

## Editorial

# Bertrand Russell 150

*'It's a very fine boy ... not one child in 30 was as big & fat'*

So remarked Dr Audland who attended Kate Amberley when she delivered her fourth child, to be called Bertrand, on 18 May 1872. It was a 'very cold day' at Ravenscroft, the Amberley family's remote home just outside Trellech, a village close to the Welsh border.

For us at the Peace Foundation bearing his name, Russell is a constant companion, particularly in the renewed European Nuclear Disarmament campaign and related endeavours. Almost daily, there is a new development somewhere in the world which invokes his name. For example, the growing public debate about reduced working time frequently refers to Russell's influential book, *In Praise of Idleness*, published in 1935, which in Russell's own description contained 'essays on such aspects of social questions as tend to be ignored in the clash of politics'. Less directly, it is possible to link Russell to developments in which he is not named, such as campaigns about mistreatment of animals. For many years, he was a member of the League against Cruel Sports. In this, as in many other matters, he was ahead of his time.

Such companionship is bolstered by an active and growing global community of Russellians, nurtured in part by the Bertrand Russell Society founded in North America in 1974. This scholarly society embodies Russell's popular approach to complex and sometimes technical discussion. Regular online forums attract participants from all hemispheres. Recent sessions have covered 'G H Hardy's copy of *Principia Mathematica*' and Russell's Cold War propaganda pamphlet 'What is Democracy?', published in 1953 with financial support from the British Foreign Office. A growing programme of sessions is planned for 2022, including one on his continuing and growing appeal to be held in May to mark Russell's 150th birthday. In this issue, Tim Madigan, former President of the Society, writes on 'Russell in Popular Culture'.

What underpins Bertrand Russell's enduring appeal? Certainly, his accessibility and readability are part of the story. Whether it's provocative

political and social questions such as *In Praise of Idleness* or mainly philosophical questions such as those addressed in collections like *Mysticism and Logic* (first published in 1918), his clarity of exposition draws interest from diverse backgrounds and across the generations. These many texts continue to attract new readers. So it is that, in 2022, Routledge will publish new editions of *Mysticism* and nine other philosophical titles by Russell with introductions by contemporary scholars such as Nicholas Griffin. In due course, Cambridge University Press will publish a critical edition of Whitehead and Russell's landmark study, *Principia Mathematica*, based on innovative work by Landon D C Elkind and colleagues. 'The Principia Rewrite project aims to digitise, annotate, and map *Principia* to facilitate engagement with it by academics and the public', according to Twitter (@thePMrewrite). The original edition of *Principia*, published in three volumes between 1910 and 1913, is a tribute to the typographer's art, craft and skill. How will it translate to a new digitised format, and what surprises will it spring along the way?

In this 150th issue of *The Spokesman* journal, itself a landmark, there is some emphasis on Russell's final decades. Paola Totaro follows him to Australia in 1950. John Gittings recalls eventually meeting Russell in London in 1959, while Russell Stetler and Kenneth Blackwell revisit their collaborations with Russell in the 1960s. Writing shortly after Russell's death in February 1970, his wife Edith gives her own testimony about the husband she married in 1952. Caroline Moorehead, Russell's biographer, provides intriguing insight into Edith's earlier years. Progressing through the 1960s, we visit Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and The Beatles along the way.

Russell currently has more than 170,000 followers on Facebook, spread across the world. Recently, his bestselling book *History of Western Philosophy* was translated into the Kazakh language and made available in print and online. In June 2022, an international conference convenes to mark the centenary of publication of Russell's *The Analysis of Mind*. Sparks continue to light up many corners of the Russell universe. Nurturing peace, encouraging kindness, and preventing cruelty keep their currency.

*'Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.'*

Tony Simpson

# JAILED—THE STAR SIT-DOWNERS



Earl Russell



Countess Russell



Arnold Wesker



Rev. Michael Scott



Jane Noel-Buxton



Robert Bolt



Anne Kerr



Christopher Logue

# Black Maria for Earl Russell

By MIRROR REPORTERS

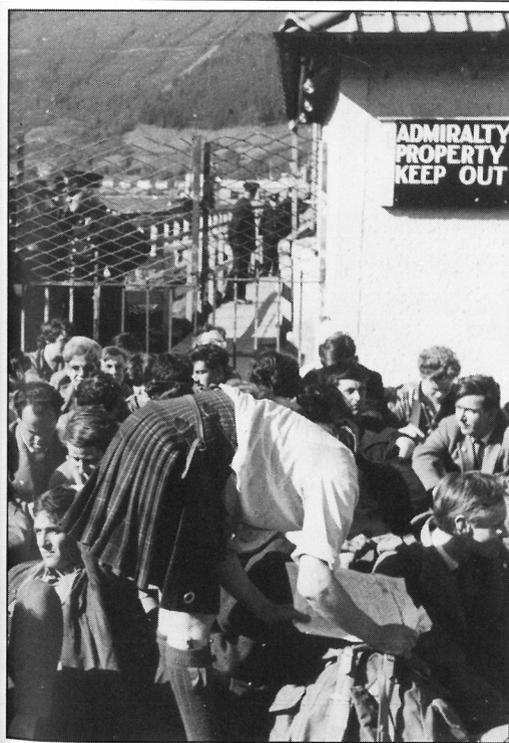
**EARL RUSSELL**, the eighty-nine-year-old philosopher, was in jail last night. So were his wife, Countess Russell, and thirty other prominent members of the Committee of 100, the anti-nuclear weapons group.

All had refused to be bound over on summonses accusing them of inciting members of the public to commit a breach of the peace next Sunday.

The committee's past activities have included sit-down demonstrations in London. Next Sunday, it was alleged at Bow-street court yesterday, 10,000 demonstrators are planning to block the area round Parliament-square.

**LORD RUSSELL**—better known as Bertrand Russell, holder of the Order of Merit and regarded as one of the world's greatest

**LADY RUSSELL  
GOES, TOO**



1961 was a year of increasing tension with the deployment of US nuclear submarines in Scotland, French nuclear tests, and a NATO agreement that West Germany could use nuclear-powered destroyers. The Berlin Wall was built and a Soviet-initiated moratorium on weapons testing was ended by the Russians. CND organized a 'march of shame' to the Soviet embassy.

**Top** Opposition to American nuclear submarines continued and demonstrations were planned by the Committee of 100. As a result, more than half the Committee were arrested and required to be 'bound over'. Thirty-two people refused and were jailed.

**Left** The demonstrations went ahead as planned despite a ban under the Public Order Act on Trafalgar Square. 351 people were arrested at the Holy Loch demonstration shown here; 1,314 in Trafalgar Square.