

Over the FENCE

REAL readers' gardens!

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A new year and new challenges



Geoff Stonebanks

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

I don't know about New Year resolutions but 2025 is going to be challenging for me. I'm scheduled to open the garden again, by arrangement only, between June 1 and August 3. However, I'm currently on the NHS waiting list for a new left knee. So, my mobility isn't that great and kneeling is certainly out of the question. I'm told it's likely to be in autumn but I'll accept an earlier date if it's offered, even though it will impact on my ability to welcome visitors. In the meantime it'll be interesting to see what I can actually do to get the garden ready for visitors!

Something I never tire of in the garden is the stunning Corten steel water feature. Even in the depths of winter, assuming no frost or ice, I



Agave 'Kichiokan'

I'll never tire of this water feature



Greenhouse plants are quite cosy

like to turn the fountain on and hear the sound of water while I'm working outside.

Still looking very pretty all over the garden are the many clumps of *Erigeron karvinskianus*. It never disappoints. A couple of other plants looking great are two fatsia 'Spider's Web' planted in the ground and 'Camouflage', planted in a large container. The latter adds a tropical feel to the planting scheme. The gorgeous camellia 'Yuletide' hasn't disappointed this winter either, with many blooms on show.

In the run up to Christmas it was incredibly mild and the greenhouse looked after itself, with the heater rarely having to kick in. Now the temperatures have started to drop I'm checking the overnight readings daily to make sure the heater is at the right setting.

Looking very resplendent in the back porch is the agave 'Kichiokan'. It's an attractive plant, even if it's slightly vicious if you catch one of its spikes! Another plant thriving in the back porch is a stunning clivia. These are the first flowers to be seen on this one for several years.

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



Erigeron is a favourite of mine



Stunning flowers on the clivia



Coronilla glauca

My highlight
Masses of pretty yellow flowers on the several *Coronilla glauca*.