

From top: a Casio TV remote control watch, a space rocket, a Marvel Hulk bobblehead, Robbie Williams, Pulp Fiction, lager shandy, a Brit award, Michael Jackson, and David Bowie's Life On Mars?

The prized possession you value above all others... A series of four photos of my two-year-old nephew Louie. He's my sister Fay's child and he made me an uncle for the first time. He brings sunshine into my life.

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Not devoting myself to studying music and drama when I was 16. I was really interested, but I feared my mates would think I was a sissy, so I qualified to be a personal trainer.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I spend my whole life on planes, so my ideal day would start at home in Essex. It would kick off with a bacon and egg McMuffin, then I'd play football for my old team the Valley Swifts. We'd go to the pub where I'd have a lager shandy – I always drink that and the lads call me a lightweight – then to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United beat Arsenal 2-1. Then we'd hit a few bars in Stockholm, I'd probably give myself whiplash looking at all the blondes! I'd end the day at my parents' house for roast beef followed by apple crumble and custard.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Custard! As a boy I got so excited at the thrill of getting it but now I've become totally obsessed with it because it's always available on tour. I have it with just about every dessert.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... A self-help book called The Secret by Rhonda Byrne. I was introduced to it by TV presenter Jeff Brazier. It's about channelling positive thoughts into making things you want come true.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd walk on to NASA's launch pad and hitch a ride on a rocket to the moon.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... A weak and sweaty handshake – ugh! I was brought up to have a firm handshake because it shows you're a strong and confident person.

The film you can watch time and time again... Pulp Fiction. It's cool and slick and gets better every time I watch it.

The person who has influenced you most... My grandad Stanley Pollard. In 2009, he gave me a major talking to. I was 24 but had no money, no home, no job and he told me to sort myself out. I hated him at the time but it was the kick I needed. Soon after I applied for The X Factor. He helped me change my life.



'I can't resist custard. As a boy I was excited at the thrill of getting it but now I'm totally obsessed!'

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: singer and TV presenter Olly Murs

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Michael Jackson. I think all singers would agree that he was the greatest – the king of singing, writing and performing. I'd love to ask him how he created his songs. Maybe I could also find out what *really* happened during his last hours.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Respect people and always look out for your family.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I'm addicted to buying bobblehead figures, collectable dolls with over-sized wobbly heads. I've got John Wayne, Pamela Anderson and all the Marvel superheroes. They're a bit daft, but have lots of character.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A Casio TV remote control watch which I saved up £18 in pocket money for when I was 13. I have no idea what happened to it.

The unending quest that drives you on... To be happily married with kids.

The poem that touches your soul... I don't read poetry but song lyrics mean a lot to me and one of the best is from Robbie Williams' song Feel, 'I've got too much life/Running though my veins/Going to waste.' It inspires me to grab life.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm arrogant. I always make an effort for people, but it's impossible to be up *all* the time. Like anybody I have bad days.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Getting through The X Factor audition in 2009. I sang Stevie Wonder's Superstition and Simon Cowell said it was one of the easiest yeses he'd ever given.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal Roman Abramovich's yacht Eclipse. He probably wouldn't even miss it!

The song that means most to you... Life On Mars? by David Bowie. It's my family's song and reminds us of love.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Getting my first number one with Please Don't Let Me Go in 2010.

The saddest time that shook your world... Falling out with my twin brother Ben. It started when I couldn't make his wedding because of The X Factor semi-final rehearsals. A few other things happened and then he cut off everyone from the family. It makes me so sad.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To win the Brit award for British Male Solo Artist.

The philosophy that underpins your life... If you believe, you can achieve!

The order of service at your funeral... I want to be laid to rest in Essex because that's where I was born and bred. I'd want Life On Mars? to be played.

The way you want to be remembered... As a happy chappy and a loving person.

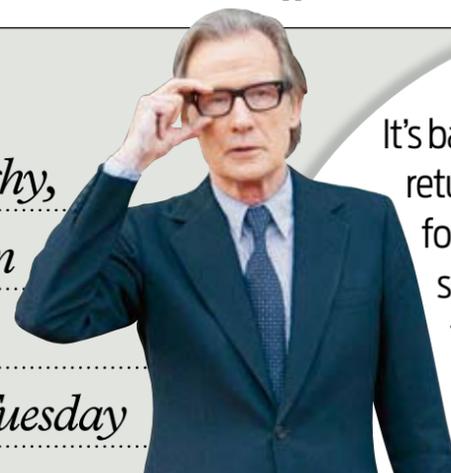
The Plug... My new single Right Place Right Time is out now. For more information visit www.ollymurs.com and follow me on Twitter @ollyofficial. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

PHOTOGRAPHS: CAMERA PRESS; ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; ALU STAR; EMPICS ENTERTAINMENT

PS...

Richard Curtis's new rom-com About Time, starring Bill Nighy, hits cinemas on Wednesday. Sheila Hancock's back on stage in Barking In Essex at London's Wyndham's Theatre. And soul man John Legend's new album Love In The Future is out Tuesday



NEXT WEEK

It's back! To celebrate the return of Downton Abbey for series four, a sumptuous special edition with all the glamour, gossip and heartache as the Crawleys embrace the 1920s