

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's actor and TV presenter Ross Kemp

The prized possession you value above all others... My golden retriever Bruno. Even if I get home in the early hours he always has a wag in his tail and is happy to see me.

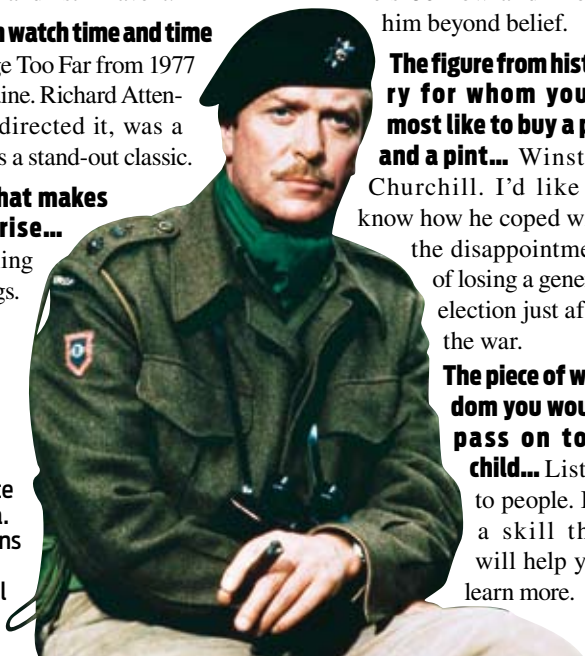
The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not talking to my grandparents more about the family's history before they died. You can't get those days back, so I really regret it. My one remaining grandparent is Irene, on my mum's side. She's 97 and I see her as much as possible.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... War by Albert R Leventhal, which contains photos from the Crimea up to Vietnam. I bought it with book tokens I'd got for Christmas when I was nine and I still have it.

The film you can watch time and time again... A Bridge Too Far from 1977 with Michael Caine. Richard Attenborough, who directed it, was a hero of mine. It's a stand-out classic.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People not picking up after their dogs.

Right: Michael Caine in A Bridge Too Far. Above right: Galaxy chocolate and a cup of tea. Far right: The ruins of Holy Cross Church in Bristol



The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd sit in a meeting of the Government's emergency committee Cobra to see who makes the decisions in a terrorist situation. I hope it's the unelected officials, not the politicians.

The temptation you wish you could resist... A cold bar of Galaxy out of the fridge with a cup of tea. I'm 53 now and it packs the weight on.

The person who has influenced you most... My father John. He's always been there for me, even when I've made life decisions he wasn't happy with, that have ended up going wrong. He's 80 now and I love him beyond belief.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Winston Churchill. I'd like to know how he coped with the disappointment of losing a general election just after the war.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Listen to people. It's a skill that will help you learn more.



'You can't read a story about me without "tough guy" being used. But I'm no tougher than the next guy'

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I love old ruins, churches and graveyards. We always visited them on family holidays when I was a kid.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My childhood dog, a Hungarian Vizsla called Brit. He died of old age when he was about 12.

The unending quest that drives you on... To find the truth in my documentaries. I'm very driven to find great stories and bring them to an audience.

The poem that touches your soul... The Soldier by Rupert Brooke is a timeless piece that sums up the loss of war.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm a tough guy. You can't read a story about me without that being used, but I'm no tougher than the next guy.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Meeting a gang member called Bloodhound in LA for a show I made for Sky in 2004. It led to my series on gangs and it gave a whole new and exciting dimension to my career.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd do whatever I could to rid the world of the greed gene.

The song that means most to you... Empire State Of Mind by Alicia Keys. It was being played a lot when I proposed to my wife Renee in New York in 2011 and it reminds me of that.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To learn to sail. I've booked two courses in the past, but couldn't make either because of work.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd start with a jog along a beach in East Timor, avoiding the snakes. They were everywhere the last time I did that. Then I'd have breakfast in northern Queensland, Australia, with my wife and all her family. Our son Leo, two, would be with us, as well as my other boy Oliver, six [from another relationship]. I'd then take the boys sledging in the Alps before going for lunch at English Bay in Vancouver. My favourite dishes are a classic prawn cocktail followed

by a beautifully cooked steak with sauce on the side and a good glass of red. Later I'd have a couple of vodka martinis with Renee at The Bowery Hotel in New York, which is where we got engaged. We'd then have dinner at The Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire. I'd settle in at home – also in Berkshire – for a few nightcaps with the team I work with, then crash out.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Nothing can beat the births of my kids, but I was also pretty happy to escape when I was filming in the war zone of the Congo in 2012.

The saddest time that shook your world... Filming the people who flee Libya on boats for the new series of Extreme World was terrible. I spoke to one woman who survived a capsized boat, but had watched scores drown. I felt powerless to comfort her.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Never waste a day, never give up.

The order of service at your funeral... I'm superstitious and refuse to give it any thought. It's not a good idea to think about death in my line of work.

The way you want to be remembered... Loved by my family, respected by my peers and, hopefully, forgiven by anyone I've upset with my misdemeanours.

The Plug... Ross Kemp: Extreme World continues tomorrow at 9pm on Sky 1 and NOW TV. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



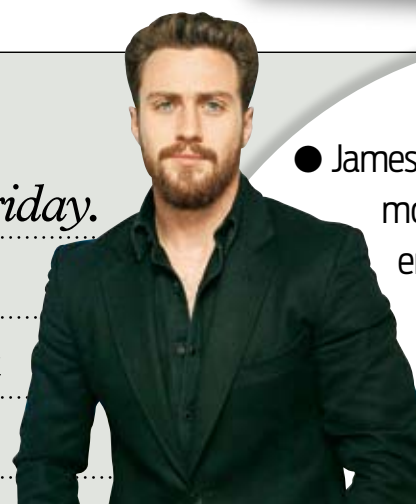
PS...

Aaron Taylor-Johnson stars in thriller *The Wall* – in cinemas Friday.

Elvis Presley's *A Boy From Tupelo: The Complete 1953-1955*

Recordings is out the same day. And David Walliams' *Gangsta*

Granny opens at London's Garrick Theatre on Wednesday



NEXT WEEK

- James Martin's recipes for the most delicious summer entertaining
- Monty Don on the top blooms to grow for cutting
- PLUS Britain's best TV listings