**WE CLAIM:**

1. A paving element comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a side wall, the paving element further comprising one or more drainage channels extending between the upper and lower surfaces,

- wherein each of the drainage channels includes a first opening, provided at the upper surface of the paving element, and a second opening, provided on the lower surface of the paving element,

- the first opening comprising a concave portion formed on the upper surface of the paving element,

- the second opening including a conduit extending from a lower end of the first opening to the lower surface of the paving element, wherein the conduit has a smaller opening than the first opening,

- and wherein the one or more drainage channels are provided on the perimeter of the paving element.

2. The paving element of claim 1, wherein the drainage channels are partial channels, formed into the side wall of the paving element, wherein, when the paving element is in use, the partial channels are adapted to cooperate with partial channels of an adjacent paving element to form complete channels when the paving elements are positioned together to form a pavement.

3. The paving element of claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the concave portions of the drainage channels is symmetrical with respect to at least one axis of the paving element.

4. The paving element of claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the concave portions of the drainage channels is asymmetrical with respect to at least one axis of the paving element.

5. The paving element of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the concave portions are round, oval, elongate or elliptical in shape.

6. The paving element of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein each of the concave portions is oriented at an angle with respect to the plane of the upper surface of the paving element.

7. A paving element comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a side wall, the paving element further comprising a plurality of drainage channels extending through the element between the upper and lower surfaces,

- wherein each of the drainage channels includes a first opening, provided on the upper surface of the paving element, and a second opening, provided on the lower surface of the paving element,

- the first opening comprising a substantially planar portion formed on the upper surface of the paving element,

- the second opening including a conduit extending from a lower end of the first opening to the lower surface of the paving element, wherein the conduit has a smaller opening than the first opening,

- and wherein the one or more drainage channels are provided on the perimeter of the paving element.

8. The paving element of claim 7, wherein the drainage channels provided on the perimeter are partial channels, formed into the side wall, wherein, when the paving element is in use, the partial channels are adapted to cooperate with partial channels of an adjacent paving element to form complete channels.

9. The paving element of claim 7 or 8, wherein each of the planar portions of the drainage channels is symmetrical with respect to at least one axis of the paving element.

10. The paving element of claim 7 or 8, wherein each of the planar portions of the drainage channels is asymmetrical with respect to at least one axis of the paving element.

11. The paving element of any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein each of the planar portions is oriented at an angle with respect to the plane of the upper surface of the paving element.

12. The paving element of claim 1, wherein the one or more drainage channels are provided on one or more corners of the paving element.

13. The paving element of any one of claims 1 to 12 further comprising a plurality of spacer ribs or nibs provided on the side wall.

14. The paving element of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein at least one of the drainage channels includes a filter medium adapted to filter liquid passing through the channel.

15. The paving element of claim 14, wherein the filter medium is removable from the drainage channel.

16. A pavement system comprising a plurality of paving elements according to any one of claims 1 to 15, each of the paving elements being adapted to be laid adjacent each other.