

Plan for the Future

One year at New College in Oxford, England, the trustees discovered that the oak beams in the centuries-old Great Hall were infested with beetles.

The beams had to be replaced, and the college had no extra funds to spare. At a loss for what to do, the trustees asked the college's forester whether there were any suitable trees for the job on college land.



They were told that, in fact, there was a stand of trees for that very purpose that had been planted centuries earlier – when the college was founded. Every forester through the years had passed down a warning to save these trees to use as beam replacements in the event that beetles infested the Great Hall.

And every generation of forester had dutifully protected that stand of trees, never losing sight of the founders' message that holds true for all leaders today:

Think about the future – beyond immediate problems and short-term challenges.

Even beyond your own appointed time in the position you hold, or maybe beyond your own lifetime.

The mission to which we are called in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home is that important.

– Beecher Hunter