with Pulhamite rocks, the same as Madeira Walk and the archways of Royal Parade. There is also a large public park, with play areas.



1. Regency Hotel in the background, with Italian Gardens in the foreground. The Gardens would be dug out to become the West Cliff Hall.
2. Model Village on its opening day in 1953. Mayor Eddie Butcher wearing his mayoral chains.
3. West Cliff's Edwardian lift, looking down to Western Undercliff. The photo calls the West Cliff St. Lawrence Cliffs, here.
4. This bandstand is now the site of the boating pool. The building in the background was once used as a monkey house.
5. The Chine Gardens, looking up from the undercliff toward the clifftop.



A bust of Julius Caesar in the British Museum, dated c.50BC. Only 4 years after he landed at Ebbsfleet.

Map showing Julius Caesar's journey once close to the Kent coast. He first sailed close enough to Dover to see the white cliffs but would choose to land at Ebbsfleet instead. Possibly due to Dover's inlet being overlooked by two cliffs, making defence against local attacks more difficult. Ebbsfleet was a flatter, more defensible area and large enough to bring the fleet ashore.

JULIUS CAESAR'S ORIGINAL LANDING SITE (BONUS SITE)

In the millennia since the Romans invaded Britain, facts became distorted, memories were lost, and real events became myths and legends. The same was true for the original landing site of Julius Caesar. A local legend in Ramsgate, likely passed down orally for generations, still prevailed in the early 18th century. That of the Roman's landing at Ramsgate.

Daniel Defoe visited Ramsgate on his travels in 1723 and said of the town, 'a small port, the inhabitants are mighty fond of having us call it Roman's-Gate, pretending that the Romans made their first attempt to land here... but, is not to be proved.' – A Tour Through England and Wales, 1724.

As the years passed, so did the truth and in time it was forgotten. With evidence for an early Roman landing in Deal, it was all but accepted that this was the actual landing site.

Then it all changed when archaeologists uncovered exciting new evidence in November 2017. At Ebbsfleet, Ramsgate, an ancient Roman encampment had been discovered and early evidence pointed to it being pre-conquest. The base is thought to have covered roughly 20 hectares, providing enough space to shelter the near 800 ships Caesar arrived with. By the end of the excavation, with many interesting artefacts discovered, it was concluded that this was the original landing site of Julius Caesar in 54BC. It wasn't until AD43 that Claudius would begin the permanent occupation of Britain.

It seems the locals in the 18th century fishing village of Ramsgate had long memories and more than 2000 years later, we have found the proof to support their claims.

END

So ends the Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail. For more information, go to the website to find more about what Ramsgate has to offer and for fun activity packs for families and schools, all to do with the Trail and Ramsgate.

We couldn't cover everywhere in Ramsgate, due to just how much there is. Be sure to look at other notable areas, such as: Chatham House and St. George's Church, near the Town Centre; St. Lawrence Parish and St. Laurence Church (the church and parish chose different spellings for the same name); Ramsgate Cemetery, which has many fascinating war graves and so many stories to tell; also, Pegwell Bay with the Viking Ship. The Viking Ship is far enough outside Ramsgate town that a short drive or cycle is recommended.

As well as the Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail, there are many other walks available. To find an up to date list, visit the Old Customs House opposite the Maritime Museum in the Royal Harbour.

Remember to visit the Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail website. Either search www.ramsgatetrail.co.uk or scan the QR code, below.



A SELECT LIST OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE WITH CONNECTIONS TO RAMSGATE

Brenda Belthyn 1946-

Anthony Buckeridge 1912-2004

Sybil Burr 1909-2002

Julius Caesar 100BC-44BC

Sir Winston Churchill 1874-1965

Samuel Taylor Coleridge 1772-1834

Wilkie Collins 1824-1889

Sir William Curtis 1752-1829

Charles Darwin 1809-1882

Lady Augusta De Ameland 1768-1830

Daniel Defoe 1660-1731

Charles Dickens 1812-1870

Rear-Admiral William Fox 1733-1810

Sir William Garrow 1760-1840

King George IV 1762-1830

Vincent van Gogh 1853-1890

Will Hay 1888-1949

Sir William Jordan 1879-1959

John Gibson Lockhart 1794-1854

Charles Lightoller 1874-1952

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyle 1848-1939

Karl Marx 1818-1883

John le Mesurier 1912-1983

Sir Moses Montefiore 1784-1885

Frank Muir 1920-1998

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin 1812-1852

Edward Welby Pugin 1834-1875

Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfield, Duchess of Kent and Strathearn 1786-1861

Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills 1854-1932

James J. J. Tissot 1836-1902

Mary Townley 1753-1839

Queen Victoria 1819-1901

Major-General Sir Charles Warren

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington 1769-1852

Duke of Windsor (former Edward VIII) 1894-1972

Search these names online for more details and to discover more famous names connected to Ramsgate.



Winston Churchill inspecting bomb damaged properties in Ramsgate town centre and seafront during World War 2.



Hereson Family & Community Centre, Lillian Road

TCDT: A HISTORY

Thanet Community Development Trust (TCDT) was created as what is called a 'legacy project' from the regeneration programme of Thanet District Council in the late nineteen-nineties.

The first recruit joined in May 2000 when TCDT was based in Margate's old mortuary. It would be more than 7 years before they finally found a permanent home in Lillian Road, Ramsgate, and in the meantime, they moved around Thanet having bases at one time or another in Margate, Ramsgate, Cliftonville and Broadstairs. They could have been called the Thanet Community Development Travellers!

By the middle of 2001 TCDT had a full complement of staff, a voluntary board of trustees and in November 2002 it was awarded charitable status by the Charity Commission. It had come of age and was ready to begin charting its own course.



Cookery



Health & Safety



CSCS Card Training



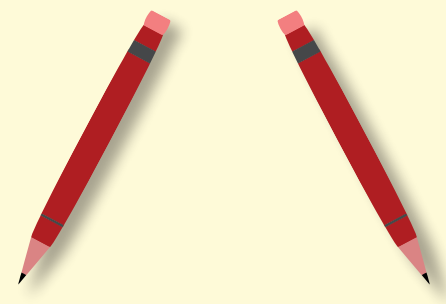
Ageless Entrepreneurs

Since then, TCDT has been successful in receiving money from such bodies as, the National Lottery, the European Union, grant making trusts and charities, banks, local businesses, through local fundraising activities and from private donations: it leaves no stone unturned. Their current priorities are on helping people to get into or nearer to work, to start their own business, or to stay healthy. Working mainly from Lillian Road but also holding weekly Job Clubs at Margate's Turner Centre, they run training courses on subjects such as: First Aid; Health and Safety; Food Safety; Cookery; CSCS Card Training, and many others. There are also a number of social clubs such as a Local History Club and a Craft Club.

They have found work for over 200 local people and have helped over 1,000 into further training, volunteering or apprenticeships. This project, the Ramsgate Military and Heritage Trail, is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund which is a national pot created to support both serving and retired servicemen and women to get the most out of civilian life and also to allow those who haven't had the privilege of serving to enjoy the history and pageantry with which the services have enriched all of our lives.

TCDT would like to thank the Armed Forces Covenant Fund for their support and we hope that everyone who follows this trail will remember those that went before and, especially in this centenary year of the Armistice, be part of the effort to keep their memories alive. If you'd like to learn more about the Trail, or about TCDT, please call 01843 855155 to speak to someone about how you might get involved.

Thanet Community Development Trust 2018





© Thanet Community Development Trust 2018

Printed by Lanes Printers • Tel: 01843 861314 • www.lanesprinters.co.uk

