

Some former staff of the School

Rev. K.S.W. (“Saxon”) Walker

“Saxon” was Head of English from 1950 until the late 50s when he went on to be Head of Hereford High School and of Calday Grange Grammar School in the Wirral.

He was born in Bradford and educated at Bradford Grammar School before going up to Jesus College Cambridge where he took a First in English. His education had been interrupted by war service in the army and pupils were always impressed by the American paratroopers boots he wore in snowy weather together with a pair of huge dispatch-rider’s gauntlets. Seeing him stride along the road it was easy to see how the name Saxon had stuck – because he looked like one!!

Saxon had worked with the Cambridge Footlights and brought some quite radical ideas to his Shakespeare productions for the School including Macbeth, The Tempest, Julius Caesar and Henry 1V Part 1 – all of which had to be staged at the Training College in those days. He also loved dressing up and School Fairs would see him in his clown outfit, collecting box in hand, jumping out from dark corners although his clowning also extended to when he was in academic gown!!

He was a deeply spiritual man, introducing pupils to T.S.Eliot and Christopher Fry as well as the polemical Flemish painter Hieronymus Bosch whom he said he had first encountered during his service in Europe. It was not surprising, therefore, when, after retiring from teaching, he went into the Church, moving with his wife, Sheila, to the Isle of Mull. Some suspected that his experience as one of the first British officers to enter the Nazi extermination camps stayed with him. And it was indicative of the seriousness of his approach that, when he was unable to accept female ordination he converted to Catholicism in later years.

Sadly, for family reasons he and Sheila had to return to the mainland and went to live in a church cottage near Swindon where she dies not long after. They had one son, Roderick.

Saxon expected an enormous amount from his pupils but gave them their futures in return.

Saxon died at the beginning of 2008.