

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 46

DECEMBER

2003

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

A LOOK BACK AT 2003

This has been a year of highs and lows, the low point being the passing of Les Adams, without who's influence many of us would not have an interest in blowlamps and would certainly not have the knowledge about the hobby which he so enthusiastically shared with us all. I am sure Les will be long remembered as his name continually crops up in our conversations.

That said, 2003 has been a good year, especially for those of us who spend our weekends around the rally fields, with the best spell of weather I can remember for many a year. Anyone who got a wet shirt this year must count himself or herself very unlucky.

One of our regular rally attendees, Keith Hawkins' managed to turn up to 2, one-day events, 12 two-day events, plus the Great Dorset Steam Fair. On all but four occasions, members turned up to sign his visitor's book, with a total of 36 members making an entry. Keith also attended the Belgium meeting in March, the French meeting, in September (which involved a round trip of almost 1000 miles) as well as our own meeting at Lingfield.

I am sure there are other members who are just as dedicated to the rally movement and if so, I would like to hear from them. Perhaps there should be an award for the most travelled collector in any one year. I would particularly like to hear from members in Europe and the USA to see how rally's and shows compare to what we have on offer in the UK.

DIARY DATES FOR 2004

BELGIUM

The Belgium meeting will have a new venue for 2004 as well as new organisers. The meeting is moving to **LOCHRISTI**, which is situated off the **E17/A14 road, close to GENT** and this years organisers will be Brigitte and Willy Mouton. The date for the meeting is **Saturday 13th March** and will start at **09-00 hours**. Lunch will be provided and arrangements have been made with a local hotel for those who would like to travel on the Friday. You will find an invitation included with this newsletter, which gives details of cost and location. I hope you will support Brigitte and Willy to ensure this event is a continued success. If you have not been to a Belgium meeting before, the quality of the displays is a real eye opener. For those wishing to stay over and would like to share accommodation, double rooms are available with twin beds.

LINGFIELD

The Lingfield meeting will again be organised by Andy Feast (and helpers) and it is hoped that it will take place the first weekend in May, so at this stage pencil it in to your diary and further details will be in the March newsletter.

EAST ANGLIAN MEETING

Following on from the success of Keith Hawkins 'Garden Party', which was attended by 10 members and invited guests (a great time was had by all) I have been looking for a more central venue to enable a wider section of the membership to attend.

The Ipswich Transport Museum have offered to host a meeting (probably the first Saturday in September) and they can provide table space, set out amongst their exhibits, for our members to hold their displays, make exchanges and generally have a good time. If there is enough interest, as part of the day, they would give a guided tour of the museum, but this is optional. A buffet lunch would also be provided and the total costs will be about £10 per person.

Ipswich has easy road access from the A14 and A12 and is less than 2 hours from the Channel Tunnel and 30 minutes from the ferry terminal at Harwich.

This meeting will only be viable if we attract 20 people, so if you would like me to confirm the arrangements, please telephone or write, so I can put a provisional list together. (Phone number and address on back page).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have reached the time of year when we have to think about renewing our subscriptions. When I took on the editorship of the newsletter earlier this year, I had no idea as to what the costs would be in respect of production, printing and postage. Although I have access to a good range of equipment and a very sympathetic printer, I am going to have to ask for a small increase this year, so that I can at least maintain the standard or perhaps improve on future issues.

The new level of subscription will be :-

£5-00 for UK

€10-00 for Europe

\$10-00 for USA

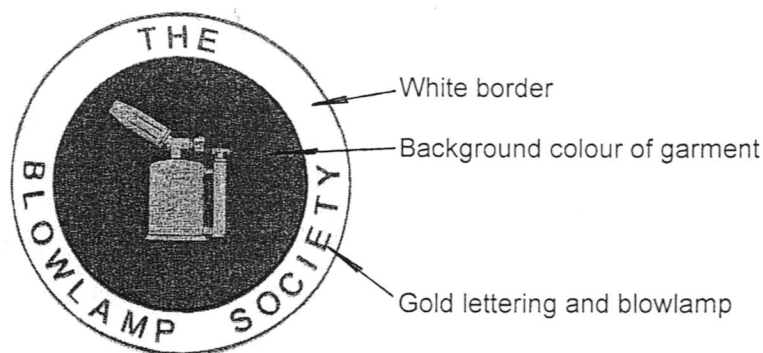
Subscription renewal forms are included with this issue and it would be helpful if those wishing to renew could do so by the end of January 2004.

You will note that the Blowlamp Society now has its own bank account, which will make it easier to keep things accountable.

BLOWLAMP SOCIETY LOGO CLOTHING

I have negotiated a deal with a local firm which produces embroidered promotional clothing. They can provide polo shirts and sweatshirts with our logo on the left breast side of the garment and by using the garment colour as the background, costs would be £16-50 for a polo shirt and £18-00 for a sweatshirt.

I have had a sample of each made using Royal Blue as the background colour, as this matches closest to the lapel badges which Henk Kroon had produced.



There is a range of garment colours available and sizes from XS (34" chest) to XXXL (54" chest).

There is no minimum order charge, so they do not get any cheaper with quantity.

Included with this newsletter is an order form with details of colours, the full range of colours and the cost of postage.

CAPTURED ON VIDEO

Apart from collectors club newsletters, our hobby does not receive a great deal of press, although I am reliably informed that John Hobbs has written an article for inclusion in a future issue of Old Glory.

One company, which has tried to promote the hobby, is Freelance TV, who has produced a video called 'The Collectors'. Amongst those featured on the video is a collection of over 2000 blowlamps and from the first glimpse of this highly polished display, it could only belong to one man, Dave Rees. There is a good amount of time devoted to Dave's collection and the interviewer asks some sensible questions. Dave gives a detailed commentary, explaining the various styles and uses of the blowlamps and all in all it is very watchable.

For those who would like a copy of the video, which also includes collections of road making equipment, scales, agricultural hand tools and bygones, model gypsy caravans and an interview with a knife sharpener, the web site address is www.freelancetv.co.uk. The video appears to only be available via the Internet, so for those that do not have access to a computer, please let me know and I will see if I can arrange for a supply.

BN45

I have had good feedback from the last newsletter, particularly in respect of restoring string bound handles. Brian Grainger suggests that a good source for finding string, which looks right, would be a boat chandler or a rope wholesaler, and recommends 'The Bristol Rope & Twine Company'

With regard to 'ageing' his method is to apply several coats of shellac varnish (Rustins Knotting or similar). After about 5/6 coats, a deep brown colour is achieved and although at this stage it has a gloss finish, it can be dulled down by carefully rubbing with '0000' wire wool. Finally, apply a thick coat of wax (Liberan Black Bison Wax with a Maple colouring). When the wax has been well worked in and left to dry, it has the appearance of having had several years use with hot greasy hands.

Bob Prichard ages his newly bound string handles by applying dark oak wood stain. After the stain has dried the string shrinks slightly, to give a nice tight finish. To complete the illusion of age, Bob applies a liberal coating of black boot polish, which when buffed gives the appearance of years of handling.

Russell Harrower's question on the connection between Samuel Heath and RM drew an answer from Michel Duval, which suggested RM ceased manufacture in 1960. Russell informs me that he has a blowlamp dated 1976.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Michel Duval has been looking back through past issues of Blowlamp News and has sent the following comments.

In B/N40 there was a Les Adams sketch of a 'La Lyonnaise' blowlamp, sent to him by Ted Rawson. Michel writes that he has not been able to find any documentation about these blowlamps, but talking to Mr Jean Guilbert (born 1914) who is the son of Mr Leon Guilbert, the founder of the Express Company, he was able to come up with the following facts. In France, during the Second World War, there were two Zones: the French free one and the occupied zone. In the occupied zone, the major manufacturers (Express, FJ, ML and Surmelin) stopped production or exclusively manufactured engine heaters for the German army. In the free zone, in the region of Lyons (hence the name La Lyonnaise) there were very few blowlamp manufacturers, so two industrialists, Mr Rossi and Mr Charlin decided to start producing blowlamps and soldering irons. Before the war Mr Charlin was a specialist in

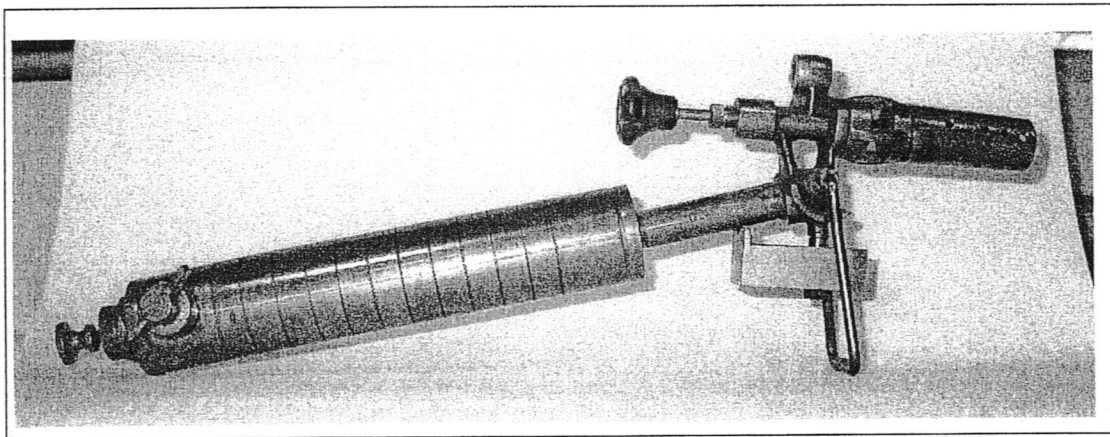
soldering equipment. Brass, steel and copper was sourced from firms in the Lyons region in exchange for blowlamps.

The manufacture of 'La Lyonnaise' blowlamps lasted until the mid 1950's and the following models are known to exist.

No 1	without pump	0.35 litre	(brass)
No 1	without pump	0.35 litre	(steel)
No 2	with pump	0.45 litre	(brass)
No 2	with pump	0.45 litre	(steel) very rare.

All the above models have the typical flattened cone style tank, with wooden handle and control knob. Some of the No 1 (steel) models can be found with aluminium components, as brass was in short supply.

There is also at least one soldering iron, in brass, with typical burner and control knob.

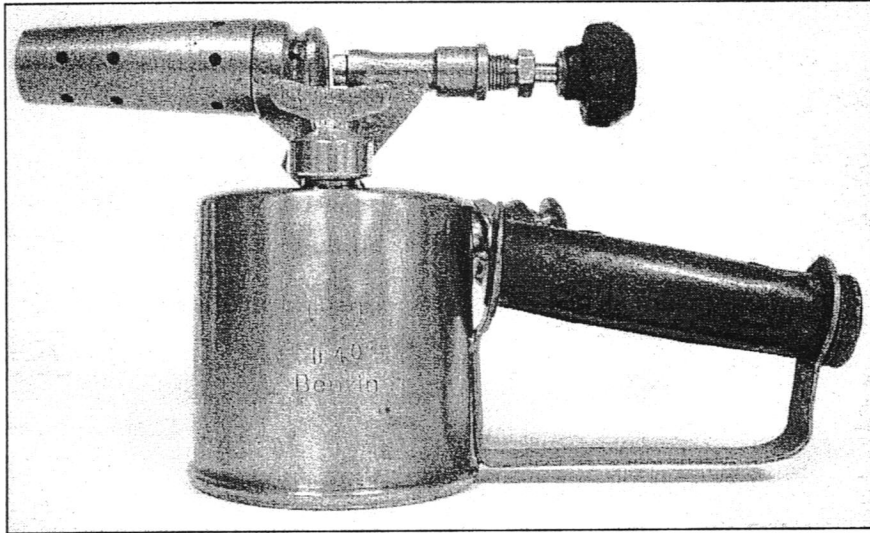


'La Lyonnaise' soldering lamp

In B/N43 Keith Hawkins requested information on the E & L logo.

Michel writes that he has seen the logo on a Herberg No 106, the only difference is that it has the number H40, instead of H38, which features on Keith's lamp.

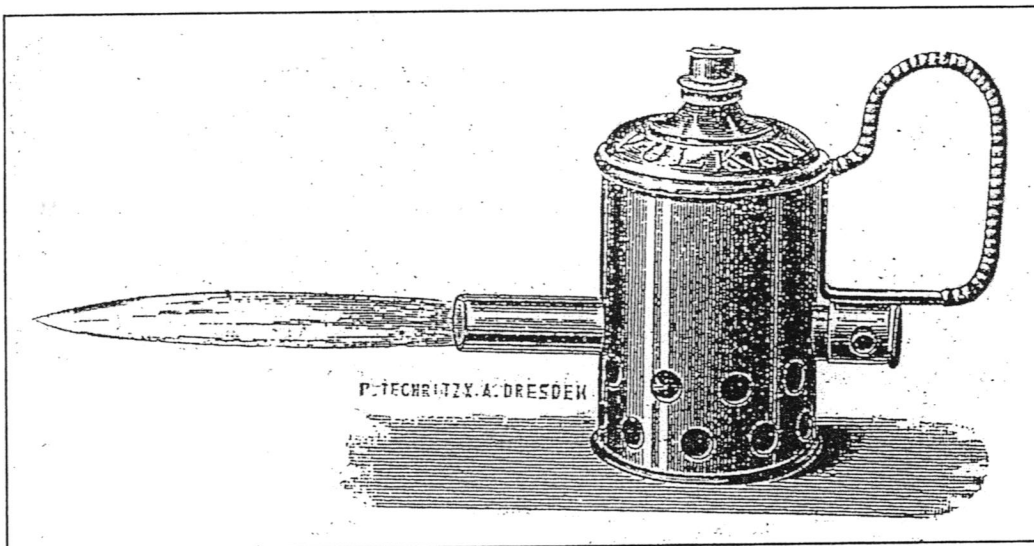




The Herberg No 106 Blowlamp

B/N 40, Picture 'c' on page 3 shows a blowlamp, owned by Andy Feast, which he thinks, is a Barthel Roarer.

Michel has searched through his Barthel catalogues and is unable to find this model, but believes that it is not a Roarer. The Roarer models each had a number, followed by the letter B for petrol or P for paraffin. Below is a picture of a Barthel Vulkan, of 1890, which is similar to Andy's lamp, with the burner going right through the tank, although the handle is quite different.

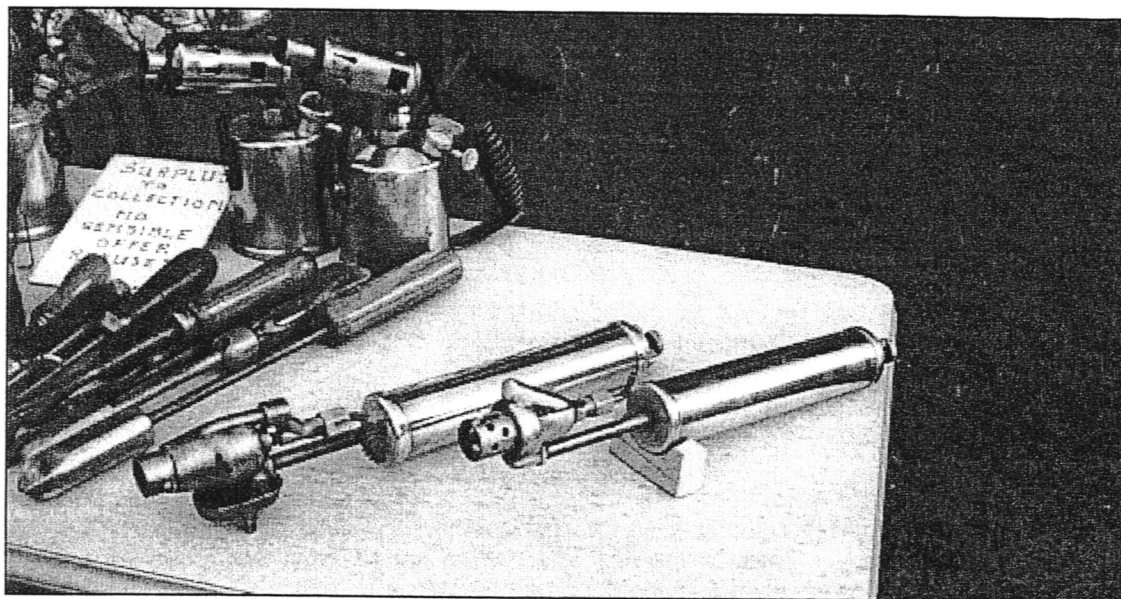


Barthel Vulkan

PETERSON PLUMMER & EVERHOT

Keith Hawkins acquired a Peterson Plummer blowtorch on ebay and sent details to Ron Carr, to see if the Blow Torch Collectors Association could throw any light on its origins, as it was similar in appearance to the Everhot torch.

Ron adds that the Everhot Mfg. Co. produced blowtorches in Maywood, Illinois and that Peterson Plummer Mfg. Co. produced blowtorches in Mayfield, Illinois. Initially the two places were thought to be on in the same, but actually, Maywood is a suburb of Chicago and Mayfield is about 175 miles south of Chicago.

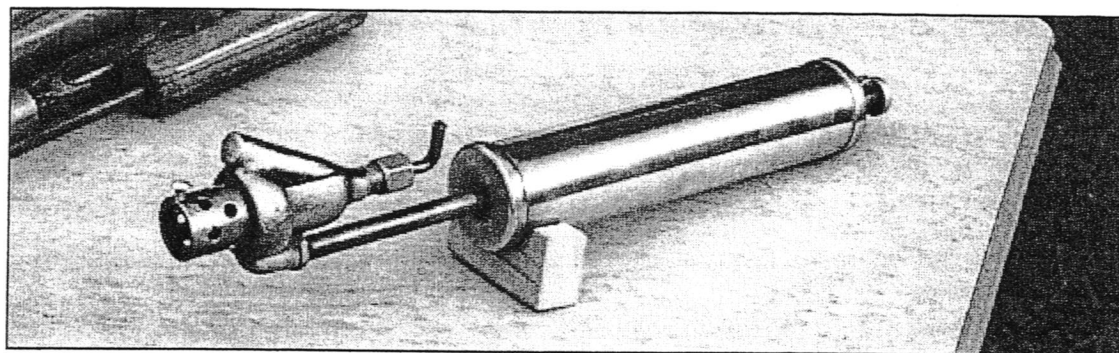


Everhot (left) and Peterson Plummer

The Peterson Plummer and the Everhot torches look very similar, but on close inspection there are major differences to the burner assembly. The Peterson Plummer torch does not have a drip cup and the back section of the burner assembly has an elongated portion with no vent holes.

Peterson Plummer lists a patent date of March 9th 1920, patent number 1,333,590.

The inventor, Claude Padgett, devised a clever method of starting the torch, without the use of a spirit cup. The operator would pump up the fuel tank with a bit of air pressure, elevate the burner assembly, then open the fuel valve to release a small amount of fuel. The rear portion of the burner assembly was designed with a receptacle area that received and stored the released fuel. The operator would then light the fuel and wait until it was almost burned. When vaporization had occurred, the operator would open the fuel valve and the torch would operate.



Peterson Plummer torch

As to which torch came first, the earliest known patent for Everhot was issued in 1927, so Keith suggests that they may have either adapted their torch from the Peterson Plummer design, or perhaps bought them out.

THE FIRST 25 YEARS OF BARTHEL (1890 – 1915)

(Translated by Keith Hawkins from an article originally from Philippe Touillet)

The enterprise was started in 1890 by a chemist, Gustav Barthel, who, as a result of his laboratory experiences had realised there was a need for new and more adaptable equipment such as burners, heaters and stoves, all to be fuelled by petrol or alcohol. These pieces of equipment were all of a new idea and not readily available elsewhere. This is why it is fair to say that the Barthel Company was the creator of this industry in Germany.

Within a very short space of time, after the creation of the new company, the production of blowlamps, which had been invented some years before, was in full swing. At the same time, the manufacture of heaters and cookers for domestic use was introduced, based on the gasification of liquid fuels.

In 1908, Fritz Kress, who had worked for the company since 1903, joined Gustav Barthel in partnership. After having rented a factory for the production of its early models, in 1895, the company moved to new premises at 27 Kiffhauserstrasse. The rising demand for blowlamps, heaters and stoves necessitated further expansion of the premises and the number of employees increased to 250.

By this time, the company was becoming famous and unequalled in Germany and its surrounding countries, for the production of this sort of equipment and in 1914, the building of a new factory was planned. Work on the new factory was halted when war broke out and everyone hoped for a quick conclusion to hostilities and a return to peace, to allow the new factory to be finished.

The engagement of technicians, the use of a highly skilled work force and the careful manufacture of its products were the principal reasons for the expansion of sales of Barthel products, which in itself guaranteed the confidence of the buyers and users of Barthel equipment.

One very important detail was the fact that Barthel always tried hard to follow the proper line for the manufacture of its equipment and also to invent interesting and original tools, which would let them create a range of special equipment in their field of application. In this context, apparatus for chemists, petrol and alcohol blowlamps, petrol-fired soldering irons, special paraffin blowlamps, vertical engine starting lamps and many other appliances were always leading the field. In those first 25 years, Barthel moved forward and improved the uses of blowlamps, made constant progress in the manufacturing process and were always able to offer better tools to their customers.

FORMAT OF NEWSLETTER

This is now the third issue of the Newsletter under my Editorship and I would welcome comments as to what members think of the format. I am keen to get to the position that members look forward to receiving their copies and that the information contained therein is useful and interesting.

Please let me know if there are things that you like or dislike and forward any ideas for future articles and features.

CLASSIFIED

Back Issues of Blowlamp News are available for anyone wanting to complete their set, just for the cost of printing and postage. Telephone the Editor with your requests. In the next issue of Blowlamp News there will be an Index of blowlamps and features published from Issue one, to date, which has been produced by Graham Stubbs.

Wanted – Max Sievert Rapide and Paquelin No 2 – cash waiting – Telephone Bob Prichard 02476 636363.

Wanted – Max Sievert HSL2 – cash waiting – Telephone Paul Whiddett 01892 822120 or 07940 938004.

For Sale – Copies of catalogues produced by the French Collectors Club are available to members and are priced as follows: -

French Blowlamps (Volume 1)	€30	French Blowlamps (Volume 2)	€30
Swedish Blowlamps	€26	German Blowlamps	€44
European Blowlamps	€26	International Blowlamps	€44

Postage for Europe is €3 for one catalogue, €6 for two, €8 for three, €10 for four, €11 for five and €12 for six.

There is a €15 collection charge for payment by cheque.

Contact M. DE MARTELEIRE Jean – Claude, 16 rue des Cedres, 59650 VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ, FRANCE

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members, F. Ordelman, of South Australia and A.J.Smith, of Hampshire.

Blowlamp News is published in March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion should be with the editor at least 4 weeks before the issue date.

Editor – Ray Hyland

Copy to - 47 Lockington Crescent, Stowmarket, IP14 1DA – Tel 01449 615648

Acknowledgements.

My thanks to contributors for this issue – Michel Duval, Bob Prichard, Brian Grainger and Keith Hawkins.

