

Death of leading Dorset artist

DORSET has lost an outstanding artistic figure with the death of David Ballantyne, former head of ceramics at Bournemouth College. E 21/7

His retirement from the Lansdowne college only served to fire his enthusiasm for a whole new career as an environmental designer-craftsman.

His powerhouse of fresh creativity was to bring him national and international recognition.

Typically David, a Fellow of the Society of Designer-Craftsmen, had a workshop full of new projects at his home in Chewton Farm Road, Highcliffe, when he died after a short illness aged 76.

Mural

Only weeks ago he was completing a pair of majestic terracotta eagles commissioned by Poole Council. They are to stand sentinel over one of the imposing gateways being rebuilt at Poole Park.

Other examples of his striking works to be found locally include the ceramic mural of an ancient warrior decorating Saxon Square, Christchurch.

One of the finest tributes paid to him came two years ago from old friend Sir George Trevelyan, distinguished founder of the Wrekin Trust, in opening a spectacular show of David's life's work at Dorset Craft Guild's centre.

"I know of no-one who is more of the real Renaissance character," he declared.

David's funeral service took place on Wednesday at Bournemouth crematorium. He lives a widow, Katharine, and four children.