

Pilling Parish Council Newsletter

**AUTUMN
2025**

NOVEMBER



Report from the Chair of Pilling Parish Council

Since the last newsletter, councillors Judy Judkins and Sarah Collinge have resigned their positions, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and efforts on behalf of our community.

The vacancies were subsequently advertised and with only two people offering their service, both Lisa Stanger and Liz Kiersey have been co-opted onto the council.



Also, there has been a change of regime at Lancashire County Council with Reform now in a majority. No doubt they will have different priorities to their predecessors; however we will continue to challenge them to fulfil their responsibilities to Pilling, particularly regarding the poor state of the roads. It will also help our efforts if residents keep the pressure up by reporting defective road surfaces and pot holes on 'Love Clean Streets'.

As people will have seen, work has started to replace the doors on the outfall of the Broadfleet. This work is being carried out by contractors on behalf of the Environment Agency and is a direct result of the work and efforts of Councillors Alf Whiteside and Steve Philpotts. In addition, a group has been formed by David Wilkinson called the Broadfleet Outfall Farmer Flood Action Group to tackle these issues in the future.

In the run up to the Service of Remembrance, the Parish Council have bought some large Remembrance Poppies and three metal silhouettes which will be displayed around the village prior to the event on Sunday 9th November.



Report from the Chair of Pilling Parish Council

With regard to planning, there is good news in relation to the proposed application regarding the Preesall Quarry site. Lancashire County Council have now rejected the plans and credit must go to the committee who opposed it with the support of their district councillor, LCC councillor and our MP.

We are also continuing to press Wyre Borough Council to take action against a number of illegal developments within the parish and await their reply.

The Police Community Support Officers who cover Pilling are aiming to hold regular 'Drop-In' sessions at the Village Hall to meet our community and listen to your concerns. These will be on a Thursday lunch time - the exact dates are to be confirmed and will be displayed on the 'In The Know' messaging service which can be accessed via the Lancashire Constabulary web site.

Lastly the cover for this edition of the Newsletter was designed by Olivia Briggs who is a year 2 pupil at St Williams Catholic Primary School. Congratulations goes to Olivia who received a £20 book token for her endeavours.



As Christmas is just round the corner, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Cllr Neil Cookson
Chair.

Update: St Williamsgate/Create Homes

This matter unfortunately continues to drag on. The Planning Department at Wyre Borough Council received a discharge notice in July regarding the vacant plot originally earmarked for affordable housing. It is understood the Council have accepted that there are no social housing landlords/associations who are interested in this location and are, therefore, looking at the discharge notice.

The Parish Council have been informed that planning have requested further information of the qualifying persons. The Parish Council have requested what this additional information is and who from (Create Homes or their planning consultants DePol Associates) and how, as a Parish Council, we can assist the process.

At this time there has been no reply from the Planning Department.

This is hugely frustrating for the residents and the Parish Council will continue to press both the Planning Department and the developers for information on their proposals, progress and time frames for completion.

Cllr D Ponton.

Pilling Flooding & Drainage

Broadfleet Outfall Farmers Flood Action Group

Over the last year, Pilling Parish Council have raised the awareness of the flooding issues in Pilling and the surrounding parishes. Following this, a group has now been set up, led by the farming community, under the title "Broadfleet Outfall Farmers Flood Action Group" to tackle these issues.

We believe the main issues are:

- ♦ Regular maintenance of the Dyke network
- ♦ Lobbying for better gates or pumps through the sea wall
- ♦ Clearing and maintaining a channel through the Salt Marsh out to Lune Deeps

Whilst all this work used to be carried out by the Environment Agency it has become obvious over the last decade that they are no longer have the necessary funding. The Group will work with the EA and other bodies such as Natural England to apply for the necessary licenses and for funding to carry major works out.

One recent success is the fitting of new flood gates on the Broadfleet Outfall which for the last 12 months have been allowing sea water in on big tides causing the dykes to flow the wrong way for up to a mile inland. Following lobbying by the group the EA are now fitting the gates which should be up and running by the end of the month.



Pilling Flooding & Drainage

The group, which has a fully constituted committee has a membership of around 40, mainly farmers, but is open to anyone with an interest in the flooding issues. Membership fee is a nominal £10. The more members we have the more lobbying power we will have. Anyone interested is welcome to give me a call.

David Wilkinson
Chair
Tel: 07890124541

One of the main problems causing flooding issues is the clearing of the dykes and watercourses within the area.

The following picture shows what a difference is being made by the dykes being cleared, with the water able to drain off the fields and flow out to the sea, but this can only be successful if everyone who has a watercourse within their boundaries fulfils their responsibilities as a riparian landowner.



Pilling Flooding & Drainage

WHEN ARE LANDOWNERS AND HOMEOWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR A WATERCOURSE?

- When part of a watercourse runs across your land you own the full stretch of the watercourse that lies within your property boundary.
- When a watercourse forms the boundary of your property, it's presumed that you own that section of the watercourse up to its middle and the adjacent landowner will be responsible for the other side up to its middle (unless it's known to be owned by someone else). It's important to check your deeds.
- When the watercourse is culverted and running through your land you own the full stretch of the watercourse that lies within your property boundary.

You may not be aware that a culvert that lies beneath your property as it may have been buried for a long time. The Land Drainage Act 1991 states that the owner of land through which a culvert passes is 'responsible for maintaining the culvert to allow for the free passage of water, whether or not he is aware of the culvert'. If you are unsure about your ownership, you can check your title deeds on the land registry.

As a riparian owner your responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse, this includes trees and shrubs on the banks and also fallen trees and debris in the watercourse which may reduce flow.
- Accepting the flow of water through your land even if caused by inadequate capacity downstream.
- Allowing free passage for fish.
- Keeping your section of watercourse free from pollution and obstructions and free flowing. You shouldn't discharge chemicals, wastewater or green waste onto the banks or into the watercourse. Landowners should also use land management techniques which prevent runoff containing topsoil from entering the watercourse.
- Keep structures within the watercourse such as trash screens and culverts free from blockages. You should contact your local Risk Management Authority (RMA) for advice about maintenance and repairs.
- Control the migration of invasive species to other landowner's property.
- Not damaging local wildlife habitats, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, protected species.
- Reporting incidents of flooding and pollution.

Pilling Flooding & Drainage

What is a Riparian Owner?

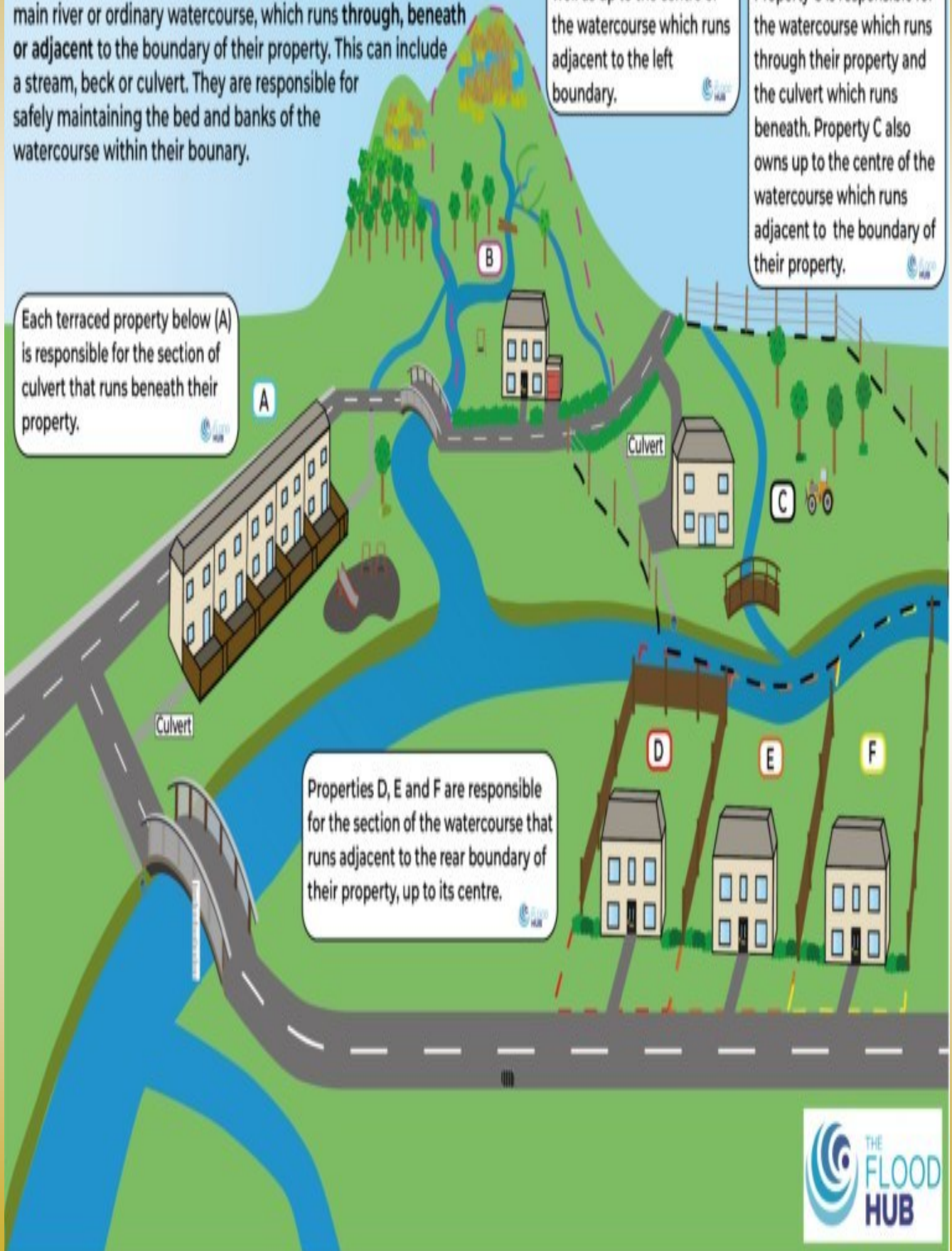
A riparian owner is somebody who has a watercourse, such as a main river or ordinary watercourse, which runs **through, beneath or adjacent** to the boundary of their property. This can include a stream, beck or culvert. They are responsible for safely maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse within their boundary.

Property B is responsible for the watercourses that run through their property, as well as up to the centre of the watercourse which runs adjacent to the left boundary.

Property C is responsible for the watercourse which runs through their property and the culvert which runs beneath. Property C also owns up to the centre of the watercourse which runs adjacent to the boundary of their property.

Each terraced property below (A) is responsible for the section of culvert that runs beneath their property.

Properties D, E and F are responsible for the section of the watercourse that runs adjacent to the rear boundary of their property, up to its centre.



FTQR03

VE Day Celebrations



The VE Day Over 60s Celebration Lunch was held in Pilling Village Hall on 9th May 2025.

Entertainment was provided by Rob Mason and Organist Alan Cookson. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Date for your diary for 2026, Celebration Lunch Friday 12th June in Pilling Village Hall.



Pilling Coffee Feast 2025



Our Coffee Feast celebration was also a great success with lots of locals turning out for this traditional Pilling Event. There was food galore, games for the children, live music and partying until very late! The Coffee Feast Committee work very hard to put this event on. They fundraise throughout the year and give up a great deal of time to make it an enjoyable event. If you would like to become involved and join the committee, just message Pilling Village Hall for details of how you can help.



Pilling Village Hall



Looking back over the summer, it has been a busy one at the Village Hall. The Café continues to be a popular place to meet for lunch or a bite to eat. We are open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Come and see what we have to offer.

Have you been to Friday night Social? Each week there is something different to do, from Quiz Night on the first Friday to darts and dominoes and then the ever popular bingo on the last Friday of each month. It's a chance to get together with friends or make new ones, and there is always a possibility of a cash prize!

We rely heavily on our volunteers and so in September, we held a thanks evening for anyone who gives up their time at the hall. The evening was well attended and much appreciated by the volunteers.

Once again we had a very successful Vintage weekend in July. This has now become a well established event in the calendar and increases in popularity each year.

In September, we launched The Pilling Village Show. There were displays of art, handicrafts, horticulture, ceramics and floristry. As this was our first show, we were not sure how it would be received, but it was very well supported. In the afternoon, there was a presentation of trophies to the best in each category. These were sponsored by local businesses. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day. We were very glad of the support of the WI in providing fantastic refreshments and also to Jim Cross for donating all his profits from the sale of dishes he made. We hope to repeat the event again next year. What will you enter?

Coming up in the next few weeks, there is a Halloween party and a Christmas party for families, and once again we are having the popular Christmas markets which is a great family event. To round off the year we will be holding the New Years Eve Party with live music. We hope to see you at some of these events.

Katrina Bell.

PILLING **COMMUNITY** ACTION



Having trouble with your mobile phone/tablet/laptop?

Why not attend one of our Digital Drop-Ins?



These have continued to be delivered on a monthly basis. Further sessions are on the following dates:

- Thursday 13th November
- Thursday 11th December

Sessions are free and run from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the Village Hall.

NHS Health Checks

Free NHS Health Checks have also been arranged for Saturday 17th January 2026 at the Village Hall.

Please see details on the following page for arrangements for booking and eligibility criteria.



£££ Small Grants Awards

Did you know that Pilling Parish Council offers grants of £500 to local organisations?

At the discretion of the Council, small grants are awarded to community organisations which demonstrate a clear need for financial support and contribute towards the Council's vision and aims for the parish of Pilling.

Further information is available on the Parish Council website.

www.pilling-pc.gov.uk/small-grants.php

Free NHS Health Checks in Pilling

**NHS
HEALTH
CHECK**

Helping you prevent
diabetes
heart disease
kidney disease
stroke & dementia

**17th January (10am - 4pm)
Pilling Village Hall**

The NHS Health Checks Lancashire team are heading to Pilling Village Hall!

As we get older, we are all at higher risk of developing certain health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease or type 2 diabetes.

Even if someone is feeling well a free NHS Health Check is a simple way to spot the early warning signs so they can take action to improve their health.

Who's eligible?

Anyone aged 40-74 who lives or works within the Lancashire County Council area and does not have certain pre-existing conditions (check the website for more details).



What is an NHS Health Check?

An appointment takes ~ 30 minutes and includes checks for:

- Height and weight
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Blood sugar
- Basic questions about your family history, exercise, alcohol and smoking

Results are shared with your GP and where appropriate the team will refer onto a range of lifestyle services.

How to access

Visit the NHS Health Checks Lancashire website by scanning the QR code or by visiting the following link: www.nhshealthcheckslancashire.co.uk/book-now/

New dates and locations are added on a regular basis.

You can also book by giving the team a call via: 0300 033 6431



0300 033 6431

[nhshealthcheckslancashire](https://www.facebook.com/nhshealthcheckslancashire)

fcms.nhshealthcheckslancashire@nhs.net

Headlines from Wyre Council



I'm Adam Leigh and I've been your ward councillor since May 2023.



Local Government Reorganisation in Wyre: Update

From November 2025 - Detailed proposals from all 15 councils in Lancashire are due to be submitted by 28th November. Once this has happened, there will be public consultations giving residents a chance to input their preferred option.

Government decision is expected to select preferred proposals by mid 2026. If approved, the new unitary councils would come into effect on 1st April 2028. Shadow authorities (preparatory councils) may be elected in May 2027.

Wyre could be combined with other districts such as Fylde, Blackpool or Lancaster depending on which model is chosen. It is expected that each unitary authorities will cover a population of up to 500,000.

Postal Votes

Postal voters are now required to renew their postal vote application every three years. If you applied for a postal vote before 31 October 2023, your postal vote will automatically expire on 31 January 2026.

The quickest and easiest way to renew is online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote

Food Waste Recycling

From Monday 6 April 2026 , Wyre Council will be introducing a new food waste collection service.

Food waste will be collected weekly on the same day as other waste and recycling. Separate bins will be provided. Further information will be sent directly to householders in the New Year. In the meantime, information can be obtained from the Wyre Council website.

www.wyre.gov.uk/recycling-waste/food-waste-collections-service-2026

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Remembrance Service

Service of Remembrance - St John's - Sunday 9th November
Church Service at 10am followed by service at the Cenotaph at 10:47am



Christmas Tree Light Switch-On

Monday 1st December at 7.00pm
On the Village Green, School Lane
The lights will be turned on by 2025 Coffee Feast Queen and pupils from St Williams RC Primary and St John's will lead the Carols.

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 6.00pm

Celebration Lunch for the Over 60's

Friday 12th June 2026 in Pilling Village Hall.

Your Pilling Parish Councillors

Councillor Neil Cookson, (Chair)

Email: cldr.n.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel. 790875

Councillor Graham C. Curwen, (Vice Chair)

Email: cldr.curwen@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel. 790502

Councillor Mrs. Elizabeth Cookson

Email: cldr.e.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel. 790537

Councillor Paul McWhirter

Email: cldr.mcwhirter@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 790995

Councillor Steve Phillpotts

Email: cldr.phillpotts@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel. 799121

Councillors John C. Savage

Email: cldr.savage@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel. 790707

Councillor Alf Whiteside,

Email;: cldr.whiteside@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel. 07778411310

Councillor Dave Ponton

Email: cldr.ponton@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07786 373273

Councillor Lisa Stanger

Email: cldr.stanger@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07415 194832

Councillor Liz Kiersey

Email: cldr.kiesey@pilling-pc.gov.uk Tel.: 07519650142

Your Councillors and Parish Council Office

WYRE COUNCILLOR FOR PILLING

CLLR. ADAM LEIGH,
Adam.Leigh@wyre.gov.uk

Tel: 07475950471

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR WYRE RURAL CENTRAL

Cllr. Matthew Salter,
matthew.salter@lancashire.gov.uk

Tel: 07803 723 958

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR LANCASTER AND WYRE

Cat Smith, MP cat.smith.mp@parliament.uk

TEL: 0207 219 6001 OR 01253 490 440.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

Your Parish Council Office is located in the Village Hall on Taylor's Lane and is open to the public on Monday and Wednesday, from 10.00am to 3.00pm

The main telephone number for the Parish Council has changed to 07496 726282. The clerk can also be contacted via email clerk@pilling-pc.gov.uk or by using the contact enquiry form on the website.

WEBSITE

The Parish Council has a website where copies of all agenda and minutes plus other news is accessible.
www.pilling-pc.gov.uk

Reporting Problems

Reporting potholes, street lighting, gullies etc.

Use the app I loveclean streets by scanning the QR code to download and use on the go.

Or go to the Lancashire County Council webpage:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/report-it-on-the-go



Reporting problems with Watercourses

Environment Agency hotline: 088 80 70 60 goes to division to act on.

United Utilities Leakline

0800 33 00 33

United Utilities Floodline

When sewers are overtopping 0345 6723 723

Report speeding complaints directly to the Police

www.lancsroadsafety.co.uk where you then simply need to follow directions from the 'Contacts' link.



Dog Fouling

Report directly to Wyre Council:

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/dogs/dog-fouling/1>

PLEASE BAG IT AND BIN IT OR TAKE IT HOME