

as in order. Whether he had any idea what would be revealed is doubtful; what I can tell you is that the architectural practice the College employed remarked that it was used to finding families living in grand interiors with the exterior falling down, whereas at New College, the inhabitants lived in some squalor, but with the outside stone work largely in excellent condition.

I should record that the horrors revealed by that survey have now mostly been put right, after 9 years of hard labour and scaffolding by the Work Department, and tolerance by the Fellowship.

Among the rooms surveyed was the College's Founder's Library, a long 14th century room, which by the time of the survey, was used as the Senior Common Room lunch room. Three cases of books remained, and what emerged during this survey, was that dust, food-scrap, and constantly changing temperature had combined last books removed from Founder's

In my view, the College's Founder was a great deal more than he is credited with. He would have had no trouble in dealing with 'as you might say' 'use'. In any case, the book went, and the College remained

For a while, was simply had empty shelves. When the room was repaired, not only was the room stark, but it was also empty. The tapestry was born. It's a great pleasure to see Henry suggest the idea; as he says, he did so, without special mind. This was wise.

The then Warden, Harvey McFegor, proposed the Dragon tapestries. This was vetoed by the Fellow, retired Fellow in the Art, Jan Edge, that she have some never found out what she had in mind, because the

However, the noise problems continued – and hearing more on this in the coming year.

So, the idea of the tapestries was revived. The production of which proved to be problematic. The makers were canvassed, and the output of John was recorded. The input here of the silversmith Ed Kelly, had

On a personal note, perhaps one of the most arresting aspects of seeing the set hung as a cycle for the first time is being able to see the planets curving in an arc, either away from Pluto (which may - or may not - be a planet!), or away from the sun. And if you stand in the middle, it will be apparent that the four inner planets are closer together, than the outer four. However, the tapestries themselves don't further advocacy from me, except to say that we are looking forward to having them in College in the fullness of time!

Any message or email to New College from the Chattels Fellow inspires a round of whimsical responses from its members. The first reply this time to the announcement of tonight's event, was my favourite: 'Couldn't possibly miss the Tapestry Fest. Will we be doing lines off the commission?' I have to report only one 'line' as a tie-in product: postcards!



Michael Burden
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Michael Burden concluded by thanking, on behalf of the Warden and Scholars, 'Tom, for his remarks; Christopher, who may or may not remember suggesting that the tapestries could be hung in the Ashmolean, and Agnes, the Ashmolean's exhibitions' manager; Maggie Davies and Jacqui Julier, without whom the administration of the commission would have been impossible; and, of course, Jeni Ross; and I can record that working with her has been a great pleasure.'