

The Citizen

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Welcome to Emsworth...England

[The Citizen was recently contacted by a writer for a community newspaper in Emsworth, England, who was doing a story on our local Emsworth, PA. He offered to share some information and photos from his Emsworth. The story on Emsworth, PA is expected to be published in an upcoming issue of The Ems, the community newspaper serving Emsworth, England.]

By David Harris

My Emsworth is a small town (9,492 pop.) located on the south coast of England, midway between the naval city of Portsmouth and the cathedral city of Chichester. The town was founded back in the 12th Century and was named after Aemil's enclosure (or worth) which became Emil's Worthy and eventually Emsworth.

For a long time it was best known for its fishing industry, especially its oysters. Unfortunately, in 1902 the oyster industry came to an end when some local oysters became polluted and caused food poisoning at a banquet in the nearby town of Winchester. Emsworth is still a fishing port and local fish are sold to restaurants in the area.

Emsworth is very popular as a retirement area and about one-third of its citizens are over 65. We have a flourishing town centre with a large number of independent shops such as butchers, greengrocer, book shop, delicatessen, cheese shop, record shop, antiques shops, etc. Emsworth has two award-winning restaurants and several traditional English pubs which serve good food as well as real ales. For several years, Emsworth hosted a food festival which drew

visitors from across the UK. We now have a monthly farmers market which has over 20 stalls selling food from local producers.

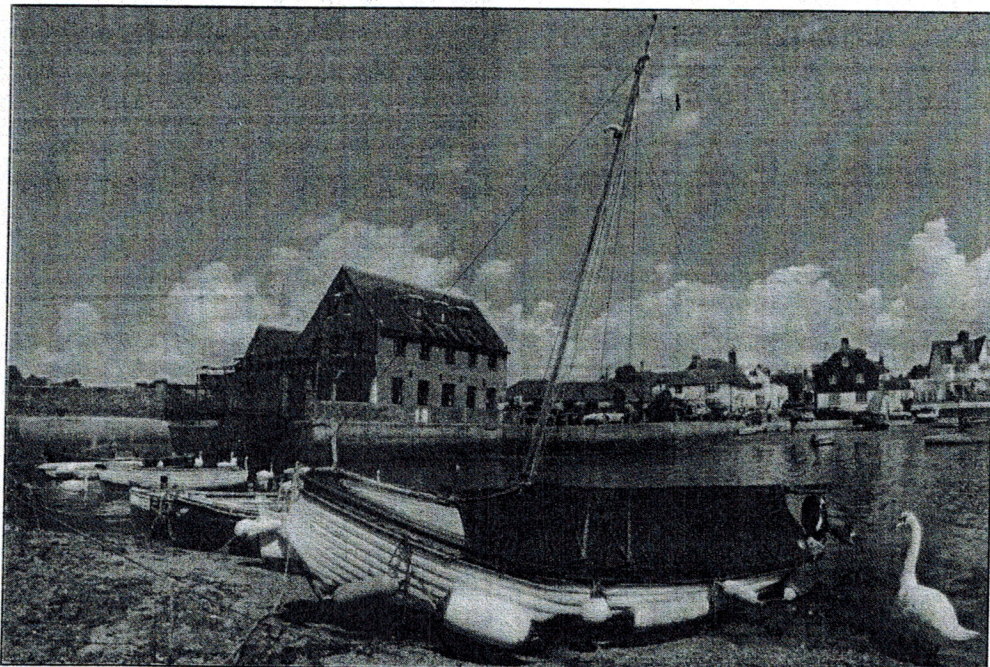
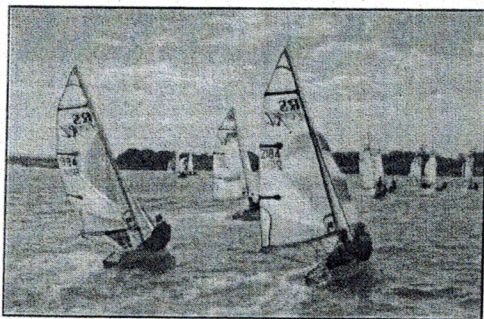
Today, Emsworth is a centre for sailing in Chichester Harbour and the nearby Solent. There are a number of yacht clubs and marinas in the area. One of the most pleasurable activities in Emsworth is to walk along the Millpond and around the harbour. Emsworth is tidal and the scenery is constantly changing as the tide ebbs and flows. In the winter, many migratory birds fly down from the Arctic and can be seen in the harbour.

The most famous Emsworth resident was P G Wodehouse (1881-1975) who wrote almost 100 comic novels. He also worked with Cole Porter and Jerome Kern on the lyrics to many musicals. The English

actor Albert Finney (b.1936) currently lives in Emsworth.

Emsworth elects three councillors who serve on the council of nearby Havant Borough Council. We have our own community newspaper, The Ems, which comes out every two months and is written and distributed by a team of local volunteers.

If you are planning a trip to England, then Emsworth is a good place to stay. We have several small hotels and guest houses. We are only 70 miles from London and fairly close to major tourist towns such as Brighton and Portsmouth. If you would like more information about Emsworth, check out these local Web sites: <http://www.emsworthonline.co.uk/> or <http://www.emsworth.org.uk/>



THE TWO EMSWORTHS actually share some characteristics. Both are small boroughs bordered by large bodies of water, and home to various water fowl (pictured at far right). Emsworth, England lies on the

southern coast of the country, where it now serves as a center for sailing and boating, along with fishing.

Photo courtesy of John Tweddell.



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EMSWORTH, ENGLAND

By David Harris

The English town of Emsworth is a small town (pop. 10000) located on the South coast of England. We are midway between the large city and naval port of Portsmouth and the cathedral city of Chichester. The town grew up around the harbour and used to be a fishing port. It is now very popular with retired people and is a centre for yachting and boating. Emsworth, unlike many towns in England has a high proportion of independent family run businesses including butchers, greengrocers, bookshop, delicatessen, etc. It has no less than 9 traditional English pubs and an equal number of cafes and tearooms. There are also several good restaurants and a monthly Farmers Market. There is an annual Food Fortnight event held every September.

In 2015 we saw our town grow with new housing developments and further housing is planned for the outskirts of the town. Housing is expensive in the south of England and average house prices in Emsworth are \$486,686. The main news stories in Emsworth will be familiar to residents of small towns in the USA. Our concerns include the possible closure of our library which is very popular with residents. There was also anxiety about cutbacks to our volunteer fire station which is located in our old town hall which was built in 1900. The fire station is one of the oldest purpose built fire stations still in use in England. We have an old hospital building in Emsworth which has been vacant for some time and local residents are hopeful that this will become a new medical centre.

We have several churches in Emsworth and in 2015 our Baptist church built a new church on the site of their very rundown old building. This new church accommodates 300 people and is also used for concerts. There have been some problems in the north of the town when a wall close to a railway bridge became unstable. The local council are unwilling to repair it and a footpath that was used by many people has now been closed. Emsworth does not have its own Council but is governed from the nearby town of Havant.

We have also recently learnt that a national chain of coffee shops intends to open a branch in Emsworth. Many residents fear that this will lead to the closure of some of our small cafes.

Emsworth is a very pleasant place to live in and every year it greets many visitors who like to eat in its fine restaurants and pubs and walk along our lovely harbour foreshore. You can learn more about our town by visiting these websites:

www.emsworthonline.co.uk/

www.emsworth.org.uk/

www.visithavant.co.uk/

www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/places-to-visit/emsworth-p279411

David Harris is a freelance writer who lives in Emsworth, England. He contributes to various local papers and also writes about beer, radio and music.