

Foreword

Five Years of Intellectual Solidarity

I am pleased to announce that as this volume goes to ~~the~~ printers, *The Wednesday* will have completed five years. It was a weekly for half of this time and monthly for the remainder. I am delighted that the project has flourished and has gone from strength to strength. One aspect that is of interest to me, is the strong solidarity the magazine has created between its members through its publications, and through its weekly Wednesday meetings. The regularity of the meetings and the variety of topics discussed every week is impressive. But the noticeable achievement is in generating the spirit of friendship and mutual support within the group that made the production of the magazine such a pleasure.

In one of the recent issues, I wrote an editorial against dogmatism. I am suggesting here that regular Wednesday meetings and discussion could see the modification of the views of participants to varying degrees. Over the months and years, extreme and dogmatic views have started to mellow.

Intellectual work is individualistic in nature, especially in philosophy, art and poetry but it is difficult to sustain over a lifetime. Even a philosopher needs the solidarity of like-minded, thinkers. I hope that we succeeded in this endeavour, and I feel confident about the future.

Recent publications by members of the group acknowledge the magazine and its value for their work. I single out here Professor Chris Norris who dedicated his collection *Hedgehog: verse-reflections after Derrida*, to *The Wednesday*. Chris said about his collection that ‘It would never have been conceived or sustained without the regular creative stimulus provided by [the] online magazine *The Wednesday*, a wonderful meeting-place for poets and philosophers.’ I am also pleased to read in William Bishop’s book *Foundation For A Humanitarian Economy: Re-Thinking Boethius’ the Consolation of Philosophy*, recently published by Routledge, that he introduced himself as follows: ‘his interest in writing and philosophy merged into association with ‘The Wednesday’ group, and several of his articles in recent years appear in *The Wednesday*.’

My thanks to both authors and my gratitude to them and all contributors to *The Wednesday*. I am also grateful to all participants in the weekly meetings. Without their presence, support and creativity all this would not have been possible. Happy fifth anniversary.

The Editor