

Gone But Not Forgotten A Village Boy and his Swing

The swing in the photograph has gone. It was knocked down by one of the speculative builder's men a few weeks ago. He was told to clear the brambles from the 'site'. Now the swing is a tangled mess of metal tubes. Those who know the village and the history of its people however also know that there was a story behind that swing.



the most from his potential. Instead, David would spend hours on his swing in the orchard.

His parents would help him negotiate the Bowerham Brook so that he could reach the swing. He usually carried a piece of cloth as a comforter and there he spent probably the happiest

times of his limited existence. Bim Champness used to see him from his workbench in the Ascott Road Tillyard, where he polished wooden cash-tills fifty years ago. Occasionally David would make strange noises and run around, but always returned to his swing, until his parents called him home for tea. He died aged 43 in 1974, gone but not forgotten by those who, until a few weeks ago, would catch a glimpse of the deserted swing in the brambles.

Alan Vickers

In 1931 the couple who ran Shipton Post Office, George Wiggins and his wife Kate had a son. They were both in their late thirties and first cousins and the probabilities were not in their favour. Their son David was born with Downs Syndrome. In those days he would have been called a Mongol and there was a poor understanding of the condition and little in the way of trained support to get

Flix in the Stix

On Jan 11th in Shipton and Jan 12th in Ascott we are showing the Film *Atonement* starring Keira Knightley and James Mcavoy. The film, based on the novel by Ian McEwan, has received rave reviews and is not to be missed. Performances will start at 7.30.p.m. and we hope to include the Public Premiere of *The Floods in the Wychwoods*.



This is a graphic film of the floods of 2007 and their effect on the local residents. DVDs will be available to order.

We are expecting these showings to be very popular so if you would like to reserve tickets please ring Christine Halliday on: 01993 831134.

Gordon Halliday