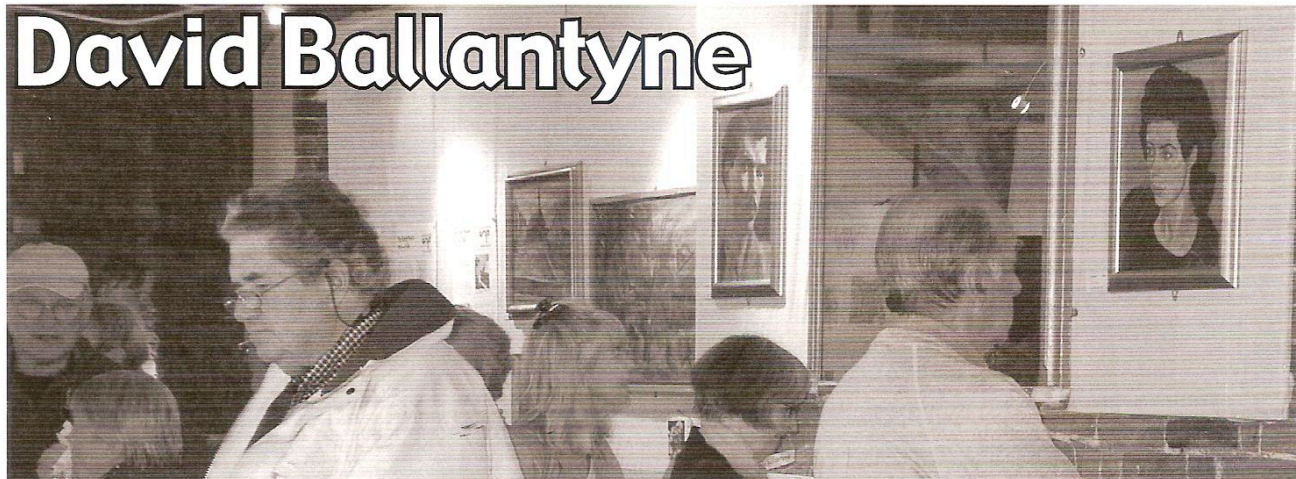


David Ballantyne



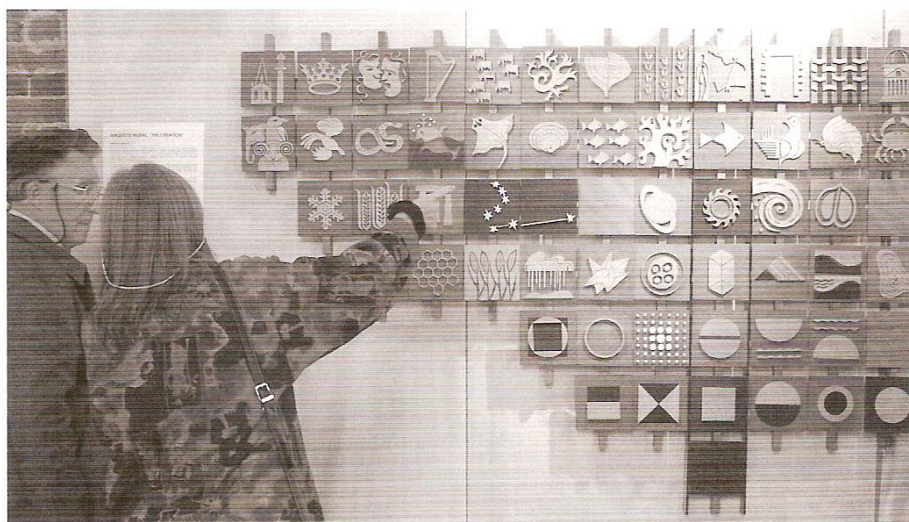
The long awaited exhibition at Highcliffe Castle was a great success, in spite of the local paper referring to DB throughout a long article as "John Ballantyne". We saw aspects of David's life and work which would surprise those who thought of him as solely a teacher of pottery and fabric printing.

David was a true renaissance man. He originally studied painting, but at one time thought of becoming a professional pianist before taking up ceramics in 1935. Although pottery was his main interest, he might equally be described as poet, designer, letterer, inventor, or architectural sculptor. He spoke fluent French, and one of his more bizarre claims to fame was his arrest for the murder of the King of Yugoslavia while living rough in France as a student in the early thirties!

Fuller accounts of DB's life and work can be found in the booklet which accompanied the exhibition and in the Easter 2000 Clocktower.

David inspired a whole generation of potters. The work of several of them was shown in the exhibition including Mary Mayes (Rich), Delan

(Above) Visitors to the exhibition during reunion weekend included Delan Cookson, Sylvia Antonsen, Barry Knox-Crichton, Ruth Cains, Hazel Cook and Colin Morris. (Below) Ivan Couch and Vikki Sheridan looking at David Ballantyne's great unfinished project the Creation Mural, which was intended to "encapsulate the flowering of human creativity". What we see here is a prototype in plywood and aluminium – the final version was to be in "other media"



Cookson and Pat Laurenson (Beer). There was also work by David's great friend and collaborator Peter Stoodley, who came to the Private View on September 5th. Also there were former pottery student Shirley Stephenson and her husband Bruce Rogers (who studied graphic design in the early 50's), Ian and Lesley Canning, April Reardon (Willis) and

yours truly. We met the four Ballantyne children, Judy, Claire, Candy and Stephen – all equally charming and obviously as talented as their father.

Mike Allen and Mandy Graham of Highcliffe Castle put on a really splendid show. Thanks are also due to those former students who sent in work. and information. PT

Mike Allen, whose energy and enthusiasm were behind the restoration of the Castle, and who first promoted the idea of a Ballantyne exhibition, is being recalled by Christchurch Council to do "more important but boring" work. We wish him well, but what a waste!



(Left) Georgina Rowbottom (Hudson) and Ivan Couch at their joint exhibition at the Will Sellwood Gallery, Minstead in July.

(Right) Congratulations to Lottie Plant (a.k.a. Janet Eagle) on getting her BA in Fine Art after three years hard study at Manchester Metropolitan University. She wasn't able to come to the reunion but sent this painting instead.