

TREE PLANTING IN MEMORY OF CHRIS ROBINSON

On the 1st March 2014 at 10.00 a.m. the Marquee Group lead by Blaise Brogan planted a Sequoiadendron giganteum (Giant Sequoia/Redwood) in the Parish Field. Chris's wife, Viv together with their son Kieran and daughter Joanna were there and helped with the planting.

Viv said a few words afterwards:

Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to the Marquee Team for this wonderful tribute to Chris and a special thank you to Blaise, Jon Horn, David Hobden and Giles who I understand have been involved in organising and planning the choice of tree and where it should be planted.

Kieran, Jo and I are truly touched by this kindness and it means so much to think Chris is still remembered and thought of by so many. His passing has left a huge hole in our lives but the kindness and support shown to us by this wonderful community here in Dinton has helped us to stay strong and live life, as Chris would have wanted.

You may be interested to know a little of the background to the marquee. It all started in 1997, 17 years ago, when Chris heard of the opportunity of buying a second hand marquee. He realised then it could, hopefully, be an asset for the community. He bought the marquee with his own money, and Chris was concerned that he should not be involved with any of the handling of the funds received for the use of the marquee so Alan Weston kindly offered to handle that side. The others who were closely involved at the start were John King, Alan Floy and Simon. Soon many more showed willingness to help and over the years a good size team has built up. Alan and others thought Chris's idea a bit ambitious at the time but it soon proved successful and Chris was paid back within the year.

The success continued and soon it was possible to buy a brand new marquee and sell the old one. In fact the present marquee is the third new one purchased by the Marquee Team with the old ones being sold on to other villages, Shabbington for example. On average each marquee has lasted 5 years and funds raised allow for the provision of a replacement. Chris also organised the purchase of the large trailer and drove all the way to Devon to collect it.

The continued use of the marquee relies on volunteers and Chris was very aware of this and made every effort to keep it all fun. Hopefully, this continues to be the case with an hour erecting and two hours enjoying a pint! Chris saw the marquee as an asset for the village and a venue where we could all have fun. We are so pleased the Marquee Team are happy to carry on this idea. Thank you so much again for this kind tribute to Chris, it means so much to us.







