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Obituary: Ann Robson- Curator of Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery

Ann Robson

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OBITUARY: ANN ROBSON **Curator of Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery**

Ann Robson had just passed her 32nd birthday when she died a few days before Christmas 1990. She was born in South Shields in October 1958. She learned to play the piano and was particularly fond of the Christmas carol 'Away in a Manager'. The singing of this carol at her memorial service at the end of December was, therefore, particularly poignant. She had a passion for horses, as did so many girls of her generation, and this interest remained with her into her adult life. She was educated at Doncaster Grammar School and in 1977 went to Durham University to read Classics. Here she met Robert, the young man who continued to share her life and whom she was to have married if that life had not been cut short. Her love of Greek art and culture grew and then her Master's degree began.

She learned the theory of Curatorship at Manchester; her interest in museum work was already there. She worked with the Gulbenkian Foundation and was in charge of the Gladstone Pottery Museum in Stoke on Trent for 18 months. In 1985 she moved to Nuneaton Museum as assistant curator and became curator one year later. She brought a well organised mind to the possibility of extending the premises, her goal being to create an environment for true learning about the past human and natural condition. She was loved and respected by her staff for her calm personality, her tidy ways leaving nothing undone. She had a very gentle nature but it was only part of a determination to get things done that were important to her. The development of the George Eliot Gallery, completed in 1991, owes everything to the width of her vision. Throughout the planning period she consulted the Fellowship; indeed, in matters George Eliot she had always consulted us and we have worked with her happily during the whole of her time at Nuneaton. She has always been very supportive, ever ready to discuss the Museum's part in promoting interest in George Eliot and making certain that only the best was good enough. Although she has not lived to see the fruition of her plans, the high standards of the Museum will always be a memorial to her.

During her battle for health the staff at Nuneaton's George Eliot Hospital were deeply impressed by her courage, sharing her suffering and her faith. Ann will be sadly missed in many walks of life in the town where she had made her home and where she had so much to contribute to its cultural life.

K.A.