

Over the FENCE

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readers'
gardens!

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Blooming great garden views!



Geoff Stonebanks

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

Professional photographer Jon Santa Cruz took a wonderful photo of the garden using a drone. It really gives a great insight into the structure and layout at the back of the house. You can just see me kneeling, bottom centre. This is certainly not something I can do at the moment, being several weeks into recovery from knee replacement surgery, but with that said, I was able to get out and potter fairly quickly.

I decided to delay the garden opening until now to ease the burden a little. This year I haven't been able to place too much attention on the detail and cutting back, so it's looking a lot



Beauty by the boat!

I love this overhead drone shot taken by Jon Santa Cruz



Figs are starting to fruit

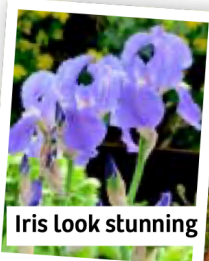
more naturalistic, shall I say, especially in the beach garden. That said, I'm confident visitors won't notice too much. The hellebores at the front have all looked spectacular this year, especially those grouped around the old rowing boat, and the two large clumps of blue iris are spectacular.

We've had a tremendous number of birds visit the garden this year, with many nesting in the border hedging, which is lovely. A pair of pigeons and many blackbird are quite tame.

A few years ago my mum bought me a small wild plum for Christmas, which has been planted in a very large container on the patio. I've noticed it has a small amount of fruit growing on it for the first time this year. Meanwhile, the fig tree seems to have a good crop of fruit too, more than I've seen on it in recent years.

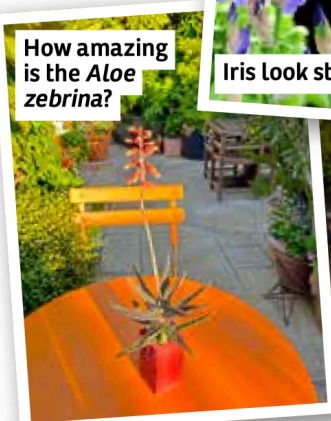
Despite having to get all the succulents out much earlier than usual due to my surgery, they've recovered well. In the summer I put some of my *Aloe zebrina* outside and the smaller ones look amazing on the orange tables, especially when they flower.

■ **Read more of Geoff's garden at driftwoodbysea.co.uk. To book a visit to the garden before August 3, email Geoff at visitdriftwood@gmail.com**



Iris look stunning

How amazing is the *Aloe zebrina*?



There's been a lot of sitting lately as I recover from surgery

My highlight

Spectacular blue iris in the beach garden.