

BLOWLAMP NEWS

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

VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES SUPPLEMENT

For those members who bought a copy of Vintage Blowtorches, produced by Ron Carr, Charles Smith and Graham Stubbs, you will be interested to hear that a supplement is well on the way to completion and is likely to be 250 pages of information both on known makes of torch and newly discovered makes.

Anyone wanting to obtain a copy should either email Ron direct at ronlv@cox.net or contact me and I will pass the information on. My contact details are on the back page.

RECENT FINDS

Chris Naylor has sent details of three blowlamps he has acquired and hope they will be of some interest to members.

The first lamp is a Bladon, which has a date of 1926 stamped on the base. Chris finds the date interesting as it was thought that Bladon did not start making blowlamps until 1927.



The control knob is unusual for a Bladon lamp but it would appear to be original. The brass plate soldered to the side of the tank is typical of blowlamps used by the GPO.

The second lamp is by Criscol; a lamp which is on the list of British Manufacturers, but they are quite scarce.





The final lamp in Chris' selection is this Hahnel which he thinks is unusual with regard to the position of the pump. If anyone has a lamp with a similar layout, please let me know.

BITS & PIECES



Not wishing to be outdone with the Bits & Pieces feature, Keith Hawkins has sent his selection of cans, spanners etc.

GERMAN WW2 MILITARY BLOWLAMPS

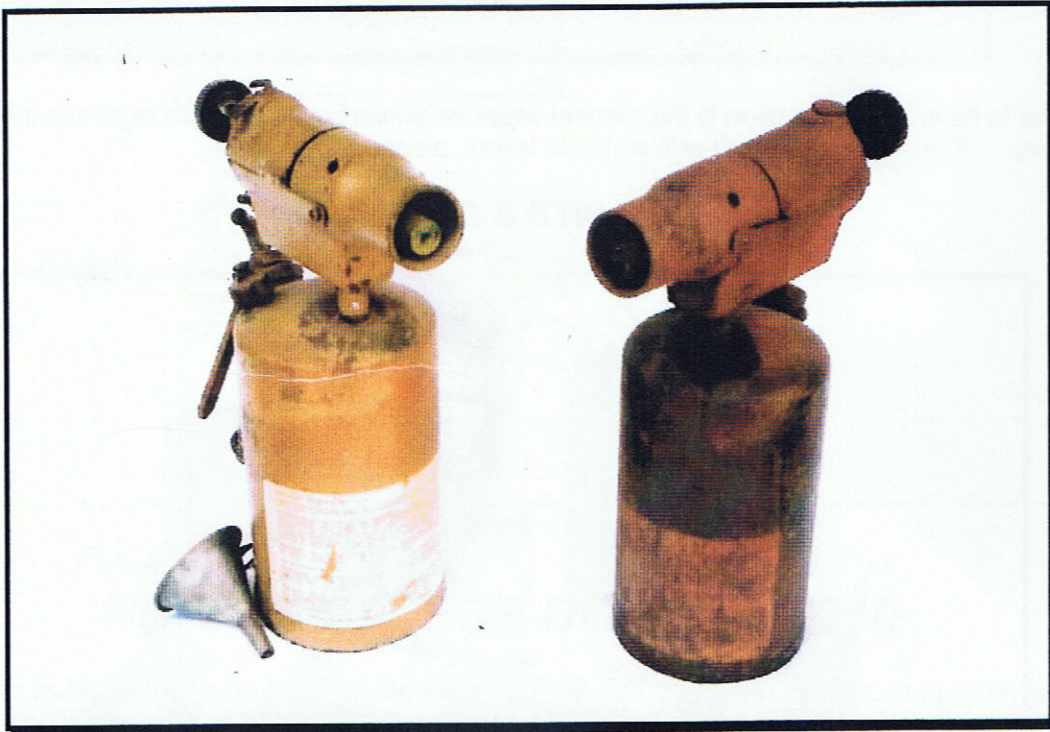
by
Keith Hawkins

The German army during WW2 had many different blowlamps of 1,2,3 & 4 litre capacity and it would seem that every vehicle carried one for running repairs, helping to start engines in cold weather and in the case of those taking part in the Russian theatre of war, using them to keep the vehicle engines from freezing up in temperatures of minus 40 degrees centigrade.

On a rally field some years ago I met a man who had been a POW in a camp in Eastern Poland and in the course of conversation he told me that the Germans kept men with blowlamps to play over their vehicle engines to stop them freezing at night. The Russians, who had plenty of oil and fuel, just left their engines running, but due to the long distances the Germans had to bring their fuel, they could not do this, hence the blowlamps. This was also one of the reasons why the capture of Stalingrad was so important, as it was the gateway to the Caucasus oil fields.

As Winston Churchill once said in a speech; "Hitler made a serious mistake when he invaded Russia – he forgot about the Russian winter" – I wouldn't have made a mistake like that, but he did". For my own thoughts I always wondered why Hitler thought he could beat the winter when only some 135 years earlier, Napoleon had totally failed; losing most of his army to the cold.

So here we come to the first two lamps, which appear to be identical, but which are not.



The left hand lamp, reputed to have been made for the Afrika Corps, hence the sandy colour for use in the desert. This is a MISLER M, No K/5512/3, marked on the burner and the control knob MISLER PARIS. The right hand lamp has the same number K5512, and BARTHEL on the control knob. Near the bottom of the tank appears the name of J.M.Schultze, with K5512 below it, both engraved into the metalwork. The burners on both tanks are identical and are of steel, whilst the pump assembly and filler caps are of low quality alloy.

These two used petrol for fuel and were of 2 litre capacity. I note that all German military lamps were petrol, whereas the British had to carry paraffin to fuel their lamps, which meant they needed to carry a different fuel just to cook and mend things with.



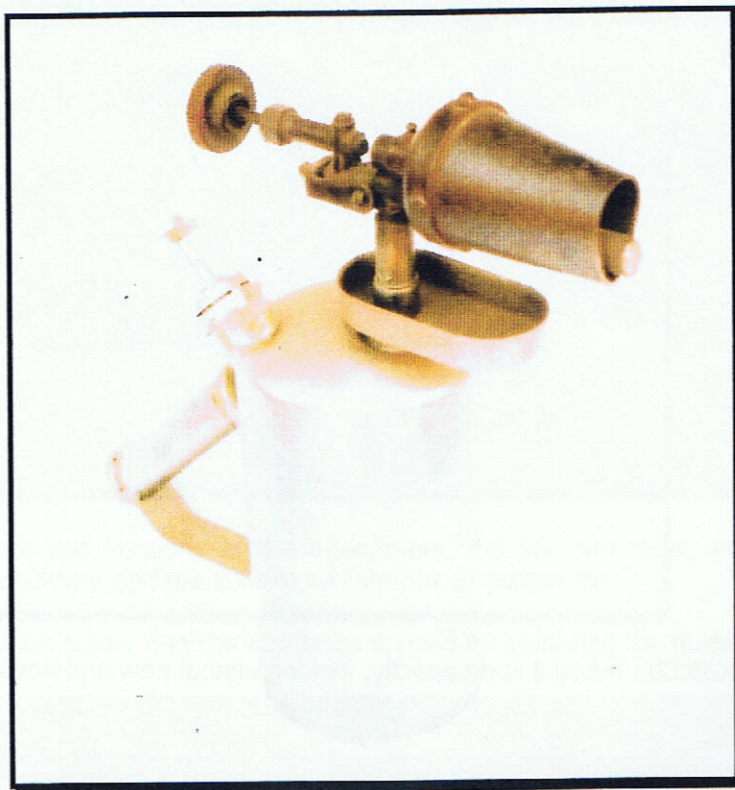
Another MISSLER K5512/3 but of 3 litre capacity, looking almost new and unused, which I bought in Norway.



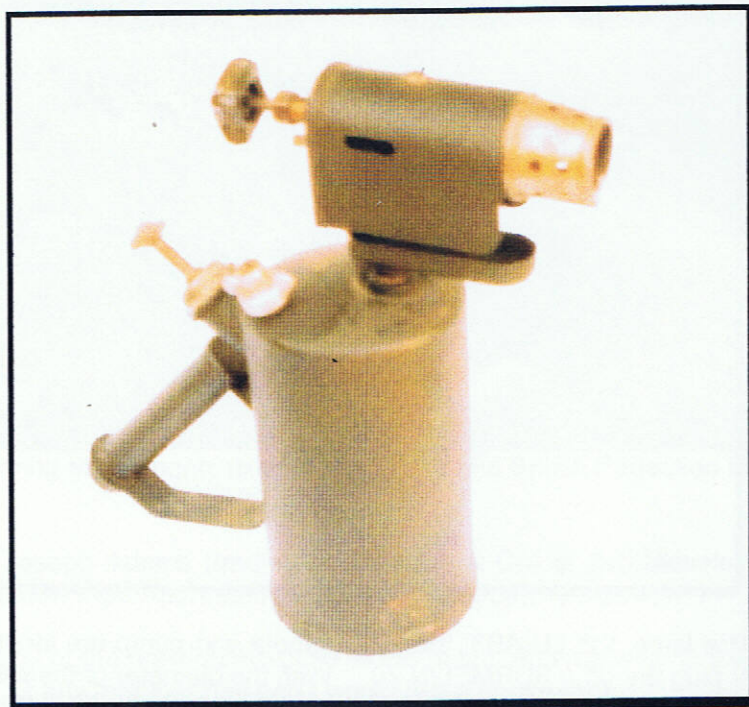
This is another 3 litre lamp, the LU-AB3; the tank, handle and pump are identical to the MISSLER, but the burner and filler plug are off a SURMELIN 20. With the diameter of the filler being so small, it would have taken ages to fill. But now the question is; who manufactured it? Was it SURMELIN or was it MISSLER using SURMELIN parts for the LU - AB3, bearing in mind that the tanks were the same and according to the stamp on one of the MISSLER lamps, were made in Paris. Any comments from our French members would be welcome.

I had another lamp, a LU - TECA of 2 litre capacity. Where did this one fit? Was it something to do with the LU - AB3 or did the TECA relate to a TELCALAMIT, which I believe was a French company,

making other things related to the car market. Unfortunately I do not have a photograph of this lamp as I sold it and can't remember to whom, so if you are the owner of the lamp perhaps you could send the Editor a photograph to be included in the December newsletter.



The TECALAMIT, again numbered K5512 of 2 litre capacity, petrol fuelled.



The TAT DR – 10. Was this another relation of the TECALAMIT, but slightly superior to the others as it boasted a brass burner; although all the other parts were of the usual low quality alloy?

The last blowlamp in this feature is the BARTHEL EB740, which when compared with the BM740 bears no likeness whatsoever.



This is of 4 litre capacity and every part is of steel production. This is a fine lamp and it has a soldered on plate with EB740 Barthel engraved on it. I have never seen another one so has any other member got one? There does not appear to be any catalogue information either.

I guess that all the wartime blowlamps were made of steel to release the brass for the manufacture of shell cases, as it was generally accepted that shell cases could not be made from steel. However this proved to be not altogether true as the US government asked Clayton & Lambert if they could make 40mm shell cases of steel. C & L experimented for 2 years and then produced one which worked perfectly and in the last 13 months of the WW2, produced 26,000,000 of them.

Please note, Keith is reducing his collection and all the lamps featured in this article are for sale. If you are interested in any or all of them, or if you have a particular blowlamp your looking for it would be worth contacting him on 01525 290122.

BURRIDGE & Co

We are all probably familiar with the Burridge blowlamp which is stamped "BRITISH PERFECTION BLOWLAMP BURRIDGE & Co PATENT No 3128". There are two variations of this lamp, one with a horizontal burner and one with an inclined burner.

Although basically the same blowlamp there are some other subtle differences, the lamp with the inclined burner has a shorter handle and a more conventional filler cap with the two lugs, whereas the lamp with the horizontal burner has a hexagonal shaped filler cap with a pressure release devise in the centre.



The two British Perfection lamps

Other blowlamps in the Burrige range are the "Snake", which has an inclined burner, more on the style of other petrol lamps and has a single control valve.



The Snake

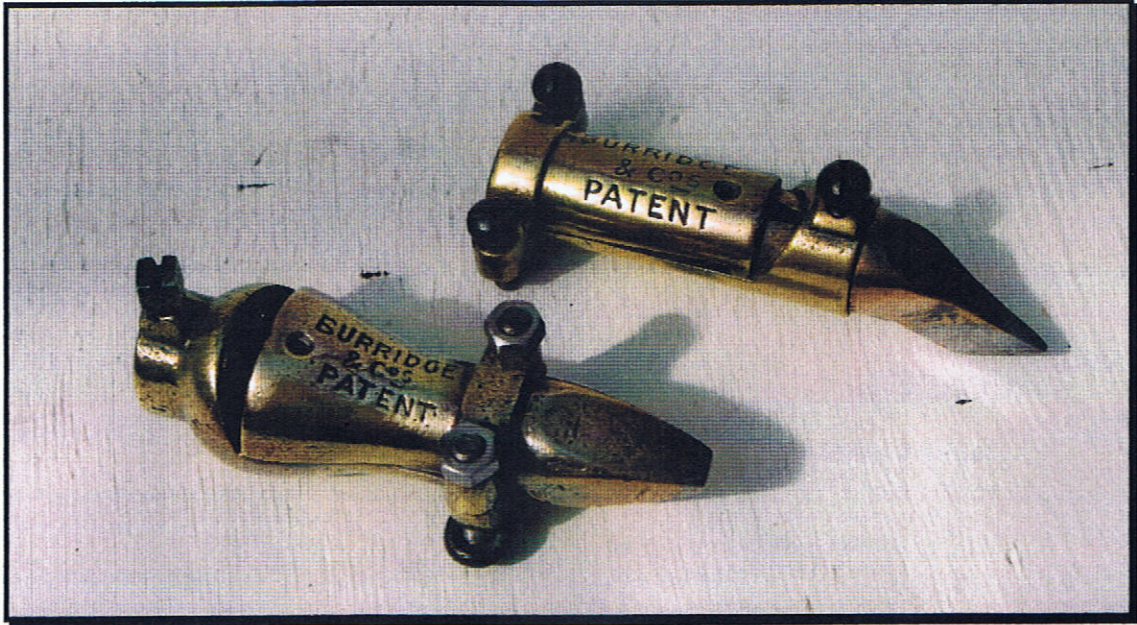
Probably the rarest of the Burrige blowlamps is the vertical; in fact I have only ever seen one and that is owned by John Tingle.



The next photograph shows a larger blowlamp with a totally different layout to the usual Burrige. This lamp has a slightly inclined vertical handle incorporating a pump.



The earliest documentation I can find relating to Burrige blowlamps is dated 30th January 1899, when a Joseph Adams of 203 Moseley Road, Birmingham (Funeral Furnisher) and George Alfred Burrige of 42 Camp Hill, Birmingham (Mechanic), registered a patent for a soldering attachment which could be clamped onto the burner of any ordinary blowlamp. (The device is illustrated for the purpose of the patent application, attached to a Sievert blowlamp).



As you will see there are two versions of the attachment, the top one most resembles the drawing attached to the patent document and there were two shapes of copper tip.

The provisional specification states that the appliance is used for soldering the metallic shells of coffins.



The soldering attachments fixed to the Snake and British Perfection lamps.

On 28th January 1905, Joseph Adams (trading as Burrige & Co) of 240 Moseley Road, Birmingham registered a patent for a Blow Pipe Apparatus for soldering and other purposes.

On the next page is a copy of the drawing attached to the patent and it is a lamp the like of which I have never seen or knew of. If any member has one I would like a photograph.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

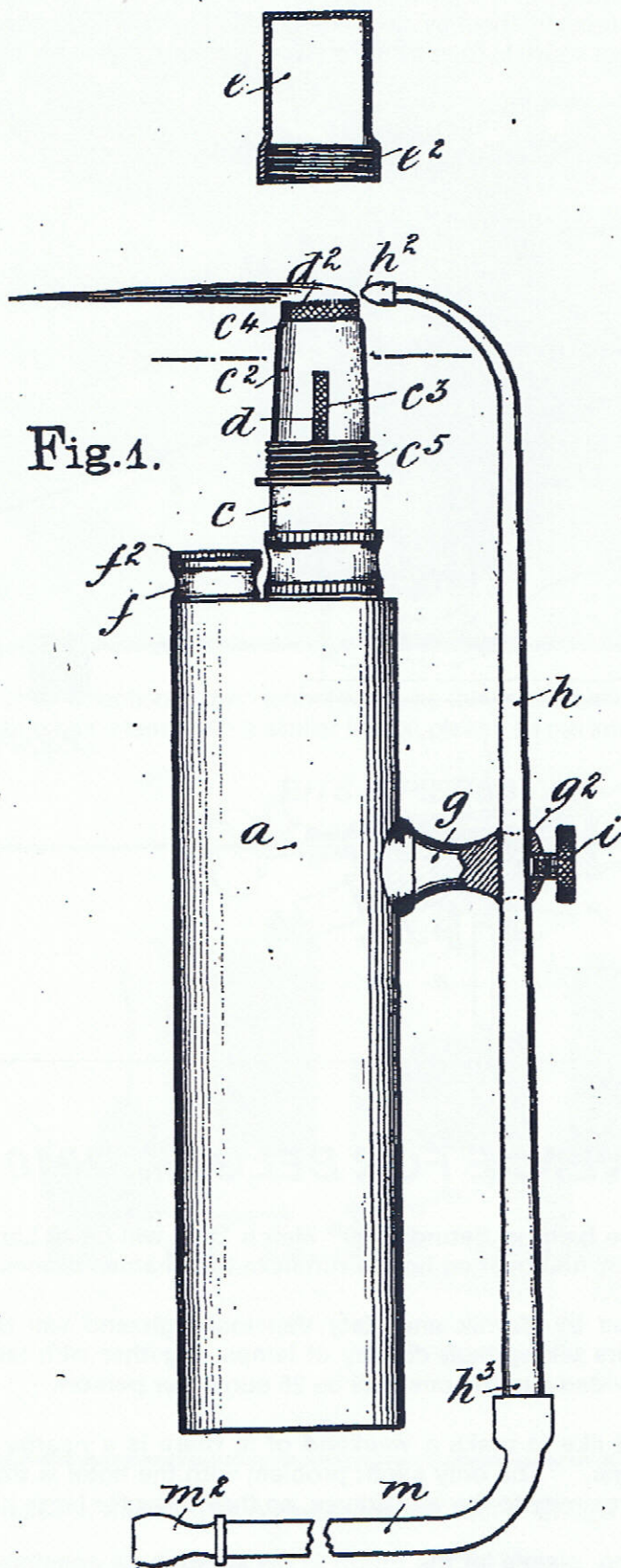
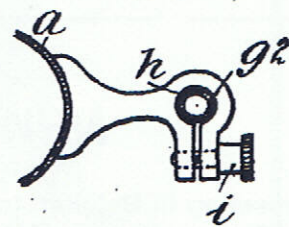


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

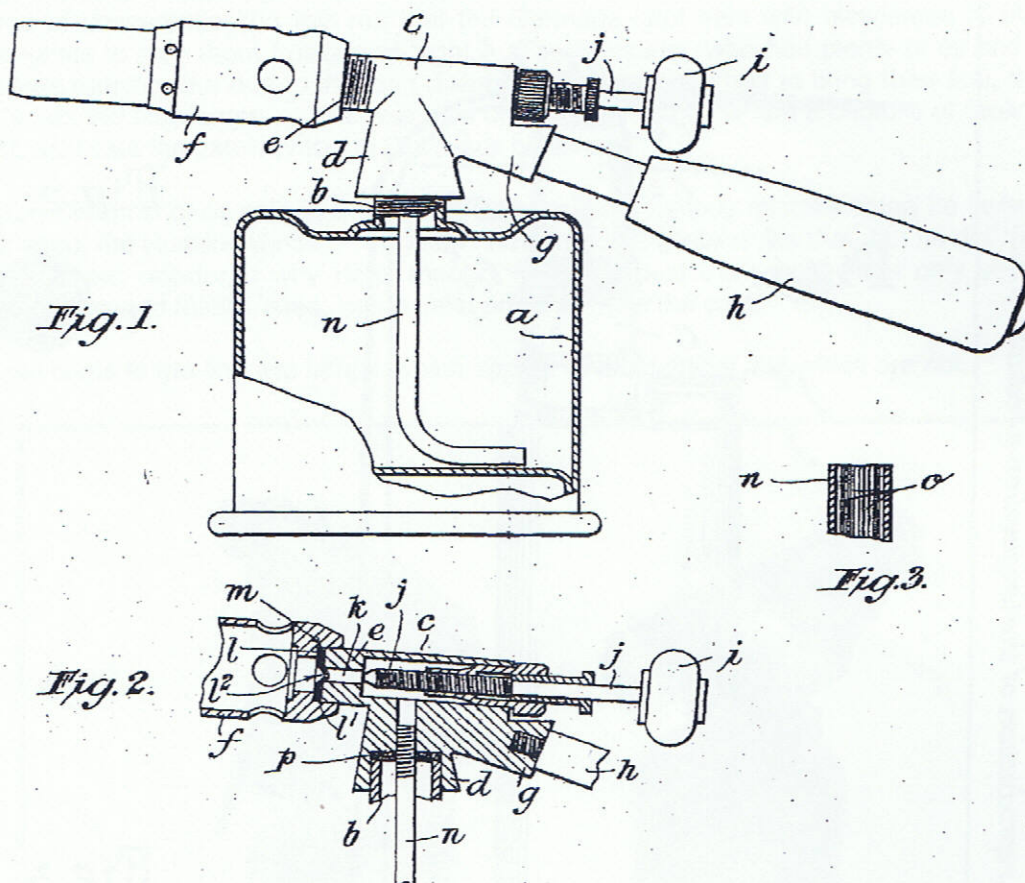


STAMING
FREE
LIBRARIES

The final patent document is dated 10th October 1913, when George Alfred Burrige, now residing at 2 Wind Street, Llanelli, together with Samuel Ball of 17 Lloyd Street, Llanelli, South Wales (Plumbers) registered a patent for an improved blowlamp so designed that the user can clean and inspect every working part externally and internally. The lamp draws oil without the need for a wick, which removes the danger to the user which is brought about by stoppages caused by charring and swelled wicks. The tank is a seamless steel container which is filled by unscrewing the burner assembly.

A.D. 1913, Oct. 10. N^o 22,909.
BURRIDGE & another's COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

(1 SHEET)



NEW VENUE FOR BELGIUM 2010

The meeting in Belgium to be held on Saturday 20th March 2010 will be at Langemark, which is about 6km North East of Ypres, just over an hour's run from the channel tunnel.

The event is being organised by Marnik and Katy Van Insbergh and will take the format of previous years, with collectors taking their display of lamps, together with lamps for exchange and sale. Lunch will be provided and the cost will be 25 euros per person.

For those of you who would like to make a weekend of it, there is a nearby hotel with a very reasonable rate for their rooms. The only slight problem with the hotel is that they are always very busy because of their proximity to the war graves, so they cater for large parties.

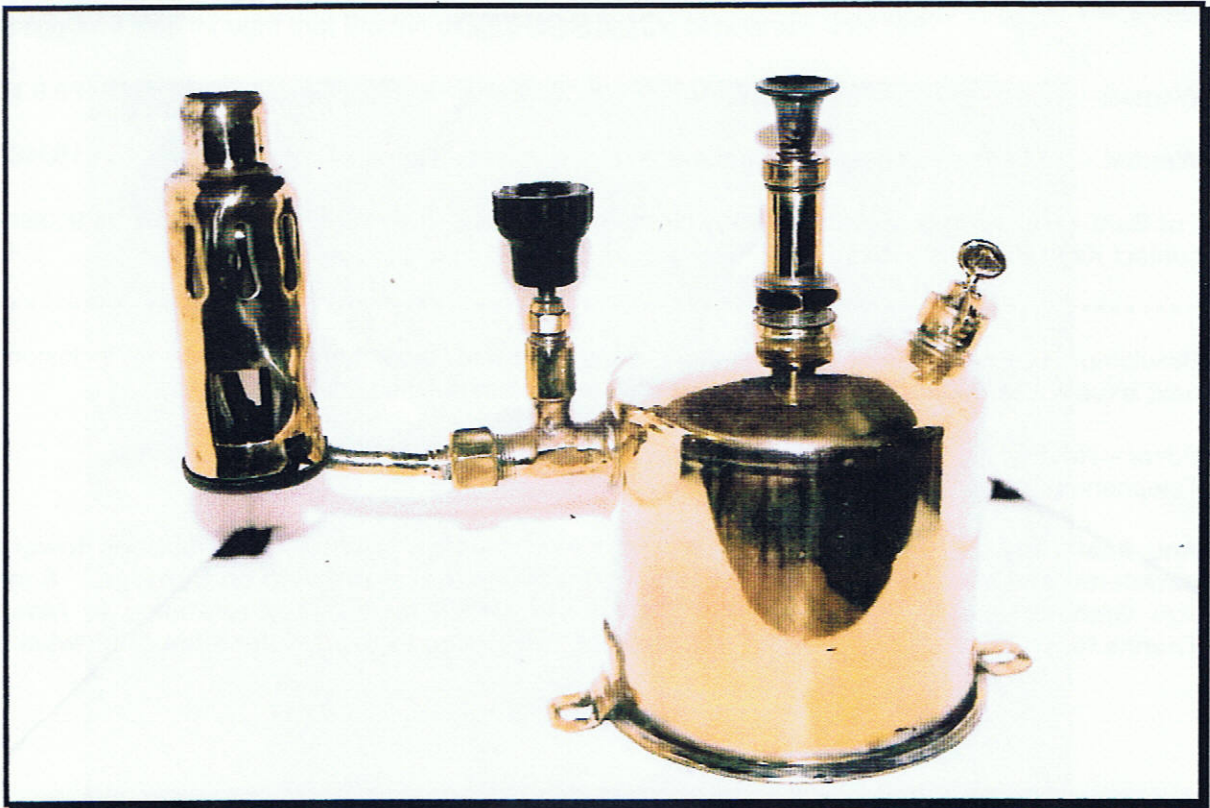
If you are interested in staying, please let the Editor know as soon as possible so arrangements can be confirmed. Also Marnik has invited anyone travelling on the Friday to visit his home for a chat about blowlamps and a drink.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

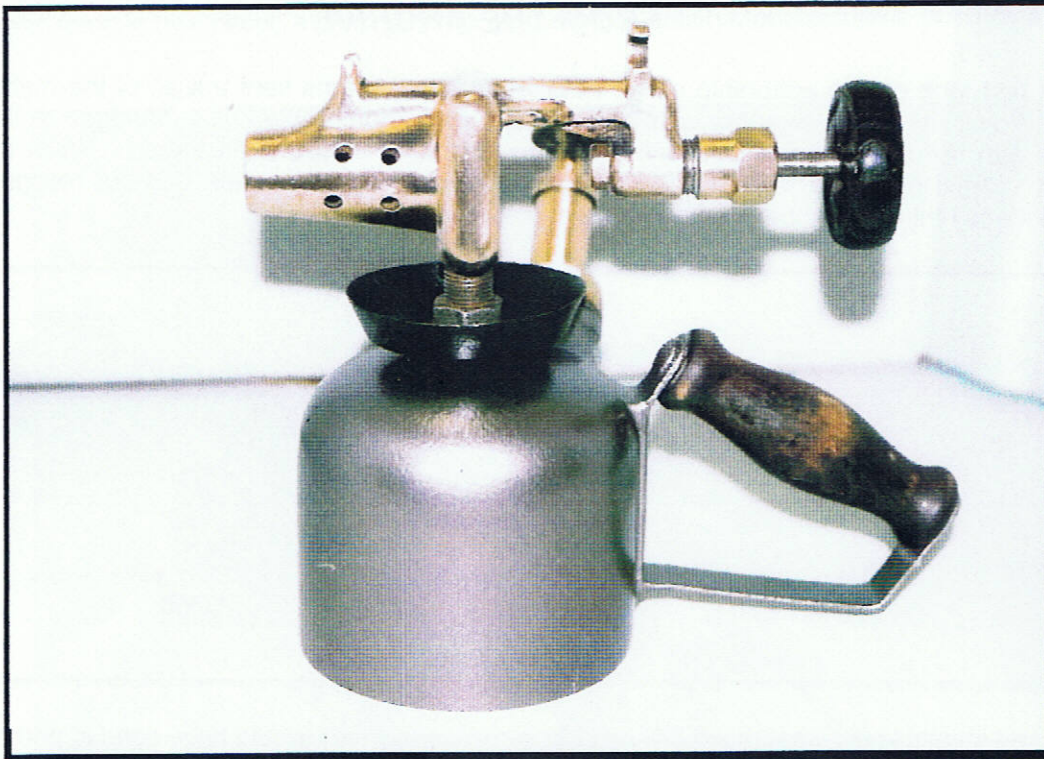
When I first took on the editorship of the newsletter, Gina Adams sent me all of the material Les had gathered over the years, together with several members' photographs. I managed to fill a couple of albums with the photographs, but have never managed to complete an index. With this in mind I thought I would publish a few each issue to try to identify the blowlamps I do not recognise and also publish those I think would be of interest to readers.



I am sure I should know what make this is, but I can't think where I would have seen it, perhaps you can help.



From the control knob and pump, I am sure this one was made by Bladon, but quite what it was used for, I am not sure. There are a couple of lugs at the base of the tank, presumably for fixing into position. Can anybody help?



Finally I have included this one, just for the intricate burner, again what make is it?

CLASSIFIED

Wanted – Soldering iron attachment for Valtock 2000 blowlamp. Contact Bob Prichard 02476 636363.

Wanted – Soldering iron heaters, petrol, paraffin or gas fired. Contact Ray Hyland 01449 615648

For Sale – Reducing collection, so many blowlamps for sale. If you are looking for any particular lamp, contact Keith Hawkins 01525 290122.

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

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And finally my thanks to Chris Naylor and Keith Hawkins for their contributions towards this newsletter and also to Graham Stubbs who helped with the information on Burrige. Some time ago Graham trawled through the British Patents Office to find any reference to blowlamps. Thanks to his efforts I have a list of 180 Patents, all relating to the development of blowlamps.