

Geoff has no less than 10,000 Christmas balls and 33 Christmas trees.



COLLECTING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Geoff Stonebanks spends a week putting up all the Christmas decorations. Photo: Private

[Helene Kjetilsdotter Harridsleff](#)

Published Saturday 09 December 2023 - 10:54
last updated Saturday 09 December 2023 - 11:04



December is in full swing, and many have already decorated both the Christmas tree and home. Most of us probably know a Christmas-happy person who decorates a little extra for the holidays.

Among them is pensioner Geoff Stonebanks (70), who shocks the internet with his spectacular Christmas decorations, he takes Christmas decorations to a whole new level.



READY FOR CHRISTMAS: The dining room is packed with decorations in the traditional Christmas colours. Photo: Private

Started in childhood

Geoff decorates his home with 10,000 Christmas decorations.

It all started in the 60s, when his parents ran a pub in Cotswold, England:

- Mum always had the pub open at Christmas, so that lonely locals could have a few hours of company if they wanted. So, she liked to decorate extra for Christmas there, says Geoff.



VINTAGE: One of the Christmas trees is decorated with vintage Christmas decorations from the 60s. Photo: Private

Over time, Christmas decorations piled up - something he inherited when his parents retired in 1987. Afterwards, Geoff built on the collection, and today his home is filled to the brim with decorations around Christmas time.

He previously worked for the British postal company Royal Mail in London, but after retiring he moved south to Seaford in Sussex. He has lived here for 20 years with his partner Mark Glassman.



ORNAMENTS: Geoff Stonebanks (70). Photo: Private

The decoration is carefully placed

In the last week of November, things break loose at the couple's house - it takes the 70-year-old a week to unpack the 30-40 boxes of Christmas decorations. And it is by no means random where things are placed.

For the rest of the year, the living room is in gray and silver, naturally the room is filled with matching Christmas decorations in black, gray and silver in December.



SILVER THEME: In the living room there is a Christmas tree with shiny silver decorations. Photo: Private

In contrast, Geoff has decorated the dining room in more traditional Christmas colors - namely red and green.

On top of this, the room facing the garden is filled with 13 trees decorated in different themes - for example, one tree is covered in dog decorations, one is covered in muffin decorations, and one tree is made of "homemade" decorations.

- I don't just have one type of decoration, if I see something I like, I buy it, says Geoff.



TABLE DECORATIONS: Nutcrackers and a German Weihnachts pyramid. Photo: Private

In total, he has 33 Christmas trees in his house this year, and the Englishman estimates that he owns a staggering 2,000-2,500 Christmas balls. He admits that this year is the first year he has not had a real tree in his house.

- It is a large collection, yes, approximately 10,000 individual objects - such as tinsel, candles, table decorations and Christmas balls.

The memories have the most value

The most expensive Christmas decoration in the collection is a Thomas Kinkade Christmas tree with moving trains that go round and round - and of course a Santa Claus at the top.



MEMORIES: Christmas decorations Stonebanks got from her grandmother. Photo: Private

However, it is not the most expensive items that are most valuable to Geoff:

- It is not the monetary value that is necessarily important - it is the personal associations that come with each object, which remind of grandparents and childhood, he says.

Among the most valuable decorative items Geoff owns is a small gold church that his grandmother bought for him in 1962.

- It's not worth anything, but to me it has great value.



SENTIMENTAL VALUE: The church ornament Stonebanks got from her grandmother. Photo: Geoff Stonebanks

- The thing about my collection is that it is largely very personal and filled with memories and associations. So, I can look at the individual objects and reminisce. The favorites are probably the ones from the 60s from my late grandparents.

The partner does not like Christmas!

Even though the house is crammed full of decorations in December, Geoff's partner is not as enthusiastic about the Christmas decorations.

- **My partner doesn't like Christmas. We have been together for 23 years and it is only now that he has started to accept it. I am the one who creates Christmas here, he just tolerates it, he says.**



FROM THE USA: In the collection, Stonebanks has several items from the White House's annual ornaments. Photo: Private

The 70-year-old nevertheless admits that he himself is a bit of a control freak and likes to do things his way.

- It took some time, but he can appreciate the work I put into it and that the result looks nice, says Geoff.