

Acknowledgements

The project for *The Wednesday* came to my mind while on a holiday in Wales, in July 2017. I was inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's magazine *The Friend* that I read about during the holiday. On the way home I told my wife that I was going to start a new magazine as soon as I got home. I had previously worked in several magazines, writing articles, editing the cultural section and the editor-in-chief of the last one. The title of the magazine, *The Wednesday*, suggested itself to me because I have a group of friends who meet every Wednesday at the Albion Beatnik Bookstore in Oxford. The group had previously met in different bookshops and cafes around Oxford for almost fourteen years.

When I suggested the idea to the group I had mixed reactions but I went ahead and produced the experimental issue (issue number zero). I called it first a newsletter of the group, to report and develop their thoughts but from issue one I called it a magazine. There was a subtitle (*The Wednesday at Albion-Oxford*). But soon it became known just *The Wednesday*.

The magazine now is well established and gaining strength with every issue. I am grateful to all those who stood by the project since its inception and contributed articles or moral support. The *Wednesday* group is the backbone of the magazine and without the support of its members the magazine could not have advanced. Professor Chris Norris gave me encouragement when I needed it badly with his philosophical poems and also by coming to Oxford on more than one occasion to read his poetry in the events organised by the group. Dennis Harrison the proprietor of AB gave me his full support and advice whenever I need it.

To avoid being accused of favouring some over others or forgetting to mention a writer, poet or artist who contributed to the magazine, the reader will find in the last page of this edition the names of all contributors to the present volume. I am grateful to them all. I am also pleased to have them as friends.

Finally, I wish to mention the unknown soldiers behind the scene: Barbara Velacott who reads all the articles after I do the editing to ensure that the level of English in the magazine is of the highest standard, and my wife Wendy for her love and support beyond the call of duty. This volume is dedicated to her as a token of love.

Dr. Rahim Hassan
The Editor