

Over the FENCE ...Continued

I'm knee deep in flowers!

Thankfully, my recovery following replacement knee surgery has been going extremely well and I was able to potter around the garden reasonably within a few weeks. It worked out quite nicely, as I had a large group of 35 visitors booked in. The bulk of visitors, however, were delayed until last month in order to give me some time to recover further!

The frustration I've been experiencing this year has been my inability to tend the garden to my usual standard as I like to do. It's taken on a much wilder look as I've not been able to prune and cut back to the same extent. With that said, though, I'm not sure that visitors will have noticed. The hostas have done extremely well with very little attention and currently have no slug or snail damage to speak of.

I decided to bake and freeze 160 portions of cake prior to my surgery to ensure I could offer early visitors some refreshments. Needless to say, they've gone down well with those who have been to the garden, especially Elaine, a subscriber to Garden News, who visited with her husband Pete from Surrey.



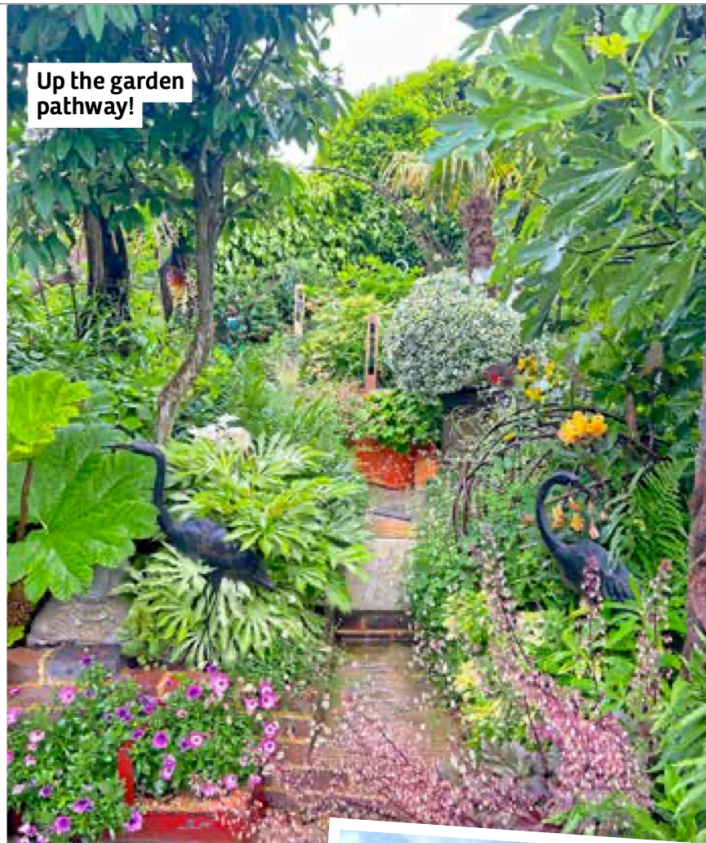
Geoff Stonebanks

A seaside garden in East Sussex that opens for charity and is known for featuring sculptures and reclaimed objects.

One plant looking stunning is the beautiful rose 'Veilchenblau', with its wonderful purple-magenta flowers that fade to lilac-grey as they age, appearing almost blue on occasions. There's a fresh, fruity scent with rich orange notes as well. Mine was a 50th birthday gift and has now been in the garden 22 years and never disappoints.

I've had a lovely Adirondack chair in the back garden for a number of years and my partner decided to give it a lick of paint. It now has a new lease of life in its green hue, standing out on the patio with its mini cacti cushions and side table.

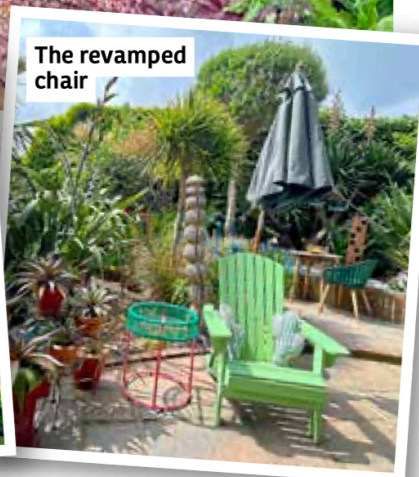
The patio behind the house looks amazing again this year too, crammed



Up the garden pathway!



Rose 'Veilchenblau'



The revamped chair

with succulents against the old railway sleepers and a pop of orange around the space.

A beautiful combination of colour this week is provided by pretty phygelius

and catmint. They both look fantastic as part of a sunny herbaceous border or in a large container. Mine are planted in a raised bed and the catmint is a real bee magnet.

A section of the garden I really love is the narrow path linking the Corten steel pond with the centre of the garden. It has really developed well, with two trees almost forming an arch across it. The planting is spilling over the dwarf raised bed walls and the trough of pink osteospermum by the steps look great.

Read more of Geoff's garden at driftwoodbysea.co.uk or email visitdriftwood@gmail.com to arrange a visit before August 3.



A phygelius and catmint combo



A group of 35 visited the garden earlier in the year



Elaine and Pete enjoying the cake!

My highlight
Three spectacular containers of lilies.