

An introductory note

Words in Edgeways will combine literary and political comment, and will consist of little but continuous prose. Each issue will contain two or three longer essays plus a miscellany of shorter articles and squibs. For anyone familiar with *The Human World*, *The Haltwhistle Quarterly* or *The Gadfly*, this magazine is their successor but will be less academic, more topical and pay more attention to journalism. Despite this difference of emphasis, general political, moral and philosophical questions can still be raised in it. We invite contributions, including to our “Letters Other Editors Didn’t Print” feature; and the only limitations on length will be practical ones. (*The Gadfly* once got a 247 page handwritten letter from Bribie Island, off the Great Barrier Reef, which it would have liked to publish but couldn’t. *Words in Edgeways* wouldn’t be able to publish it either.) We may insert articles without waiting for the month to be up, but usually the magazine will be a monthly, published on the first day of the month. (The second issue will appear on August 1.) If there is anything new before the month is up, it will be announced on the website Home page. We don’t exclude “creative” writing but, in general, what we anticipate publishing is various sorts of criticism.

The editor is named above. We shall occasionally have signed essays, but anonymity will be usual, as with the editorials of newspapers. We don’t anticipate a rush of professional journalists wanting to publish with us but we do hope to attract the odd piece or two which no professional could publish under his own name. Journalists need anonymity to be able to pursue their careers in peace; and, in this free country, with no thought police, no KGB likely to turn up with guns at dead of night to enforce the politically correct views, our establishment nevertheless behaves as if we *were* living in the old Soviet Union. Some things just can’t be said by anybody who hopes to go on contributing to the “media”. The best literary reviewing at present published in England is in *Private Eye*. Their “Literary Review” pages are not flawless—can be just bitchy, and more seriously are restricted to the immediate literary sensations of the day—but quite reliably twice a month give well-argued judgements. This would not be possible if the articles were signed.

Contributions must be emailed to the editor as .rtf (rich text file) attachments. Anybody who doesn’t know how to do that is welcome to contact us for advice.