

The two East Cliff cave cottage pictures are reproduced courtesy of Dover Museum. The author would like to thank the staff of the Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS), Dover Library and Dover Museum for their help and support in researching the archives referred to in this article.

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EXCURSION TO RAMSGATE



Leo
Wright

The Society trip to Ramsgate certainly lived up to the promises (see newsletter No.31), and that despite Saturday 13th June being one of the wettest days of 1998.

Professor May had shown his paces when he talked to us in January. This day he very adroitly used the parked coach and occasional sorties between the showers to show us Ramsgate and to leave us with the wish to return at more leisure.

We found memones — and monuments - to Augustus Pugin and his son Edward's terraces, Van Gogh, not to mention the Romans and St Augustine. And why a Royal Harbour? King Billy (in costume) spoke to us in the Sailors' Church. We must go to Ramsgate again on one of the summer days when they have costumed performers narrating more of the glories of the Regency, anti-Napoleonic wars and Gothic Revival town.

Joan Ligget's organisation was as usual impeccable and the skill of Professor May left us wanting to return and stroll about more of Ramsgate's Victorian past. Not that, as Chairman of the Ramsgate Society, he did not also convince us that he, like we, in the Dover Society, is working to preserve what is worth preserving from the past — the Italian Conservatory, the Casino or the Montefiore Synagogue - and to promote high standards in what is planned for the future.