BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 51

MARCH 2005

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

Well, March is on us again and all thoughts are to the year ahead, with Rally's, Autojumbles, Antique Fairs and Car Boot Sales to look forward to, hoping to find that rare and unusual blowlamp and only costing a few pounds.

I am sure we have all completed our winter projects, including any DIY, so it leaves us free to spend the spring and summer months playing with our toys.

The first event of the year for some of us will be the trip to Belgium on 12th March to the splendid meeting organised by Brigitte and Willy Mouton. It will be nice to meet all the regulars there, and hopefully see some new faces.

This issue sees the first of a series of articles on blowlamps with a special purpose, and I am Also with this issue, is a letter from Keith starting with the "Refrigerant Leak Detector". Hawkins giving a personal view on how he sees the collector movement going.

Graham Stubbs has updated the Blowlamp News Index, a copy of which is enclosed.

UK SPRING MEETING

Andy Feast has now finalised details for our Spring meeting, which will be held on Saturday 14th May 2005, from 09.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs. Andy has found a new venue this year, which is at THE TRUST CENTRE, EAST HILL LANE, EFFINGHAM ROAD, COPTHORNE, SURREY. For those who have been to past Lingfield meetings, this is quite close by, and You will find precise you exit the M25 at the same junction you did to get to Lingfield. instructions on how to get there on the enclosed sheet, and all those wishing to attend should contact Andy on 01883 722079 or email andrewandvera@aol.com

DIARY DATES FOR 2005

For those members attending rally's this year, hoping to see a friendly face, the following list can guarantee you a warm welcome, a chance to talk blowlamps and probably a place to sit and a cup of tea.

and a cup of tea.

Dave Rees will be at Abbey Hill Yeovil on 31st April to 2nd May, Castle Combe on 14th & 15th May, Bath & West Show on 1st to 4th June Banbury on 25th & 26th June, Ardingly on 9th & 10th July, Netley Marsh on 22nd, 23rd & 24th July and Torbay on 5th, 6th & 7th August.

Norman Penny will also be at Abbey Hill Yeovil, West Bay Bridport on 11th & 12th June, Canford Park on 18th & 19th June, Wincanton on 25th & 26th June, Hedington & Stockley on 2nd & 3rd July, Sedgemore Highbridge on 9th & 10th July, Welland Steam & Country Fair on 23rd & 24th July, Bygone Days at South Gorley on 6th & 7th August, Yeovil Festival on 14th & 14th August, Purbeck Rally on 20th & 21st August, Honiton Hill on 27th to 29th August, Bat & Ball Rally on 3rd & 4th September and Harmans Cross on 10th & 11th September.

Keith Hawkins will be at White Webbs Museum Enfield on 20th March Chatham Royal

Keith Hawkins will be at White Webbs Museum Enfield on 20th March, Chatham Royal Dockyard on 27th & 28th March, Leighton Buzzard on 4th & 5th June and Banbury on 25th & 26th June.

If anyone has dates for rally's taking place after 1st June, please let me know and I will include them in the next Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to grow with two new members since December, *Alfred Bramham* from Northallerton, N Yorkshire and *Roger Clitheroe* from Tadley, Hampshire.

REFRIGERANT LEAK DETECTORS

The first known artificial refrigeration was demonstrated by William Cullen at the University of Glasgow in 1748. However, he did not use his discovery for any practical purpose and it wasn't until 1805 that an American inventor, Oliver Evans, designed the first refrigerating machine. Following on from this, various attempts were made to improve the device and in 1876, a German engineer, Carl von Linden patented a process for liquefying gas, which is part of basic refrigeration.

Refrigerators from the late 1800's until 1929, used the toxic gasses ammonia, methyl chloride, and sulphur dioxide as refrigerants. Several fatal accidents occurred in the 1920's when methyl chloride leaked out of refrigerators, so three American corporations launched collaborative research to develop a less dangerous method of refrigeration; their efforts lead to the development of Freon, which became the standard gas for use in refrigerators until scientists became aware that chlorofluorocarbons endangered the ozone layer of the entire planet, which has resulted in modern refrigerators using a CFC free gas.

As can be seen from the earlier statement, gas leaks from refrigerators let to some fatal accidents, so it was important to develop a device for detecting gas leaks. It was apparent that the refrigerant gases would burn with a distinctive greenish blue flame, so a number of blowlamp manufacturers developed leak detector conversions for standard blowlamps.

These blowlamps have a special burner housing which siphon the air supply through a flexible rubber tube. When the open end of the flexible tube is held close to a leaky joint, the gas is siphoned and on striking the burner will change the colour of the flame.

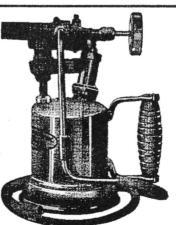
The following illustrations show examples of all of the leak detectors I have managed to identify, of course if you know of any others, please let me know.

NO. 98 REFRIGERANT LEAK DETECTOR (With Alcohol as Fuel)

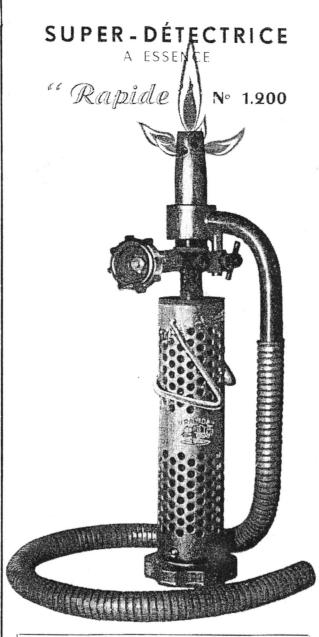
A NECESSITY FOR REFRIGERATOR MECHANICS, ELECTRICIANS AND UTILITY COMPANIES

THE NO. 98 REFRIGERANT GAS LEAK DETECTOR was developed to detect even the slightest of leaks in connection with halide gases used with electric refrigerators. Many of these gases are relatively odorless, tasteless, and colorless. The No. 98 detector which is in use by the largest refrigerating companies has a specially designed, special composition burner to which is attached a suction tube. When the end of the suction tube is held near a leaky joint, the induction of the leaking gas changes the color of the blue flame to a brilliant green.

Alcohol is used as a fuel, and the article is also efficient as a regular blow torch. Furnished with extra heavy drawn seamless cartridge brass tank, and can also be supplied with flat tank when specified. Pump is patented Bernz "Never-Leak" type with screw-down feature. "Keep Kool" valve wheel of best grade bakelite. Detector is given a highly polished and lacquer finish.



FOR ALCOHOL No. 98—1 Pint Wt. 3¾ Lbs.



ANCIENS ETABLISSEMENTS

LEON GUILBERT & Fils

S.A.R.L. - Capital 18.000.000 de Francs Bureaux, Magasins et Usine :

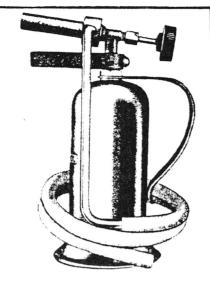
10-12, RUE MONTLOUIS - PARIS (Xi*)

TEL.: ROQuette 02-10

Adresse Telegraphique : R. C. Seine 253-77

LEOGUILBER-PARIS-XIe R.P. Seine 6,701 C

C.C.P.: Paris 166-54 R. C. Seine 253-776 B



Lenk Halide Leak Detector No. 205

for Detecting Refrigerant Gas Leaks . . . Can also be used as an Alcohol Blotorch

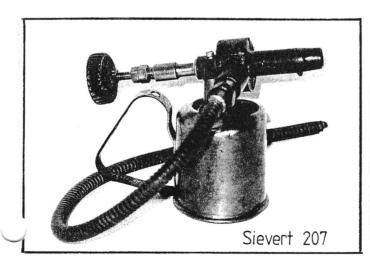
The most positive method of locating leaks of commonly used refrigerants such as Sulphur Methyl. Carrene, F12, Freon or Ethyl Chloride.

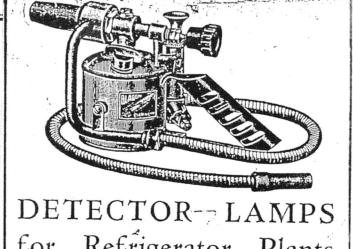
An absolute necessity for the refrigeration engineer and service man.

Tank is of heavy gauge seamless drawn brass, with funnel-shaped bottom for easy filling.

Height 71/2". Diameter at base 3". Shipping weight (per doz.) 13 lbs. Capacity 3/4 pint. Packed in individual cartons.

No. 205 List Price \$3.50





Refrigerator Plants for

TURNER Halide Refrigerant Gas Leak Detectors

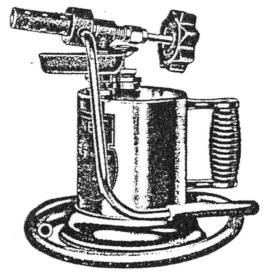
DEVELOPED, PERFECTED AND GUARANTEED BY THE MANUFACTURERS OF TURNER BLOTORCHES MAKERS OF QUALITY TOOLS SINCE 1871!

Positively detects leaks of all chlorinated hydrocarbon refrigerants including methyl chloride (Artic), ethyl chloride, trichlorethylene, methylene chloride (Carrene), dichlorodifluoromethane (F-12 or Freon), trichloromonofluoromethane (F-11), and dichlorotetrafluorethane (F-114). Thousands in use by country's largest manufacturers and installers of electric refrigerators and refrigerator units.

A REAL NECESSITY

The rapidly expanding market for electric refrigerating units of all classes has created a real necessity for an efficient, reliable and yet simple device for testing refrigerant gas leaks. TURNER Halide Detectors meet every requirement in this field and are regarded as indispensable service tools by some of the country's largest manufacturers and installers of electric refrigerators and refrigerator

Basically TURNER Halide Detectors are alcohol burning blotorches having specially designed burner housings which syphons the air supply thru a flexible rubber exploring tube. If the open end of the tube is held close to a leaky joint the gas is syphoned and on striking the burner the color of the flame is changed from blue to green. They are positive in effect and give rapid detection as the tube traces the pipe line being tested. Leaks equivalent to a loss of approximately one pound of refrigerant gas in 7½ years have been detected easily under special tests.



No. H-1

NO. H-1 TURNER HALIDE DETECTOR (Illustrated Above)

No. H-15

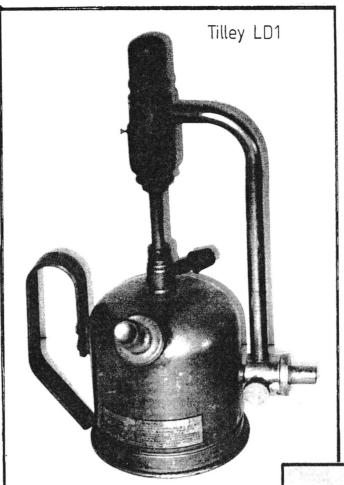
The TURNER Halide Detector may also be used as an efficient blotorch for general service work, such as soldering, heating coils to expel gases, and similar purposes. It is sturdily and compactly built and fits well into mechanics kits. The dual purpose needle valve cleans the orifice or gas opening each time it is closed and thus prevents clogging and the cool composition valve handle has a deeply corrugated edge which gives a firm grip. All metal parts, except the burner, have a highly polished nickel finish. Capacity one pint. Shipping weight 4 pounds. List price No. H-1.....\$7.50

NO. H-15 TURNER HALIDE DETECTOR

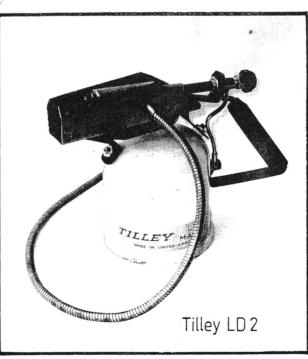
This effective Detector has been developed for those who use a detector occasionally but do not wish to buy the larger and more expensive Turner H-1 which was perfected especially for refrigeration manufacturers and service men. Specifications: 1/2 pint nickel plated brass tank, alcohol fuel, shipping weight 11/4 pounds. List price No. H-15......\$3.30

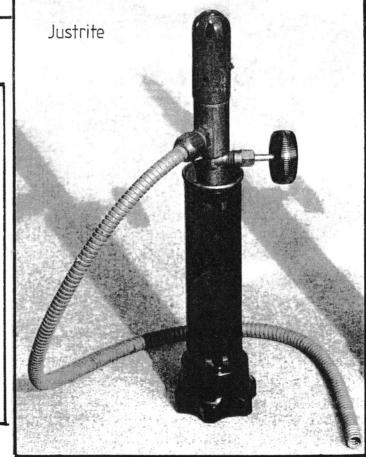
HE URNER BRASS WORK Sycamore, Ill. U.S.A.

SHEET CC









BRAZING LAMPS

By Keith Hawkins

There seem to be many 5 pint brazing lamps in existence, most of which are identical except for a few very minor details, such as different filler caps and numbers of rings on the handles. Some had pressure gauges, some had wooden pump handles and some had brass pump handles. But basically speaking they all had identical tank and burner arrangements and would all appear to be based on an original design by Gustav Barthel, hence all other makes being referred to as the "Barthel Pattern". Many of the lamps had a smaller 2.5 pint version, identical in every to its big brother.

Manufacturers that I know of are Barthel "Diamantin", Doesit, Lake & Elliott "Millennium", Howes & Burley, Monitor 52, Corona 115, Halycon, Kelite, Parkinson & Cowan, Wm Soutter & Sons Ltd., Christopher Collins, Oriflamme, and in Norway, a Standard Hovik Verk.

All of these have brass tanks, with the exception of the Kelite, which has a steel tank. The Kelite was manufactured by the Kitson Empire Lighting Co, of Stamford.

Half size versions, for certain, are the Corona 112, Doesit, Duco, Monitor 50, Halycon and Barthel "Smaragdin".

Governor made a lamp with a similar layout, the 1200 and also made a number 1926 of 5.5 pint capacity. Other similar lamps are the Barthel 1313 with a 3 litre steel tank and a Bladon with a 6 pint lamp, made with either brass or steel tank. This one, however, had its fuel control valve in the back of the burner, unlike all of the others which have a valve on the feeder pipe arising from the bottom of the tank. Also I have found that the models made by corona and Howes & Burley, had their spirit lighting trays made of brass instead of the more common steel tray.

The question is "Who made all of these lamps?", as I cannot imagine that they were all made by the companies that put their names on them.

(Changing the subject slightly, I have an Optimus "American" and a Marco, both of which are absolutely identical, so here it would seem that Optimus also supplied lamps as blanks to other people who marketed them as their own products)

Back to the plot, it would appear that of all the lamps listed above, only the construction of the Kelite tank differs in as much as the top of the tank has a distinct lip over the sides. Also the Bladon 81 has its wind cover as flat top and sides, unlike the others.

It is interesting to note that Monitor also made a 4 pint version, No 51. Has anyone got one of these?

There was another range of large brazing lamps of a 6 pint capacity, mostly made for a government contract during the Second World War, for use by the armed forces. Manufacturers of these include Burmos, British Safety Stove Co, Samuel Heath, T & W and Monitor, although the latter was in regular production as the No 79. Whilst these lamps were used by the Army and the Air Ministry, sometimes in brass, but mostly in steel, does anyone know if any were used by the Royal Navy?

These all had the same burner assembly as the 5 pint series, except that their operating valve was at the rear of the burner, instead of on the feeder pipe at the front of the tank.

Other large lamps of British manufacture are:-

Reliance B - 5 pint, 1913

Lake & Elliott Express No 80a - 7 pint, circa 1913

Lake & Elliott Express No 80b - 5 pint, circa 1913

Lake & Elliott The Millennium Lamp No 2B - 7 pint, circa 1914

Lake & Elliott The Millennium Lamp No 10a - 5 pint, circa 1914

Doesit produced a 2 gallon tank in the 1920's with a flexible pipe and burner.

British Thermidor made a 6 pint in the 1950's

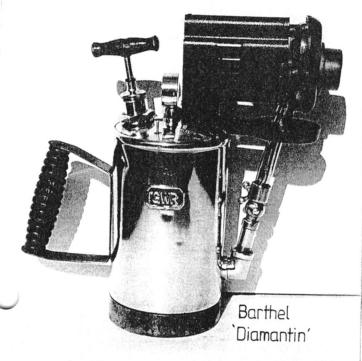
Easilit produced brazing lamps of 2,3,4 & 5 pints

Governor made the 1916, 5.5 pint, in the 1920's

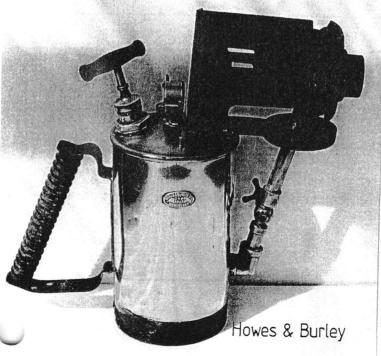
The Bladon 81 came in 5, 6 & 7 pint versions, mostly in steel, but the smallest in brass and all these big lamps were paraffin fuelled.

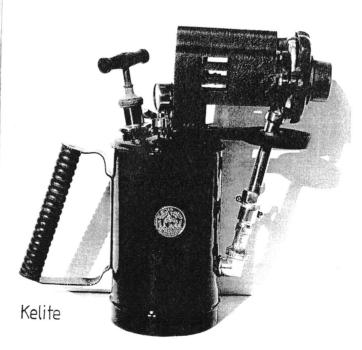
So apart from all those I have mentioned, has anyone got anything else of interest in these

(Editors note: I have a Diamond Brand brazing lamp, which has a 5 pint brass tank, the only difference being the lip between the top and the main body of the tank is larger. The other minor differences are it has a wheel type control knob and cotton reel style of wooden









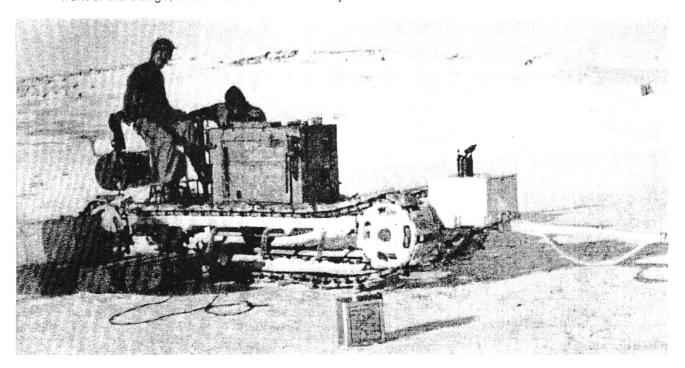
THE ODDBALL COLLECTION

This months offering for the Oddball collection comes from Tom Bartlett and started out life as a Sievert Vapouria No114. Someone has gone to great lengths to graft a brazing lamp head onto the Vapouria tank and it had been very skilfully done. Just what purpose this lamp was put to remains a mystery, unless the owner was a weak man and could not lift the more normal 5 pint brazing lamp.



WORKING BLOWLAMPS

The photograph below, sent in by A.S.Madeley, shows Bernard Day on a motorised sledge, which was part of Scott's expedition to the Antarctic in 1911. Note the blowlamp on the front of the sledge, which I am sure found many uses in such cold conditions.



JOHN SHAW & SONS, WOLVERHAMPTON Ltd. (Governor Trade Mark issued 5th June 1879)

John Shaw of Wolverhampton, factor and merchant, was born in Penn in 1782. reference to the date of the establishment of the business appears in a publication called "The Hardwareman" of 1895, which states that "the earliest surviving records of the business are of the year 1795, though, to be exact; its origin may have been a little earlier". This would make John Shaw 13 years old when he started to trade. Later in the same article, reference is made to "a very old order book" implied to belong to John Shaw, which covers the period 1790 to 1820. In actual fact, it is an order book belonging to the Wilkinson family of Colne, Lancashire. (John Shaw married Elizabeth Wilkinson in 1813) The first authenticable documentary evidence of the establishment of the business does not appear until 1805. John Shaw was the sole proprietor of his wholesale hardware, or factoring business, which was chiefly confined to the home trade, until 1815, when he went into partnership with Henry During the period of the partnership, the Calcutta House of T.E.Thomson & Co (1834) in India, and John Shaw brought his sons into the business. The partnership continued for 33 years, but eventually ended in 1848. Mr Crane continued in business, in Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, on his own account, after the dissolution of Shaw & Crane.

The business now became known as John Shaw & Sons, and around 1852, moved to new premises at 64 Church Lane. With the death of John Shaw in 1858 (aged 76), two of his sons, Thomas Wilkinson Shaw and Edward Dethick Shaw became proprietors (John Shaw Junior having died in India in 1839). The home and export trades were extended in Canada, Australia, the East and West Indies, amongst others. Edward Shaw died in 1886 and his brother Thomas in 1887, creating a problem for the future of the company. Taking advantage of the Limited Liability Act, two companies were registered in 1887, one to take over the East India establishment (*T.E.Thomson &co Ltd*), and one to acquire the Wolverhampton business, John Shaw & Sons Wolverhampton Ltd. All shares were strictly private and were taken by the families of the late partners and brothers.

In 1896, John Shaw & Sons Ltd took over J & W Hawkes of Birmingham and incorporated William & Henry Bate and Owen & Fendlow into the group. 1899 saw John Shaw & Sons Ltd, move to Fryer Street, because the company could not expand any further at their Church Lane premises. In 1906, the group incorporated Onions & Co, of Birmingham.

John Shaw & Sons Ltd became a public company in 1919. By 1937 they had outgrown their Fryer Street premises, and moved to what was known as the Bushbury Works, on Fourth Avenue, Bushbury, taking with them *Jenks Brothers Ltd and the British Tool & Engineering Co Ltd*, (*Britool Ltd*) who had been incorporated that year.

Moore & Wright and Avia Steel & Tool Co Ltd were both incorporated in 1945.

In 1970, the John Shaw group of companies were incorporated by James Neill Holdings PLC, and in 1986 were moved away from the Britool Works in Bushbury; Britool being transferred to Abbey Dropforge in Cannock.

T.E.Thomson & Co Ltd

The first representative of the Wolverhampton firm of Shaw & Crane (later John Shaw & Sons) in India was Thomas E Thomson (an early traveller for the firm). He established T.E.Thomson & Co in 1834 at 2 Old Court House Street, Calcutta. The nature of the business was an "indent business" – it took orders from native firms, and then transmitted them home for execution. However, extensive stocks were kept from the outset. The first shipment of goods charged against the Calcutta branch on 7th November 1834 was for £2,383 and up to mid 1848; goods to the value of £127,000 were shipped to India. The earlier stocks were primarily railway supplies, but the business later developed into a large wholesale and retail concern, carrying heavy stocks of hardware, tools, machine tools, pumps and agricultural implements.

John Shaw junior travelled out to India, but died in 1839 of a recurring illness, during a journey to Meerut. T.E.Thomson died in 1846 and was succeeded by Mr Turner, who continued to conduct the business under the name of T.E.Thomson & Co. In 1853, Mr Taylor died, and Edward Dethick Shaw travelled to Calcutta to see to the affairs of the business. He left early in 1854 and appointed a Mr Webb as manager. It was about this time that the company moved from 2 Old Court House Street to 14 Esplanade East.

Following the deaths of E.D.Shaw and T.W.Shaw in England, T.E Thomson & Co was registered as a limited liability company, at the same time as its parent company, John Shaw & Sons.

In 1947 T.E.Thomson & Co was sold to the Maharaja of Nepal

Jenks Brothers Ltd and British Tool & Engineering Co Ltd (Britool Ltd)

Following the First World War, the British Tool & Engineering Co Ltd suffered a trade slump, as did other engineering companies, as a result of post war conditions. Part of British Tool's works were sub-let to Jenks Brothers in 1925, and this was to the mutual advantage of both companies, as it increased the variety of stock available on the premises, whilst reducing the duplication of stock, and had both of the Jenk brothers in more immediate contact with each other.

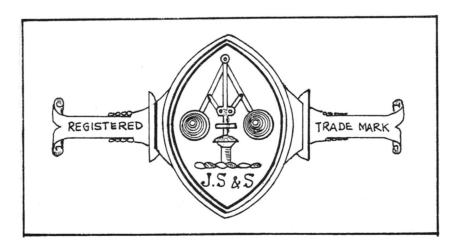
A large transfer of shares occurred in 1928, between Jenks Brothers and British Tool, so that one body of shareholders could own and control the two companies and their businesses.

In 1934, Clement Jenk was elected a director of John Shaw & Sons and in 1937; John Shaw purchased virtually all of the shares in Jenks Brothers and British Tool, and moved both companies to the Britool works in Bushbury. John Shaw also moved to the Britool works at the same time. Jenks Brothers rented one bay, and British Tool & Engineering rented nine and a half bays, and by 1940 the staff of both companies had been merged with John Shaw & Sons.

Records

The records of the aforementioned companies have been divided into convenient groups, these being: A) John Shaw & Sons Ltd. B) T.E.Thomson & Co Ltd. C) Jenks Brothers Ltd and the British Tool & Engineering Co Ltd.

Within the John Shaw section are accounts of the *Lamb Lamp & Tool Co*, who were incorporated by John Shaw & Sons.



The Governor Trade Mark Awarded to John Shaw on 5th June 1879

Are you having any difficulty in obtaining Supplies of Continental

BLOW LAMPS

Registered Trade Mark



If so, we can help you.

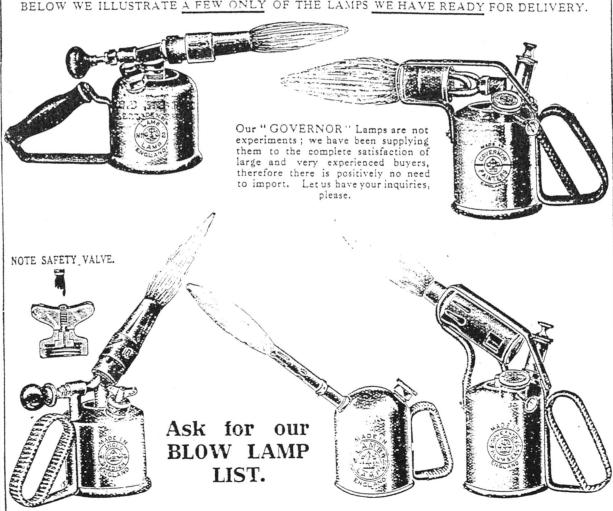
Registered Trade Mark



BRITISH MADE.

CONTINENTAL PATTERNS.

BELOW WE ILLUSTRATE A FEW ONLY OF THE LAMPS WE HAVE READY FOR DELIVERY.



JOHN SHAW & SONS Wolverhampton Ld., WOLVERHAMPTON

DIY TIPS

Bob Prichard has been tinkering about in his workshop in an attempt to make that elusive missing part which would otherwise make a blowlamp complete.

Bob needed a wooden regulator valve handle to complete a Paquelin lamp, and not having a lathe decided to experiment with an electric drill. Starting with an old file handle he inserted a screw centrally into one end so that it was able to be held in the chuck of a drill. The drill was carefully positioned in a Black & Decker Work Mate so that the handle was horizontal and ready for work. Unfortunately the drill speed was too fast to use a chisel, so a file was tried, which made quite a good job and by continuing with various grades of sandpaper the end result was quite acceptable. All you needed was a pair of goggles, a face mask and a huge helping of patience.

So there you are it can be done, with the minimum of equipment.

VINTAGE SPIRIT

We have recently received a letter from a magazine called "Vintage Spirit", which has been running for a year and covers all aspects of steam and vintage transport.

The letter offers all members of the Blowlamp Society a year's subscription for £32-00, a saving of £7-00. As well as this, everyone would receive a free Vintage Spirit mug.

Anyone wanting to subscribe should telephone 01283 742970, quoting the special offer code VS/PR/Mug. Alternative you can subscribe on line at www.vintagespirit.co.uk, using the same special offer code.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

There are still 33 of you who have not renewed your subscription and I would ask that if you would like to continue receiving Blowlamp News, to send your remittance to Keith Hawkins, before the end of March.

For those who have not renewed by that date, we will assume that you no longer wish to be associated with the Blowlamp Society.

Individual reminders are included in case you have mislaid the form.

Acknowledgements:

Tom Bartlett; Michel Duval; Keith Hawkins; A.S.Madeley; Bob Prichard and Graham Stubbs.

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 publication date.

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Back copies of Blowlamp News are available from the editor for the cost of printing and postage. Please telephone for details.

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SATURDAY 14 MAY 2005

FROM 09:00 - 16:00 HOURS

TRUST CENTRE, EAST HILL LANE, EFFINGHAM ROAD, COPTHORNE, SURREY RH10 3HZ

PLEASE CONTACT: ANDY FEAST

5 POLLARDS WOOD ROAD, OXTED, SURREY, RH8 0JN, ENGLAND

TEL 01883 722079

EMAIL: ANDREWANDVERA@aol.com

(INCLUSIVE OF SANDWICHES/ROLLS/TEA AND COFFEE) PRICE: £10.00 PER ADULT

PLEASE SEND CASH OR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: A FEAST OR PAY ON THE DAY (PLEASE ADVISE IF COMING)

BRING ALONG SWAPS/FOR SALE

DIRECTIONS FROM M25 FOR EXHIBITION (APPROX 7 MILES FROM M25)

JUNCTION 6 M25, A22 SOUTHBOUND EXIT TOWARDS EAST GRINSTEAD

ENTER NEXT ROUNDABOUT AND TAKE THE 2ND EXIT ONTO EASTBOURNE ROAD

EASTBOURNE ROAD BECOMES STATION ROAD

STATION ROAD BECOMES EASTBOURNE ROAD (SOUTH GODSTONE)

STRAIGHT OVER TRAFFIC LIGHTS (AFTER PETROL STATION)

CARRY ON A22 TO NEXT ROUNDABOUT

TURN RIGHT AT ROUNDABOUT TOWARDS HORLEY/EFFINGHAM PARK B2037 - WEST PARK ROAD

FOLLOW ROAD TO END FOR APPROX 2 MILES

TURN RIGHT STAGGERED CROSS ROADS ONTO SNOW HILL

CONTINUE ALONG SNOW HILL INTO EFFINGHAM ROAD FOR APPROX 0.75 MILE

EAST HILL LANE APPROX 100 METRES PAST HEDGEHOG PUB

ON SITE - CARAVAN AND CAMPING AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM 01293 822014 BRIAN HAMES (PAYABLE DIRECT)