

In our villages *Compiled by Mair Huband*

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COLESHILL

Knights given forestry award



Photo courtesy Peter Harding, (from left) John Knight, Tony Knight and RFS President John Besent

A forester whose family tree spans four generations working for the National Trust has been awarded the Royal Forestry Society's (RFS) Long Service Award.

Tony Knight, 46, has worked for the National Trust at the Buscot and Colehill estate on the Wiltshire/Oxfordshire border for 30 years. He started work straight from school aged 16, initially as a forester, and is now a senior warden in the Countryside Department heading up a team of two permanent wardens and seasonal and trainee staff. He was born in, and continues to live in, Colehill.

Tony's grandfather worked at The Vyne estate in Hampshire. His father John also worked at Buscot and Colehill and retired six years ago, after more than 40 years in forestry, and having also been awarded a long service medal by the RFS. Tony's eldest son Michael has now joined the team as a seasonal warden, becoming the fourth generation of Knights to work for the National Trust.

The Royal Forestry Society's President John Besent presented the Long Service Award to Tony at a recent meeting of the RFS's Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Division at Thenford House, Banbury, owned by Lord Heseltine. Mr Besant said: "The RFS is dedicated to the wise management of trees and woods and to the sharing of knowledge. The passing on of knowledge between generations has often been an invaluable local resource, and it is heartening to hear how it has continued through

the Knight family. Their experience will benefit all those they work with and will, we hope, continue to be shared down generations to come."

The National Trust's head of Forestry Ray Hawes said: "In the early nineties, when I had just started with the Trust, I spent a number of very happy days helping John and Tony mark thinnings and selling timber on the estate. It was interesting to see how the boss/worker/dad/son relationship worked. I am delighted to say that it was all very pleasant and great fun and I wish I still had time to do such things. One of Tony's first tasks on the estate was the cutting and clearing of elm trees following the Dutch Elm Disease and the restocking of woodlands and hedges.

"He has also continued the management of some excellent oak plantations established by his father in the 1960s. The Norway spruce nurse has been sensitively removed over the past 25 years and the estate is left with some potentially very clean oak timber which in the next 50 to 100 years will be perfect for local building restoration. It might even be used on the Great Coxwell tythe barn on the estate which was built in the thirteenth century and still has a lot of original timber. John and Tony between them therefore have been responsible for creating a resource which may have a useful life as a tree and then as timber for a further thousand years."

National Trust Property Manager for Oxfordshire, Richard Henderson, said "We are delighted that Tony has been presented with this award in recognition of his outstanding achievements over the past 30 years. The National Trust has benefited from Tony's wealth of experience and the Royal Forestry Society has recognised this with a long service medal."

CRICKLADE

Blakehill reunion

A reunion for families and friends who lived at Blakehill between 1947 and 1955 will be held from 11.30am to 4pm on **Saturday February 17th** in the Cricklade Jenner Hall (Parish Hall) Bath Road.

A light lunch will be provided. This will be a chance to meet up with old friends and neighbours. Please take old photographs and share memories. Marion Parson would like to hear more about life at Blakehill, for her new book in the Cricklade Revealed Series. Please let others know of this event; however numbers are limited to 60 persons. Entrance is by ticket only, which are available from Bella Vincent (01793) 751210, Wyn Peare (01793) 752676 and Marion Parsons (01793) 750542.