

ELECTRICITY LIGHTS UP CHIPPING!

AUTUMN 1933

DAZZLING PROSPECTS OF NINE ELECTRICALLY POWERED STREET LAMPS IN THE VILLAGE.

MODERN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN HOMES AND BUSINESS PREMISES.

In August at a public meeting held in the village, 23 people signed an agreement to take an electricity supply. The previous year negotiations had started with both Preston Corporation, whose supply came as far as Longridge, and with Clitheroe who wanted £4000 payment. However Preston could not supply Chipping, and eventually a supply from Clitheroe was agreed upon after negotiating a lower price.

Some premises in the village already had an electricity supply from their own generating plant. The Chairworks had been supplying electricity to nine nearby houses for about 12 years. St Mary's Church and two of the public houses also generated their own supply. (The Sun Inn was probably the first in the village.)

Many Chipping people were therefore already aware of the advantages, and some were prepared to commit themselves to the initial outlay, being confident that more would join in the scheme as time went by. They were looking forward to the end of oil lamps even though the electricity would be more expensive. They were delighted with the prospects of electric radiators and electric irons. And what about the convenience of switching off the bedroom lights after snuggling under the blankets, or cooking without troubling about coal.

"You just pop a button and there you are." said Mrs Wells, aged 87, one of the oldest inhabitants. But neither Mrs Wells nor Mr Ab. Hoyle, aged nearly 80, were going to join the scheme. However, they both encouraged younger folk to have electricity installed.

The street lights and poles were to be unobtrusively sited so as to avoid spoiling the old world charm of the village. Likewise the "power house" was to be hidden away behind trees so it could be passed unnoticed. The street lights were to cost an outlay of about £90, and would cost £35 a year in upkeep. The old oil lamp brackets, which were still fixed outside some of the buildings. would at last become redundant.

Information from The Lancashire Daily Post, 22 Aug 1933.



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CARPET SWEEPING BY SUCTION