

## ALAN DAVID CRUSE

BORN 1934, DIED 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020, AGED 86

The confusion about Alan's first name was always a constant source of problems. His mother, having lost a first baby named David wanted to honour his memory and gave his name to her second child. But Alan was the name she really wanted her second boy to have his own individuality and use a name of his own.

Alan grew up in High Heaton, attended Chillingham Road primary school and obtained a scholarship for the Royal Grammar School where his curiosity for all things intellectual was satisfied and his various talents were nurtured (he played the piano and the violin and was a member of the school orchestra).

He was offered a place at Cambridge University to read chemistry, but it was a deferred offer and he chose instead to accept a place at Imperial College London to study biology, He started research for a PhD on the photo-synthesis of pine trees, but he insisted on creating the necessary apparatus himself and then was delayed by the weather (it rained at the crucial time !) His grant came to an end and he was obliged to choose between military service and teaching. Alan chose the latter and went to Wellington Grammar School, Shropshire, to teach biology where he met his future wife, Paule, the French assistant. His interest in languages was given a boost: he revived his French and added Spanish. The following year he applied for a place at The Institute of Education, London to do a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with the aim of teaching English abroad, This led to posts in the Turkish Lycée in Famagusta, Cyprus which was cut short by the troubles between the Greek and Turkish populations and led to his repatriation. There followed three years teaching at the university of Baghdad, Iraq, cut short by the Arab-Israeli war. and led to his hurried, dramatic exit from the country.

Alan then took up an offer to do an M.A, in Linguistics at the University of Manchester. A temporary post to teach there came to an end when funds to the universities were dramatically reduced. Alan then took up a post at the University of The West Indies (Jamaica), but returned to Manchester after two years to take up a permanent post where he stayed until his retirement. He became well-known in the field of Lexical Semantics; 'his book on the subject is extremely influential', to quote his obituary in The Guardian as were *Handbook of Semantics* and *Cognitive Linguistics* (Croft+Cruse).

Alan was a frequent speaker at international conferences which, together with his life in various areas of the world, satisfied his love of travel and his innate curiosity; he took these wanderings as an opportunity to learn languages (French, Spanish, German, Italian, Greek, Arabic and Welsh).

An accomplished musician, particularly the piano, as well as the violin and the guitar, Alan was, as all who knew him have said, discreet, thoughtful, witty and kind. He was a well-loved tutor to his students and a wonderful father. Though uninterested in career advancement, he was ever determined to achieve his personal goals. He was, in short, Renaissance Man.

He is survived by his wife Paule, his son Pierre and his daughter Elizabeth (Lisette)