

Over the FENCE

...Continued

Weathering the weather!

The weather was very problematic in both June and July, not only with a lot of rain but also a considerable amount of wind, just when the garden was looking its best. I can cope with the rain but strong winds do so much damage to the flowers.

Needless to say, there was much to clear up as the fallen debris gets everywhere and spoils the look of the garden for visitors.

All the tall plants, like the hemp agrimony and hydrangea 'Annabelle', suffer badly when the wind strikes. It's such a shame as they look so beautiful in flower before the damage.

At the front of the house, a small flower bed is very colour co-ordinated and looking wonderful. The stunning hydrangea and erigeron 'Sea Breeze' work well together, with a striking agave sitting between them. More importantly, they've not been too damaged by the wind as they sit in the partial shelter of a large elaeagnus hedge.

In the back garden, there are some really stunning plants, like the dazzling yellow flowers of *Dicentra scandens* tumbling over the old railway sleepers. It never



Geoff Stonebanks

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

fails to amaze me the speed with which it grows from nothing each spring and summer. Pretty flowers on the trifolium, part of the clover family, are a real bee magnet.

The large border behind the railway sleepers has really come alive this summer, too. The combination of yellow lilies, a buddleja 'Butterfly Candy Little Ruby' and some alstroemeria 'Indian Summer' has made the bed a real talking point among visitors. The pink flowers on the buddleja really stand out.

I'm pleased with how the entrance to the back garden looks. The zigzag approach between containers and then the steps up draw you into the garden. Once up the steps and onto the patio, the side of the shed has a variety of containers housing small succulents.

Below the window is an old piece of guttering which also

The post-storm clean-up begins!



Bright and beautiful lilies, alstroemeria and buddleja



Dicentra scandens



has been repurposed as a windowbox to display a range of small succulents.

Now the gates are closed to visitors again for the year, we've had the opportunity to appreciate the garden ourselves before the whole thing has to be taken apart and put to bed for the winter in a couple of months' time.

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

Succulents on the shed!



Hydrangea and erigeron don't hold back with their boldness!



The stepped entrance to the back garden

My highlight
Hydrangea and erigeron adding so much colour.