

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 44

JUNE

2003

The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society - Founded by Les Adams, August 1992

Les Adams

It is with some sadness that my first duty as editor of the newsletter is to inform all members of the death of Les Adams on 30th April this year. For many of us, Les was the inspiration behind our collecting, as many have recounted tales of his enthusiasm for the hobby and his encouragement to further the interests of blowlamp collecting. Not all of us had met Les, but I am sure we all knew the man through his 10 years of producing the newsletter. For those of us who had met him, he will be sorely missed.

Les was born in North End, Portsmouth, and attended the Portsmouth Northern Secondary School. From there he trained as a doctor at Kings College Hospital in London, where he qualified in 1949. After a spell in the RAF as a medical officer serving in Germany, he became a general practitioner on Hayling Island in 1952. He remained in this post until he retired in 1985 and during this time he also served as medical officer to Suntrap Residential School for a number of years.

Les was a founder member of Langstone and District Wildfowlers Association, a welfare officer in the Royal Air Force Association, a founder member and president of Hayling Island Angling Club, for more than 20 years he was a playing member of Havant Hockey Club and also had a long association with the Hayling Island Carnival Committee. Les will be best remembered in the area for his role in establishing the Hayling Island Community Centre, where he was the first chairman between 1974 and 1978 and president between 1981 and 1987.

On retirement, Les and Gina first moved to Somerset and then on to Devon and it was while he was there that Gina bought him his first blowlamp at a local jumble sale. It was a 1 pint Sievert, and the intention was that it would be nicely polished and placed in the inglenook fireplace. As with all collectors he was probably totally unaware that the bug had bitten, but very soon, other blowlamps arrived, until he had a display worth sharing with others. It was at the Great Dorset Steam Fair that Les found out that there were other like minded individuals about and the spark of an idea came to him and Blowlamp News was launched.

Although Les had an impressive collection of blowlamps, his particular interest was researching the history and development and over the years he has shared so much with us all.

Les Adams – 11th June 1924 to 30th April 2003

THE FUTURE FOR BLOWLAMP NEWS

Just before his death, Les Adams asked me to carry on with the production of Blowlamp News, which I readily agreed to. I had known Les for several years and every time we met, the conversation would always end up on the subject of the newsletter, as he was always keen to hear new ideas.

Les has laid a firm foundation stone for the future of the blowlamp movement and I feel sure that with the support of the membership at large, we can continue to build on his successes.

Already I have the support of a small band of members to help me prepare this issue, and to start with, Keith Hawkins, Norman Penny and Tom Bartlett are being called upon to act as an interim 'committee' to enable things to keep moving.

I have to admit that my depth of knowledge on the subject falls a long way short of Les Adams, but my enthusiasm is high. I will need the support of all members to keep the newsletter running, so please start sending items of interest, however small, to my address, which will be printed at the end.

If you have ideas on features that you would like included, don't be afraid to let me know. There will be some new features, some of which I had discussed with Les, which will be introduced over the next few issues.

Members wants and for sale will be included, and if I can get the agreement of certain people, I would like to run an occasional 'Profile' series on members, finding out about the person, what started him/her collecting, other hobbies and generally what makes them tick. I am prepared to put myself up first for this so that you can see that it is not intended to embarrass, but to help members get to know each other.

Well, I had better wind up now and try to find items of real interest, but I must add that we have a good club running and with your help we should have many more years enjoying our chosen hobby.

Ray Hyland

News items and features to be sent to 47 Lockington Crescent
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Phone: 01449 615648

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Keith Hawkins is now Membership Secretary and he can be contacted at

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Sheep Lane
Potsgrove
Milton Keynes
MK17 9HD

Phone: 01525 290122

hawkins@potsgrovepreserve.co.uk

MEETINGS

MOUSCRON

This meeting continues to go from strength to strength, with the quality of displays outstanding, the stage area was particularly impressive. Although this was only my second visit, it has definitely become one not to miss. The hospitality was excellent and I am sure that all those members attending would like to thank Alain Henri and his helpers for the high quality meeting.

There were good opportunities for both exchanging and purchasing blowlamps, with trade being brisk throughout the day.

LINGFIELD

A new venue this year, but everyone managed to find it without too much trouble. Several members made it from various parts of Europe, but the furthest distance travelled must go to Graham Stubbs from the USA. Either he had other reasons to be in the UK, or he is a very dedicated collector of blowlamps. Maybe it's a little of each. Andy Feast and Paul Whiddett occupied the stage area with an extensive display, which attracted the interest of all the visitors.

A nice touch, was the display Andy had arranged outside with a vintage Fordson tractor on show, together with two drag saws.

Refreshments were provided throughout the day and thanks must go to Andy and his helpers for making the day such a success.

SHOWS

No reports on shows this far, but I have been promised some for the next issue.

For those of you planning your visits to future shows, **Keith Hawkins** is booked in to the following and is always pleased to entertain fellow enthusiasts – 28th & 29th June, Banbury Rally; July 5th & 6th Chiltern Rally, Prestwood, Bucks; July 12th & 13th Woodcote Rally, near Reading; July 26th & 27th Wood Green Rally, near Huntingdon; August 2nd & 3rd Lingfield Rally, on A22 Blindley Heath; 16th & 17th August Lincoln Rally; August 24th & 25th Honiton Hill Rally; 27th to 31st August, Gt Dorset Steam Fair. 13th & 14th September, Barleylands Rally; 27th & 28th September, Power of the Past.

For those attending the Great Dorset, Keith will be arranging hospitality for members and will be providing tea and coffee each day between 11.00am & 12.00 noon, and again between 2.30pm and 3.30pm – see you there.

Russell Harrower will be attending the Monks Eleigh Bygones Day on 21st & 22nd June; Gosfield Rally on 28th & 29th June; the Fenland Country Show on 23rd to 25th August; as well as Barleylands and Power of the Past.

Russell has recently bought a RM blowlamp complete with instructions. The address given is Samuel Heath & Sons, Leopold Street, Birmingham. Russell would like to know the connection between the two companies and when they got together.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Phil & Jacquelyn Johnson, Max Lewis, Mike Preston and Harry Webb.

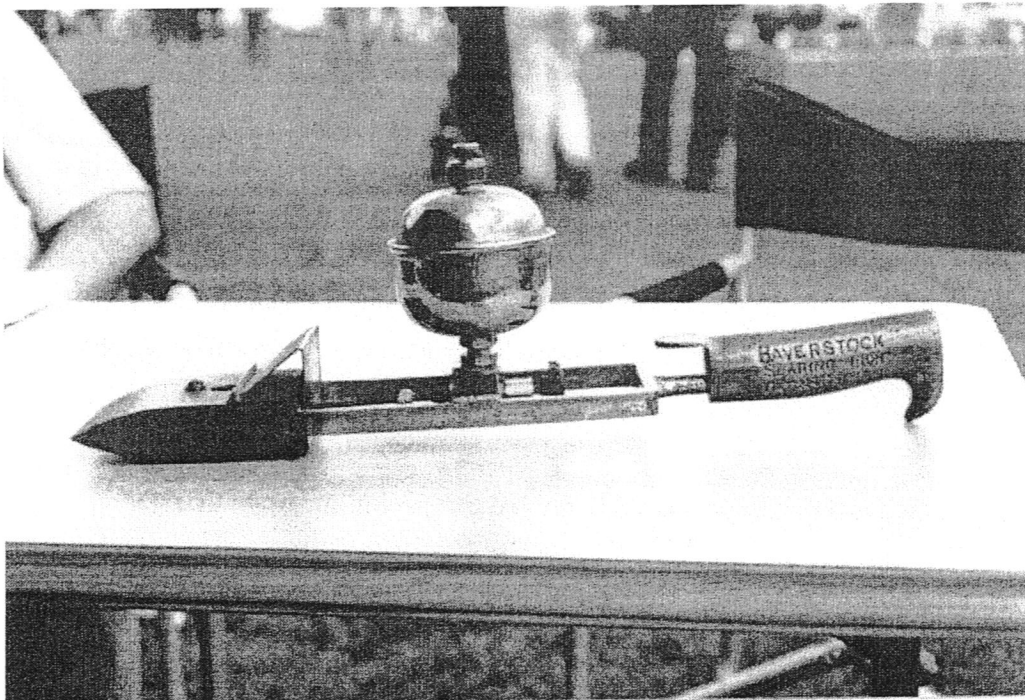
PHOTO CORNER

The following are a selection of photographs, which will be of interest to readers.

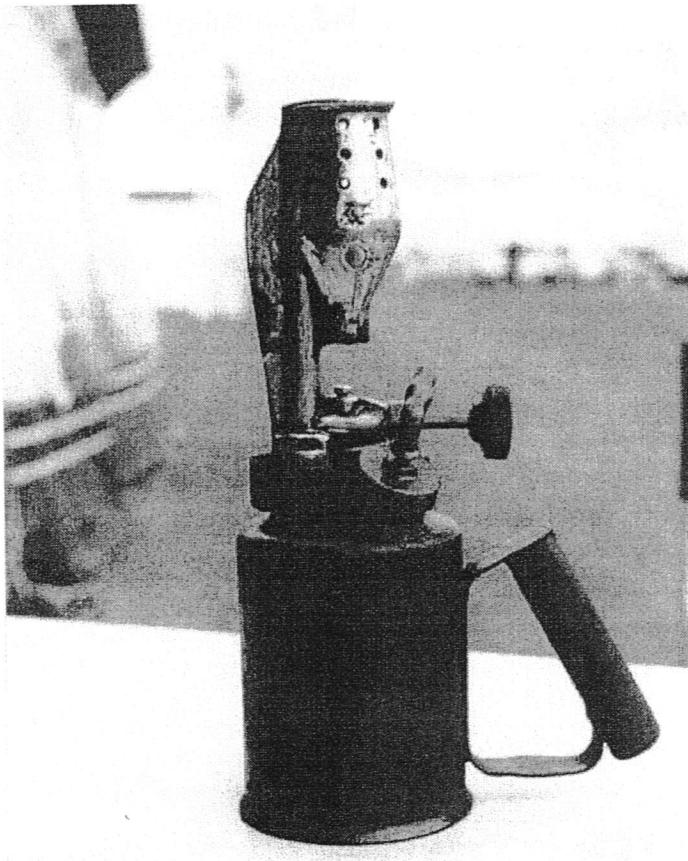
If anyone has any interesting shots which could be included in future issues, please send them to the editor.



Keith Hawkins took this photograph while cruising the Rhine. The blowlamp is part of a display in the Organ Museum at Rudesheim, south of Koblenz.



Baverstock Searing Iron, used for docking lambs tails



Can anyone identify this blowlamp found at the Enfield Pageant of Transport.

Following are two advertisements taken from the September 1923 Issue of the Ironmonger Magazine.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1923

The
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contains a special "small space" Soldering Iron with non-heating metal handle, a Pocket Blow Lamp, Solder, etc., with full instructions

AND

FLUXITE

The Paste Flux that
SIMPLIFIES SOLDERING

Reduced Price **7/6**

This Fluxite Soldering Set is a compact, substantial outfit, suitable for carrying on a Car or Motor Cycle, or for any ordinary Soldering jobs about the Home. It is extensively advertised and will soon be as well known as Fluxite Soldering Paste. You can stock both to advantage.

The Set sells at 7/6 Reduced Price.
FLUXITE in Tins at 8d., 1/4, & 2/8.

FLUXITE LTD., 78 Bevington St., Bermondsey, London,
ENGLAND.

THE GUDWRUN SOLDERING OUTFIT

P. 616.



Price

6/6

Per Set

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and ready
for use*

Trade terms on application

THE GUDWRUN SOLDERING FLUX

Reliance Brand

MAKES THE BEST JOINT

The Paste Flux that Solders Best
Superior to Acid and Easier to Use
SAVES TIME **SAVES MONEY**
The Flux that makes Soldering Easy
FOR ALL KINDS OF SOLDERING

4d., 8d., 1/4 and 2/8 per tin.

The Sanitary and Water Fittings Mfg. Co.

H. A. PURCHUSEK, Proprietor.

35 FRIDAY STREET, LONDON, E.C.4

Teleg. Address—"Pincherie, Phone, London."

Phone No.—Centra 3599.

[17]

A make I had not heard of.
Does anyone have one tucked away?

This newsletter has been produced to let everyone know what is happening with the Blowlamp Society, so the content is not what you have become used to. By the time the next issue is prepared, I am hopeful that the content will be much improved.

The next issue of Blowlamp News is scheduled for September, so please send any items for inclusion by the end of July.

I would like to continue the series of drawings and logo's which Les used to feature, so please send in any you have.

The more information received, the better the Newsletter.