

Listen closely by Sven Kretzschmar, Leuven, Belgium

On warm sunny days you can smell lavender
casting its midsummer spell as far as the other side
of the road, but mostly late rose-hips, not yet withered,
with the velvet texture of their pedestals
an enchanting scent steal the limelight from mint family plants.

Only insects, educated in the university of fields,
do not fall for floral schemes the way impressionable humans do.
Their humming surges through flower beds without distinction
knowing it is no place to rest. No pulse beat
or time clock - their day's work is done at sunset.

Come morning, cobwebs cloak flowers, grasses, herbs
robed with dewdrops - unnoticed pearls. To sense humming now
you'd have to listen closely. On warm days the scent might
well soar up to your window bringing along a scattered bee.
Listen closely again - it might advise :

For next year add some hollyhocks.

A Moon's Worth of Honey Wine By **Bernadette Brudell, Strokestown**

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Ambrosia, heavenly dew in the
Unknowing of bees,
Nectar of the ancients
Bestowing poetic licence

Walking the bridal path
A moon's worth of honey wine
Medieval banquet and bride
From goblet and gold vessel imbibe

Dry or sweet, sparkling or still
A years' ferment with fruit
Herb berries or bitter ruse
Golden yellow to the brim

A midus touch in Myod
Black Mead blueberry Bilbemel
Omphacomel with verjuice
The melody of Melomel

Apple Jack or Honey Jack
Chouchenn of Brittany mead
Magic from bees
Yield honey from Irish fields

Friends of the bee, lovers from antiquity
To the deserts of modernity
'Drink and imbibe deeply'
Of the wisdom of the bee

Let it be

Let it Bee

**Our Poly-nation Garden By Kieran Moylan,
Tulsk, Co. Roscommon**

Glory be to God. for dappled things...
(pace Gerard Manley Hopkins)

Born from the mists of a sceptered past,

A new Eden has emerged, an

Arcadian idyll?

Where talent and tolerance blossom and bloom;

A multi-cultural haven: each petal, stigma

and style.

Forward and sky-ward facing,

Embracing all creeds and ethnos; imbues

All that is variegated, dappled, diverse,

Arraying every tint, shade and hue.

Let creation's bounty abound here,

Dew-drenched flora, teem with insect life;

May peace alight on ev 'ry blossomed-flower,

Unfurl a flag of pride, endow every hive.

Old Ireland, requiescat in pace,

E diversitas, novus ordo natus.