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**While memory serves**  
 - some recollections of Emsworth in 1945 (part 1)  
 John Crookshank

In 1945, my parents bought Western Lodge on the Havant Road at an auction at the Black Dog in the Square and we joined the Emsworth Sailing Club. A cruel war was still raging in the Far East, but the European War was ending. First class cricket was being played again, with Wally Hammond scoring heavily in the "Victory" Tests at Lords.

The Emsworth Sailing Club brought out some of its lovely old, clinker built, 16-foot One Designs after their unusually long lay-up.

Mr Stebbings, a rather formidable ex-naval figure who seemed to run the club under a layer of Admirals, Brigadiers and Colonels, allowed some of the children to help with taking the six year old paint off the beautiful hulls of the Emsworth One Designs, which had been built, pre-war, at Harry Feltham's old yard in Portsmouth's Camber. It was a great honour and excitement to be allowed to use the blowguns and scrapers under his eagle eye.

During the sailing season, the Club boats lay at moorings in the Emsworth Channel stream and were much used by members. You got out to them, either by using Fisherman's Hard which was then more intact and from which the little hards jutted further into the water than they do now or, when the tide had come in, by a dinghy from the Club.

The dinghies lay on outhauls off the Clubhouse and motive power was usually oars. If you returned too near low water you towed the quite heavy old Club boat to its mooring by walking along the gravelly bottom and, sometimes, picking the mooring itself out of the mud. But more often you timed it so that Mr Stebbings or Jack, the Boatman, who in addition, ran the bar and incidentally also seemed to work for the Southern Railway, took you off and collected you. A day's hire cost 10 shillings (about 50 pence) - which must have represented very good value even in those far off days!

*To be continued in the July issue of The Ems*

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