

# **BLOWLAMP NEWS**

No 35

December

2000

It doesn't really feel like twelve months since Michel Duval corrected me by saying that I was not publishing the last Blowlamp News of the Millennium, since the end of that thousand years was not until the end of the year 2000. So *Happy Millennium Michel!* Perhaps we can use that excuse for another celebration when perhaps the Thames "River of Fire" might now work and can match the firework displays from the Eiffel Tower or Sydney Harbour Bridge! Whatever, this must have been one of the wettest Summers and some of the wettest shows on record, but nobody wrote in about it at any great length.

## **Meetings, Shows and Rallies**

Some reported wet shows though, personally, my experience was of very changeable weather and fortunately no muddy exits. "Stourpaine" (The Great Dorset Steam Fair) was its usual enjoyable self with the gathering together of many members who do not meet at other times and places. The autojumble was as usual packed with booty and on the whole I felt the prices were not too bad, unless you were looking at something very much out of the ordinary or at a certain Dutch stallholder.

It was good to see so many old friends again and to hear first hand their reports of bargains. Why is it they only tell me of the bargains they get and not about the times the dealers have "rooked" them? They cannot all be so clever as to beat the dealers all the time. It's a bit like the occasions when angling club patients told me of their hugely successful fishing trips to the beach the previous night only for me to find the following night that the fish had obviously moved a couple of miles further on.

I did however visit Taff at Finlake, a rally a few miles away from my home. I had not been there before so was not aware they had a courtesy bus service until I had walked miles up and down hills through rather a sprawling "bitty" rally with little in the way of signposts. I think they might have been anti Plaid Cwmru (sorry for the spelling Taff) for they had put him at the far end of the great estate!

## **Winterbourne**

This was a great success for those who came, but a personal disappointment because of those who did not. It was organised in that area for the benefit of those who could not make the long journeys to the South East meetings. I was so pleased to meet nine of our Continental colleagues who had made the 190 mile journey from Dover (apart from the distance they had travelled the other side of the Channel) and I believe they did enjoy their visit. Certainly we had several newcomers to our meetings scene with some nice displays from John Trippick of Taunton and surprisingly, so far from home, by Ken Blackwell of Suffolk. Ray Webb changed the emphasis of display by demonstrating his polishing rig which many found very interesting, and we were to have had a hands-on demonstration of silver soldering by Peter. Unfortunately at the last minute he was unable to come but he has promised to try to do it at Bletchingly next year if we can clear the insurance hurdle.

There were the usual members who maintained the high standard of exhibits and many exchanges were effected. We had one or two bemused locals who, seeing cars parked in the old school yard on a Sunday looked in to see what was going on. The last thing they expected to see was rows of tables stuffed with gleaming brass blowlamps. It made great talking points in the local pubs that evening.

Here I must pay tribute to all the ladies who helped with serving food, clearing away and washing up. Thanks to Sheila Cleaver, Teri, Michelle, Michelline, Brigitte, Vera, Nellie and Joan, and my sincere apologies if I have omitted the name of anyone who also helped. Your efforts were appreciated by all just the same. I am also indebted to Mike Farr who surveyed the route from the M4 for me which enabled me to draw the route maps. I don't think many got lost.

#### **Bletchingley 2001**

Hopefully, since this is such a successful venue, a meeting can be arranged here again next year but there will be the need for different food arrangements. Even that size hall is not really big enough to accommodate any more diners and the marvellous array of blowlamps. Also the task of catering for any increase in numbers would be enormous. So we are examining the possibility of a local Pub which I am assured by one who uses it does a an excellent carvery providing the main mid day meal. Other light refreshments will be available in the hall as usual. When more details are available I'll announce them in the next B/N.

#### **Mouscron 2001.**

I have no more information yet, but it is usually early in March. If anyone would be interested in going please let me know and I'll send details when they are available

Also we can sort out some car sharing later on.

#### **East Anglia.**

We have many members within a relatively short drive of each other in this region about which I know nothing. What about one or more of you getting together and planning your own regional meeting. Unfortunately Gina and I would not be able to do much at such a long range but we should certainly help in whatever way we could. Why not put your thinking caps on, give me a call to discuss things and with enough notice any meeting can be announced in B/N. I'm sure it would be a very popular event

#### **B/N 34 drawings.**

The NEW FUJI lamp made by the Shin Fuji Burner Company of Japan (info courtesy of Michel Duval) is of interest in that we have so far not found anyone to translate the text for us. Still never despair. The American influence is obvious. It also appears to be produced in two sizes, presumably one and two pints which bear the designation A1 and C1 and those having the quick start device similar to the Sievert are called JA1 and JC1. If I can get more information I will. Suffice it to say here that I heard that the Japanese Government sent a ship load of Viagra to America when they heard that the Americans could not get a proper election !!.

No news on the OSK lamp of Michel Duval. He believes it is Eastern European but would welcome any further information.

The triangular logo Ki-Soude is from a small Malivert alcohol soldering torch featured in some photocopy again sent me by Michel. The torch is stated to be 23 cms. long and thus is about the same size as the Lamb torch.

The American auto alcohol torch is a Harmic of Somerville Mass. called the "BESJET".

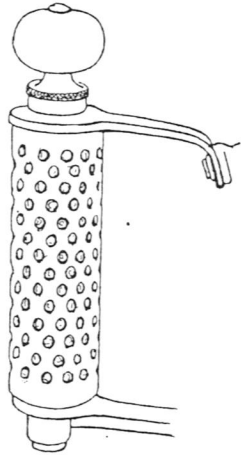
#### **What is it ?**

One person obviously knows what it is because he sent me the copy (Who but M D?). but only one other hazarded a guess. It is a Malivert patented ducting apparatus to site above the wick in petrol lamps so that the wick does not burn and interrupt the capillary flow of fuel to the vaporising area behind the jet. Translated I take it to be a "Gasifier" or Vaporiser. It consists of a series of metal tubes around a central pillar with a gauze filter which would sit on top of the wick. The picture appears on a catalogue page of 1921. I have never seen one but how many people go to the length of removing the wicks in their cleaning processes and if so how many would poke a rod up to see if there is a "Gasificateur" in there? I wonder how many of you will now examine your old Maliverts more closely. If you find one please let me know. (and Taff - only **one** please!)

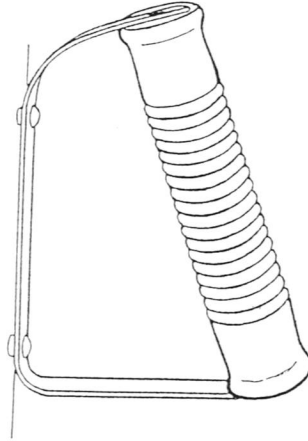
B/N 35 drawings

Handles

a)

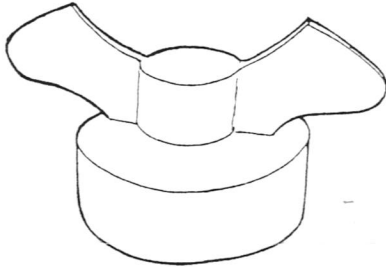


b)



Filler Caps

a)

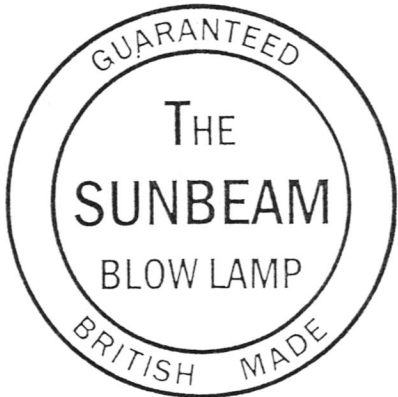


b)



Logos

a)



b)



So let's have some response to these for B/N36 next year

**Member's request**

Ray Hyland is looking for a Primus "Nautilus" to complete the restoration of a Petter "Handyman" lamp-start engine. Apparently, with its integral water pump, it is one of only a few to survive. Anyone able to help? Please contact Ray.

Michel Duval has sent a picture of a "Duo-Burn" lamp which the logo states was made by the Swediche Lamp Company of Ludlow. It is a half pint lamp- whereas Sylvia Black's lamp is a one pint size of the same general pattern as Veritas and Phoemax which were also made in Ludlow. It is fairly obviously they were all made at the same place to the order of different marketing agencies. It is known that Veritas lamps were made there probably as the major product with other blanks made as a side line. The factory closed in the 1960's.

#### **Snippets of Information**

The mystery alcohol lamp which was working at Mouscron in March is a modern very well made replica of an 1844 French "Dunand" lamp

Thanks again to Michel Duval we have some conclusive information on "bis" "bloc" and "basse". As both Norman and Keith suggested last time the "bis" refers to a variant of an original number. Michel likens it to a house No 12 and its neighbour 12A. Thus the variant of a paint burning flat ended burner would qualify for example as No 2 bis. The term "bloc" refers to the structure of the burner. Many burners are detachable by unscrewing them but a large number are cast in one piece with plugged accesses for cleaning fuel passages or replacing jets. These are often referred to as "Bruleurs en bloc". "Basse" he assures me is a feminine term ( and who am I to argue with him on French terms- or even English terms for that matter!) referring to the height of the tank. For example some of the "flat" toolbox type lamps have been produced in short versions and are referred to as e.g. ML 75 basse. So perhaps that variety might be more collectable.

#### **Welcome to new members**

Anthony HARDY      Bryan HILEY      Des MILLWARD  
James THIRLWALL      Paul WHIDDETT

Their postal and phone details are already in the latest membership list

#### **Phone number amendment**

Seymour MOSS's number in London is now 020 8529 0620

#### **Jim Dowson**

Sadly I must announce the death of Jim Dowson of Burton on Trent. I met him a couple of times at Stourpaine in the past He was a quiet fellow who had been a member since the early days. He had only a relatively small collection but was very interested in the study of his hobby.

His brother-in-law has written to me to find a buyer for Jim's collection which amounts to some 50 or so items, including lamps and other brassware as well as blowlamps. He wants to sell it in one lot I have a list of names of the lamps but no other definite identification.. If anyone is interested I'll send on the list and the address for you to make your deal. My impression is that unless the names conceal some unusual marques of lamp the collection is quite an ordinary one and I do not know anyone living near to Burton-on Trent who could easily check it out for us.

#### **Subscriptions 2001**

Regrettably in line with many other increases I've had to put these up to £3-50 this year with a proportionate increase for our American friends. I think it still represents good value and is really only covering the basic production and postage cost. May I make a plea for early payment to save me repeating reminders which all adds to the cost. To those who do not intend to renew - I would appreciate it if you would let me know so I can delete your name from the posting list

So to close 2000 I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a successful collecting year in 2001. (though as Taff said to me on his card "not in MY area!")

Best Wishes  
Jel