



Not exactly the cutting edge of fashion, but at least I'm protected during the patio clean!

Time to give me and my knees a helping hand!



Geoff Stonebanks

A seaside garden in East Sussex that opens for charity, featuring sculpture and reclaimed objects.

This year has finally seen me give in to my failing knees. My partner has been on about getting a kneeling support for a while now and I've had to concede. It's not so much the cushion pad that was needed but the side supports to help me get up again! A much-needed gadget for getting down and removing debris from the gravel beds.

Recent weeks have seen me pressure clean the whole

plot from top to bottom over five days. It didn't get done last year due to my ankle injury. I decided to invest in a rather expensive new piece of kit and I'm pleased I did as it's really done the trick, removing over two years of dirt with ease. Not sure about the fashion statement during the execution of the job though!

Another big job, just completed, has been tidying up the beach garden. The gravel's been carefully checked and leaves and debris removed. I spent last week lugging all the containers of agaves (nearly 50 of them) from the side alley and polytunnel to arrange them in the garden. I'm really pleased with the finished article. I planted many new bulbs last autumn and the first of them to appear are lots of stunning daffodils, scattered about the garden.

Meanwhile in my office, a small poinsettia my mother bought me last December has done well and is starting to form new flowers as the pink of the older leaves starts to fade.

The top end of the garden has long needed something doing to improve the plant-selling area. The roots of a tree were coming up and even the small shingle previously used was moving too much to have



The beach garden in all its glory

any impact. A local landscaper has now set some bricks in and filled the two levels with larger pebbles, which has done the trick, making it more level and easier to walk on.

The summer house has reverted from its usual winter storage unit, spilling its contents back into the garden and become a welcoming space for us this summer.

Last autumn the half barrel I used for a water feature started to disintegrate as I tried to move it. So I invested in a new one. I've inset with a large plastic tub to ensure water remains in and got an overflow to the wood itself so it stays sealed watertight. Topped with a mesh frame and pebbles scattered across, it looks good. The central stone with hole for the fountain has been rescued from the old feature.

● **Read more at www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk.**



My new kneeling frame is much-needed



New growth on my poinsettia



The new water feature

My highlight

The stunning flowers on the camellia 'William Bartlett'. Many blooming, with many more to go!