

## Pilling

Pilling is an extensive mossland parish covering 3387 hectares; situated on the southern corner of Morecambe Bay. A largely agricultural parish it is a rural community and has a flat open landscape looking toward the Bowland Fells the Lake District Mountains and Morecambe Bay.

Pilling Parish is made up of various sized hamlets each with its own identity; most people travel through Pilling on the A588 main road, between Lancaster and Blackpool, and do not experience the quiet centre of our village.

The judging route begins in **Stakepool**; at the junction of the A588 and Bradshaw Lane. The Parish Council is at pains to point out the new speed limit on this part of the road having campaigned long and hard for its assessment to 30MPH. The junction was the site of the old Pilling Station, on the Knott End to Garstang Railway, and is still called Station Corner by many locals. Here there are two large flower tubs, given to Pilling Parish Council as part of a planning permission on a residential development for affordable housing in the village.



The renewed and reshaped central raised bed presents the flag of St. George; in such a location as to catch the eye when entering Head Dyke Lane.

There are three tubs on the west side of the road and opposite is the original station trolley, given by the Fylde Country Life Museum, which was once located on Eagland Hill. The trolley holds milk kits and other old dairy equipment and is planted to represent milk in the kits and water in the trough.



Turning right by the Elletsons Arms into Garstang Road we next call in at **St William's Primary School**, to see the work done in their garden.

Returning to Garstang Road just opposite St. William's School the mature trees in the wood have been trimmed and cut back under the instruction of the Wyre Tree Officer as many of these beautiful old trees carry TPO's.

After the school visit you return to the A586 Lancaster Road with a visit to Bodkin Hall; the site of the seed drill and six tubs on **Lancaster Road**, part of our agricultural heritage.



**Taylor's Lane Industrial Estate** is privately owned and Mrs Howard has created a bed to spell out the name of the tractors they produce – Siromer. At the entrance to the estate is a Pilling in Bloom bed for all year interest. The industrial building suffered badly from a recent fire and has yet to be rebuilt.

Taking the next left into Taylor's Lane you will pass the site of the original **Pilling Memorial Hall**, now a residential development of affordable houses. The New Memorial Hall site is just further along and also the location of the recent Celebrating Pilling. This event was possible through Lottery funding and the parish organised many small local businesses and organisations to present their work with the day ending in entertainment from a local Ukulele Band and a concert by Pilling Jubilee Silver Band.

Pilling Memorial Hall Committee has undertaken a long term project to plant a woodland on the new field and to date over 600 saplings are forming the beginning of the countryside park. Pilling in Bloom has located two barrels at the entrance to the car park





Continuing on Taylors Lane to Damside and as you pass Pilling Windmill with the **Millennium Bed** at its base it is planted with the red rose of Lancashire, shrubs, perennials, and some herbs surround the locally made commemorative mill stone carrying the date.

Crossing **Broadfleet Bridge** brings you to the floor mounted and hanging troughs, to be planted this year with geraniums, which need to stand the gale force winds that blow across the fields from the wide expanse of Morecambe Bay and show up well under the shade of the trees.



The area can look so bare in the Winter.



You now enter School Lane with the **Broadfleet Sensory Garden** to the right, started in 2011, as the locally produced stone tells us. The garden was created from the old doctor's surgery car park; as there is no longer a satellite surgery in the village. It was redeveloped by Pilling Parish Council with grants from Awards for All and the Moons Trust into an attractive area to sit, rest and enjoy the views across the Bay.



The central area is a mixture of the types of plants and bulbs that can be touched and smelt, different shapes, colours, flowers, herbs, seed heads and fruit all of which must stand the biting salty wind. The sensory garden continues to be maintained by Pilling Parish Lengthsman.



The two side beds were planted by pupils from St. John's C of E School and St. Williams RC School in the village. They used the theme of their school uniforms when considering a planting scheme, so one is red and blue, and one green and yellow/gold. The children thoroughly enjoyed planting and continued with bulbs in Autumn, which look and smelt great in the spring.



The gravel bed near the road was designed to give another texture and feel to the site and also it would not matter if little feet walked on the stone edges and the bed.

This bed is very popular with the walkers, cyclists, and locals who come to sit and admire the plants. The original raised bed was relocated and matched with the central beds. The dressed stone used to edge the School's beds were in the grounds of St. John's School House and believed to have come from the building of St. John the Baptist Church.



**St John's Primary School** is your next visit to see one the gardens that the children have been creating;

Opposite the school the five floral barrels across the road are located to cheer up this corner. The display also includes a plough 'turning over' the turf; cut in Pilling for many years and used as fuel with seagulls, signifying the rural and coastal links that Pilling has.

A little further along School Lane is **St John the Baptist Church** here the grounds have been planted with shrubs and a wonderful herbaceous border. There are two tubs at the gate which continue the use of planters throughout the Village.



When the Church built their hall the ground in front was full of builder's rubble and essential pipe work. Thanks to a grant from the Green Partnership Award this has been transformed into an inviting border forming a perfect impact to the congregation attending services.

Planting is done by volunteers and the border around St. John the Baptist Church is changed each year depending on what the head gardener grows.





Next you pass an **original Lancashire Crumbly Cheese press** planted in white and yellow to represent the locally produced Lancashire Cheese and two tubs of flowers

Lancashire cheese is unique as it is produced from more than one days milking. It can have a crumbly texture and this type is ideal for melting on toast. There are three main types creamy, crumbly and tasty.

The large planer at the entrance to the Village Green was presented as part of a planning condition and uses an obelisk to give the clematis height.

The **Triangle** is next; here we have tried to make a softer planting with delicate colours from the Busy Lizzies around the centre copper Maple and to contrast the stone walls and the tiles designed by villagers and produced by Pilling Pottery.



As you reach the final planting area at the end of **Smallwood Hey**, the softer planting of Busy Lizzies have been used again.

The grass and beds outside the bungalows belong to Regenda, one of the local housing associations in Pilling and they maintain the area, but Pilling in Bloom plants up the trough alongside the footpath to give colour on this corner.

There are seven floral barrels opposite the sheltered housing planted continuing the planting in the rest of the village.



You end your visit by looking at the front garden of Mr and Mrs Danson. Always such a wonderful display and Mr. Danson helps with the planting in the village.

