

**NOW IN
PRINT**

Readers may have missed an article in the Saudi Gazette back in November when Lady Jane Green was interviewed by Sylvia Nelms regarding her new book 'Flowers for Riyadh Gardens'. Printed by Stacey International, the book will go on sale in Saudi Arabia during March. The following paragraphs are a few 'cuttings' from the article:

Lady Green, the present Ambassador's wife, is a keen gardener and has taken a great interest in the development of the garden since her arrival over three years ago. Like many DQ gardens, its original layout was professionally designed in conjunction with its attached buildings. Over time, however, the garden has evolved to meet changing needs, and to reflect the tastes of its occupants.

Looking out from the paved area at the back of the Residence, the intense green of the beautiful lawns is striking. This very British feature is much appreciated by the many visitors who attend the various Embassy functions. It is not, of course, easy to achieve in Riyadh. However, use of selected strains of Bermuda grass combined with regular feeding, mowing, and, most importantly, frequent watering, has produced a lovely setting for the profusion of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals contained in the borders.

In the upper garden the lawn slopes gently towards the outer wall and the borders curve to give an informal feel. Among the specimen trees there is perhaps the last Pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) in Riyadh.



Lady Jane Green

One of the striking features of the lower area is the triangular Knot Garden, a repeating geometric pattern of plantings and interconnecting gravel areas. The planted shapes are bordered by low hedges of *Alternanthera* and are filled with seasonal flowers. In summer white Alyssum, Dubai roses and the spreading Madagascar periwinkle (*Vinca rosea*) give a colourful display.

As with any sizable garden, especially such a well stocked one, there is a considerable amount of maintenance. Two gardeners work full time on the upkeep of the Embassy garden, aided by a complicated system of watering. Throughout the garden the emphasis is on colour and Lady Green looks out for flowering plants that will give a reliable show for an extended period.

We look forward to seeing the results of her efforts in full and glorious technicolour print.



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