

Foreword

Two Years of Intellectual Productivity

I am pleased to say that with this volume of *The Wednesday* books we complete two years of intensive intellectual productivity, in the debate that we generate, as a group, every week and in the publication. If I had wished to select another title for this foreword, I would have called it: *Two Years of Intellectual Solidarity and Friendship* because this is what matters for me and for members of the group.

You can take a solitary road towards your intellectual development and each one of us has done that for part or most of our lives, but the effect of the group is something different. Having an idea is something you often come to through reading and reflection, but it is through communicating it to the group that it will get sharpened and developed. It might be shown that it has more (or less) value as the group reflects on it than when it was first thought. Dialogue will, in most cases, result in a higher level of thinking compared with thinking alone.

The Wednesday group is made up of individuals who have different interests and backgrounds: philosophers, lawyers, artists, poets, engineers and scientists. They all bring their particular perspectives to bear on the debate. The result is very illuminating and helpful to the individual and the group. This can be seen from the fact that our meetings often become intense with debate. They are based in most cases on a presentation for the particular week, or sometimes members are informed beforehand of the topic and prepared with some questions.

The notes from the debate are regularly published, almost week by week, in the magazine, and readers are invited to join in the debate by furthering the discussion or criticising the views expressed. The magazine can then work as a channel between the group and those who read it. All issues of *The Wednesday* magazine are now on the website (www.thewednesdayoxford.com) and our readers can comment on any idea expressed in old or new issues.

I think the magazine is a unique achievement for the group and for the editorial team that has produced it weekly for the last two years. My thanks and gratitude for all those who have supported it, especially the many distant writers, poets and artists. Thank you all.

The Editor