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# LOCAL NEWS

## CHARITY



Owners opening their gardens to the public in Seaford in aid of charity.



# Gardens open for charities

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**An open gardens event will see nine different venues in Seaford throw open their gates to the public.**

It will take place on Sunday June 22 and includes Geoff Stonebanks' well known garden in Bishopstone.

The day will raise money for the mayor of Seaford's charities Waves and the Seahaven Storehouse food bank.

It is being organised by Geoff, who has lined up nine gardens in Seaford and Bishopstone to take part.

Amongst the participants are the new gardens including the Highley's garden at 39 Marine Drive followed by Barbara and Gerald Mine at 47 Marine Drive, both in Bishopstone, and Clare Mayer's garden at 36 Kedale Road in Seaford.

Lee said: "For the last two years I have had the pleasure of being one of the artists exhibiting at Geoff and Mark's garden Driftwood in Bishopstone as part of Artwave, and have been inspired by the reactions of the many people who have visited.

"I decided to open my own

garden as it is a chance to give something back to the community and raise some money for good causes."

His stunning garden has a wide view of Tide Mills and Newhaven harbour and consists of a beach garden, colourful shrubs, lots of pots, a vegetable patch, several seating areas and wild orchids growing in the turf.

Clare Mayers added: "I have frequently helped out at Geoff's garden, Driftwood, over

## Making a good start

**DRIFTWOOD** opened its gates for the first of its 16 openings this summer on Tuesday June 10 and saw 176 visitors who helped raise £792 for the National Gardens schemes charities. Many of the visitors had travelled long distances to see the award winning garden, visiting from Norfolk, Essex, London, and Surrey.

The garden has more than 600 followers on Facebook and 2,700 on Twitter. Full details of the event, brochure and maps can be found at [www.driftwoodby-sea.co.uk](http://www.driftwoodby-sea.co.uk) Last week the Sussex Express said the gardens were opening on Saturday June 22, which was incorrect.

the last few years on his open days and been asked by him on numerous occasions to open my own for charity and now I've finally succumbed."

Her secluded garden at 36 Kedale Road involves trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, a wildlife pond, several seating areas and a Buddha.

Geoff said: "it is a wonderful and tranquil haven, full of colour from flowers, vegetables and fruit. A must see on the trail."

Barbara and Gerald Mine were also asked last year and have decided to give it a go in 2014.

Barbara said: "Our 240 feet garden has been started from scratch with nothing but lawn and two hedges. It's now a full on coastal garden. It has been important for us to introduce colour and this has been quite a learning curve finding out what works and what doesn't."

The other gardens set to open their gates in 2014 are Cosy Cottage at 69 Firle Road, Seaford Community Garden, Wyndover in Chyngton Lane North and 14 Lullington Close.

All gardens will be open from 11am to 5pm. Mayor of Seaford Mark Brown, along with local MP Norman Baker will get the proceedings off the ground at Driftwood at 11am on the 22nd.