

Over the FENCE

...Continued

I'll weather the setbacks!

It's been a bit of a challenge at times, especially before we really got going in June, with some pretty strong winds completely ruining my beautiful lilies as soon as they'd flowered. They had to be quickly relocated out of sight in the garden and other containers moved to replace them. Then we had the interminable heatwaves too.

A small clump of *Euphorbia polychrome* is really dazzling. I picked the plant up a few years ago from the Alnwick Garden when on holiday in the northeast and it has established really well.

While browsing social media recently I came across a pair of rusty stiletto-shaped planters for sale. I ordered them immediately and planted them up with small succulents. They look pretty good placed on the railway sleeper bench at the back of the house.

Back in April, I wrote about the new decking at the front of the house. Just before we opened I decided it needed a nice new bistro set to finish it off. I'm really pleased with the one chosen, which fits in perfectly and is a great place for tea and cake looking out to the ocean. Meanwhile, I put two new roses



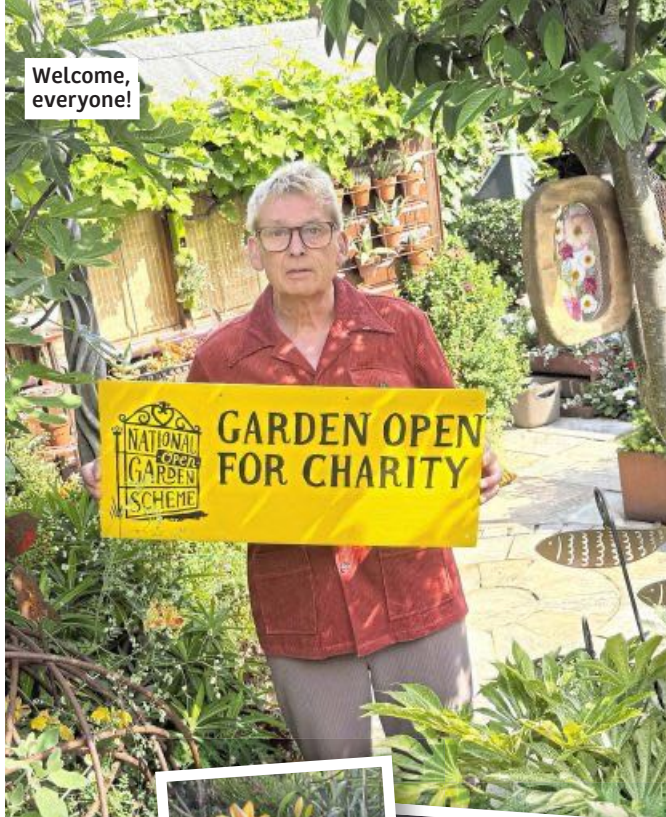
Geoff Stonebanks

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

in the garden this year, 'La Villa Cotta' and 'Handel'; little did I know what an amazing year it would be for flowering roses. Each has very striking blooms that really stand out. Another lovely rose, correct name not known, was bought in memory of my Dad back in 2007 by my Mum and I dug it up and moved it to Seaford when we sold her house. Its pretty blooms change colour as they develop. It's outside the kitchen French windows and is lovely to look out on.

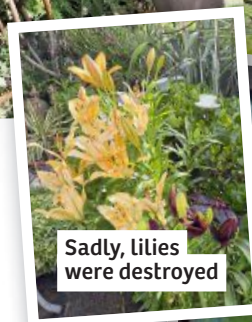
Back at the end of May, I was extremely pleased to have a half-page feature on the garden in the *Daily Mail*. It brought some new visitors to see the plot.

Last month I saw the new Queen Elizabeth II garden in Regents Park. It was so serene, peaceful and enjoyable and amazingly, there were hardly any other visitors.



Earlier in the year I was fascinated by images of the strange caudex of *Stephania erecta*, which I came across on social media. It looks like a shrivelled potato; plant it up and if you're lucky, it will turn out as pictured. It's a beautiful species that can be found naturally growing in Thailand and is an unusual but very attractive houseplant.

In the beach garden, the acanthus has looked



Sadly, lilies were destroyed



***Stephania erecta* is unusual but lovely**

quite stunning this summer with many towering spires that look wonderful glinting in the sunlight. I was very lucky that the flower spikes had not risen too high when we had horrendous storms at the start of June. So, thankfully, they're pretty unscathed from wind and salt damage so far!

Read more of Geoff's garden at geoffstonebanks.co.uk or follow both him and the garden on social media.



For a bit of quirk!



'Indian Summer' is just amazing



I'm pleased with the new bistro set

My highlight

Several small clumps of alstroemeria 'Indian Summer' with their dazzling orange flowers.