

Catherine Walter and Michael Swan, Oxfordshire, UK, Memorial Jurek

Jerzy Limon came into our lives in the early 1990s. On a trip to Gdańsk for a meeting with Justyna Limon and her English language school colleagues, we met her lively, clever, irrepressibly enthusiastic professor husband. He showed us a car park in the centre of the city, and explained that it was the location of a playhouse where Shakespeare's plays had been performed in English in the seventeenth century. He told us of his dream of building a new Shakespearean theatre on the site. It was impossible not to share his passion, and we were fortunate to accompany him on the journey that led from that car park to a great hole in the ground, and from there to the immense artistic and architectural success that is the Shakespeare Theatre today. Jerzy Limon's accomplishments as a cultural entrepreneur are stunning.

However, it is as an exceptional human being and a dear friend that we will most remember him. On our visits to Gdańsk and on his visits to the UK over the years, no matter how busy Jurek was, he always had time for us. When one was with him, his attention was undivided. Conversations were wide ranging and inspiring. He was funny and generous and, perhaps above all, thoughtful in both senses of the term. The last time we saw him was in 2019, when he kindly invited us to Stratford-upon-Avon for Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations and the award to him of the Pragnell Shakespeare Award. Among the diplomats and dignitaries, he made us feel cherished.

The cultural landscape of the world, and the landscape of loving friendship in our own lives, have been immensely enriched by Jurek Limon's presence. The cruelty of the untimely frost that has taken him from us cuts deep every day. And yet we count ourselves in nothing else so happy as in remembering our good friend.