

**ROSE COTTAGE**  
**ALVESTON**



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

**PRESS RELEASE – MAY 2008**

### **JEKKA'S MYTHICAL AND MAGICAL CHELSEA**

Organic herb farmer and 59 times RHS gold medal winner, Jekka McVicar, exhibits her floral display at Chelsea this year with a stunning herbal theme to intrigue and inspire visitors.

The 'Medicinal, Mythical and Magical world of Herbs' is illustrated by an ellipse shaped garden, divided by an 'S' shaped path, creating 'yin and yang'. It features a sundial, designed by Joanna Migdal, held by a striking sculptured hare. Jekka was born in the Year of the Hare, and in Chinese numerology, the number 8 is considered the luckiest, enhancing the supernatural slant to her 2008 display.

Over eighty varieties of herbs are chosen for their legend and legacy: their mythical tales have transcended history and each herb is valued for its medicinal properties today.

This in no way detracts from the vibrant beauty of herbs, which include *Punica granata* Pomegranate, and *Papaver rhoeas* Field Poppy. Jekka displays her innate artistry in choosing herbs which combine function and beauty, including *Valeriana officinalis* Valerian, with clusters of small, sweetly scented white flowers, once thought to deflect evil, and to be a powerful aphrodisiac, but today considered an important herbal sedative; *Thymus vulgaris* Thyme, with summer mauve flowers, which was drunk as part of a ritual in the Middle Ages, enabling one to see fairies, but valued today for its antibiotic properties; *Angelica archangelica* Angelica with its pale green, almost tree-like appearance was once considered to be the most effective safeguard against witchcraft – today it is cultivated for flavouring, but also for its medicinal attributes.

For the first time Jekka will be showing the nasturtium, *Tropaeolum majus* Tom Thumb 'Black Velvet', a deep scarlet flower with a velvety appearance; this cascades over the 'cauldron', beneath which a haze of bronze fennel gives the illusion of mist. The 'red' and edible theme

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(PAGE 2) continues with 'Jekka's Red Salad Mix', a brand new seed mix to be launched at Chelsea 2008: a delectable mix of Red Frills Mustard, Red Pak Choi and Red Lettuce. The seeds of both the nasturtium and the red salad mix are available for visitors to buy at the show, or afterwards via Jekka's Herb Farm website.

Jekka, talking about the idea behind her visually stunning but fully functional display, says "It's a tapestry of herbs, showing texture and colour as well as scent and flavour, illustrating that herbs are stunning garden plants without which no garden is ever truly complete".

A garden of hidden vistas and secret places, this display invites the eye to meander amongst an array of herbs, providing a visual and aromatic delight. Inspired visitors may attend the next Open Days at Jekka's Herb Farm on 30, 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June, where Jekka will be available to chat about her exhibit, and many of the plants on display will be available to buy. Further information can be found at [www.jekkasherbfarm.com](http://www.jekkasherbfarm.com).

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. Photographs of plants are available upon request.
3. The sundial was designed and created by Joanna Migdal [www.sundialsomething.com](http://www.sundialsomething.com)
4. The sculptured hare was designed and created by Jeremy James [www.jeremyjamesceramics.co.uk](http://www.jeremyjamesceramics.co.uk)

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