

**ROSE COTTAGE**  
**ALVESTON**



**SHELLARDS LANE**  
**BRISTOL BS35 3SY**

**Press Release: 21st May 2008**

**A 13th Chelsea Gold Medal for Jekka's Medicinal, Mythical & Magical herbs!**

Proving beyond doubt that herbs are not only functional, but strikingly beautiful as well, widely acclaimed herb guru, Jekka McVicar is delighted to receive her 13th gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this week.

The 'Medicinal, Mythical and Magical' floral exhibit features a tantalising display overflowing with over eighty varieties of herbs, demonstrating the ease with which a beautiful and functional herb garden can be created in a small space.

The herbs are attracting a horde of enthusiastic visitors, including celebrity chef, Jamie Oliver, and TV presenter, Chris Tarrant. The Royal visit added a particularly gratifying moment for Jekka: "We were truly honoured by the Queen's enthusiasm for our organic herbal display" says Jekka "She was particularly interested in the fact that we are the only certified organic display in the marquee".

This 13<sup>th</sup> Chelsea gold heralds a new record amongst female floral exhibitors: it is Jekka's 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive gold at Chelsea, breaking the record previously set by Jekka's personal hero, Beth Chatto, who won 10 consecutive gold medals at Chelsea.

"Our intention is to impress upon people that an organic herb garden is both beautiful and beneficial" Jekka continues "because organically grown herbs are life-enhancing for the individual and the environment".

The display includes *Carum carvi* Caraway, *Cynara cardunculus* AGM Cardoon and for the first time *Tropaeolum majus* Tom Thumb 'Black velvet' nasturtium, which has deep scarlet petals with a velvety textured appearance. Also, *Perilla frutescens* var. *purpurascens* Purple Shiso, which has been used in Chinese medicine for thousands of years and *Calendula officinalis* Pot Marigold, the flowers of which contain antiseptic, anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties (continued overleaf).

(page 2) *Angelica Archangelica* Angelica and *Valeriana officinalis* Valerian tower above a brilliant array of sage varieties, including *Salvia viridis* var. *comata* Painted Sage, *Salvia officinalis* 'Greek' Greek Sage and *Salvia officinalis* 'Tricolor' AGM Tricolour Sage. The feathery leaves of *Foeniculum vulgare* Fennel and *Foeniculum vulgare* 'Purpureum' Bronze Fennel add a hazy element to the mystical theme.

This winning display also sees the launch of Jekka's new Red Salad Mix - a delicious new 'cut & come again' salad crop which is both visually striking with its deep red colours, and a delectable diversion from traditional green salad. Seeds are on sale at the show, and afterwards via Jekka's Herb Farm.

The sundial hare, at the centre of this year's display, encapsulates the superstitious slant of this year's exhibit: Jekka was born in the year of the Hare, and in Chinese Numerology the number 8 is considered the luckiest, which has definitely proved to be the case for the 2008 exhibit!

For those that missed Chelsea or are inspired to find out more, Jekka's Herb Farm is holding open days on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June. Visit [www.jekkasherbfarm.com](http://www.jekkasherbfarm.com) for details.

Note to Editors:

1. To find out more about Jekka's Herb Farm, visit [www.jekkasherbfarm.com](http://www.jekkasherbfarm.com) or contact Vicki Young on 0845 2903256 / [Vicki@jekkasherbfarm.com](mailto:Vicki@jekkasherbfarm.com)
2. Images are available upon request.
3. A full plant list is available upon request.
4. The sundial was designed and created by Joanna Migdal [www.sundialsomething.com](http://www.sundialsomething.com)
5. The sculptured hare was designed and created by Jeremy James [www.jeremyjamesceramics.co.uk](http://www.jeremyjamesceramics.co.uk)