

# BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 36

APRIL

2001

I'm afraid I cannot really blame the weather for the late arrival of this Spring newsletter, neither was it influenced by the "*Foot in Mouth*" disease problem we have all been affected to some extent by down in Devon. Some of the pictures of new-born lambs wallowing in deep liquid mud are quite pathetic where they cannot be moved because of the restrictions. Someone said that if he normally kept them in such circumstances a farmer would assuredly be successfully prosecuted by the R S P C A. However it does seem to be a little bit under better control at the moment so it's fingers crossed.

## Mouscron 2001

The Mouscron meeting was as usual a great success and though not as many of our members attended we all stood a slightly better chance of exchanges since J T was in South Africa. Keith brought along an enormous flame gun with a gaudy red tank the size of a Propane cylinder and Joan departing from the Rees family display showed a nice collection of small lamps, which I personally coveted. Robert Langlois as usual produced his well presented display which included a centre-piece of not one, not two, not three but *FOUR* Surmelin No 20 lamps. The hall was a slightly different venue from last year which meant a slightly longer walk for lunch. This only served to give us a greater thirst and appetite for the magnificent spread we were offered. Strangely our tables were quieter than usual so Tom was able to eat more and Mick able to drink more without disturbance!

## Bletchingley

Our Spring Meeting is at the usual venue at Bletchingley Village Hall on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. I have enclosed the programme and Menu for you to select your main dish and Gina would appreciate it if you could return your bookings slips as soon as possible to help with the catering planning. There was a thought that we might use the "Red Lion" at Bletchingley for the Lunch but Gina and my daughter said they would give one last effort to keep the meeting in one place again as a number of members had indicated they would like. Possibly next year there will need to be changes. Hopefully we shall again have the loan of Andy's magnificent aquarium stands to give us adequate display area.

## East Anglia Meetings.

I have had a letter from Ken Blackwell, one of the long distance travellers to Winterbourne last October, who is trying to get a meeting together near his home in Lakenheath Suffolk. He has written to a number of people living within reasonable driving distance but it occurs to me that if some members are willing to spend a weekend in the Suffolk area they may well swell the numbers attending. When I spoke to Ken recently he said the time would probably be at the end of July but there would not be any information for about a couple of weeks. So anyone interested please give Ken a call on 01842-860848 after Easter to see what he has been able to get together. Then please try to support his effort.

Rob Starling has also written to say that he runs a weekend show at White Colne near Colchester called the "Aldham" Olde Tyme Rallye and Fayre. This is its 25<sup>th</sup> year and is timed for June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. So far there have been no blowlamp displays represented there and he would be willing to set aside a display area for us on an annual basis for exhibition and for members to meet. This sounds an extremely helpful offer. So does anyone wish to start the ball rolling by applying to display their collection there this year and then see how things develop?. Give Rob a call on 01206-393836 for an application form

Many thanks to both of you for coming forward with these offers. Now it remains to see if there are any offers coming from those living in the cold, wet North.

### Andy's T- shirts

Another feature at Mouscron was Andy Feast dressed in the latest in Blowlamp News sartorial creations - a white T-shirt emblazoned with the Blowlamp Society crest printed on the chest. Apparently there is a choice of the type of blowlamp in the centre and not the stylised lamp I drew for the original design. I think he is planning to bring some to the Bletchingley meeting. So far as the pin badges are concerned I have had the offer from a member who may well be able to get them supplied in a smaller quantity than the 250 order requirement which has been holding up the business for some years. Watch this space.

### B/N 35 drawings

"Corona" the logo of Howes and Burley of Birmingham who were manufacturing brass founders approximately from W W 1 until the mid 1930's. They were noted in their early days for their motorcycle and cycle acetylene lamps.

The Corona blowlamp models were No 105 the small petrol, 107 & 108 the 1 pt and 2 pint paraffin and the larger 112 & 115 brazing lamps. It is common for the 105 to have no markings beyond the name stamped on the characteristic filler cap. Some of the paraffin lamps are identified only by a soldered plaque though I have never seen a two pint "Corona". The logo is the same as in B/N 35 but includes the name of "Howes and Burley" within the surrounding pattern. Some have a deeply impressed Corona 107 or 108 at the bottom of the side of the tank. I have only ever seen a plaque soldered on to the tank of the largest lamp which is the typical "Barthel" pattern.

On the 105 petrol lamp the burner head is very like Herberg and the later Talisman (not surprising since the trading name changed from Herberg after 1930).

The triangular fillets front and back of the burner head are the same and there is the same sliding air control covering the space between the jet and the burner nozzle. The shape of the head behind the nozzle thread is also similar. It raises again the question of manufacture or assembly of components made by other brass founders.

Anyone have anything to add- pictures etc to complete the information?

### Filler caps

a) is stated by John Tingle as advised by John Byrne to be from a Lidgerwood. The specimen I was given had one "wing" broken but it was probably symmetrical. I have nothing else to add to this information so would be grateful for more about Lidgerwood. However I suspect they were a marketing firm and not manufacturers.

b) The Aussie belongs to the 1 pint paraffin "Lanray" kindly supplied by Mike Wareham at Winterbourne. I've included the reverse side to show the name. The B/N 36 handle (d) is from the same lamp. There are several other features limited to this lamp which I shall draw for you, probably in the next B/N, when I can prise it apart from Mike. For example the fixing of the burner tube to the tank is unusual as one end is fastened by a screw to the top of the jet housing and the soldering bit bracket appears to be part of the burner nozzle turned back on itself. The fuel tube from the tank exits the top of the tank at an angle so that it enters the jet housing part of the burner at right angle instead of being curved into the base. Thus though most Aussie lamps appear as direct copies of Swedish or English lamps this type has a number of features strictly Australian. "Good on yer mate"!

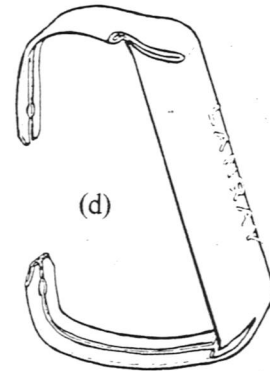
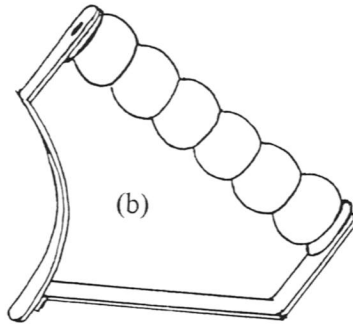
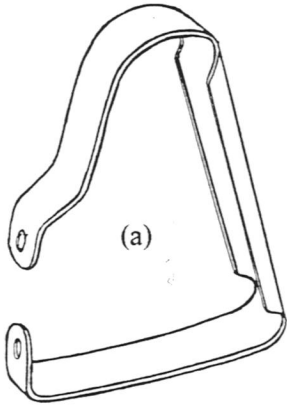
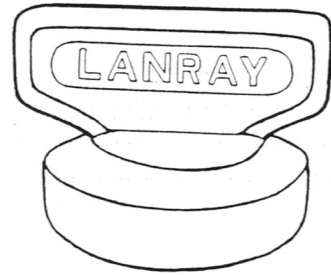
### Sunbeam

Ted Rawson kindly sent me a photo to study but there is so far no info about a manufacturer. The lamp is well made and the tank looks like a Bladen but the control knob, its mounting and ferrule and the handle are distinctly Burrige. It would appear to be of the same 1920-30 vintage. The burner mounting has a unique stirrup shape and the back of the control spindle housing has its own support on to the top of the tank. Thanks Ted we'll see what else comes in. Incidentally Ted has a Tyers No 3 for sale or swap. It even has its original bitumen!

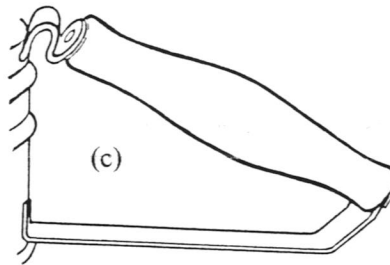
### Handles

- a) F J Vesta "K" and "L"      b) Talisman No 114

B/N 35 Filler caps



B/N 36 Handles



(a)

(b)

(c)

B/N 36 Logos

### Taff's Tall Tale

(So have a pinch of salt handy - although as Joan vouched for this perhaps only a small pinch!)

Taff avers that at the Havenstreet, Isle of Wight Rally last year he was approached by a visitor ( Taff described him as a BKA -bloody know-all!) who admired his display and said " I have one of those at home in my collection of 28 lamps" He then indicated a Sievert "Rapid" and continued to state that he also had a Paquelin and a Valtock No 3 in his collection. Joan stopped Taff from speaking ( by stamping on his foot!!) to allow the visitor to continue boasting about his second "Rapid". Taff's response was to challenge him to produce these lamps and on Sunday morning he duly appeared with the four lamps in a bag. Then a rare thing happened - Taff apologised for mistrusting the fellow, who then walked away. Joan ( the business brain in the family) suggested why didn't Taff try to buy them. After admiring his car, Taff asked if the man would sell his lamps and to his surprise the fellow answered " I thought you were never going to ask". Needless to say a deal was struck and Taff was four extremely good lamps better off after his Havenstreet show. However on the ferry home Joan - ever the business woman- asked "Did you not ask about the other 24 lamps in his collection?" Is there no end to the cheek of these Celts when they are on their foreign travels and in any case who coined the phrase "The Luck of the Irish"?

Thanks Taff, and we're only kidding when we say its difficult to stop you talking!

### Rallies in early Summer 2001

Not much info up to the present but Keith Hawkins will be at:-

Enfield Pageant of Motoring 27-28 May ( but there may be a query about this date!)

Leighton Buzzard Bypass 2/3 June, Dursley Glos. 16/17 June, Bury St Edmunds

" Wing, Wheel and Steam" 23/24 June, Chiltern 7/8 July Woodcote 14/15 July.

Those who have not already done so please let me have your bookings for August onwards so I can enclose them with the next newsletter. It does help people to plan meetings.

### Change of address

Tony Bridle Unit C The Courtyard 67 Bolton Street BRIXHAM Devon TQ5 9DJ

Phone 01803 858494 Mobile: 07760478322

Incidentally those of you who have mobiles and wish to add the numbers to the members lists please let me know.

Also Arne Aasgaard has suggested we keep a list of members' e-mail addresses. There are a few of us on-line so anyone with such address send it to me at:-

Les\_Gina@msn.com

and I'll construct an e-mail mailing list which we can all use for general communications.

Most of the members of the American group are on-line so if it is agreed we can let them have our list to include a wider circulation. Unfortunately very few of our continental friends have these addresses but I can include those who do

### Welcome to new members

Les LEE 7 Gundry Close DEVIZES, Wilts. SN10 3SH 01380-728126

Tom MORRIS "The Mount" Ideford Combe Devon TQ12 3GR 01626-331418

### Unpaid subscriptions

Please "listen verry carrefully as I shall say this only wemse"!!

Some subs are still overdue and this year because of costs I cannot continue to send newsletters indefinitely. So "One strike and you're out"!! Regrettably only two of the nine postcard reminders I sent with last years renewal slips to long-time unpaid members were returned. One with the sub and one to say he wished to discontinue membership. I can only assume that the other seven steamed off the stamps I had prepaid for them.

Definitely the "weakest links" so Goodbye!

Cheers for now see you at Bletchingly.