

# ***BLOWLAMP NEWS***

**BN 100**

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**2017**

The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society - Editor Graham Stubbs - [blowlampsociety@gmail.com](mailto:blowlampsociety@gmail.com)

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*[www.blowlampsociety.com](http://www.blowlampsociety.com)*



**BLOWLAMP SOCIETY MEMBERS  
AT CROMFORD  
(See page 2)**

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**ISSUE 100 OF *BLOWLAMP NEWS*  
THE DARLTON STORY  
DUBOIS**

**ANCIENT HISTORY  
EOLIPYLES: PART TWO  
RALLIES**

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**COVER PHOTO**

This picture is from Carolyn Rhodes. "Two members having a chat at our stall at Cromford. The show is not actually in Cromford, it is just outside of Tansley – the Matlock area of Derbyshire." Dave Thomas is on the left and Trevor Bold on the right. Between them on the table is a flyer for the Blowlamp Society.



**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS  
& ONE HUNDRED ISSUES OF  
BLOWLAMP NEWS**

On page three is a copy of the letter written by Les Adams in 1992 for the very first issue of **BLOWLAMP NEWS**, suggesting the formation of a subscription newsletter group. (BN1 and all the other past issues of BN are on the website [www.blowlampsociety.com](http://www.blowlampsociety.com))

Keith Hawkins submitted the photograph at right, a reminder of the close friendships between members of the British group and blowlamp collectors on the Continent.

The meeting was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1999 in the Belgian town Mouscron, close to the French / Belgian border. Les Adams and several other British collectors were there; Les's meeting report appeared in BN28 the next month.

Michel Duval identified a few of the people in the picture from Mouscron 1999.

- 1 – Michel Duval
- 2 - John Byrne
- 3 - Dave Rees
- 4 - Les Adams
- 5 - Jean-Claude Rodelis (ex-treasurer of French Club)
- 6 - Tom Bartlett
- 7 - Charles Walburger (ex-member of French Club),
- 8 - Joan Rees
- 9 - Willy Mouton (Belgian collector)

Michel also provided this photo from a later meeting, with Keith Hawkins, Michel Duval and Dave Rees.



## BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 11 August 1992

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Dear Colleague and Fellow Blowlamp Collector

A number of collectors and others interested in Blowlamps have told me at various exhibitions that they would be interested in an informal periodical to exchange ideas and information. Everyone is aware that there is no published literature about a subject which is of interest to a surprising number of people in the UK and on the Continent.

I recall taking your name either at 'Stourpaine' or at one of the other shows where I have exhibited my collection, and have taken the liberty of including you in the first pilot newsletter. My proposal is that initially an A4 sheet newsletter, published quarterly, could be produced for £2.50 annually. If the copy requires more than one sheet this annual subscription would need to be reviewed.

I would see the format developing to include drawings or photographs of blowlamps or their component parts, inscriptions and trademarks. This material would be published either for information, or for the purpose of requesting information, on identification, origin or dating details. The aim would be for subscribers to furnish such information for subsequent publication when sufficient detail was available. A pool of information would thus accumulate which would be available to any who might need it. Perhaps a particular topic could be chosen for each quarter - for example handle design, safety valves or trademarks - and opinions canvassed for publication the next quarter.

I believe the first few issues should be concerned with contributors offering opinions and advice on what they would like to see included, and then when the system is up and running there would be more 'meat' in each edition. To start the ball rolling I have included drawings of three handles and two trademarks for comment. I apologise to the experts, but I believe this newsletter is needed by beginners as a guide in their new hobby. In any case, experts often do not agree and can also be wrong!

Those of you who exhibit at other shows might like to list where you will be on the appropriate dates, which might lead to local personal contacts. Also, if you know of others who collect, or who are interested, or who indeed might have useful information through having worked for blowlamp manufacturers or tool merchants and would like to receive newsletters, please send me their details for inclusion in the circulation list. This newsletter might also be used as a means of sale or exchange of collected items or spares.

If you are interested in continuing to receive and to contribute - because without your contributions there will be little to publish - please let me know and I shall be happy to retain your name on the list. Needless to say I shall also be happy to receive your subscription.

On the production side I am proposing to photocopy or duplicate, or even print if numbers justify. If there are any members who have access to equipment or supplies which might assist the economy of the exercise I should be pleased to hear from you. Similarly if any of you have special talents - for example drawing or photography - such help would also be welcomed.

This whole idea has come from you and I hope many of you will find benefit from it. Without your support through contributing it cannot succeed; with it I believe we can learn a lot more about our hobby and derive a lot more enjoyment from it.

I look forward to hearing from you and in any case meeting you again soon at 'Stourpaine'.

Les Adams

**ONslow PARK RALLY, SHREWSBURY**

From Caroline Rhodes

In late August 2017, Caroline and Max Rhodes attended the Onslow Park Steam Rally near Shrewsbury. (The Shropshire Star said that about 20,000 people were expected to be there.)

Caroline reported:

“We saw collector and member Malcolm Forster (right) on a day out with his friend Mick Drabble (left).”



Always on the lookout for blowlamp collectors, Caroline was evidently on a mission to find more:

“We found out that there was one person there with a blowlamp display, so I went off in search for it, got lost, and walked for what seemed like miles. The next day, Sunday, I tried again with the same results. Then, on Sunday night, our neighbouring trader told us that he had found it, and took us down to it. We would never have found it because we had no idea that the rally was as big as it was, and didn't even know that the show extended into the field he was in. Anyway, we had a quick chat and he allowed me to take a picture of him next to his collection I went back the next morning and took a picture of his wife standing next to the display



Their names are John and Linda Bird, from Walsall in the West Midlands.

John is not a member of the Society. He used to be a painter and used one of these lamps for his work. When he left the job, they let him keep his blowlamp and this was what started his interest.”



## EOLIPYLES PART TWO

By Charles Smith

### Breuzin Eolipyles-Three Additional Types

Alfred Breuzin is the only manufacturer I know that produced different-shaped cutout patterns on the sides of his Eolipyles. I am familiar with four cutout patterns on early Alfred Breuzin Eolipyles including the "latticework" pattern discussed in the last issue of Blowlamp News (BN 99, June, 2017). These three additional types, other than latticework, are informally referred to as (1) the Circle-Club-Circle pattern, (2) the 5-Point Star pattern, and (3) the Circle-Club-Ellipse cutout pattern. Existing information indicates that all four types of Breuzin Eolipyles date from about 1860 to about 1880. Early records are quite rare and the exact chronology of issuance of each type is currently uncertain. However, based on known dates, the chronology seems to be that the Eolipyles with the Circle-Club-Circle pattern was the earliest, followed by the 5-Point Star pattern, then the latticework type, and last the type with the Circle-Club-Ellipse cutout pattern. The three additional types are discussed and illustrated here.

#### Circle-Club-Circle Cutout Pattern

This represents the rarest type of all known Breuzin Eolipyles. The stands are made of both iron as well as copper. The "loop" handles are made of iron with both the lower alcohol lamp and upper fuel chamber being made of copper. The unusual flattened top of the fuel chamber seems to represent an early feature in Eolipyle development (Fig. 1). The cutout consists of a central small circle with a club cutout located both north-south and east-west of the center. Another small circle is located between each pair of clubs.

Fig. 1



The top front part of the fuel chamber (Fig. 2) contains the imprint "MARQUE DE FABRIQUE" meaning trademark. The absence of the word "DÉPOSÉ" indicates that Breuzin had not yet registered his trademark. In the middle part of the imprint are the initials "AB" of Alfred Breuzin and the lower part is occupied by the word "INVENTEUR" meaning inventor.



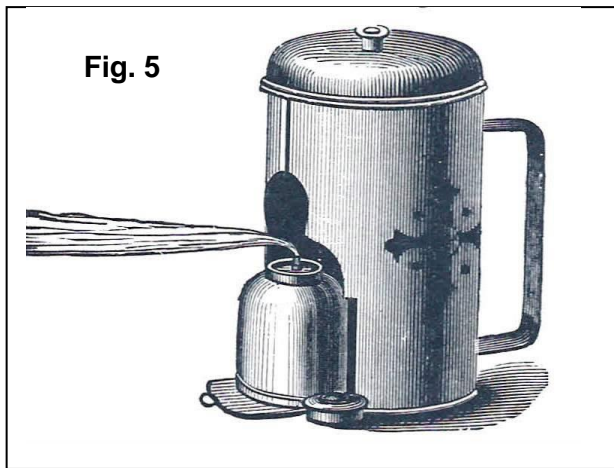
Fig. 2

There are multiple lines of evidence indicating that the Eolipyles containing this circle-club-circle cutout pattern are the earliest of the Breuzin torches. First, the initials "AB" and the word "INVENTEUR" is almost the same imprint as seen on earlier Breuzin "Lampe Docimastique" (Figs. 3-4; to be discussed in a future issue). The period of transition between "Lampe Docimastique" and the earliest known Breuzin Eolipyle dates to about 1860. Secondly, this imprint does not contain the word "DÉPOSÉ", meaning registered. An early 1875 Breuzin advertisement makes no mention of the word



Fig. 3

“DÉPOSÉ” in the trademark, yet a similar illustrated advertisement dated 1879 shows the word above the three stars. It seems likely, then, that the Circle-Club-Circle Eolipyles were manufactured sometime during the period between 1860 and 1879. For the record, the earliest known trade literature listing this type of Eolipyle is from a Goodnow & Wightman tools catalog published in Boston and dated 1878 (Fig. 5). The 18-year gap between the two dates (1860-1878) only highlights the lack of early Eolipyle publicity.



**Five-Point Star Cutout Pattern**

There are two known “varieties” of Eolipyle with the 5-point stars cutout, the earliest consists of a copper stand which is somewhat cone shaped and is slightly larger at its base (87 mm) than the top (65 mm) (Figs. 6-8). This variety is different from all other Breuzin Eolipyles in having a sloping stand, a “C-shaped” copper sheet metal handle, and in having the cutout in the back of the stand.

**Fig. 4**



**Fig. 6**



**Fig. 7**



**Fig. 8**





Unlike the variety with the sloping stand, we do have dated publicity about this later version of the Breuzin Eolipyle with the 5-point star cutout pattern. Fig. 12 shows an engraving of this same Breuzin Eolipyle with stars. This page was taken from a Foulquier & Eymar tool catalog, Paris, having the date September 15, 1879. It seems reasonable, then, that the stars cutout on the cylindrical stand must date to as early as 1879. If the version with the cone-shaped stand is earlier, then it must predate 1879. And if the Breuzin Eolipyle with the latticework cutout is known to date to 1881, then the order of manufacturing might be the 5-point star followed by the latticework pattern.

### **Circle-Club-Ellipse Cutout Pattern**

Eolipyles having what I call the circle-club-ellipse cutout pattern are the most common of the four types of Alfred Breuzin torches. This pattern consists of a central circular opening with cutouts resembling a “club” located north-south and east-west around the circle. Between each pair of “clubs” is the cutout of a small ellipse, thus the name circle-club-ellipse (Fig. 13). Eolipyles having this cutout pattern are known to have been manufactured with both an iron and a copper stand and in a series of five sizes, the No. 1 being 6.5 cm in diameter by 13 cm in height and the No. 5, the largest, being 10 cm in diameter and 17 cm in height.



**Fig. 13**

When sold, some of the Eolipyles were provided with what has been called a “cup for filling”. The cup is made of thin brass and has a small crease, or lip, along one side. Interestingly, the back of these stands were also made with a small “v-shaped” notch. When the upper fuel chamber is removed from the stand and replaced by the brass cup, the cup fits snugly with its “lip” resting in the notch in the stand (Figs. 14-15). Because the stand is “notched”, I believe the cup was not only designed for filling the fuel chamber but, with the fuel chamber removed, additionally served as a cup for heating liquids, or perhaps shaving cream, or perhaps wax. I’m simply guessing.



**Fig. 14**



**Fig. 15**

Breuzin Eolipyles having this circle-club-ellipse cutout pattern are known to be imprinted with three different markings, one with the word “DÉPOSÉ” indicating that the trademark had been patented, and two lacking the “DÉPOSÉ”, or patented, mark. The reason for so many markings is unknown to me. This is the latest in the series of Breuzin Eolipyles and perhaps the several imprints represent different times in the extended manufacturing and marketing history of these burners.





Fig.16



Fig.17



Fig.18

The imprint shown in Figure 16 is on a Breuzin Eolipyle having an iron stand. It lacks the word “DÉPOSÉ”, suggesting that the trademark had not yet been registered. As noted in the discussion of the circle-club-circle imprint (above), if real and not just an incomplete imprint, this would date the Eolipyle to a period between 1875 and 1879. The trademark shown in Figure 17 also lacks the engraved “DÉPOSÉ” mark. This imprint, however, also has the lettering “BTÉ S.G.D.G.”. The “BTÉ” is the abbreviation of the word “breveté” meaning patented, to indicate there is an existing patent about some aspect of this Eolipyle. The letters “S.G.D.G.” stand for “Sans Garantie Du Gouvernement” meaning without the guarantee of the government. Thus the French government is not responsible for the proper use or functioning of the patented object. In France, the use of the notation “S.G.D.G.” dates from 1844 and was discontinued in 1968. Figure 18 shows the registered trademark imprint found on several examples of the Breuzin Eolipyle with the circle-club-ellipse cutout. The presence of the word “DÉPOSÉ” indicates that the trademark has been registered, further suggesting its age as being on or after 1879. Note that the pattern of the three stars is placed in a more horizontal fashion, and that the “points” of the stars are oriented randomly and not symmetrically as seen on other similar Breuzin registered marks.

My guess, and it is strictly only that, is that the Eolipyles having the trademark seen in Figure 16 are perhaps the earliest, with the marking seen in Figure 17 being produced somewhat later, and the last, or latest Eolipyles would have been marked with the imprint shown in Figure 18. It seems likely, then, that the Eolipyles having the circle-club-ellipse cutout pattern must date from a few years prior to 1879. Its latest documented publicity dates from page 316 in a C. (Charles) Nurse & Co. tool catalog published in London about 1910 (Fig. 19).

**Improved Self-  
blowing Paint-removing  
and Soldering Lamp.**

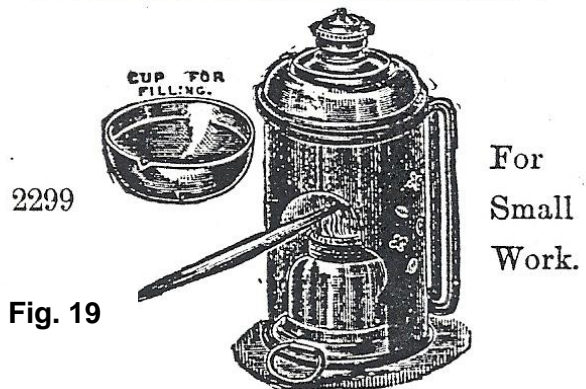


Fig. 19

Black Japanned Body, the Lamp and Reservoir are made of Copper.

Nos. 1, 3/9 ; 2, 4/6 ; 3, 5/6 ; 4, 6/6 each.

As noted in my earlier article, if you have comments or questions about this article, or questions about Eolipyles in general, please contact me through my email address in our membership directory. My sincere gratitude is again expressed to both Michel Duval and Graham Stubbs for their encouragement and advice with the preparation of this contribution.

**DUBOIS "CHALUMEAU AMÉRICAIN"**

From Arthur Warhurst & Michel Duval



Arthur Warhurst submitted photos of an odd-looking lamp, missing part of its bottom cover. The nameplate is marked: "CHALUMEAU AMÉRICAIN BREVETÉ A.F."



From Michel Duval came pictures and an explanation:

Yes, I know this blowlamp and I have one. It is very rare; this one is only the third I have seen !!! I found a small advert dated 1903. It is very similar. "DUBOIS" could be a retailer (reseller) or the manufacturer, I don't know. The address is "DUBOIS Paul 26, rue Corbeau PARIS"

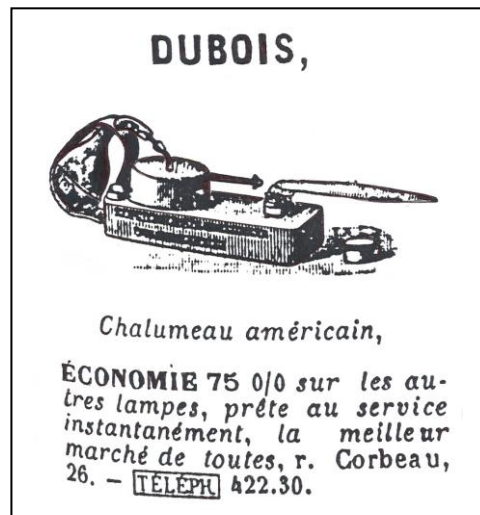
I don't know why "AMÉRICAIN" (from America) or the meaning of "A.F". There is the word "BREVETÉ" (patented) but I didn't find a patent for this blowlamp.

Attached are photos of mine and one belonging to Jean-Yves Lecam . Originally, mine was nickel-plated but, when I purchase it on eBay, the plating was damaged. So, I redid the plating and added the rubber bulb and hose as shown in the 1903 advert.

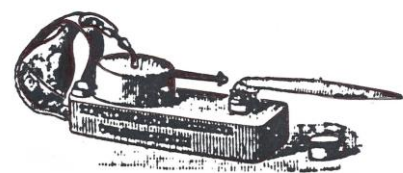
The wick cap on my lamp is not original, I added it to complete the lamp. The first "Chalumeau Américain" I have seen belongs to Jean-Yves LE CAM. The wick cap on his seems original.



**DUBOIS CHALUMEAU AMÉRICAIN COLLECTION OF MICHEL DUVAL**



**DUBOIS,**



*Chalumeau américain,*

**ÉCONOMIE 75 0/0 sur les autres lampes, prête au service instantanément, la meilleur marché de toutes, r. Corbeau, 26. - TÉLÉPH 422.30.**

Regarding the number stamped on the handle:

- Mine: AF0049
- Jean-Yves': AF0096
- Arthur's: AF0033.

So, it could be a serial number.



**DUBOIS CHALUMEAU AMÉRICAIN COLLECTION OF JEAN-YVES LECAM**

**THE DARLTON STORY**

By Arthur McNamara and Mal Mutimer

The Darlton blowlamp was manufactured in Australia by the Prymace Engineering Company Pty Ltd of Sydney between 1944 and 1947 and then by Commonwealth Metallic Pty Ltd from 1947 to 1963. Sole distributors were Darlton Products Pty Ltd of 10 Martin Place, Sydney with Factory Representatives in the states: White & Petrie (Sydney & Brisbane), Weston R Fox & Co Pty Ltd (Melbourne), Arthur H Hall Ltd (Adelaide) and A Parkinson & Co (Perth).

Each of the manufacturers operated from the same mews-styled factory/warehouse building located behind the shops at 418D Elizabeth Street Sydney, on the southern fringe of the city. Research has revealed that Sydney engineer, Robert Harry Bingle, designer/patentee of the Adjustable Spitfire blowlamp (see *BN98*, p 4) was involved in each of the above businesses and from 1947 a director/shareholder of Darlton Products Pty Ltd and Commonwealth Metallic Pty Ltd.

Very little information is available, but it is thought that Prymace Engineering was involved in tool making and ventured into blow lamp manufacture towards the end of 1944. The first blow lamps offered by Darlton were the standard 1 pint and 2 pint inclined kerosene models (together with a few vertical blow lamps). About 1947 the ¼ pint petrol blow lamp and the 2 pint kerosene Brazier range of blow lamps were introduced.

When Commonwealth Metallic took over manufacture they introduced the Self Heating Soldering Iron along with a wide range of attachments. The 1 pint and 2 pint petrol blow lamps were introduced which expanded the range to about 8 models.

For some time we have pondered over the wide variety of blow lamp types that these small companies produced during the early post war years. Who was responsible for and where was the design, research and development done? Were the designs “brought in”? Did another international company become involved? We do not know.

We do know that the Darlton 1 pint petrol blow lamp was relabelled as “National Torches” of Toronto Canada ..... we can give thought to whether this provided links to the makers of Coleman & National Torches in Canada ..... Coleman-Monitor or Monitor itself ..... Or even the Sydney based Coleman Quick-Lite Co. of Australia ..... ??

The company was the only manufacturer of Australian blow lamps that produced a range of models beside the standard 1 pint and 2 pint versions. Whilst Darlton did not provide identification numbers for their blowlamps, even though the lettering N<sup>o</sup> appeared on the side of some tanks, a few of their products were assigned a designated name. Over time a range of decals were applied to the tank.

Darlton Products ceased business in 1963 after a trading life of just 20 years.

Below are details of known models produced:

**Self- Pressure Type:**

This small lamp was of one quarter pint capacity and except for the steel handle was of all brass construction and burnt unleaded petrol as fuel. A depression in the top of the tank acted as pre-heat cup and the flame was regulated by the control knob. The manufacturers thought that it was particularly suitable for use in the electrical trades and by hobbyists, jewellers, instrument makers, silver solderers etc. Figure 1 shows an ¼ pint model.

Early branding was via a brass plaque (Figure 1).



**Figure 1**

The Company then moved to applying decals. Figure 2 shows an early version followed by a later version in Figure 3.



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

In later years the company stamped the tank with the words N° DARLTON AUSTRALIA, see Figure 4.

**Standard:**



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**

The standard 1 pint and 2 pint kerosene blow lamps were produced with both inclined and vertical burners. (Note the distinctive wrap-around metal handle). Figure 4 shows the inclined model whilst the vertical burner model is shown in Figure 5.

The Company was continually striving to improve their product. A change was made to the flame tube; Figure 6 shows the early version and Figure 7 the later version.



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**

At least two different types of soldering iron holder were fitted to Darlton lamps.

In 1948 Commonwealth Metallic introduced a new drop forged burner to their standard 1 and 2 pint models. The company claimed that the new burner produced a much hotter flame at all pressures and there was less tendency for the flame to be affected by windy conditions. The new burner was also fitted with a brass nozzle instead of the steel one previously fitted. The two types are shown in Figures 8 (early) and 9 (later version).



**Figure 8**



**Figure 9**



**Figure 10**

**Brazier Lamps:**



**Figure 11**

In 1947 Prymace introduced its Brazier Lamp (Figure 10). It used kerosene and had a heavy duty two pint capacity tank of brass construction. It had been designed for heavy industrial use in workshops and garages and for brazing and pre-heating metals. The lamp was also available with a vertical burner for pre-heating oil engines (Figure 11).

A three quarter pint kerosene model with folding wire handles was also produced (Figure 12), with the suggestion that it was suitable for motor mechanics.



**Figure 12**



**Figure 13**

Released in May 1948 was a one pint lamp (Figure 13) in which the company used the bronze burner assembly from the SHSI, which shown in Figure 14. The principal feature of the lamp was the intense controllable heat that was available making it ideal for silver soldering. Of one pint capacity, it used petrol as its fuel and it was fitted with a soldering iron holder. It borrowed that same wooden handle with rings from the Brazier lamps. Its release followed not long after the Brazier lamp was introduced.

### **Self Heating Iron:**



**Figure 14**

Late in 1947 Darlton introduced its petrol Self-Heating Soldering Iron (SHSI) (Figure 14), which had been specially constructed for outdoor use, particularly on roofs and guttering or other places difficult to work with the conventional torch and soldering iron. The tank was of brass construction with half pint capacity and it formed the hand grip of the unit. By removal of the soldering bit (1 lb) the unit could be used as an ordinary blow torch.

### **Darlton Speedy Stripper:**

This product (Figure 15) was introduced in 1954 to meet the demand for a single-handed stripping tool for paint removal. It was covered by Australian Patent No 23680/53. It consisted of a modified burner from the self-heating iron to which a metal scraper blade could be screwed to the plate fixed to the front bottom of the burner. Advertising material shows that it was supplied with a small metal spoon like pre-heating cup, although the standard pre-heat cup (as Figure 14) was used on some production models.



**Figure 15**

The stripper formed the basis of a marketed package under the name **THE DARLTON COMBINATION TOOL**. Marketing information suggested that this Tool could be used as a soldering iron, branding torch, paint stripper and brazing or blow lamp. In Figure 16 can be seen the tool set up as a paint scraper. A copper fitted with a metal plate for fitting to the foot can also be seen. The standard SHSI had a metal post fixed to the top of the wind shield through which the rod attached to a copper could be fixed.



**Figure 16**

**Soldering Kit:**

The company packaged the self-heating soldering iron together with a number of accessories into a handy easily carried metal box (Figure 17).



**Figure 17**



**Figure 18**

An interesting feature came to light during the research into the Darlton Products Pty Ltd of Sydney. Figure 18 shows a Darlton 1 pint petrol lamp with a NATIONAL TORCHES decal. Was there a relationship between Canadian manufactures Coleman and Commonwealth Metallic, who were manufactures of the Darlton lamps in Australia at the time of release of the model?

Commonwealth Metallic Pty Ltd issued an Instruction Sheet for THE "DARLTON MINOR" BLOWLAMP. The instructions included filling the container with first quality Lighting Kerosene and operation of the 'pump'. We have been unable to identify a lamp which fits this description, and without an accompanying photograph we cannot fit it to any of the models described above. Does anyone have any ephemera depicting such a lamp.

Thanks are due to Chris Naylor and Dave Stennett who provided some of the photographs used in this article.

The authors would be pleased to receive any correspondence or comments in relation to issues raised in the article.

## **ROOTING AROUND**



From Carolyn Rhodes: "We did Carrington Rally last week, near Boston. This is Blowlamp Society member Ken Longden, who added a few more lamps to his collection."

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### **WANTED**

Charles Smith is interested in purchasing old three-piece Eolipyles similar to those shown in the article this issue. Please send a photo(s) and a note about its condition with your asking price to Charles at [ccsmith2@charter.net](mailto:ccsmith2@charter.net). Thank you!

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### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Annual subscriptions are: For UK members 15 UK pounds, for International members 25 pounds. You may pay by PayPal to [Blowlampnews@hotmail.com](mailto:Blowlampnews@hotmail.com) Payments may also be made by post to: Carolyn Rhodes, Mathom House, 71 Ryecroft Road, Hemington, Derbys. DE74 2RE England.

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### **INDEX to ISSUES 1- 100 (August 1992 – September 2017)**

A cross-referenced index to **BLOWLAMP NEWS** is available from Keith Hawkins on request, with a contribution to cover the costs of printing and postage. (Also at [www.blowlampsociety.com](http://www.blowlampsociety.com))

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**BLOWLAMP NEWS** is published in March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion should be with the editors at least four weeks before the issue date.

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