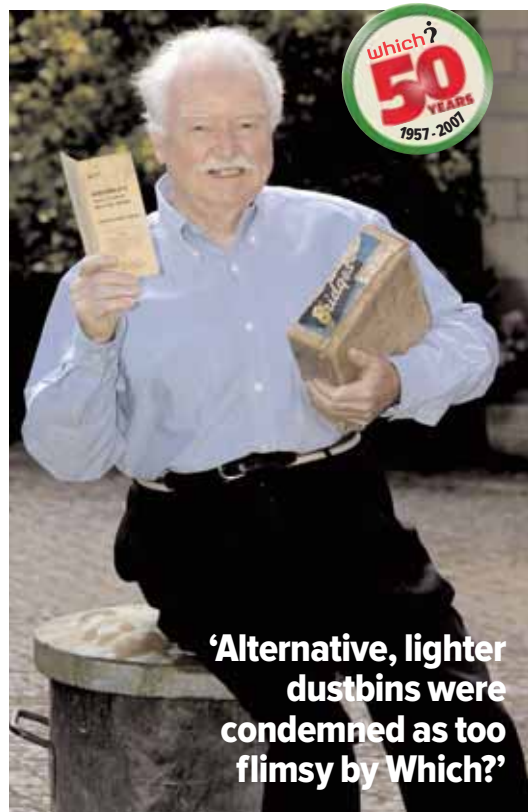


Ask Which?

Each month this year, we will feature one of our original members on this page as part of celebrations of our 50th anniversary



'Alternative, lighter dustbins were condemned as too flimsy by Which?'

Des Taylor was a founder Which? member in 1957

When Des Taylor and his wife Margaret bought their first home, a £2,650 semi-detached house with a garage in Surrey, he joined Which? to get advice on furnishing it.

Des's career as a professional engineer included modernising engineering services at Windsor Castle and working at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.

Des, now 81, recalled: 'As a professional engineer I knew that testing is essential to prove quality, performance and reliability, so I welcomed the Which? approach in basing its reports on unbiased independent, practical tests on domestic equipment.'

He bought a Best Buy Bridges 1/4-inch electric drill we recommended in 1958. This lasted 35 years and

the DIY work needed on three houses.

Des said: 'I bought the Bridges on Which?'s recommendation that it had a proper key-operated Jacobs chuck [the part that holds the drill bit] whereas a B&D drill had only a hand-tightened one.'

Even when the drill broke he salvaged the chuck, which he still has, together with the drill's original box.

Des also bought a galvanised-steel dustbin, recommended in Which? though our Best Buy might not have been welcomed by dustmen as it weighed a hefty 23lb when empty.

He said: 'The alternative, lighter, dustbins were condemned in Which? as being too flimsy and dented and split when banged violently on the dustcart as was the custom in those days.'

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■ May 2007 Best Buy competition

The following members won an iPod Nano:
Mr JD Clark, Stafford;
Mr C Francis, London;
Mr KD Hack, Bletchley;
Dr CD King, London and
Dr AB McGhie, Portree.

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