

Readers' gardens now!

Over the FENCE

Visitors are impressed!



Geoff Stonebanks

A seaside garden in Bishopstone featuring reclaimed

objects and sculpture, opening for charity regularly.

This week sees the third of our four openings for the National Gardens Scheme. We've already had over 500 visitors this year and I have had some really lovely comments about the planting.

They can't believe the variety I've managed to get into such a small space and, more importantly, they don't understand how they are all in such pristine condition. It hasn't been easy, bearing in mind the varied weather we have had on the coast! The bank of flowers around the green folly door bears witness to this.

The weather has warmed up all of a sudden and the flowers have really started to come alive. Some beautiful examples this week are pansy 'Mystique Blue Halo' that are really stunning, along with four varieties of pinks I've planted.

This planting was inspired by Christine Walkden on the BBC2 series the *Great British Garden Revival* earlier this year. She will



Variety is the spice of life!

be in the garden on July 25 to officially open the fourth annual Macmillan Coastal Garden Trail I organise between Brighton and Eastbourne (www.macmillangardentrail.co.uk).

Several years ago I planted a white bottlebrush but it has never flowered, until last month.



Above: Bottlebrush in flower
Below: The new fireplace feature



'Starburst' pinks are stunning



Dependable Erigeron karvinskianus

Left: Unusual *Glumicalyx flanaganii* Right: Pansy 'Mystique Blue Halo'



I bought one of the new carpet roses last autumn, rose 'Sweet Spot Calypso', which has just started flowering and looks amazing.

After visiting Chelsea

in May, I decided I had to have a *Glumicalyx flanaganii*, which I ordered online. It has only been in the garden a few weeks, but it has already made its mark with its delicate lemon and red flowers.

One of my favourite plants every year is *Erigeron karvinskianus* and they are plentiful throughout the back and front gardens. The real showstopper feature this year though seems to be the fireplace I've set up at the top of the garden! I was given an old fireplace and painted it, set it against the fence with a mirror above and begonia 'Burning Embers' glowing in the grate!

See lots more images of the garden at www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk

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