

CHARITY GARDEN TRAIL

Geoff Stonebanks tells us about the garden trails in July raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Macmillan Horizon Centre in Brighton



Coastguard Cottage

The 28th and 29th July sees the 7th annual garden trail staged by Driftwood Fundraising Group, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Macmillan Horizon Centre in Brighton. The centre has been designed with input from people affected by cancer to make it the best place to offer the support and services that people in Sussex need. It is also one of the venues open over the weekend, as it too has a small garden terrace, so visitors can see where the money they are donating is being spent.

However, the trail will be officially opened in my own garden, Driftwood, 4 Marine Drive, in Seaford, BN25 2RS at 11am on the 28th by TV Gardener, Jim Buttress, of BBC2's Big Allotment fame! The garden has featured on BBC Gardeners' World and won several awards for national gardening competitions. More importantly, since it first opened in 2009, I have raised a staggering £100,000 for various charities, over half of that for Macmillan Cancer Support. Enjoy home-made tea and cakes served on vintage china on trays in the garden overlooking the sea.

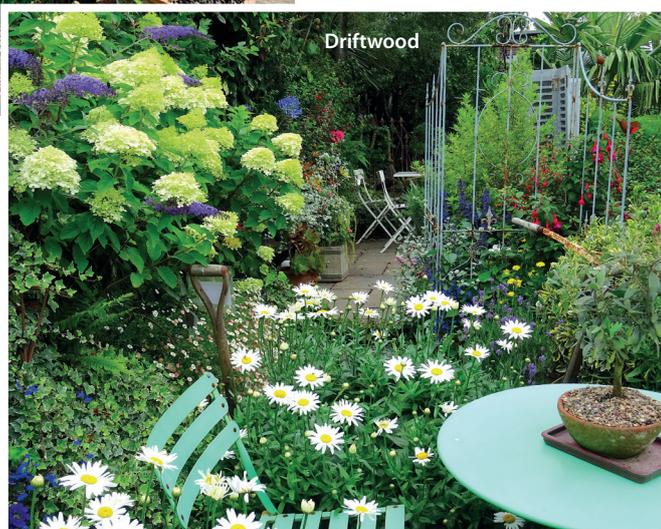
In Newhaven, Gill Weaver will be opening her amazing coastal garden at 5 Old Coastguard Cottages, off Geneva Road. This is a very steep terraced gravel garden combining strong landscaping with much lush eclectic planting and some very unusual found objects, marine and otherwise. It is truly a vibrant and intriguing place to visit.

Another garden in Seaford is Steve and Christina's, Lavender Cottage at 69 Steyne Road.

This has a flint walled front garden with cottage, coastal and kitchen gardens and plenty of places to enjoy a cream tea. The back garden has a terraced bank planted up with trees, shrubs and lavenders. Climb the steps up to the balcony and enjoy the iconic view of Seaford Head. Don't miss The Seaford Sunshine Strummers Ukulele Band playing here during their Sunday opening!

This year there are 23 gardens opening their gates across the weekend, with 3 on Sunday only, 4 on Saturday only and 16 opening both dates. 6 of the gardens are opening for the trail for the very first time in 2018. Many of the gardens will be serving delicious home-made teas and cakes and some selling garden art. Make sure you check the web

site before you plan your day. Full details of all the gardens, location maps and directions can be found at www.macmillangardentrail.co.uk or by calling Geoff on 01323 899296. Tickets can be purchased in the first garden visited and cost £2 per garden or buy a day saver ticket for £6 on each day which gives access to all gardens. Dogs on leads are allowed in many gardens too, look out for the doggy head on the website. ●



Driftwood



Lavender Cottage

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