We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s Cold Feet actor Robert Bathurst

Right: Ken Dodd. Above right: Daim bars. Far right: a steamer cargo ship

The prize possession you value above all others… My collection of cards for birthdays and first nights, hand-painted by my wife and children. I have 30 going back 15 years. They’re a wonderful chronology of a period in my life.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend… Playing rugby as a child. I got my first injury at nine and continued to get mashed up until my knee got hurt at 18. I still get twinges now – I’d have been better off doing library duty.

The person who has influenced you most… My wife [artist Victoria Threlfall], but I’d rather not say how. It must remain private.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance… A Scattering by Christopher Reid, a narrative in verse about the death of his wife. He expresses his feelings in the most beautiful language. I developed it for a stage show called Love, Loss And Chichester Festival.

The unending quest that drives you on… To stage Love, Loss And Chianti in the West End. I hope to get a theatre for autumn next year.

The priority activity if you were the invisible Man for a day… I’d listen to the Pope in confession. I’m intrigued to know what he’s been up to, but I expect he has the most pathetic sins.

The temptation you wish you could resist… Daim bars. And now they’ve made Daim ice cream too, which is just cruel.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise… The plastic flotsam that washes up on the shores of the world. It shows how we treat our oceans as a dumping ground.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint… Lenin. I’d like to know if he thought Stalin mucked up his Bolshevik revolution.

The poem that touches your soul… ‘That I’m a strait-laced emotional retard like many characters I play. I’m a lot sharper and more critical than people might expect.

The event that altered the course of your life and character… Meeting Victoria through friends in 1982. We married in 1985. Meeting her was the end of loneliness. That’s as much as I’ll say.

The philosophy that underpins your life… ‘People often think I’m a strait-laced emotional retard like many characters I play. I’m sharper and more critical than people expect.’

October day and we’d have a picnic by the loch and spend the afternoon watching otters. We’d spend the rest of the day on a train through India. We’d take our chances and buy dinner off one of the itinerant vendors, then end up at a secret beach I know in Kerala.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever… A family holiday to Goa, India, at Christmas 2004. I rarely get family holidays because my work mucks it up, but everything worked out on this trip. It was so much fun.

The saddest time that shook your world… My parents Gillian and Philip died within a month of each other in 2009. They were in their 80s, but it was still a hideous time.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you… To be a good gardener – I don’t have the touch. Maybe I’ll crack it in my dotage.

The order of service at your funeral… Some crying would be good, then they can play Tears (For Souvenirs) by Ken Dodd. Maybe they can scatter my ashes a few miles out to sea from Winchelsea Beach, East Sussex.

The way you want to be remembered… I’m not bothered about a legacy.

The Plug… Cold Feet is on Mondays at 9pm on ITV.

As told to Rob McGibbon

PS… Gemma Arterton stars in futuristic thriller The Girl With All The Gifts, in cinemas Friday. Dominic Cooper is back on stage in The Libertine at Theatre Royal Haymarket from Thursday. And Bruce Springsteen’s album Chapter And Verse is out on Friday

NEXT WEEK

● Behind-the-scenes secrets from TV’s riveting Victoria
● Part two of our brilliant Bake Off recipe series
● Monty Don’s tips for taking plant cuttings
● Britain’s best TV guide