

A Warm, Glowing Sunset



What an awe inspiring sunset! – As I opened the email from my sister, since the sky is so red, I wondered if a red filter had been used. No, in fact this is just how the sunset appeared in Shanklin, Isle of Wight in April 2010. On our Parish Website you will find this photo of the red sunset (together with 2 more photos taken of this brilliant show of colour). These untouched photos were taken by my sister, Sandra Jackson, on her pocket Canon Digital IXUS 40 camera.

Over the centuries poets, artists, writers, philosophers and many others have been inspired by the beautiful Isle of Wight.

In 1793 William Wordsworth visited the Isle of Wight for a month, he later wrote:

ADVERTISEMENT, PREFIXED TO THE FIRST EDITION OF INCIDENTS UPON SALISBURY PLAIN, PUBLISHED IN 1842

“During the latter part of the summer of 1793, having passed a month in the Isle of Wight, in view of the fleet which was then preparing for sea off Portsmouth at the commencement of the war, I left the place with melancholy forebodings. The American war was still fresh in memory. The struggle which was beginning, and which many thought would be brought to a speedy close by the irresistible arms of Great Britain being added to those of the Allies, I was assured in my own mind would be of long continuance, and productive of distress and misery beyond all possible calculation. This conviction was pressed upon me by having been a witness, during a long residence in revolutionary France, of the spirit which prevailed in that country. After leaving the Isle of Wight, I spent two days in wandering on foot over Salisbury Plain, which, though cultivation was then widely spread through parts of it, had upon the whole a still more impressive appearance than it now retains.

The monuments and traces of antiquity, scattered in abundance over that region, led me unavoidably to compare what we know or guess of those remote times with certain aspects of modern society, and with calamities, principally those consequent upon war, to which, more than other classes of men, the poor are

subject. In those reflections, joined with particular facts that had come to my knowledge, the following stanzas originated.

In conclusion, to obviate some distraction in the minds of those who are well acquainted with Salisbury Plain, it may be proper to say, that of the features described as belonging to it, one or two are taken from other desolate parts of England."

"My ramble over many parts of Salisbury Plain put me, as mentioned in the preface, upon writing this poem, and left upon my mind imaginative impressions the force of which I have felt to this day. From that district I proceeded to Bath, Bristol, and so on to the banks of the Wye; when I took again to travelling on foot."

"The gathering clouds grow red with stormy fire,
In streaks diverging wide and mounting high;

"The weary eye--which, wheresoe'er it strays,
Marks nothing but the red sun's setting round," (From 'Incidents Upon Salisbury Plain')

In this poem Wordsworth refers to the 'red sun'. In 1783 an Icelandic volcano erupted, covering most of Europe with fog. Wordsworth probably experienced the dry, sulfurous haze created by this massive eruption that turned the sun red.

The eruption of Krakatoa* culminated in a series of massive explosions on August 26–27, 1883, which was among the most violent volcanic events in modern and recorded history. Take a closer look at 'The Scream', 1893 by Edvard Munch the Norwegian Symbolist painter (the original German title given to the work by Munch was 'Der Schrei der Natur' - The Scream of Nature). One theory is that he used his 1883 paintings of the night sky caused by Krakatoa as a back drop for the screaming figure (perhaps shielding ears from a massive explosion).

In fact there's a slight similarity between Munch's sky and Sandra's photo of the April sunset on the Isle of Wight.



William Ascroft* was a late 19th Century British artist best known for his color sketches of sunsets over England in the years after the 1883 explosion of the Krakatoa volcano, recording details otherwise unavailable before the invention of colour photography

We all know about the ash clouds from the Icelandic volcano in April 2010. Perhaps these ash clouds have helped towards making the glowing, warm sunset captured in this set of 3 photos?

For the record: April 2010 a UFO, a bright orange, globe shaped light moving across the sky, was sighted by a number of people on the Isle of Wight!

David Clarke
*Wikipedia

*Have you taken any interesting photos of sunsets? If so, please email them to us.
The Magna committee will arrange for the sunset photos to appear on our Parish Website*



It turned out that the
UFO's were meteorites
according to the news.

