

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's the turn of presenter Patrick Kielty

The prized possession you value above all others... A 1967 Jaguar 420 that belonged to Saul Chaplin, a Hollywood composer who won an Oscar for *West Side Story*. I love the car but it's impractical and my wife [TV presenter Cat Deeley] keeps telling me to get rid of it.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... My dad never seeing me 'make it'. He died when I was 16 and I think he'd have got a real kick out of seeing my life now. [Jack Kielty was shot dead in 1988, aged 45, by a Loyalist gunman in Northern Ireland.]

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Groucho Letters by Groucho Marx are brilliantly witty.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Neil Armstrong. I met him about 15 years ago, but I thought I'd be really cool and not ask him *anything* about the Moon landing! I regret that, so this time I'd bombard him with questions.

Right: Neil Armstrong. Above right: Patrick with his wife Cat Deeley. Far right: Royal County Down golf course



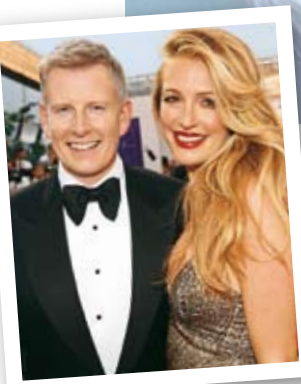
The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd hear what Donald Trump says in private to find out if he believes the nonsense he's putting in the public arena.

The unending quest that drives you on... To write comedy ideas down. I used to think it was rude to scribble when I was out with people, but I have to make a note or I forget.

The person who has influenced you most... My old PE teacher Pat O'Hare. One day he heard me doing impressions and said he was putting me in the Christmas show. I'd never been on stage before but I got up in front of 600 people and at that moment I knew I could perform.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Lean on the leg that shakes the most. My dad said that to me when I told him I was nervous about that Christmas show. It was his way of saying, 'You'll get through it, son.'

The film you can watch time and time again... When *We Were Kings*, the superb documentary about the Rumble in the Jungle fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Zaire in 1974. You see Ali's vulnerability and the sense he's not sure he'll win.



The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... How online retailers always want a pat on the back with reviews after you've bought something.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm always late! My timekeeping used to be terrible but I sorted it out five years ago, and now I'm always on time.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Creating the Empire Comedy Club in Belfast in 1992 with Jackie Hamilton. I was the compere and that's when the BBC spotted me. Within a year I had my own chat show in Northern Ireland.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd recount the vote for Brexit and announce it as Remain. I'm sure no good can come of us being out of the EU.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... The birth of our son in January. I couldn't take my eyes off him and there was this feeling of love like I'd never felt before.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Pints of Guinness. I'm 45 now – an age when beer puts weight on.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The ability to get drunk without getting a hangover.

The song that means most to you... Boulder To Birmingham by Emmylou Harris. It's about life continuing and is one of the best love songs of all time.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd begin with a walk in the canyon near our home in Beverly Hills with Cat, our seven-month-old son and our dog Lilly. Then I'd play a round at Royal County Down golf course with some old mates from Ireland. Later, Cat and I would mooch around Drouot auction rooms in Paris where we sometimes buy old furniture. We'd have lunch at Au Petit Riche restaurant: I'd have Dover sole with roast potatoes and some chilled white Burgundy, then watch County Down win the all-Ireland Gaelic football final. Cat and I would have cocktails with a bunch

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of friends at Nobu in Malibu, then have dinner at Riva Italian restaurant in Barnes, south-west London. It's the best restaurant in the world and I'd leave it to its owner Andrea to choose the food. He never gives you a menu, he just asks, 'Are you hungry?' We'd have a bottle of Sassicaia red and I'd end the day with a pint of Guinness at the Maghera Inn in my old hometown of Dundrum before crashing out in our house there.

The saddest time that shook your world... The death of my dad. I was told the news at school and it was so shocking. I think of him all the time.

The poem that touches your soul... Digging by Seamus Heaney. He gives such meaning to the simple act of digging for potatoes.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To hit the first fairway at Royal County Down. I only ever find sand or sea.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Only *you* can make yourself happy. Don't wait for others to do it.

The order of service at your funeral... A simple service at a church in Dundrum, followed by a burial in the Irish Sea with an extended booze cruise for the mourners.

The way you want to be remembered... As one of Jack Kielty's sons.

The Plug... Patrick hosts new quiz show *Debatable* starting at 6.30pm on Monday 22 August on BBC2. www.patrickkielty.com. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

*Kevin Spacey gets trapped inside the body of the family cat in **Nine Lives**, in cinemas Friday. Dolly Parton's new album **Pure And Simple** is out on the same day. And **Groundhog Day** the musical opens at London's Old Vic on Tuesday*



NEXT WEEK

● Bake Off's back! Paul and Mary tell all while last year's winner Nadiya reveals what she's been up to ● The most authentic Italian dishes you'll ever make ● PLUS Britain's most detailed TV guide