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## Jekka's 14<sup>th</sup> (and final?) Chelsea Gold...and the Gnome

Jekka's Herb Farm is pleased to have been awarded a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. As well as being their 14th Chelsea Gold Medal, Jekka McVicar set a new record for the most consecutive number of Chelsea Gold Medals amongst her fellow female floral exhibitors, beating Beth Chatto's previous record of 10.



*'The Power of Plants': Jekka's award winning display featuring Angelica, Woad, Iden Thyme and Caraway, amongst a plethora of organically grown native herbs.*

With 14 Chelsea gold medals to her name (bringing her grand total of RHS gold medals to a staggering 62), Jekka's 'Power of Plants' herb display in the Grand Pavilion received unprecedented attention from visitors, including HRM The Queen, HRH the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Anne, Joanna Lumley, Nigel Slater, and former Beatle, Ringo Starr.

Jekka's floral herb display was particularly noted for its natural and informal, cottage garden look. Towering *Angelica archangelica*, Angelica inset with calmativ *Valeriana officinalis*, Valerian was set off with clouds of bright yellow *Isatis tinctoria*, Woad, famous for its blue dye, bordering the centre rill.

The water feature gave a tranquil feel amongst the hustle and bustle of the show. The vibrant colours of *Papaver rhoeas*, Field Poppy, *Viola tricolor* Heartsease, *Atriplex hortensis var. rubra*, Red Orach and *Calendula officinalis* Pot Marigold added depth amongst the gentle abundance of greens and pastels, such as the pink flowering *Thymus serpyllum 'Iden'* Iden Thyme which bordered the paths leading up to the water.



Jekka's assistant, 'Borage' the gnome, was spotted for the first time at Chelsea, fishing in the rill, but he was content to remain silent beneath the *Alchemilla mollis* AGM, Lady's Mantle during judging, as gnomes are forbidden from the show.



Several days later, he returned to the organic herb farm for a well earned rest, and is now helping out in the office.

Upon receiving her 14<sup>th</sup> Chelsea Gold Medal, Jekka exclaimed "I could not be happier - organic gardening is in the limelight again, and it's such an important message. We must continue to encourage all the bees, butterflies and beneficial insects to our gardens - they're good for gardens and good for gardeners!"

Jekka's intention to achieve 60 RHS gold medals before reaching the age of 60 has been accomplished, and Chelsea 2009 marked an end to her floral herb exhibits in the Grand Pavilion. That is not to say that Jekka won't be seen again at Chelsea. In the meantime, visitors are warmly welcomed to Jekka's Herb Farm Open Days, near Bristol, from June 5-7<sup>th</sup>, and August 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Further details available at [www.jekkasherbfarm.com](http://www.jekkasherbfarm.com).

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