

Foreword

Changing Times

The present decade has got off to a bad start. The Coronavirus pandemic has thrown its shadow over normal life and has caused serious disruption. This disruption has affected all aspects of life, including philosophical activities. Our group, which had been meeting for a debate every Wednesday at our normal place, Opera Café, has been forced onto online activity. We miss the immediacy of debating which now has to be mediated through technology. Some members do not feel happy with going online and so have stopped participating in these meetings. This does not mean that they have left the group and they are informed weekly of the topic of the week and any future events.

I am pleased that we have used Zoom technology to keep the group going and that this has allowed us to increase the variety of our debates by inviting speakers from outside Oxford. However, we have not opened the meeting to participants worldwide. That would change the nature of the group and make it difficult to run the weekly meeting. However, we have not yet decided whether we are going to be off line when the signal for the ending of the pandemic comes, but the general feeling is that when things get back to normality we will be back at Opera Café, welcomed by Saleh El-Masri the proprietor.

Last March we decided to issue *The Wednesday* as a monthly magazine. The decision came as a disappointment to many readers but it was necessary to keep up the good quality of the magazine and ensure its continuity. It was also felt that, since we are living through a difficult time, we may need to concentrate on the weekly meetings. There is full coverage of all these meetings in our monthly magazine.

It was partially due to the pandemic that the publication of volumes nine and ten of *The Wednesday Books* was delayed, but we were determined to publish both promptly. These books and the previous ones in this series have been very useful for readers who want to have their collection of *The Wednesday* magazine in attractive editions.

May I remind you that you can read all back and current issues of *The Wednesday* on our website (www.thewednesdayoxford.com). You will also find an index for all the issues, which makes it possible to search the website for articles, poetry and artwork. May I also take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the magazine and being good friends.

The Editor