

Readers' gardens now!

# Over the FENCE

Photos: Geoff Stonebanks



Above: Hot-coloured gazania 'Sunbathers Tikal' looks exotic  
Below: Pelargoniums are the focal point in a rusted urn



## Visitors are flocking



**Geoff Stonebanks**

A seaside garden in Bishopstone, dotted with sculpture and reclaimed objects, that opens regularly for various charities.

We've had some peculiar weather in recent weeks. The planting has really suffered and been beaten down, with some having to be cut back very severely, which impacts on the

way the garden looks to visitors. Happily, not too many have noticed - it's just my ultra-critical eye that sees everything!

A great picture taken last week was of my garden helper, looking magnificent among the dense planting around the folly door. Despite the wind, many plants seem to be doing well. I have deliberately kept the height of the planting in the centre much lower this year to avoid wind damage like last year.

A new plant taking centre stage is the climbing rose 'Susie', which is in a large pot with a rusted iron support. The colours in the flower range from a young bud with reddish outer petals, to an open golden-yellow bloom. An old favourite from last summer has done really well, too, after being carefully stored



Pretty francoa 'Petite Bouquet' thrives in a sunny spot

seem to have done really well. I have a beautiful pink one by the house, although a gorgeous 'Schneeball' has now had all the flower petals turn brown with heavy rain. The black calla lily has done well, too, and two brand new plants in the garden this summer - scaevola 'Saphira' and francoa 'Petite Bouquet' - look so pretty now in full bloom. One of my two stunning aloe striatula has produced three amazing flowers, which look really beautiful reaching for the sky.

Garden visitor numbers have been good this year so far, with just another two openings this week, on August 8 for a health support charity called PSPA, and on August 9 for the NGS. Later this month and early next will be the seven openings for a local art festival, when we have 14 artists' work displayed throughout the garden. Read more about the festival and the garden at [www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk](http://www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk).

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Geoff's dog Albert helping in the garden



through the winter - gazania 'Sunbathers Tikal', with its stunning orange and yellow petals in full sun. A regal pelargonium, 'Beryl Reid', has been looking beautiful in two small pots in the corner of the cottage garden area, alongside the small rusted wheelbarrow, while the rusted urn has some gorgeous pelargoniums 'Rimfire' and 'Meadowside Midnight'.

This year, all the hydrangeas