

A season of healing and highlights



Geoff Stonebanks

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

This summer's had ups and downs - knee replacement recovery aside! We've had scorching heat and torrential downpours, which battered the plants. We did need rain but I'd prefer it gentler and overnight. Still, the area behind the Corten steel water feature looks lush.



Beautiful 'Red Baron' hydrangea

This week (August 21) the garden featured in George Clarke's *Kitchen vs Garden* on Channel 4. The production team filmed here last October, so I'm curious to see what made the cut!

There seem to be more rose chafer beetles than usual this year, especially on the sorbaria. Their



Lots of rose chafer beetles

shimmering green bodies are beautiful, but they've been feasting on petals and pollen all summer.

Hydrangea 'Annabelle' is a standout plant, with huge white blooms against dark green leaves. 'Red Baron' is another beauty, with red-tinged petals that deepen into rich pink flower heads.

The succulents have thrived in the heat, especially

the mangaves on the upper patio, which have grown well since leaving the greenhouse in April.

The fuchsias, especially 'Pink Temptation', are stars. Some are over 15 years old and still going strong in wall pots on the north-facing wall. The near-black calla lilies on the patio are also looking great. The new patio area has a fern-filled container at the base of the railway sleepers, backed by a griselinia hedge.



Lush greenery

Brugmansia in the greenhouse is spectacular too but he garden gate is now closed for 2025 and I'm looking forward to a Peak District break.

Read more of Geoff's garden at driftwoodbysea.co.uk



Fuchsia 'Pink Temptation'

My highlight
The stunning fuchsias across the garden.