

CAMPDEN BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys' Brigade was founded 1883 in Glasgow by William Alexander Smith.

Its Aims were the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness (the word Obedience was added some 10 years later).

The Boys' Brigade does not concern itself about recruiting for Her Majesty's Services, but it holds that, were all our forces largely leavened by men of the types aimed at in the training of the Boys, this country would be indebted to The Brigade.

The use of rifles for drill, although they were dummies, caused deep offence to many. Critics were against the military style.

People in Campden were familiar with the Boys' Brigade:

Evesham Journal 29 April 1905

BOYS BRIGADE

Three companies of the Boys' Brigade, hailing from Cheltenham, Leominster, and Worcester, were encamped during Easter week near Weston Park, under the command of Capt. Hill. On Easter Day they held a Church Parade at Mickleton, as they have encamped near the village in former years and are well-known in that locality. After the service they were met and played through the village by the Campden Town Band in their new uniforms, the return to camp being via Campden, still headed by the band. In the afternoon the brigade was invited by Lord Harrowby to Norton House, where it was inspected by Major Wright (Hidcote) who expressed himself very pleased with the movements and bearing of the lads. On Monday a team consisting of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Brigade played a football match on the Campden ground with the home team, who won a pleasant game by 2 goals to 0.

Jim Pymont and HG Ellis had a shared interest in the well-being of boys and in 1909 they formed Campden Boys' Brigade.

James Walter (known as Jim) Pymont was born in Royston, Herts. on 8 Sep 1867. On the 1881 census Jim, aged 13, is recorded as an apprentice

Cabinet Maker. He completed his apprenticeship in 1894 with C. R. Ashbee, at the Guild, Mile End Row, Whitechapel, by which time he was married to Emily Pepper. Their first son Harold was born in 1893, and Arthur in 1896. Jim and his family moved to Chipping Campden with the Guild in 1902, where he immediately immersed himself in local life.

On the demise of the Guild Jim purchased the Silk Mill and Guild cottage and is recorded here in the 1911 census. He set up a family business, J.W.Pymont and Sons, builders, cabinetmakers, and ecclesiastical woodworkers, still a well-known builders business.

Jim was active in many aspects of local society, and is notably remembered for reviving Campden Town Band, which he conducted with great authority. He was involved in Campden's care of Belgian refugees in WWI, and later took a leading role in a variety of social and recreational activities.

Harry George (HG) Ellis was the town basketmaker with an interest in helping young people, in Christian ways, and in military life.

From sixteen years old he was a member of 'K Company' Volunteers, being presented with his long service testimonial in 1901. He volunteered for the Boer War, prepared to leave behind his seven children and new second wife, but was turned down on account of age and family responsibilities. However, he remained in the Reservists and joined up in 1914 at 58 years old, being sent to

Worcester to serve as a training sergeant.

HG was an active member of the community, serving on the Town Council and many committees.

Evesham Journal 29 May 1909

On Monday evening the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade, recently formed by Messrs. H G Ellis and J W Pymont, forty strong and two officers, wore their uniform for the first time, and it being Empire Day paraded the town under the command of Capt. H. Pymont, and after some instructive drill sang the National Anthem near the Chestnut Tree and again in the Square. Before dismissal Sergt-Inst. H G Ellis, in addressing the boys, reminded them of their motto, 'Truth, Honour and Self-reliance', and said he hoped they would always adhere to these principles, and never disgrace their uniform, either now or should they wear one when they were older.

Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic 5 June 1909

WHITSUNTIDE AT CAMPDEN

On Whit-Sunday the recently-formed company of the Boys' Brigade attended a church parade at the Parish Church. Captain H. Pymont was in command, and there were also present Lieut. Jarrett, Col-Sergt-Inst. Ellis, and forty rank and file. The lads looked very smart in their new uniform, and after service marched to the Square, where they were inspected by Major H. Montagu Spencer, who complimented them on their appearance and drill, and gave them good advice as to their conduct as members of the Brigade and in after life. The march to and from church was headed by the Campden Town Band, under the leadership of Bandmaster Pymont. Col-Sergt.-Inst. Ellis and Mr. Pymont, who have always the welfare of the youthful members of the community at heart, are to be congratulated on the excellent company they have got together, and if their efforts in such a good cause are sufficiently supported financially, a lasting good to the youth of the town will be effected. It is hoped that the example set by Campden may be followed and companies formed in the villages of the district.

Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic 24 July 1909

CAMPDEN BOYS AT EBRINGTON.

On Sunday last the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade assembled at their Headquarters, the Campden School of Arts and Crafts, and marched to Ebrington, where, at the invitation of the vicar, the Rev. W. J. Guerrier, they attended divine service at the Parish Church. After service the brigade returned to Campden and were dismissed in the Square. Capt. H. Pymont was in command, and there was also present Lieut. Jarrett, Sergt.-Inst. Ellis, and 48 members of the brigade.

Ebrington Parish Notes - August 1909

.... It was a pleasure to see the Chipping Campden Boys' Brigade in our church on Sunday, July 18th, and I am grateful to all our friends who made the lads welcome. I hope that Mr. Ellis will have much to encourage him in his earnest efforts to help the lads of his neighbourhood.

W.J. Guerrier

Campden Parish Magazine - September 1909

On Sunday, August 15, the Campden Company paraded at headquarters. The smaller boys riding, and the older boys walking, they proceeded to Mickleton, where the boys "fell in" and headed by the Campden Town Band, (who kindly gave their services) marched to Church, in company with a few Baden Powell Boy Scouts, who were in camp on Meon Hill, and the Mickleton Company of the Boys' Brigade. After the Church service, which included an interesting sermon by the Rev Ellison, the Chaplain of the Boys Scouts, the Companies were provided with Lemonade and Buns by Mr. J. M. Dixon. The boys then returned to Campden, where they re-formed at Wolds End and headed

by the Band marched to the Square, where they were dismissed.

It is hoped that a Church Parade will be held at Campden on Sunday, Sept. 5th.

Two boys have joined the Company this month and two have left, so the strength remains the same as stated before.

Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic - 18 September 1909

NORTHWICK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Chipping Campden Brass Band played selections during the afternoon, and also provided the music for dancing in the evening, when the grounds were prettily illuminated. In the afternoon Lady Northwick reviewed the Chipping Campden Boys' Brigade (under ex Col.-Sergt. H. G. Ellis).

Campden Parish Magazine - October 1909

On Sept 15th. The Campden Company of the above paraded at headquarters and marched to Northwick Park, where the Northwick Horticultural Show was being held. On their arrival they were put through various motions of drill by Sergt. Inst. Ellis. Afterwards they were each presented with 6d. By Lady Northwick, who expressed her pleasure at seeing them there. The Boys were then given refreshment and dismissed until later in the evening, then they 'fell in' again and marched back to Campden.

On Sunday Sept 19th, the Company held a Church Parade at Campden. The 1st Mickleton Company Boys' Brigade, a patrol of Boy Scouts from Mickleton, and part of the Evesham Boys' Life Brigade also paraded. The whole was headed by the Town Band, the Campden Company bringing up the rear. After the service they marched to the Square where they were inspected by Miss Maye Bruce, of Norton Hall, who afterwards addressed them. The visiting companies were given refreshment afterwards by the Campden Company.

Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic - 25 September 1909

COMBINED CHURCH PARADE AT CAMPDEN. On Sunday last much interest was evinced in the combined church parade of the Chipping Campden Boys' Brigade, the Mickleton Boys' Brigade, and the Evesham Church Lads' Brigade, which took place at Chipping Campden. The boys assembled at the Technical School, and during the march to the church the brigades were headed by the Campden Brass Band.

Campden Parish Magazine - November 1909

On Tuesday, October 19th, Mr. Dewey very kindly gave the lads of the Boys' Brigade a most enjoyable treat, in the shape of a Magic Lantern Entertainment, in the Blue School; at the close of which the Vicar addressed the Brigade on the subject of Discipline, concluding with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Dewey, which was received amongst much applause. After singing God save the King the Brigade fell into line and marched to the Square, where they disbanded.

Campden Parish Magazine - December 1909

We are very pleased to be able to report that Mr. Frederick T. Ellison has kindly consented to be appointed Captain of the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade. The list of Officers is now complete, and the papers have all been duly filled in and sent to Head Quarters for confirmation.

Campden Parish Magazine – January 1910

On Boxing Day, the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade, 38 strong, paraded in the Square, under Capt. Ellison. Having been drilled for a short time by Col.-Sergt. Ellis, they marched to the Vicarage, where they were entertained to tea by the Vicar and the Hon. Mrs. Jacson, who were kindly assisted by Mrs. Ellison, Mrs Geo. Haines, Miss Hands and Miss Coldicott.

The officers have been fortunate enough to be able to obtain a loan of 24 carbines and 21 dummy rifles from Stow-on-the-Wold. The lads hope shortly to give an entertainment, and some of them are learning a short dialogue, under the direction of Mrs. Haines.

Campden Parish Magazine – March 1910

On the evening of Monday, February 7th, an Entertainment, arranged by the 1st Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade, was given in the Town Hall. The members of the brigade were present, under the command of Capt. F.T. Ellison, and the room was packed with relatives and friends of the lads. A capital programme had been arranged, and appeared to be greatly enjoyed. The principal feature was a dialogue, 'The Parish Council', by nine of the boys who had been trained, with much care, by Mrs. W. Haines. The 'Morris Dances', by seven of the boys, under the guidance of Messrs. Dennis and Fred. Hathaway, were much appreciated, as were also the two songs, 'The Jolly Waggoners' and 'The Old Man and his Wife', by the boys, under the direction of Mr. Dewey. The Vicar and the Hon. Mrs. Jacson kindly assisted with a duet; the Vicar also giving a song and the Hon. Mrs. Jacson a recitation. The latter part of the programme was a Magic Lantern entertainment given by Mr. Dewey, and the entertainment concluded by the singing of the National Anthem. Mrs. W. Haines and Miss M. Hands kindly played the accompaniments. The proceeds (£2. 7s. 0d) will be devoted to a fund which is being formed for the purchase of instruments for a band for the company, the cost of which will be about £10.

Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic - 16 April 1910

CHURCH PARADE OF CAMPDEN BOYS BRIGADE

Campden Boys' Brigade held a church parade on Sunday afternoon, and were joined by the Broadway Boy Scouts, Blockley Boy Scouts, and the Mickleton Boys' Brigade. Capt. F. T. Ellison commanded the home brigade, and the total strength of the combination was 150. The Rev. O. F. Jacson gave the address, and afterwards entertained the lads to refreshments on the Vicarage lawn. Later on they were inspected by Major E. O. Skey, of the 4th Batt. Buffs, who addressed the lads in an encouraging tone.

Evesham Journal - 16 April 1910

.....Major Skey spoke very highly of the work and energy displayed by the instructor of the Boys' Brigade in Campden, viz. Ex-Col. Sergt H G Ellis, who was displaying the same energy as he put in years ago into the old 'K' Company of Volunteers.

Campden Parish Magazine – July 1910

On Sunday afternoon, June 12th, the Company 58 strong under Capt. F. T. Ellison and Lieut. Jarrett paraded in the Square at 1-30 and thence proceeded, accompanied by their band, in conveyances to Willersey Hill Farm. Dismounting here, the Company descended the hill to Broadway in skirmishing order, being met at the entrance to the Village by the Broadway Brass Band. Proceeding down the main street they were joined at the Leamington Road by the Mickleton Boys' Brigade, 21 strong, under Capt. Trenfield, and the Campden, Hidcote and Mickleton Scouts, under Scout Master Pyment. The combined force then marched to St Michael's Church, where a Special Service was conducted by the Rev. J. Martin, who delivered a spirited and appropriate address. After Service, tea, provided by the supporters of the movement in Broadway, was partaken of in a field kindly lent by Scout Master Williams. Tea being over, the lads were marched to the Village Green, where they were inspected by Lord Lifford, who in a short address gave the lads great praise and some thoroughly sound advice. The lads then marched to the Willersey Road, where the Companies parted for their respective headquarters.

On Thursday, the 23rd, the Company took part in the Fete, postponed from Whit Monday in consequence of the death of King Edward VII. A procession was formed at 1-30 under the Chestnut Tree, the Brigade marching thence from their headquarters under Lieut. Jarrett. After the inspection of the decorated children by Mrs Walsh, who awarded the prizes as follows: Girls – 1st and to be May Queen, Dorothy Plested, 2nd Liliac Macaulay, 3rd Gertie Keitley, 4th Kathleen Blakeman, 5th Emily Evans; Boys – 1st Lionel Ellis, 2nd Walter Keen, 3rd Wesley Ingles, 4th Willie Hobbs. The procession marched through the town to Westington, the Boys' Brigade and Scouts acting as an escort to the May Queen. During the Fete a combined display by the Brigade and Scouts was much appreciated, although somewhat hampered by want of space. The Brigade was divided into two companies, one for defence, and the other for attack. The Scouts acting as signallers and ambulance party. Tea and refreshments were provided for the lads, and hearty thanks are due to all who so kindly gave donations and assisted in the field.

Campden Parish Magazine – October 1910

On Sept 24th, the Annual Meeting of the Boys' Brigade Council was held at Brighton, when the 27th annual report was presented. This report stated that there are now 1,386 companies within the United Kingdom, having a membership of 6,429 officers, 2,204 staff-sergeants, 384 band masters, and 61,660 boys, making a total strength of 70,677. The total enrolled strength of the Boys' Brigade throughout the world is 2,350 companies, with 11,000 officers and staff-sergeants and over 110,000 boys. During the year 2,112 boys passed the Ambulance Examination in "First Aid to the injured," and won the certificate and Red Cross badge. The Boys' Brigade Cross for Heroism has been awarded during the year to ten Brigade boys for conspicuous heroism in saving life.

An Entertainment, dramatic and musical, in aid of the Funds of the Boys' Brigade, will be held in the Town Hall on Thursday, Oct, 27th. Further particulars will be duly advertised, and tickets will be obtainable from Mr. Neve.

Campden Parish Magazine – November 1910

On Sunday, Oct 16th, the Vicar held a special service for the purpose of enrolling the Officers and lady as members of the Boys' Brigade. Though the Company has been in existence for a considerable time no enrolment in accordance with the rule of the Boys' Brigade had ever taken place. The following were enrolled: - Officers, 3; Sergeants, 4; Corporals, 4; Rank and File, 30.

Six lads were unable to be present when the enrolment took place, and they will be enrolled at the next Church Parade. In the Constitution of the Boys' Brigade it is laid down:-

1. The object of the Brigade shall be the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.
2. Each company shall be connected with a Church, Mission, or other Christian organization, which shall have full control of the religious instruction of the company.

In agreement with that rule, the Campden company is connected with the Parish Church, and the Vicar has been appointed Chaplain. The other Officers are:- The Rev. J.D. Thomas (assistant Chaplain,) F. T. Ellison (Captain), H. G. Ellis (Lieut. and Instructor), E. R. Jarrett (Lieut).

On Thursday, Oct. 27th, an Entertainment was held in the Town Hall, for the funds of the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade. The programme given in the afternoon was repeated in the evening, both times to a full hall, and judging by the reception accorded to those who took part,

their efforts were much appreciated by the audience. In the evening before the singing of God save the King, A Ellis supported by three members of the Boys' Brigade presented Mrs Jacson with a beautiful bouquet attached to which was the following: "To the Hon. Mrs Jacson. The Officer, Non-Commissioned Officers and Boys of the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade beg you to accept this small token to show their appreciation of the great interest and help you and your friends are giving us this evening." Mrs Jacson in a few words expressed her surprise and delight at the unexpected tribute, but said the thanks were due not to her, whose work had been only a pleasure, but to those who had so ably assisted her, and to those in the audience who by their presence and appreciation had made the Entertainment a real success in every way. The proceeds of the two performances amounted to £17/13/6, and the estimated expenses will be about £5/0/0.

Campden Parish Magazine – September 1911

On Saturday, Sept. 2nd, the members of the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade, consisting of 40 lads and 3 Officers and their Chaplain, go into Camp for a week in the Park at Tedsmore Hall, Shropshire. The Company will entrain at Campden station on the 1-18 p.m. train. The Postal address of the Camp will be:- The Boy's Brigade Camp, Tedsmore Hall, West Felton, Oswestry, Shropshire. The Company will return to Campden on Saturday, Sept. 9th.

Campden Parish Magazine - October 1911

CAMPDEN BOYS BRIGADE IN CAMP

During last week the Boys' Brigade had their first experience – and a very happy one it proved to be – of camp life. They were kindly invited by Col. Mainwaring Jacson, brother of the Rev. O.F. Jacson, vicar of Campden, to Tedsmore Hall, West Felton, Salop, and there in the heart of the beautifully wooded park which surrounds the Hall, they spent the week. Before starting for their rather long journey on Saturday, the 2nd inst. They assembled (43 strong) in the Square, where they were inspected by Captain Windsor Cary-Elwes, and then, under the command of Capt. F. T. Ellison, with Lieuts. Ellis and N. Izod, and headed by their bugle band, they marched to Campden Station and entrained by the 1-18, reaching Rednal Station, after a rather tedious journey about 7.30. Here they were met by the Rev. Jacson, who had taken the greatest interest in all the arrangements, and who had gone to Tedsmore a day or two previously. A march of two miles brought them to the camp, which was situated on rising ground at the back of the Hall, and the open country which surrounded it and which was invaluable for instruction and games, made the spot an ideal one. In addition to the Campden boys there were in the camp the Oswestry the Tedsmore, and the Baschurch Boy Scouts, the total strength verging close upon 100. The camp consisted of sixteen bell tents, a large mess tent, and a dry canteen. The day began with reveille at 6 a.m., prayers were said in the open at 7.30 and breakfast was served at 8. Parade was at 9.45, dinner at 1 p.m., tea at 5 and supper at 8. The first post was sounded at 9 p.m., the second at 9.30, and lights out at 9.45. Each morning during the week the Brigade, together with the Scouts, were put through a course of Swedish drill and other instruction. A miniature rifle range also proved a great attraction as well as an important addition to the amenities of the camp. On Sunday morning, too there was a church parade, the lads marching to West Felton Church, and in the evening there was a service in Tedsmore Gardens, taken by the Rev. O. F. Jacson, who acted throughout as chaplain to the camp, and a congregation of close upon 300 gathered from the neighbouring villages. On Thursday afternoon a programme of sports was carried out, and in the evening there was a "camp fire". The catering was in the hands of Mr. Bert Clarke, of Oswestry, and gave the greatest satisfaction, the boys voting it "splendid". On Friday evening, the night before the breaking up of the camp, the boys were formed up and Col. Jacson addressed them, saying how pleased he was to have had them there, and complimented them on their good

behaviour and smart appearance, and hoped they had all enjoyed themselves. At the conclusion of the speech the lads gave three hearty cheers for the gallant colonel. On Saturday morning the return journey began at 8.15, Campden being reached by the 4-30 train. The weather throughout the week, with the exception of some rain on Monday was delightful and this combined with the beautiful surroundings and the excellent catering all helped to make the week a very pleasant one and one that will bring only the happiest recollections to the lads of their first experience of camp life.

[Results of the sports follow]

Campden Parish Magazine – January 1912

The Secretary of the Boys' Brigade has received the sum of £7/4/0, being the net profits of the Theatrical Entertainment got up by Mrs. Jacson on Oct. 30th. This sum will be used towards defraying the Summer Camp Expenses, which amounted to over £45.

Campden Parish Magazine – May 1912

On Monday evening the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade paraded for the first time this season in the Market Square under Capt. F. T. Ellison. They were then marched to the Vicarage and there a very pleasing little ceremony took place in the form of a presentation to the Vicar, as Chaplain of the Company (the Rev. O. F. Jacson) of a large portrait of himself in an oak frame, together with a handsome illuminated address worded as follows:- "To the Rev Owen F. Jacson, Chaplain of the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade. Dear sir,- We feel that the occasion of our first going into camp was a time of great significance in the young life of our company. As the wholehearted enjoyment of that time will never pass from our memories, so we sincerely trust that the higher lesson there learned will always remain in our hearts. All this we owe to you, and we now ask you to add to your kindness and accept this small memento of that happy time as an expression of our warmest regard. – From, dear, sir, yours gratefully, The Officers and Boys of the Campden Company, April, 1912." – The presentation was made by the Captain of the Company, who in doing so said he had a most pleasing duty to perform in asking their Chaplain to accept that small tribute of their appreciation of everything he had done for them since he had been their Chaplain and hoped that he would long continue to give his valued and splendid words of advice to them all. – The Vicar, in accepting, said this had taken him completely by surprise and he hardly knew how to thank them all for their splendid gift. Nothing that he had done in any way deserved this kind thought. It was certainly the portrait of a plain man, but one who he could heartily say loved his boys, and when he looked at it, he would forget it was his portrait and remember only that it was the expression of the affection of the officers and boys of the Campden Company, and a memento of the happy week they spent together at their first camp. He thanked them all for their kind thought and said he would treasure the gift as long as he lived. Mr Wixey, the Vicar's warden, who was present also spoke, and then called for three hearty cheers for the Vicar and Mrs Jacson and these were lustily given.

Beneath the Clouds - 23 January 1913 p. 66

A concert was given, and enthusiastically received, in aid of the newly-formed 1st Ebrington Boys' Brigade. The report in the Evesham Journal commented: 'It would be a difficult matter to say which item gave the greatest delight, and there would have been numerous encores had the time been long enough to allow of them

Campden Parish Magazine – January 1913

[As part of the Vicar's review of the previous year] The Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade under the command of Capt. T Ellison, who is loyally supported by Instructor H. Ellis, and Lieut. N. Izod, is going stronger than ever and is bringing to bear upon the lads a strong influence for good.

It is most encouraging to hear from some of our old lads, who have left the parish, of the help that the lesson of discipline which was instilled into them as members of the Brigade, has been to them. The number on the roll is 40, and the average attendance at the weekly Bible Class this winter has been 30. Every member is asked to pay a penny a week towards the Summer Camp Fund. The lads have the use of the Parish Room at the Vicarage on 3 nights in the week, a privilege which they thoroughly appreciate, and make full use of. The members of the Bugle Band are most industrious at their practices, and are looking forward with keenness to the time when the drill season will commence.

Campden Parish Magazine – April 1913

[part of the Vicar's report] *Boys' Brigade* This is by no means the least important section of the Church's work in the parish. It has conclusively proved itself of great power for good amongst the lads. Our energetic officers never miss an opportunity of instilling into the members of our Company the spirit of discipline with the idea of helping each lad to become a faithful soldier of Christ, and a useful citizen.

Campden Parish Magazine – August 1913

The adult members of the Choir and also the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade are looking forward to a long day's trip to Portsmouth on Thursday, August 7th, by the G.W.R. Excursion, leaving Campden at 6.10 a.m., and returning home again 1 a.m. on Friday.

Campden Parish Magazine – September 1913

Choir and Boys' Brigade Outing:- On Thursday, August 7th, both the members of the Parish Church choir and the officers and lads of the Boys' Brigade went for a whole days' excursion to Portsmouth, arriving at their destination at 10.30 a.m. Having found a most excellent caterer in Mr Madden of the Station Hotel, and made arrangements for dinner and tea, both parties went off to the Dockyards, where they spent a most instructive time in viewing a Dreadnought in building, a cruiser and submarine in dry dock, a submarine submerged, and a number of men-of-war of different types. From the Dockyard the party found their way to the Quay, and rowed out to inspect the Victory, the flagship on which Lord Nelson died. After an excellent meal at Madden's, most of the party sailed across to Ryde, passing through a large fleet of men-of-war, which had lately returned from the manoeuvres. They also had the satisfaction of seeing Mr Sopwith flying across the harbour in a waterplane en route for Cowes. Soon after 6 p.m. they gather together once more at Madden's for tea. The train left Portsmouth on the homeward journey punctually at 8.25p.m., and arrived at Campden about 1.30 a.m. So ended a most enjoyable day, and one which was brimful of interest.

Boys' Brigade Outing to Portsmouth

Thursday, Aug. 7th.

Balance Sheet

Income

Grant from Parish Fete Fund

£18.16s.0d

Expenditure

	£	s	d
Railway fares, 34 at 5/9	9	15	6
Saloon	1	0	0
Boats to Victory	0	18	6
Dinner 41 at 1/-	2	1	0
Trip to Ryde	1	18	6

Tea, 40 at 6d	1	0	0	
Provisions		1	8	3
Extras and Tram fares	0	14	3	
		<u>£18</u>	16	0

Campden Parish Magazine – January 1914

[from the Vicar's report of the year]

The Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade. This is still under the command of Captain T. Ellison, who is loyally supported by Instructor H. Ellis and Lieut. N. Izod. During the summer the drills were well attended, but since the outing to Portsmouth, we regret to say, there has been signs of considerable slackness amongst the lads, and the attendance at their Bible Class has been anything but good. We trust that all concerned will do their utmost to remedy this defect. This work amongst the lads is capable of rendering much help in the building up a strong characters, and should receive the hearty assistance of all.

Campden Parish Magazine - August 1914

For some time past the question of converting our Company of the Boys' Brigade into a Company of the Church Lads' Brigade has been under consideration, and it has been decided that the time has now arrived when the change should take place.

The Officers of the Company have invited Mr. A. E. Wrigley to take command of the new Company and he has kindly consented to do so. All the Officers and lads of our present Company have expressed their willingness to transfer to the C.L.B.

Our chief reason for making the change is that by forming the C.L.B. we shall obtain stricter discipline, and be under the careful supervision of the eadquarters Staff in London. Our Company will be linked on to the Gloucester Regiment of the C.L.B., and we shall be placed under the command of Colonel Thoytes, who will at regular intervals inspect the Company.

The C.L.B. only admits lads over 13 years and under 19 years. But in order to keep a hold on the younger lads a Training Corps will be started in connection with the Company. The members of the Training Corps will wear a different cap and belt to the lads belonging to the Company.

On Wednesday July 22nd, Mr. Wrigley kindly invited the Company to Kiftsgate Court for drill and sports. On our arrival at 3.30pm, the Company was marched ion to the lawn, and after a short drill, was inspected by Colonel Morgan, of the Headquarters Staff. Then we were given a sumptuous tea, after which we had some keen competition in racing and jumping, and with a tug of war. The lads were then paraded and Colonel Morgan addressed the company on the main objects of the C.L.B., and the Vicar on behalf of the Officers and lads of the Company, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Wrigley for so kindly providing them with such an enjoyable afternoon.

Later

In September war was declared and many who had been involved in the Boys' Brigade enlisted. Frederick Ellison, the former Captain of the Boys' Brigade, joined the Royal Engineers and survived the War, later active in Campden life until his death in 1957. H.G. Ellis joined the Worcestershire Regiment as a sergeant-instructor, and the boys who were old enough went far afield. As there is no list of the members it is not known how many there were. Those who signed up included: Harold Pymnt, Gordon Ellis (died 1915), Michael Grove, George Plested, Tom Plested (died 1916), Gerald Howell, John Howell, John Franklin and William Payne. Some, such as Arthur Ellis, enlisted later when they were old enough.

The Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade had a brief life, just five years, and there are intriguing hints of dissatisfaction in the news item in the Parish Magazine that announced the transfer to the Church Lads' Brigade. Further research is needed into this later development.

Evesham Journal - 31 December 1938

OBITUARY OF H.G. ELLIS

d. 12 December 1938

.....he was an excellent drill instructor and in 1908 (sic) he started on his own initiative a Boys' Brigade Company in Campden and ere long had a membership of 40. This proved a great attraction locally. He held regular drills and parades, concerts etc. Were arranged, and the necessary funds raised to purchase uniform, and eventually they had a band and, one summer, went under canvas for a fortnight in the grounds of Tedsmore Hall, Oswestry, by the invitation of the late Brig.-Gen. Jacson.

The value of this excellent training proved its worth when the Great War broke out in 1914. Many of the boys were old enough to join up and soon went to France, where some lie buried. Many survived and no man was more justly proud than their instructor to meet them when coming home on furlough. A marked feature of the Boys' Brigade was instanced at the internment on Monday last, when six former members carried the remains of their former chief with the coffin draped with the Union Jack from the hearse into the church he loved so well and at which he regularly attended. The bearers were Frederick Benfield, Gerrard Howell, John Howell, George Plested, John Franklin and William Payne, five of whom served overseas in the Great War.....

Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic - 19 February 1927

OBITUARY J. W. PYMENT

d. 08 Feb 1927

Campden has suffered a grievous loss by the death of Mr. J. W. Pymment, which occurred on Tuesday. He has been a familiar figure in the town for twenty-five years, and his public spirit and his kindness, his ready sympathy and help, have served the town well during those years. There was no good cause requiring funds but he was willing and eager to help by organising a fete or enlisting the services of the band, his own devotion and self-sacrifice calling forth the service of others.

He went to Campden with the Guild of Handicraft, and he has always been a popular figure in the town. He re-organised the Town Band, and was its leader for 25 years. A keen musician himself, he took pleasure in developing the musical faculties of others, and his sympathy, encouragement, and enthusiasm have held the band together, and lead it to some notable successes in the competitions at Woodstock and Madresfield Court (Worcester). He sought no public office and disliked publicity, yet even his own friends hardly knew how much he was the moving spirit behind so many movements for improving the amenities of the town.