

## Jackie's tree planting speech

I met Graeme doing the Kilimanjaro trip in 2004 and when he died I couldn't quite bring myself to buy flowers for his funeral. It didn't mean anything in terms of representing him to me and I explained to Keith and Anne that I hoped they would forgive me for not buying flowers but what I wanted to do was to plant a tree which did speak to me of Graeme.

Stumbling over some blocks I started to lose heart about being able to plant a tree. Explaining it to Keith so he and Anne took up the quest for finding the right situation and for organising it properly which I hadn't managed to do. And here we are to day with these trees being planted which to me is a very fitting memorial for Graeme and I think that my feelings about trees are like Graeme they are tall and strong and beautiful and they will always be there for you to lean on when you need support. And quietly without ceremony everyday they contribute something valuable to the world. So I am sure that you will agree that is truly fitting for Graeme. Jo has recently discovered a poem that in some way represents how lucky we all are to have found someone like Graeme and had him in our life and she is going to read it for you now.