

THE CLOUD PLEASERS.

Hello everyone! I speak to you, the British people, as the leader of our new political party, 'The Cloud Pleasers'! We are here to change the mentality which says that each one of us 'wander lonely as a cloud'.

Are clouds unfairly besmirched? Of that, there is no doubt. When we hear the words 'cloud' or 'cloudy' it is almost always within a negative context. 'That issue probably clouded her/his judgement'. Another example would be 'There are dark clouds on the horizon'. In these contexts clouds are used to signify a lack of clarity, bias, or even impending doom.

Moving from metaphor to reality, clouds are criticised for hiding the sun from us, getting in the way when we could all be basking in her rays. In poetic terms, clouds have been made famous by Wordsworth's 'I wandered lonely as a cloud'. In fairness, Wordsworth is not criticising clouds, but, again, they are seen in a negative context, as the author is protected from the cloud's loneliness by the joy brought by 'a host of golden daffodils'. Does that mean that we all should become Welsh?

Clouds are even alluded to when we talk about 'clouds of ash' or 'clouds of gas', or even 'clouds of cigarette smoke billowing forth', making us all much more unhealthy than we would choose to be.

This reflects the psychological trait of 'Nephophobia', from the Greek, meaning 'fear of clouds'. I sometimes wonder if the xenophobes in our society suffer when they reflect that clouds, unrestricted by borders and legislation, float over from such foreign lands such France. Can they really describe this as 'an invasion'? What's worse, of course, is that they criticise clouds for giving us rain! I say this, 'Is there a really heaven somewhere where clouds do not exist, where we, as humble human beings, can escape this nephophobic oppression?' Of course not!

Perhaps we need to take a step back, allaying our fears, and consider reality for a change. Is there anything more beautiful than the sight of a sky full of clouds on a sunny summer's day?

If Coldplay's Chris Martin had the opportunity, he should re-write his great song 'A Sky Full of Stars' to sing about clouds. Now is the time to recognise that

those who have 'their heads in the clouds', allegedly suffering from 'brain fog', aren't impractical people who have lost contact with reality, but are creatives, those with the imagination to take us all forward.

With the possible exception of the Green Party, no party has 'Clouds' on their agenda, but we, 'The Cloud Pleasers' do. We are neophiles and proud of it. We recognise that without clouds and their gift of rain, that we would not live in such 'a green and pleasant land'. Umbrellas are our symbols of strength. We are proud to re-write Wordsworth's message.

'We wandered happy as a cloud,

Bringing peace and love to all around.'

Every cloud has a silver lining, and we are it!