

# ***BLOWLAMP NEWS***

No 45

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

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Firstly, I would like to thank those members who took the time to telephone, write and e-mail me following the last issue of Blowlamp News; it was very much appreciated.

The Rally season is rapidly drawing to a close, with the Great Dorset Fair in full swing as I am preparing this newsletter. We must, therefore be looking towards next year and with the next issue being December, I would like details and dates for next year's events for inclusion in that issue. Please have details with me by the end of October, together with any other reports, articles or personal wants you would like to be included. I am keen to get a members 'For Sale/Wants' section started, so send the details in.

Welcome to new members Mal Francis, Marnik Van Insberghe and David Smith.

I know that the purpose of this magazine is to promote the collecting and preservation of blowlamps, but I am sure that there are some amongst us that share an interest in all things that work under pressure. I have recently been told of a new magazine, aptly named 'Under Pressure' which will be dealing with the collection of stoves, lamps, irons etc. and the first issue is being prepared for publication during September. Anyone wanting to find out further details should contact Len Ralph on 01473 711206. (See back cover for a cartoon by Pete Wilford, which will feature on the cover of the magazine)

In the last issue, Russell Harrower asked if anyone knew the connection between Samuel Heath & Sons and RM. Michel Duval has provided the following answer and if anyone has any further information, please let me know. It would seem that Samuel Heath & Sons operated from premises in Leopold Street, Birmingham and were in business from 1918 to 1950. Samuel Heath's son left the company to start his own business, producing blowlamps, which were initially marketed under the label 'R.M.' 'A Heathware Product'. After trading for 2 years the label was changed to RM (Robin & Mayes). The RM Manufacturing Co Ltd operated from about 1948 to 1960.

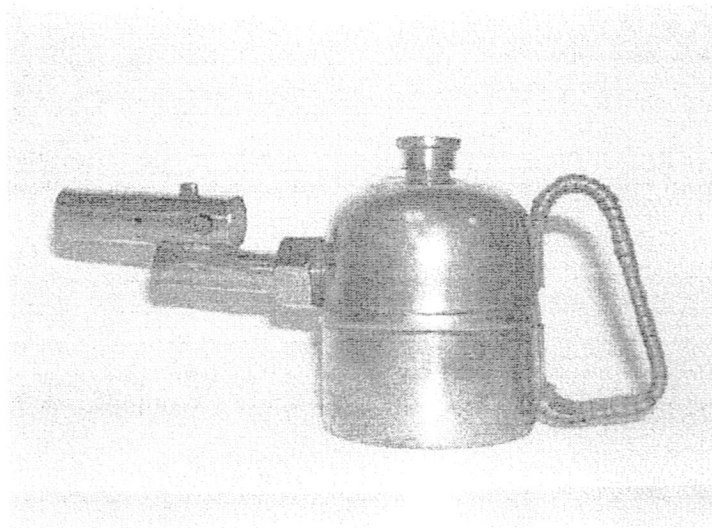
## **IDENTITY & ASSISTANCE**

There were 2 pictures published in the last issue, which brought the following comments. Firstly, the vertical blowlamp found this year at Enfield, brought several suggestions as to make, ranging from Otto Bernz, Barthel or of Polish manufacture. Most people thought Barthel, although I would question the shape of the burner. I think I will leave this one open, as I am sure it could still promote further discussion.

The second picture was of a Baverstock Searing Iron, which was acquired in Australia. This iron was used for cauterising lambs tails to stop fly getting in which could eventually kill the lamb, and also for sealing bad cuts and lacerations on animals which had been in contact with barbed wire fences. There seems to be a question over the Parent number, which apparently is not consistent with the numbers used in Australia. The thought is that that it was more likely to have been produced in both Christchurch and Auckland, making it of New Zealand origin, which now adds another country to the ever increasing list of blowlamp manufacturers.

We have two new queries for this issue; firstly Russell Harrower found a half-pint paraffin blowlamp at a local boot sale, which has a bakelite handle, similar to the RM. It has a transfer on the side, which has the word, or initials 'COB' on it. Any ideas as to who made it?

The second query comes from Michel Duval, who has a blowlamp, which he thinks is either a 'DOESIT' or a 'KELITE', although there are no markings anywhere on the lamp. Can anyone identify it from the following photograph?



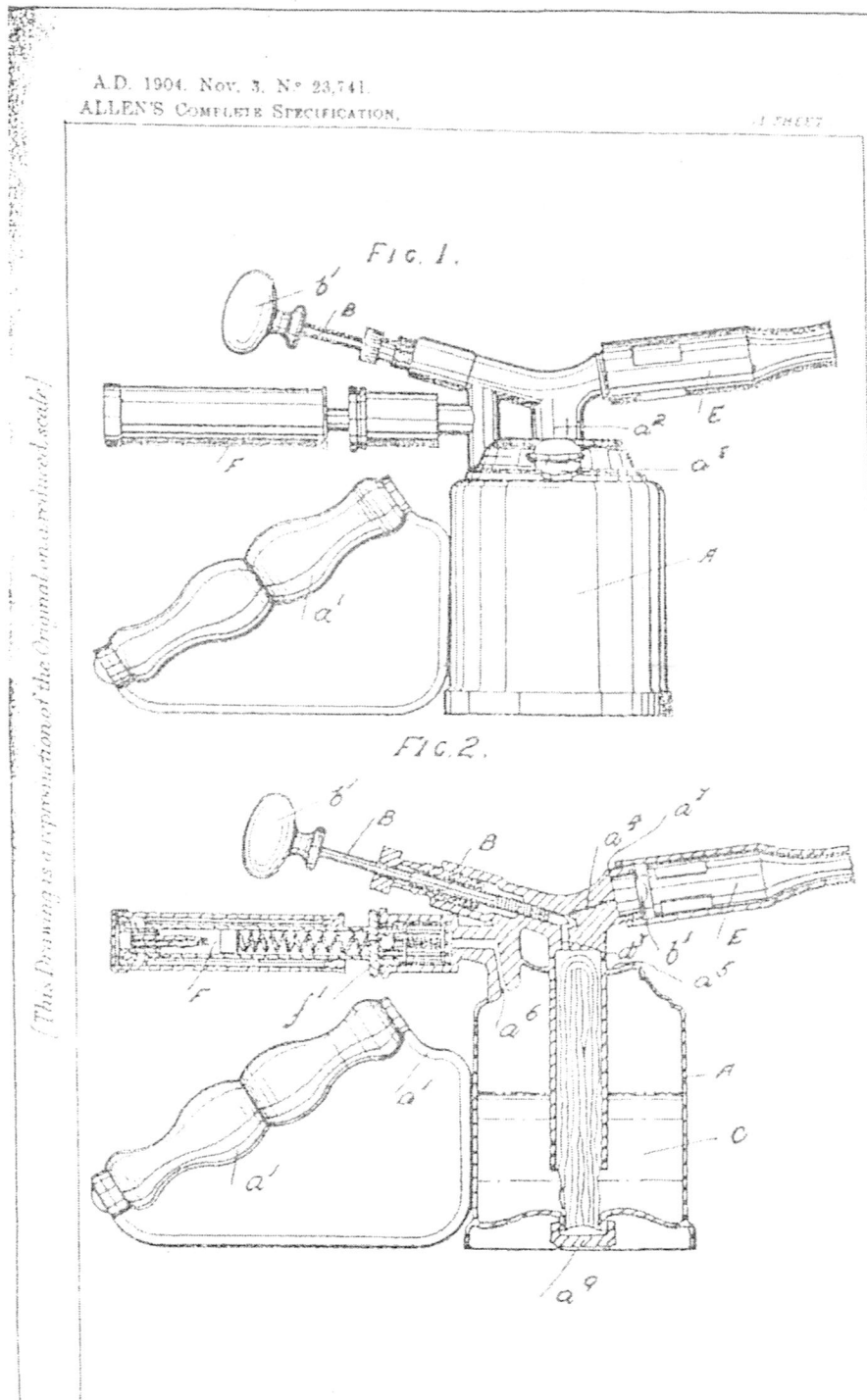
Michel also sent the following picture of a Talisman blowlamp he has and although he is not asking any questions about it, I could not resist including it, as it is such a pretty blowlamp (If anyone has a spare one of these tucked away, please let me know.)



If anyone has a particularly interesting or unusual blowlamp they would like to share with us, please send a clear photograph and I will include them in future issues.

## THE INVINCIBLE BLOWLAMP

Below is a copy of a picture, which Les Adams acquired from the Patents office. It shows Allens complete specification, dated November 1904, for the Invincible blowlamp.



Since finding the picture, one lucky member, Paul Whiddett, has found an Invincible blowlamp, which is pictured below.

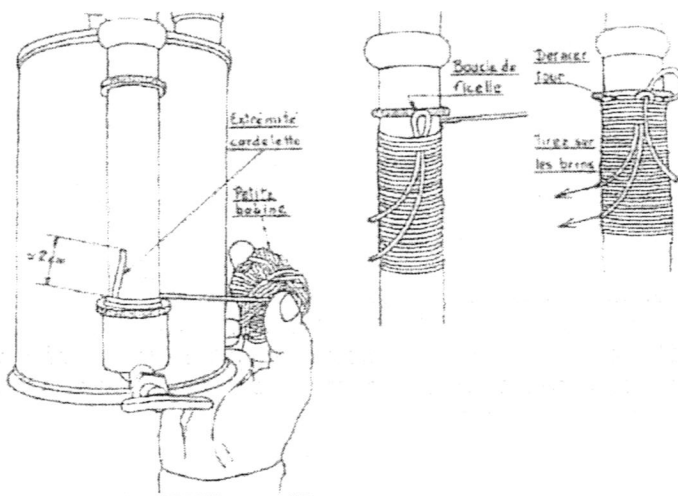


## RESTORATION TIPS

Many blowlamps and soldering torches have string binding to the handles and it is not uncommon for this to be very tatty, or missing altogether, which detracts from the overall appearance of the lamp. Personally, I will always try to replace the string, but doing so throws up two problems.

Firstly, finding string which looks right, as it is invariably too thin and white in colour, so it needs to be 'aged'. This can be done quite successfully, by soaking in strong, black tea for a couple of days, which gives it a tan colour, but it still needs further ageing by the laying on of dirty hands when the binding is complete.

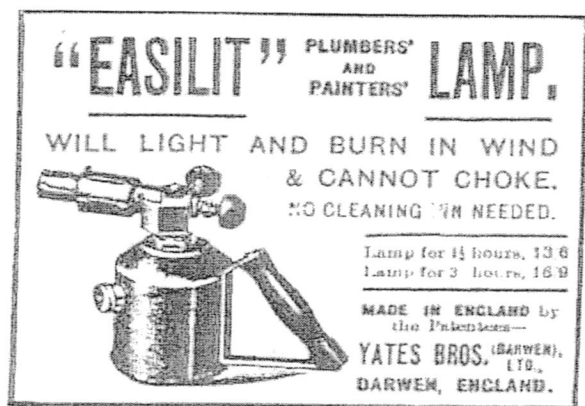
The second problem is how to tie off the string when you get to the end of the handle. I have tried tucking it in, and even resorted to a blob of glue to try to stop it unravelling. The answer to this was found in a back issue of 'La Gazette des Lamptrophile' and I hope the editor does not mind me letting you into the secret. A loop of string is held against the handle when you are a few turns from the end, the binding string is threaded through the loop, on the final turn and the loop is then pulled out, tucking the end of the binding string behind the last few turns. All will become clear when you study the picture.



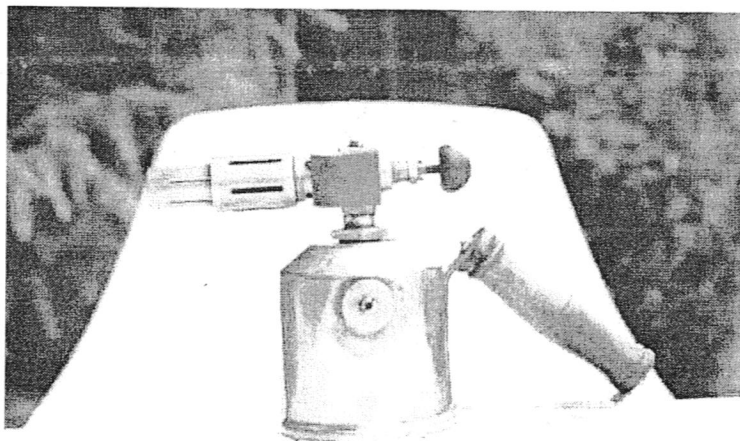
## THE EASILIT CONNECTION

Keith Hawkins has been researching the 'Easilit' name because I had always thought that it was a brand name used by a company based at Kings Norton, but Keith has revealed more.

In 1912 EASILIT blowlamps were manufactured by YATES BROS (Darwen) LTD. of Darwen, Lancashire. This lamp had had two valves with a filler on the left-hand side of the tank, opposite the second valve, which was on the right hand side. There was no pump and a sloping wooden handle. Yates of Darwen were the original patentees.



Yates advert found in the Ironmonger Magazine July 1912



This photograph is of an early Yates lamp owned by Dave Thomas and is very much like the one in the advertisement above.

In 1921 EASILIT is shown as being manufactured by the Easilit Blowlamp Co Ltd of 34 Watford Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, with the managing director being T. Yates. In 1920, there were various sizes being made but the 'Easilit' was not so much a blowlamp in it's own right, but more of the lighting system consisting of a separate burner to heat the main burner, operated by the side valve. On the top of the burner, opposite the right hand valve is a metal flame spreader for the bypass and the right hand valve is the bypass-operating valve. Hence the Easilit. The unpumped version was of ½ pint capacity. There was also a pump in handle version, 'A' of 2/3 pint, 'B' of 1 pint and 'D' of 2 pints. There was also a brazing lamp series, 'E' of 2 pints, 'F' of 3 pints, 'G' of 4 pints and 'H' of 5 pints. These all had the external 'serpentine' vaporisers, having 2,3,4 and 5 coils respectively.

They still had left hand side filler, the quick start valve on the right and a pump in the handle. There was also another valve at the bottom of the pump pointing to the rear.


**WE GUARANTEE**  
that owing to the time saved  
in lighting up

**"EASILIT" BLOW LAMPS**  
save their cost in two weeks' work.


They light up instantly in any weather. Think out, carefully, what that means in saving of time and petrol.

*Tool Dealers!*  
*Think of your Reputation.*

No pricker or sports required. Over 20,000 in use. Gold Medal—Lowestoft, 1914; Bronze Medal—Blackpool, 1914.



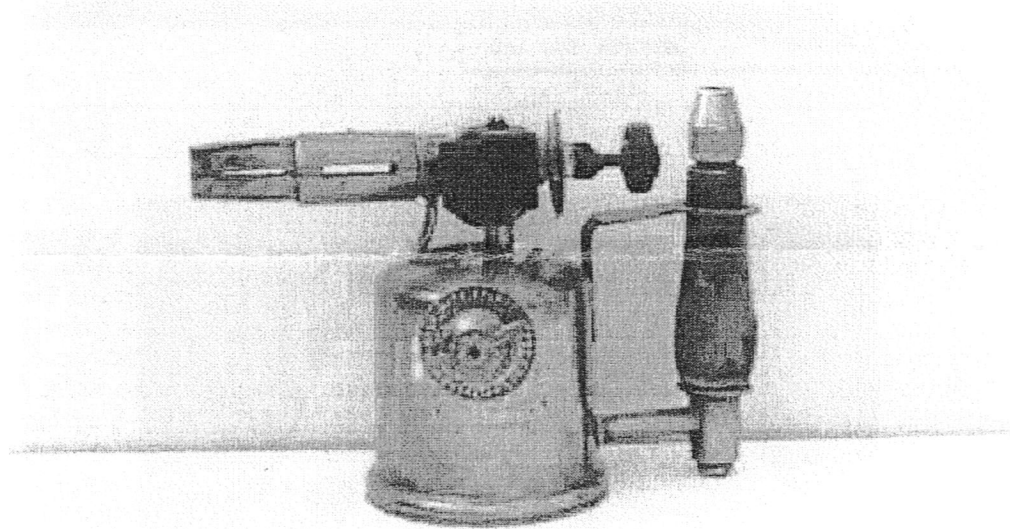
**THE EASILIT BLOW LAMP CO., Ltd.**  
Head Office: 34 Watford Road,  
T. YATES, Managing Director.



**Kings Norton,**  
**BIRMINGHAM.**

[B]

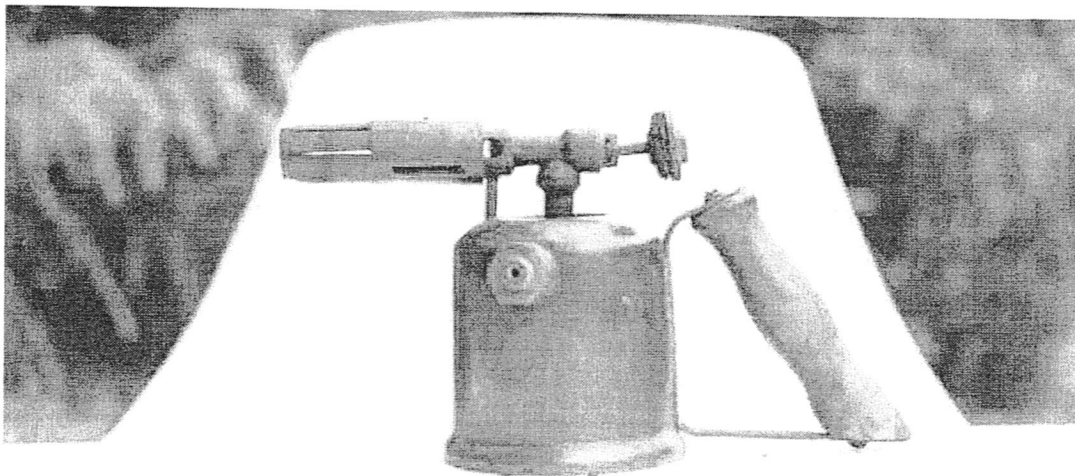
Above is an advertisement taken from 'The Ironmonger' magazine, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1921



Kings Norton Easilit owned by Ray Hyland

In 1928 William Marples & Sons of Sheffield got in on the act and marketed 2 blowlamps with wooden handles, no pump, a single valve, still with the filler on the left side, of 2/3 and 1 pint sizes, under the 'Shamrock' series. There were also a few paraffin lamps produced under the 'Hibernia' series. There was one with a horizontal burner, pump in handle, filler on the left side and especially identifiable by having no metal strapping round the burner. There was other horizontal burner style, in sizes of 2, 3, 4 and 5 pints, but with a rather squat tank shape. These lamps had the familiar 2-valve system and then finally another inclined burner version of 1-pint capacity. None of these last 5 sizes had metal strapping round their burners, but they all had pumps in their handles.





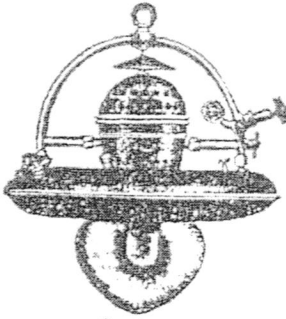
William Marples & Sons blowlamp owned by Ken Longden

(You will note the similarities in features between the Yates, the Easilit and the William Marples.)

In 1928 the discs around the filler cap and valves appeared, with different instructions on each. The disc on the rear valve states 'DON'T OPEN THIS UNTIL THE SIDE BURNER IS GAS' and 'TO OPEN SCREW AND PULL. TO CLOSE PUSH', the disc on the side valve states 'VALVE TO HEAT UP AND HOLD FIRE IF CLEANING BURNER' and 'EASILIT AND MAKES FIRE BLUE' and the disc on the filler cap states 'PUT A NUT OF TALLOW IN HERE WITH SPIRIT' and 'WHEN VALVE STEMS NEAR KNOBS ARE NOT GREASY'

The non-pumped version of the 1-pint lamp was also known as the 'Easilod', and these lamps were still being made up to 1935.

I am sure Keith's findings will raise further comments and questions and I would like to be the first to add another manufacturer. While looking through a pile of old adverts, I came across one from the 'Kitson-Empire Lighting Co Ltd' of Stamford, who were selling their own Easilit blowlamp.



**Be Patriotic in Business now  
and after the War.**

Why purchase German and Swedish  
Lamps when you can get a better  
and Cheaper British made article?

OUR  
**"EASILIT" BLOW-LAMPS**  
are known as the Painters' and  
Decorators' friends.

**THEY ARE BRITISH THROUGHOUT**  
both in design and main features.



**KITSON-EMPIRE LIGHTING CO., LTD. STAMFORD**

Advert found in The Ironmonger Text Book of 1916

Please remember any copy for BN46 should be with me by the end of October.

Acknowledgements – Michel Duval, Keith Hawkins, Russell Harrower and Mick Emm (copies of old advertisements)

# UNDER PRESSURE



LIGHT YA BUGGER LIGHT, OR I'LL GO BACK TO WICKS!

**THE NEW MAGAZINE / NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO ARE ENTHUSIASTIC  
ABOUT ITEMS THAT REQUIRE PRESSURE TO WORK! THIS WILL INCLUDE  
STOVES, LANTERNS, IRONS AND EVEN A BIT ABOUT BLOWLAMPS!  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
LEN RALPH ON 01473 - 711206**