

Readers' gardens now!

# Over the FENCE



Pots on the central steps are overflowing with colour



Eyecatching mauve *Pulsatilla halleri*

Photos: Geoff Stonebanks

## All set for first opening



**Geoff Stonebanks**

**A seaside garden in Bishopstone featuring reclaimed**

**objects and sculpture, opening for charity regularly.**

**I**t's only three weeks until our first opening for the National Gardens Scheme. There have been some really hot days, my

standard wisteria has many new shoots, and the two olearia I'd kept under cover are out in the garden with lots of new growth.

Dazzling colour is everywhere. Beautiful tulips, bluebells and majestic dicentra all look amazing. Another early beauty is *Pulsatilla halleri* or Pasque flower, an incredible mauve colour that really stands out.

A film crew from America came to view the garden, which might be used to promote the National Gardens Scheme in the States and it's due to appear again in a national newspaper this

summer with a photoshoot in June. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we don't get any high winds over the coming weeks!

The blossom is prolific on all the fruit trees, especially the 'Cox's

Orange Pippin' and pear tree. Last year, the wind destroyed it and the fruit crop was very small.

I've planted out £450 worth of bedding plants and the central steps area, which is filled with pots, is looking really good.

The 80cm (3ft) high vintage windmill and rusted metal Dutchman looks resplendent with a lovely peris in bloom.

I was inspired to buy some regal pelargoniums by Tom Hart Dyke on a gardening revival TV programme. They've started to flower, especially 'Meadowside Midnight' and 'Rimfire' in some rusted metal urns close to the green door.

I'm looking forward to manning the NGS stand at Chelsea on May 21, especially as I can look round the show from 6am. Come and say hello if you are visiting that day.

● *Read more on the garden at [www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk](http://www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk)*



Blossom is prolific on fruit trees this year