

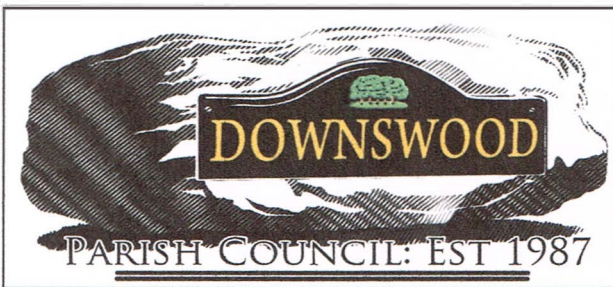
**COME TO THE DOWNSWOOD**  
**OLYMPICNIC**  
**2021**

**SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**  
from 12 to 3pm at Mallards Way Park

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**  
**TUG OF WAR, SACK AND RUNNING RACES,**  
**WELLY WANGING, SKIPPING + MORE...**

**ICE CREAM • BOUNCY CASTLE • GLADIATOR DUEL**  
**BRING A PICNIC**





# NEWSLETTER August 2021

Website: [www.downswoodpc.org](http://www.downswoodpc.org)



Don't forget to check the DPC Facebook page. As well as regular updates on our website, the latest happenings in Downswood are posted on Facebook too - If you haven't already done so just "like" the official Downswood page so the latest info is always in your newsfeed

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

We are here to represent all residents, so if there is something you think we could help with, why not tell us?

**Parish Clerk—Teresa Irving.** 7 Firs Close, Aylesford, ME20 7LH.  
Tele: 01622 717466 Email: [clerk@downswoodpc.org](mailto:clerk@downswoodpc.org)

**Your Parish Councillors are:** Gordon Newton (Chairman), Roz Cheesman (Vice-Chairman), Martin Weeks, Anne-Marie Butler, Kate Alden-Morris, Pete Fincham, Raj Rajalingam & Sam Brooks.

We currently have a Cllr vacancy (a voluntary position). This is an ideal opportunity to make a difference, and become involved in shaping the future of your local Community. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

Full council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, in the Community Centre at 8pm.  
Future 2021 meetings will be held on: 7 Sept, 5 Oct, 2 Nov & 7 Dec.

Congratulations to some very worthy winners in this year's Garden Competition.

**Best use of a small space/baskets:** For its well thought out and delicately maintained planting scheme, expertly layered with pollinator focused plants all in beautiful blue/purple colour pallet. This tiny space couldn't have had more bees and butterflies in it, and the three bee houses sent it over the top: *17 Grampian Way*

**Best front garden/hanging basket/pots & boxes:** For its clever execution of a tiered space, brave plant selection and well thought out overall design: *35 Horton Downs*

**Overall best garden:** This was a tough decision, but this garden was quite simply the complete package; Simple ever-green shrubs framed by a natural lawn, impactful pots and a well designed and maintained floral planting bed all framed in a beautifully kept Wisteria. *14 Mallards Way*

A special thank you to **Michael Kippen of Bloomin Gardening Services** for taking the time out to view the short listed gardens and make the final decision..

**This year's Christmas Carols and Lights Ceremony will be held on Sat, 4 December commencing at 4 pm in the Community Centre.**

Please ensure that you pick up after your dog and take the waste home, or dispose of it in one of the bins that are provided by the Borough Council.

### USEFUL CONTACTS:

**Community Centre**—For all enquiries regarding booking the Community Centre please contact the Booking Secretary on 0771 563 2684 or email: [bookings@downswood.co.uk](mailto:bookings@downswood.co.uk)

**PCSO 46057612 Kirsty Greaves** Always use 999 for emergencies and 101 for non urgent matters

**Downswood & Otham Borough Cllr, Gordon Newton:** Tel 07769 676238 or email: [gordonnewton@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:gordonnewton@maidstone.gov.uk)

**Kent County Councillor, Gary Cooke.** Tel: 03000 415 978 or email: [gary.cooke@kent.gov.uk](mailto:gary.cooke@kent.gov.uk)

**MP Helen Whately.** Westminster Office: 020 7219 6472 or email: [helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk)

### A brief history of Downswood as researched by Cllr Raj Rajalingam.

Downswood Parish is relatively a new one compared to Bearsted and Otham parishes.

Downswood parish was formed in 1987 having separated from Otham parish which was very old going back

to the reign of King Henry III (1207-1272). As Downswood area was in the parish of Otham, the history of Downswood is associated with Otham History. Otham was given by William the Conqueror to his half brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. On the disgrace of Bishop, the land came into the hands of the crown and Peter de Otham held the land as a Knight in the reign of King Henry III.

Hence the parish Otham was named after Peter de Otham.

Similarly the Bearsted Parish was also very old and going back to 12<sup>th</sup> Century and it was named after Beorg meaning homestead on a hill. Hence it was called Bearsted.

Both Otham and Bearsted have history behind them and available in the KCC library, whereas the Downswood has no written history available currently.

The population of the civil parish as of the 2011 census is 2,291. It is bounded to the north by the River Len and Bearsted, to the south by Otham, to the east by wooded and arable area and to the west is Mote Park..... **cont'd on DPC's website complete with historical maps: [www.downswoodpc.org](http://www.downswoodpc.org)**

**Church Road Development Update.** Significant foundations have been found on the site. We look forward to reading KCC's archaeology report in due course