

Date: 3 May 2009

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Release: Immediate

UPDATE: Starring role for Britain's Oldest Fridge... before its final curtain

Media coverage of the 60 year old Polarcold that won AMDEA's *Time to Change* www.t2c.org.uk competition has led to its biggest break before its final trip to the recycling centre. An Oxfordshire amateur dramatic society were so taken with the period piece, when they heard about it on the radio, they called in to ask if they could use it for the 1950s set of their production of *The Darling Buds of May*. So, while the 92-year-old owner of the winning entry, Colin Barfield, enjoys the energy savings and well planned space of his prize A+ fridge freezer - his old model will be taking one final bow before it gets recycled.

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For further details see advance notice below issued on 23/4/09:

Date: 23 April 2009

Release: Immediate

AMDEA Competition calls "Time" on 60 year old fridge

A Buckinghamshire pensioner, in his nineties, has won AMDEA's *Time to Change* www.t2c.org.uk competition to find Britain's Oldest Working Fridge. Colin Barfield's fridge has reached the grand old age of 60 and is still chugging along; although it is needlessly wasting considerable amounts of energy.

Mr Barfield's daughter entered the competition online, beating a slew of other entries from owners of guzzlers across the country. This Tuesday, 28 April, he will be presented with his prize, a brand new A+ energy-rated model, which should save him well over £60* a year on his electricity bill and significantly reduce his household carbon emissions. He will also bid a fond farewell to the winning relic which will be taken away for recycling.

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The fridge has occupied pride of place in his pantry ever since he built his house in the early 1950s. It is so old, that the discontinued brand - Polarcold - no longer features in any of the standard reference works. However, there is evidence of a Polarcold appliance in one museum archive which documents its debut at the 1948 Dairy Show. It was Mr Barfield’s first fridge and he recalls the struggle to get it up the stairs to the Princes Risborough flat that the family occupied while his current home was in construction. He also remembers how exciting it was to watch ice form in the freezer compartment, when they plugged it in all those years ago (fridges were a relatively new feature to the British home in the late 1940s).

Douglas Herbison, AMDEA’s Chief Executive says of the winning entry:

“Mr Barfield’s museum piece, although impressively old, represents just one of the 11.7 million old fridges and freezers, in the UK, that are ten or many more years old and wasting huge amounts of energy. Our winner can now enjoy running his new green fridge at a fraction of the cost and reap all of the rewards that the latest A+ technology has to offer. *Time to Change* wishes that every British household could experience these benefits.”

-ENDS

* The oldest fridge freezer featured on *Time to Change*’s energy savings calculator www.t2c.org.uk/calculator.php is a mere 29 years old and trading this in for a new ultra-efficient model the calculator predicts an average annual savings of just over £57. The calculator is based on a data set supplied by consultants to *Defra* and it spans just 29 years.

EDITORS’ NOTES

1. Time to Change is the UK segment of a pan-European programme, organised by the European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED), to encourage the replacement of 188 million old (10 years and older), energy-hungry, large domestic appliances still in use across Europe.

2. AMDEA is the UK trade association for the manufacturers of large and small domestic appliances; representing over 80% of the domestic appliance industry.



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