

# POTTER'S ONE-MAN SHOW

*Peggy*

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**ONE** of this country's most distinguished craftsmen has his first one-man exhibition of paintings at Christchurch's Regent Centre throughout January.

Mr David Ballantyne, the former head of pottery at Bournemouth and Poole College of Art, originally trained as a painter, and took part in some exhibitions in London with other artists before the war, but he gave up painting for design and craft work, mainly in ceramics.

With a house at Highcliffe, he is known in his home area for the environmental work he has done, including the distinctive tile mural at the entrance to the new Saxon Square shopping development in Christchurch town centre.

He made the front door at the autistic school in Stour Road and provided a pair of chimney pots for Avon Bank, in Bridge Street, as well as concrete sculpture in the Priory Church garden of rest.

Mr Ballantyne, who lives in Chewton Farm Road, also made inscribed punch sets which were used for the

twinning links between Christchurch and Aalen in West Germany, and for the town's Rotary Club with its link with the town of Cognac in south west France.

Outside his home area, Mr Ballantyne has carried out many major public commissions, but in recent years he has returned to painting, particularly on visits to a holiday flat in the little village of St Didier in the south of France.

It is the southern sun and the country scenes of St Didier and the Vaucluse region that are mainly featured in the exhibition of paintings which opened shortly before Christmas in the Regent's foyer gallery.

Most of the paintings were done on the spot — one particularly fine study of the gentle landscape around St Didier was dashed off on the morning that Mr Ballantyne and his wife Katherine were due to leave the village.