

LEONARD KRAUSE 19 September 1911 - 28 October 2007
&
ELIZABETH KRAUSE 1 February 1911 - 21 December 2007

The Society suffered the loss of two of its earliest and most prominent members in the autumn of 2007 with the death of our president, Len Krause at the age of 96, followed a few weeks later by that of his wife, Elizabeth. They joined the society in 1965 soon after its foundation. Len, with the late Jim McBean, edited the journal from 1978 to 1980 when he took over the chairmanship. He was elevated to president in 1990. Elizabeth, ever his faithful helpmeet, served as secretary from 1978-88.

Len was born in Long Eaton, Derbyshire, where his parents had moved from Nottingham to continue their involvement with the machine lace trade. He won a scholarship to the local County Secondary School, where he did well and continued his education at University College, Nottingham (now Nottingham University), where he studied botany. A love of and interest in plants and gardening was a continuing thread in his life. He embarked upon post-graduate research into the growth of carrot roots, but having met Elizabeth and thinking of marriage, Len needed to earn money. He took a job with British Celanese, which became Courtaulds, first at the Spondon factory and then in London at the laboratories in Hanover Square.

Len and Elizabeth met at the Methodist Fellowship's hostel at Kent's Bank, near Wast Water in the Lake District, where he had been working as a leader during vacations to support himself during his student days. The Krause family was strongly Methodist and associated with Mount Tabor Church in Long Eaton. They loved walking in the countryside and had many excursions to the Derbyshire Dales. Elizabeth Jones, as she then was, had been born at Wrexham, Denbighshire in 1911 and in the early 1930s was a nurse at Sefton Park Hospital, Liverpool. She went with friends to the Lakes for a holiday and stayed at the Fellowship.

Elizabeth moved to London, to nurse at St Alphege's Hospital in Greenwich, where she became a sister and later trained as a midwife. The young couple married at Long Eaton in 1940 and moved into 29 Eastern Avenue, where they remained until going to Juniper Court, Northwood in 1997. Three children, Michael, Linda and Jeremy, were born during the next ten years. They joined St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Bridle Road, because it was the nearest non-conformist church within walking distance of their home and remained loyal members for the rest of their lives. Len at one time played the organ and was a member of the Organ Club, music being another of his interests. Many Society members will remember that he used to play the piano in St Martin's Hall, accompanying the singing of carols at our Christmas feasts. At church Len and Elizabeth met Howard Crane and his son-in-law, Ron Edwards, who were instrumental in founding Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society, and through that association, joined it in its early days. At Christmas 1995, having rashly decided to organise a Pepysian Banquet, complete with food made according to seventeenth century recipes and dances of the period, at a time when we were meeting at the Golf Club for normal meetings, Len arranged for us to hold the event at St Andrew's.

So far as the Society is concerned, both Len and Elizabeth played their parts. In the course of a committee meeting held at their house, the secretary resigned. Whilst Elizabeth was in the kitchen producing the coffee and home made cakes and biscuits that are such a feature of our meetings, the committee reached a unanimous decision that she would be the ideal person to fill the vacancy, and when she returned with a loaded tray she was apprised of her new role. She took the news with her customary calmness and did the job for nine years.

The Society flourished during the time that Len as chairman and Elizabeth as secretary worked as a team. Several books were published and the Journal took on a more modern appearance. Len contributed several articles in the 1980s and 90s, the Far Pavilion, 1986, being of particular interest. He talked to long-established inhabitants of Eastcote, especially to members of the various churches, and collected photographs from them as well as reminiscences. His collection is now waiting to be sorted. He pursued descendants of the Warrender family. He and Elizabeth visited a great nephew of Eleanor Warrender in Kent and were given a photograph album containing pictures of the family at Highgrove and other keepsakes.

The Society mounted several exhibitions in the Great Barn, in the Cow Byre and smaller ones in Manor Farm library and undertook a number of archaeological digs at Manor Farm, in Sharps Lane and at Beetonswood. Len and Elizabeth always encouraged these activities and helped, even on one occasion marking up pottery and other finds with the rest of the diggers.

During their later old age, Elizabeth's mind sadly became clouded, but she retained her good humour and charm. Len continued to the end, attending practically all committee and society meetings. They did well for the society and we owe them a great debt.