

Foreword

Harnessing the Group's Energies

The Wednesday group has had a very fruitful last year. Attendance has increased and become more regular and systematic. Topics were decided in advance with no shortage of speakers and ideas for discussion. We have also had a number of speakers from outside Oxford who visited the group to read their poetry, discuss a new book they had written or present a paper. *The Wednesday* magazine benefited from all this activity and energy of thought. It is amazing what one can get out of a group by harnessing their individual energies.

We thought of keeping up the momentum in the New Year so we circulated a questionnaire to members asking them about the style of the meeting, timing and topics. It was agreed that the meeting should stay weekly, every Wednesday, because it is easy to remember if it is a regular fixed day and time. It was also left to the members to volunteer for giving a presentation, but if there is no topic, the moderator would select a topic that has come up through philosophy lists, such as the well-known PHILOS_L list, whether it be conferences, lectures, or new reviews and journals.

Discussing literary works, films or artworks was also suggested but it was found that reading a novel or a book every week is not practical. Members will not have the time every week to keep up with the flow of books! For poetry, films and artwork it was suggested better treated experientially rather than conceptually and that both are possible. We have within the group more than one poet and artist but so far we lack a film writer or director!

We were all sad that we have lost one member of the group at the beginning of December 2019. Ray Ellison was a very gentle and kind soul. He died in his birthplace, Croydon, in London after a heart complaint. It was a big loss for the group, and it was unexpected. Ray joined the group in the last five or six years and was keen to attend the meetings. We published a full obituary of Ray in the December issue number 125, which is inside this volume. It is my way of remembering him that I dedicate this volume to Ray.

The Editor