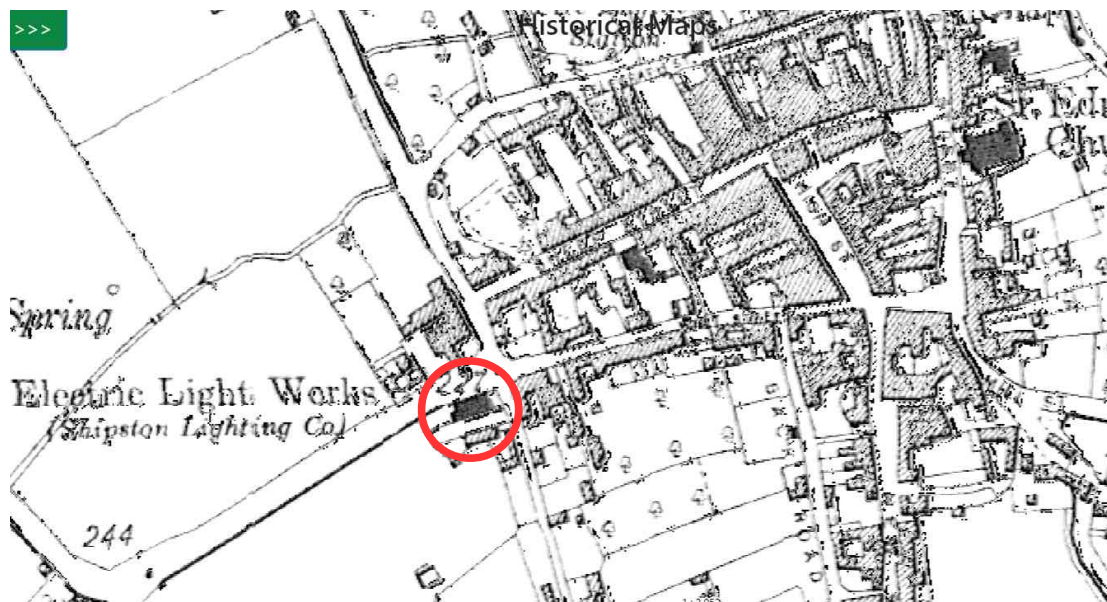


Electric Power in Shipston on Stour

John Brace June 2022

The early history of electric power in Shipston on Stour is not fully understood. The earliest known record of the town having an interest in electric power came in July 1912 when a demonstration of electric lighting took place in the town. What then transpired is not known but a new company – the Shipston Electrical Company – was formed the following year to 'take over the business of an electricity supply works carried on in Shipston on Stour'. In turn this doesn't seem to have been very successful for at the end of 1916 it was itself taken over by a new company – 'The New Shipston Lighting Company' – which had the stated intention of reconstructing the works.

From the time of the takeover until its demise in 1928 we again have very little information. The Electricity Supply Works (Power Station) was located in Campden Road close by Green Lane. It was the building now (2022) used as a car wash. The supply was 100 volt direct current and the generation capacity 20 kW. The power was distributed about the town using overhead wires. The works had three horizontal gas engines with a bank of battery accumulators to maintain a constant supply. The load included electric motors totalling 2 HP. The engines ran on Producer Gas which was generated from Coke at the works.



None of these power companies seems to have been a statutory undertaking – they did not have the sole right to supply electricity about the town and had no rights to dig up roads etc. - so when The Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company turned up in 1928 it was the end of an independent power company in Shipston.

Item 1

The Evesham Standard and West Midland Observer 22nd. June 1912

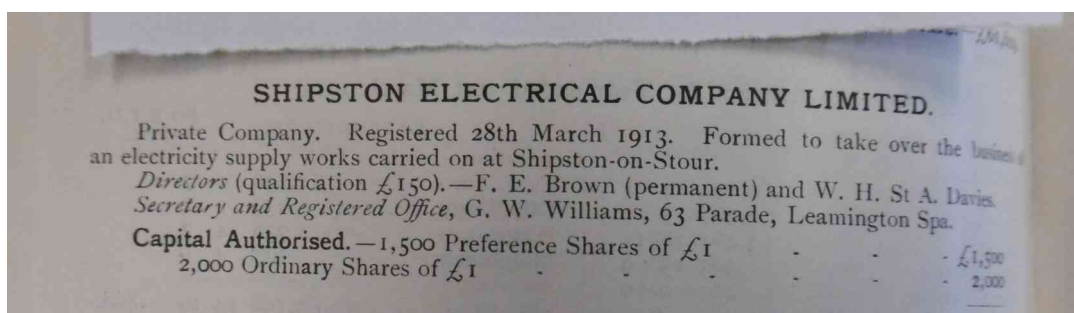
... favour of the **electric** light. The Lighting Committee of the Parish Council met at 9.30 p.m., and according to their arrangement the **electric** light was shown first for a short time and then the gas lamps were lighted. Following this the **electric** light was ...

Published: Saturday 22 June 1912

Newspaper: [Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer](#)

Item 2

Garcke's Manual of Electrical Undertakings and Directory of Officials 1914/1915



Item 3

Garcke's Manual of Electrical Undertakings and Directory of Officials 1928

books.google.co.uk › books

1928 · Snippet view

FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 848

The Company owns the following Electric **Lighting** Orders - Oldbury , 1898 ; Smethwick 1898 ; Dudley , 1897 ; Redditch ... Fladbury , and Bishops Castle were purchased in 1927 , those in Church Stretton and **Shipston - on - Stour in 1928** ..

Item 4

Information from Companies House

09th February 2022

Our Ref: The New Shipston Lighting Company

Good Afternoon John

The New Shipston Lighting Company

Thank you for your recent enquiry concerning the above company name.
I have searched our archive records and found the following Information

Company Name: New Shipston Lighting Company Limited
Company Number: 00145577
Incorporated: Between 19th & 27th December 1916
Company Status: Dissolved Around 11th December 1928

Final Winding Up Notice Located in the London Gazette dated 11th September 1928
13 weeks after that notice was placed the Company would have been Dissolved Around 11 December 1928
Records for this Company have been sent to the National Archives Here's the Ref BT 31/23493/145577

Should you require any further assistance relating to archive searches in the future then please do not hesitate to contact me. I have attached your paid invoice to this email

Kind Regards

Anne Jones

Archive Searches

www.gov.uk/companieshouse

Item 5

Information from Shipston Museum

Dear Mr. Brace

Martin Russell passed on your enquiry to me. I'm sorry to hear that you have had so much problem in locating us, but I can give you some snippets about the Power House. Unfortunately the little information that we have is amongst the large quantity of paperwork in temporary storage, but I can remember some of the details.

About 10 years ago we had a visitor to the Museum whose uncle had been the engineer at the works. I cannot remember his name, but he told me that the manager was a Mr. Brand. The dates tallied with the ones that you mentioned. The plant had three horizontal gas engines which drove 110v dynamos feeding banks of glass accumulators to maintain a constant supply. The engines ran on producer gas which was made on site, the necessary coke being readily available from the local gas works. Two engines were normally in use, the third kept on standby in case of breakdowns or maintenance. The engines were not used at night because of the noise. The building still exists, and is now a car wash.

Distribution was made by overhead wires on poles, the main run being down Sheep Street. I remember reading an old newspaper account of objections being made by the inhabitants of that street (it has always been regarded as the 'posh' area of the town!) I have often wondered whether a 'single wire earth return system' was used.

I recently came across an item in the parish records that the church was lit by electricity in 1920 .

If I come across any more information I will let you know.

Yours sincerely

David Burge.