

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week: Princess Diana's former bodyguard Ken Wharfe

The prized possession you value above all others... A little address book my late father Frank made when he was a PoW in Japan. In it are the names and addresses of his fellow prisoners. It's a fascinating window into his time in captivity. Dad died in 1979 aged 61.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I wish I'd studied classical music and had a singing career. Instead, I was in the police from age 17 until I retired in 2002. Now, at 69, I sing bass in the English Chamber Choir and love it.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A wooden sledge my dad made for me and my brother Phil. It went so fast it became a lethal weapon.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Running Hare by John Lewis-Stempel, about looking after his land in Herefordshire using traditional methods. It filled me with nostalgia for the way farms were nurtured in the 1950s and before.

Right: Princess Diana. Above right: pear schnapps. Far right: a steam train



The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint...

William Bligh, HMS Bounty's captain in 1789. I'd talk to him about the mutiny, as well as his experiences as Captain Cook's cartographer.

The film you can watch time and time again... Nuts In May from 1976 starring Alison Steadman is the funniest film ever. It's classic Mike Leigh.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I've had a fascination with steam trains ever since I was a boy in the 1950s travelling from Canterbury for holidays in Dorset.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To have sung By The Time I Get To Phoenix with Glen Campbell. That would have been fun.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd render all the world's jobsworths powerless.

The poem that touches your soul... The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost, about indecision and regret. Charlton Heston read it at an event that Diana attended in 1991 and it struck a chord with us both.

The person who has influenced you most... Sir Robert Mark, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner from 1972-77. He cleaned up corruption in the CID and inspired me to be a good, honest copper.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd infiltrate all terrorist networks and dismantle them from within.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Dog owners who pick up after their pets, only to put it into a non-biodegradable bag and leave it for others to dispose of.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Mimicking people. Diana used to giggle when I impersonated Charles and she loved getting me to wind people up.

The unending quest that drives you on... To continue to be in a happy relationship with my partner Deborah. Our marriages ended in divorce, so we've no need for that bit of official paper again.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Believe in yourself, and always be kind.



'Diana used to giggle when I impersonated Charles and she loved getting me to wind people up'

rah's five grown-up children and eight grandchildren. Later we'd take a train ride through the Gobi Desert and Mongolia, then see the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army. We'd stop in Provence to grab some delicious French rosé wine before a sunset walk around the Rorke's Drift battlefield in South Africa. We'd have a barbecue with chilled rosé, then watch shooting stars before retiring to our heated yurt.

The happiest moment you'll cherish forever... Walking with Bates or being among my extended family.

The saddest time that shook your world... It was when PC Keith Blacklock was murdered in the Broadwater Farm riot in 1985. I knew him well.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Honesty brings you happiness.

The order of service at your funeral... I'd like a traditional church service with The Armed Man mass by Karl Jenkins, then Liza Lehmann's In A Persian Garden and Fauré's Requiem. I'd also like a reading of Robert Frost's Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening. Afterwards, I hope everyone can share a few jokes about my life over some fine wine.

The way you want to be remembered... As a purveyor of fun, a reliable friend, a good cook and a decent bass-baritone.

The Plug... Guarding Diana: Protecting The Princess Around The World, by Ken Wharfe with Robert Jobson, is published by John Blake, £18.99. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm always serious. It probably comes from being photographed looking stern alongside Diana. I was doing a serious job but in reality I'm always up for a laugh.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Meeting Deborah in 1999 after I'd sung at a choir concert. I'd been unhappy for some time but she changed everything.

The song that means most to you... Get Back by The Beatles. I was sent to stop their rooftop concert in London in 1969. As I got up there they were playing that song and everyone was euphoric.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...

After a walk on Hampstead Heath with my Labrador Bates I'd have the perfect breakfast at Greenberry Café in Primrose Hill. Then Deborah and I would ski in St Anton, Austria, stopping off for a long lunch at the Hotel Arlberg, Lech. I'd have clear soup and Wiener schnitzel with pear schnapps and red wine. We'd be joined by Debo-



PS...

Kate Winslet stars in *The Mountain Between Us* – in cinemas from Friday. Liam Gallagher's new album *As You Were* is out the same day. And Anne-Marie Duff opens in *Heisenberg: The Uncertainty Principle* at Wyndham's Theatre on Tuesday



NEXT WEEK

- Prue Leith shows off her garden in part two of our series
- Classic recipes from The Ivy
- Monty Don on how to grow apples in the smallest space
- PLUS Britain's best TV guide