



Granted by King George IV [1762 to 1830, R.1820 to 1830] in 1821, in recognition of the friendly reception His Majesty received on his several visits to the town, Ramsgate became the only 'royal' harbour in the UK. The Ramsgate Obelisk ³⁸ records this event. The King stayed at Cliff House on the West Cliff with Sir William Curtis ('Billy Biscuit') [1752 to 1829] MP, best known for inadvertently coining the 'three Rs' phrase.

An early small fishing town, medieval Ramsgate became a 'limb' of the Cinque port of Sandwich. In 1749 an Act of Parliament granted construction of the harbour following a violent

storm. John Smeaton [1724 to 1792], the first Civic Engineer, made improvements between 1774 and 1792. Developments continued despite the embarkation of troops, horses and equipment for the war in France 1793 to 1815. Queen Victoria [1819 to 1901, R.1837 to 1901] was a frequent holiday visitor. In WWII [1939 to 1945] an extraordinary fleet of 'little ships' sailed from Ramsgate to Dunkirk to save thousands of lives.

Ramsgate remains an active, busy harbour, used by working vessels; fishing, servicing the offshore windfarms, and border patrols. The harbour has a Lifeboat Station, ¹¹ continues the boat building tradition, ³ and its marina ¹² is a safe haven for leisure, and a variety of historic craft. ²⁷

**King George IV
Royal Standard is
flown in Ramsgate on:**
29 January
*George's Accession
to the Throne*
19 July
George's Coronation
12 August
George's Birthday

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Thanks
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Image - right
Detail of Ramsgate Royal
Harbour East Pier wall
Graeme Campbell

Image - left
Harbour entrance c1840
Edward William Cooke (1811 to
1880) (E Finden/Engraver)

Drone photography
© Mike Bell

Apologies for inadvertant errors

♦ [Grade II](#) or [Grade II*](#) listed

2021

• **37**
Custom House ♦ 1893-4 / **Visitor
Information Centre / Pier House**
1802 (site of). King George
IV addressed the Ramsgate
community from balcony

• **38**
Obelisk ♦ 1823
Commemorating the safe return
of King George IV to Ramsgate
and the awarding the harbour
royal status. Jokingly nicknamed
the 'Royal Toothpick'

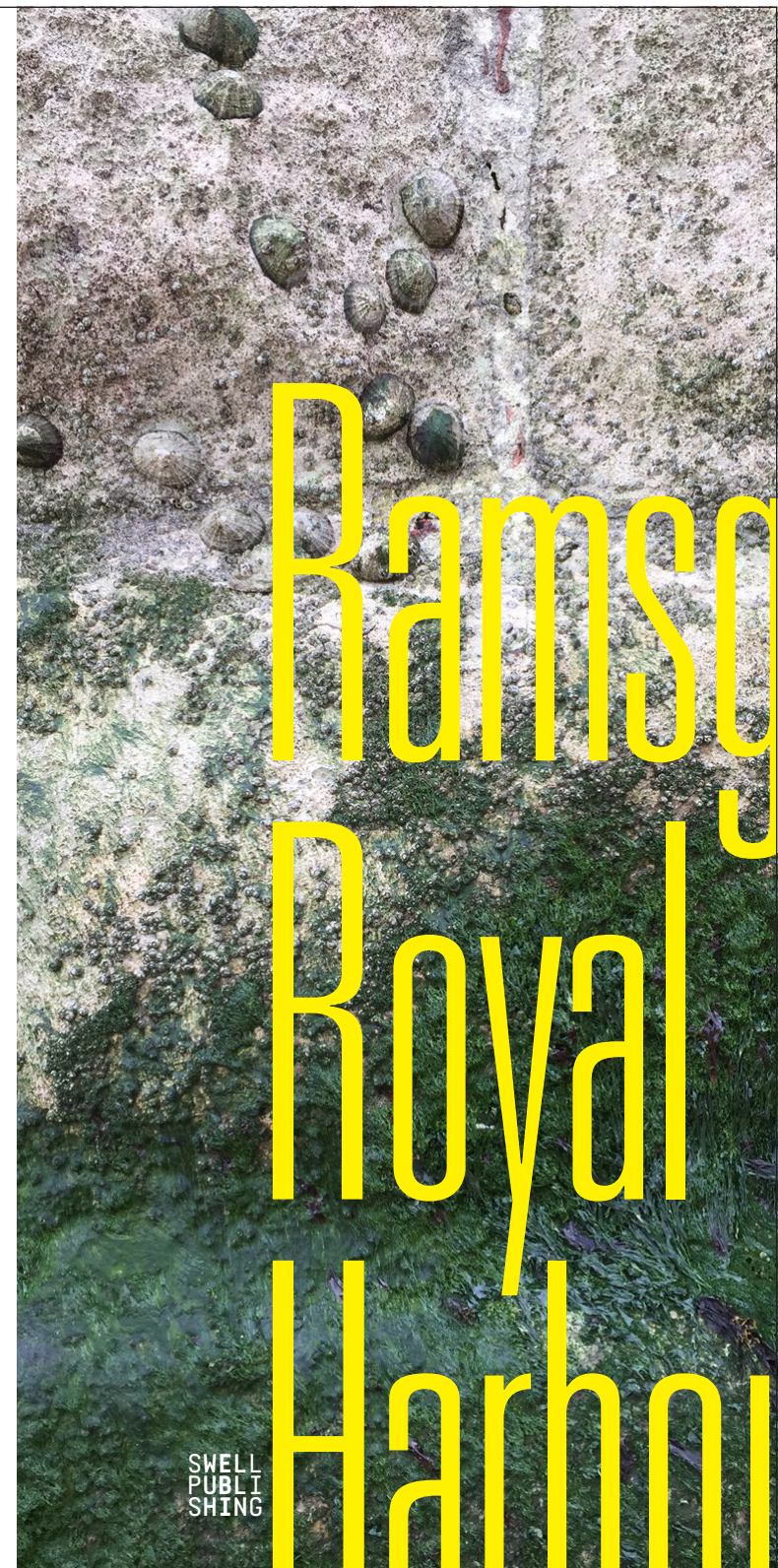
• **39**
Morton's No1 Slipway ♦ 1838
One of three

• **40**
Victoria Stairs ♦ 1831 /
Dover Stairs

• **41**
Jubilee Steps

• **42**
East Pier ♦

• **43**
Advanced Pier ♦ 1787 / **Port
Control / Royal Harbour
Brasserie / Eagle Point Café**
(site of)





- **4**
Sailors' Church ♦ 1878 - former Sailors' Home and Harbour Mission
- **5**
HMS Fervent Plaque 2009 → see **31**
Commemorating WW2 Royal Naval coastal forces based in Ramsgate
- **6**
The Ramsgate Home for Smack Boys ♦ 1881
Hostel for apprentices to fishing smack skippers
- **7**
Powder Magazine ♦ 1828
Storage of 500 gunpowder barrels from naval ships
- **8**
Dundee Steps ♦ 1810
- **9 / 28**
Sluices ♦ 1773 - disused
One of seven along the Crosswall to scour out main harbour
- **10**
West Pier ♦
- **11**
Ramsgate Lifeboat Station Boathouse / RNLI 1798
- **12**
Outer Western Marina
- **13**
Lighthouse ♦ 1842
Design/Build by John Shaw Jnr/John Smeaton. Replaced earlier Samuel Wyatt lighthouse 1794/5 located nearer the pier head (image overleaf)
- **14**
Commercial Quay
- **15**
Crosswall ♦ 1779
- **16**
Boat Hoist
- **17 & 18**
Hydraulic Power Units (HPU) 2019 Housing control for Flap Gate, Mitre Gates & Lifting Bridge
- **19**
Marina Office / RNLI (previous location)
- **20**
Flap Gate, Mitre Gates ♦ & Lifting Bridge
- **21**
Access to East and West piers when lifting bridge is down
- **22**
Dock Office
- **23 & 24**
Wing Wall ♦ 1837
8 anti-wave openings
- **25**
Dolphins - disused
Gangway supports
- **26**
Bridge - site of
- **27**
Hovercraft pad & arrival and departure office 1966 - site of
- **27**
Cervia Steam Tug 1945/6
- **28**
Sluices winding gear - disused → see **9**
- **29**
Commercial fishing
- **30**
Ramsgate Arts Barge 2020
- **31**
27 Air Sea Rescue Plaque → see **5**
Commemorating Naval base located at The Royal Oak Hotel 1942 to 1945
- **32**
Evacuation of Dunkirk Memorial 2000
Commemorating 'Operation Dynamo' 1940
- **33**
Dry Dock ♦ 1791
Also used as a covered Ice House → see **2**
- **34**
Fish Market 1881 - site of
- **35**
Channel Dash Memorial
Commemorating 'Operation Fuller' 1942
- **36**
Clock House ♦ c1817 / Ramsgate Maritime Museum
Ramsgate Meridian Mean Time records 5 minutes and 41 seconds ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)
- **37**
- **38**
- **39**
- **40**
- **41**
- **42**
- **43**



 ½ CABLE
 128 FOOTSTEPS - approx
 1 MIN 12 SECONDS - approx

KEEP SAFE - Please be aware that the Royal Harbour is also a working harbour and there are unguarded areas

• **1**
Jacob's Ladder ♦ 1826
Designed by John Shaw Senior

• **2**
Ice House
(rebuilt) Housed ice from Norway used aboard fishing smacks to keep fish fresh → see **33**

• **3**
Boat building c1800 (site of, also current) / VAG Site (VW cars) c1966