

Chester and I were happy to welcome some Belgian visitors



## A busy but interesting end to the season

Despite closing the garden gate back in August, I was contacted by a Belgian couple, Magda and Jef Van Meensel, who were holidaying in the area and really wanted to visit. They spent a lovely couple of hours looking around and meeting up with Chester the dog, too! Magda wrote afterwards: "We fell in love with your garden, it's a unique place."

Looking good now is *Loropetalum chinense* 'Pipa's Red'. I bought the plant late last year and was a little worried about it getting through winter, but it did well and has flowered beautifully. I love the contrast of the flowers against the darker foliage.

New *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Groundbreaker Blush' plants have been delivered. They're a compact and low-growing variety and have been planted in containers



**Geoff Stonebanks**

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

made from reclaimed ocean plastic and wood chipping waste. Much lighter than terracotta and easier to move - a real bonus as you get older!

I seem to have more grapes growing on the vines than in previous years. The only

Trying to keep the garden tidy ready for the TV cameras



**Loropetalum 'Pipa's Red' looks good**



**Pretty little asters**

disappointment is they all have pips in, which makes it difficult to put them to any good use. But I leave them for the birds to enjoy, who are having a feast!

The collection of 80 potted agave in all shapes and sizes have now been lifted from the beach garden where they've looked wonderful right up to the end of September. I've split them this year between the shed and the covered side alley.

I've had an enquiry from a TV company wanting to use

my garden for filming as part of a new TV show airing in 2025. I'm sworn to secrecy but hope it will all go ahead. As a consequence it's been an ongoing challenge, especially with the mixed weather we've been experiencing, to make sure the garden has looked good right up to the end of October and beyond.

**Read more of Geoff's garden at [driftwoodbysea.co.uk](http://driftwoodbysea.co.uk)**

*My highlight*

**Gorgeous blooms and colour from aster 'Barbados'.**

The birds have grape expectations!



**New hydrangeas in their eco-friendly pots**