

A RESPONSE TO: "Kirkwall in the Sun", 3rd June 2024

=

Kirkwall in the Sun

I appreciate your proper crediting at the beginning here.

I love, love, love me "and a fish swims by your car", so funny!

Glad you have become a true local with your camera, funny pic, and picked lunch (unlike the tourists, bleh).

[olives with the pits are a must have in wraps] -- ~~wraps~~  
Sounds like it was super windy! Wind easily makes my ears and (after) head hurt. Absolutely terrible! I'm going to ~~have~~ have to borrow earplugs on the west Highland way. I'm also going to bring a bunch of clips to keep my fringe out of my face because it makes it really hard to see whenever it is modestly windy.

Super exciting stuff about Orkney exceeding energy demand in 2013! I would assume that is actually electricity demand, but regardless, I am very impressed. I hope they've been close to meeting it every year since. One wind turbine for every thirty people seems like a lot, but Orkney has a small population...

[I realise I hadn't seen Orkney's logo yet, but I found it very surprising when I first saw this photo, I think because of the fort] --- sign

[the grey building is much worse than the green, the green is actually quite lively looking if you imagine blue skies. The blue door adds a touch of colour, but unfortunately, in particular as it is paired with those pipe-y rails, it reminds me of New York City public schools, and not in a good way]

-- grey

[I absolutely love that the turbine pops up out of nowhere! It

doesn't even look that big, but then you realize how small the buildings are & see that it is huge!] -- turbine I was unaware of your massive bird of prey fear (sounds similar to your mushroom one), but surprised to hear the turbine reminded you of them. Glad to hear you moved before the blades fell on your head. It would definitely not be a good look to have the new intern die by turbine on their very first day. I wish you to stay alive for the remainder too though! Please please!

[this photo reminded me of a Tom Scott video where he slides down the side of a wind turbine, something that sounds super fun, but terrifying in practice] -- hatch

[this is another very pretty photo, the green roof makes me think it's from the Sims] -- roof

I had to look up "alacrity"! What a great word! Super fun, I'm going to try to use it from now on.

### Macros

I read this entire section before starting my response, which I think is a better way of responding than what I did with the previous section, where I responded like as I read every three or so lines. This allows me to make some general statements, such as this one: I really like that you use the word "about" and then give a very non specific (or non scientific) amount, I find this very funny (but careful not to overdo it, though that's unlikely when I'm the sole audience).

I find it very cute that you went out with your camera (and fanny pack and packed lunch, to give the non-forest aesthetic) and didn't get your phone. I'm very glad you spent the time taking the photos and seeing the outdoors (though also a bit surprised given the cold and wind). And I love that you say "macro tubes".

[this yellow flower is so pretty! It reminds me of a

poppy, though alas, it is not] -- yellow  
Having been in with myself with several  
attempts at photographing wildly dancing flowers, I am  
very impressed by these photos.  
[the rust in the photo looks like gold! Very beautiful  
actually] -- golden

[again, a very funny caption] -- rust

### Other Sights

[well, what can I say, I love this photo! I can never  
stop with slants and beautifully aligned posts to  
one side. To answer your question, they're behind  
barbed wire to keep you out because they know  
you'd paint them pink (in solidarity with Edinburgh  
Castle, a few decades late)] -- douser

[originally I think I decided your caption was better  
than my answer to your question, but now I am less  
certain] -- dinosaur

[the caption made me laugh on first read and smile on  
second] -- forest

### The Path Home

[you say labelling is common in the country, but you  
questioned the shipping containers only a moment before,  
sands to me like a label would be useful here]  
-- labelling

I'm glad to finally see some bike paths! It sounded  
earlier like there were none. However, perhaps the rain  
and wind stop many people from cycling, and so the town  
sees less of a need to build cycling infrastructure] -- bike

[Presence of Cycled Vehicles™ (don't forget the™), but glad  
you've got such rigorous safety training under your  
belt] -- safe

"copses of trees", hmm, I had to look up copses because all I  
could think of was corpses. Sands to me like maybe you've  
(effectively) repented the word tree.

[I love the shape of this tree :)] -- tree

[pretty photo] -- cathedral

[another pretty photo, very similar to yesterday's] -- tuffet  
Your half paragraph about hydrogen is funny. I really like the style of asking questions in the midst of text and not necessarily answering them. It is always fun to see things you're related to advertised or showing up publically or being talked about by others. Even when you haven't done anything, it still feels a reason to feel pride.

## Demographics

What age group are you referring to as yours? The next question is, how large an age range is that. I am completely unsurprised that the population is heavily old-person represented. I am surprised that the population is growing at all. I assume it will soon stop though, once the large group of older people are dying faster than people immigrate in <sup>and</sup> are born. I will say, 200,000 people sounds like a lot, and I suppose since they're concentrated over 3 months, it is, but over the whole year, even when the population is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of that, it's not actually that impressive. Particularly since, as you said, most of the tourists arrive on cruises, and those people live on the cruises (not in permanent homes on land).

[another pretty photo :)] -- light

[and this! Perhaps I like this one even more because I hadn't seen it before (unlike the last)] -- barn

Yay!!! You will tourist and write (whee) woo!!! Of course, unlike the other tourists, you have a camera, funny pack, and packed lunch. "When the time comes" is such a dramatic phrase and I love it!!!

## Boats

It's funny how we say sailing even when we talk about



boarding not on oil boats (originally spelled botes, though  
boarding was spelled correctly from the start).

[I really like the symmetry here and the colour of  
the boat (again spelled bote at first)] -- even  
['functional neon orange' is my favourite of the  
oranges (maybe not true, I would need to think  
more), as usual I liked the humour in that phrase.  
This is also a very pretty photo, and it reminds  
of the New York City bay, particularly looking out  
towards Ellis Island. I attempted to find a photo  
similar to what I was thinking about, but failed]  
-- lighthouse

I love you. ♥

### Reclaimed Land

[this photo reminds me of Jupiter Inland (which I've  
been to, but want to go to, and photos of it remind  
me of this)] -- corner

[the clouds in this photo are so beautiful! They remind  
me of a specific painting, but cannot remember  
which] -- dog

[the house is so cute! I love the light on the side  
of it, it does look a bit like a bird, but my  
first thought was definitely more of a dog sitting]  
-- house

[I like imagining you sitting next to the bench, facing it,  
for hours at a time, wondering why no one is sitting on  
it (the answer likely being that there is a creepy man  
staring at it), but yes, do report if someone does sit on  
it] -- bench

[from what I've seen, I'd have to disagree on this comment,  
pretty sure the oil tank does not help the view, fortunately

the other direction of sight looks much nicer] -- tank  
[the clouds are beautiful, I really like when there  
are many coloured thin (veiling) clouds. I also like  
that you can see the cathedral sans oil tank]  
-- serene

Birds

[the shape of the bird in flight is so stereotypical  
(in a good way)!] -- flight

[cygnets! weee woo! I love cygnets : This photo  
reminds me of geese and goslings I saw in Maelburg  
over two years ago, incredibly cute :) -- swoon  
[absolutely love wildflowers, excited to ~~have~~ have some  
in the Permaculture Garden soon : These flowers  
specifically remind me of Prospect Park and the  
good bits of New York] -- clover

Home

[I love this photo and for some reason it makes  
me think of Frank Lloyd Wright] -- watch

My Own Thoughts

Yayyyyyy! I loved reading this! I liked your photos  
and I really liked your captions :)

Thank you for the added bird photos!

I'm glad this post was happier. Yesterday's sounded a  
bit sad, or at least surprisingly underwhelmed, but as I  
predicted, the good weather seems to have made a  
big difference, and for that I'm very glad.

Much love!

isabella! ♡