

Death of an artist who left his mark on town

ARTIST and craftsmen David Ballantyne, whose works include the Saxon warrior mural in Saxon Square has died following a short illness. He was 76.

Born in London, he came to Bournemouth from Liverpool in 1950 and taught at Bournemouth College of Art, where he was senior lecturer in ceramics until his retirement in 1978.

After retiring he continued working as a ceramics designer and craftsman from a studio and workshop at his home in Chewton Farm Road, Highcliffe.

One of his last commissions was a pair of eagles for the gates of Poole Park and other notable works to be seen locally are the symbolic concrete sculptures in the Priory garden of rest and the carved wooden door of the Portfield school for autistic children in Christchurch.

Mr Ballantyne's work also went to Christchurch's twin towns in France and Germany with specially commissioned punch bowls, ladles and goblets presented at the twinning ceremonies in Aalen and Saint Lô.

As well as decorative ceramics he also produced reproduction clay tiles and chimney pots for restored buildings, notably in Edinburgh's famous Princes Street, and concrete street furniture for the Royal borough of Windsor.

More recently he became increasingly involved in restoration and worked closely with conservation bodies including the National Trust and English Heritage, work which a number of his former students and apprentices plan to continue.

The funeral was held yesterday (Wednesday) and a memorial service is to be arranged shortly. Xc.