

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

*We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's veteran comedian Jimmy Tarbuck*

**The prized possession you value above all others...** A tweed cap given to me by Ronnie Corbett before he died in 2016. I wear it all the time. He was a delightful, loyal friend. A great talent who should've been knighted.

**The biggest regret you wish you could amend...** I wish I'd been more patient with my dad Fred when he wanted to talk about my shows. I never wanted to go through it all with him after I'd finished. He died aged 74 in 1974.

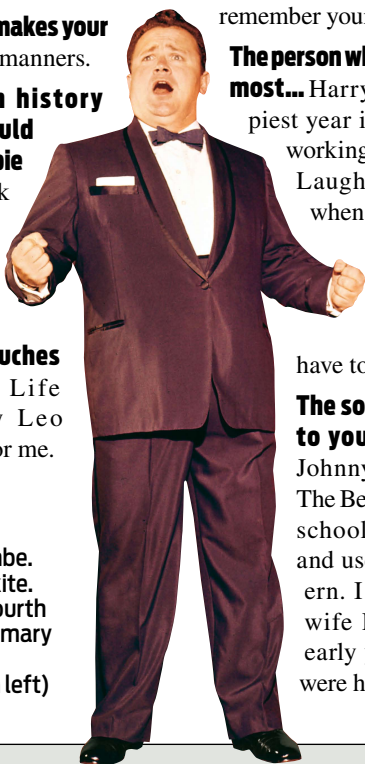
**The temptation you wish you could resist...** Watching sport on telly – I'll watch anything!

**The pet hate that makes your hackles rise...** Bad manners.

**The figure from history for whom you would most like to buy a pie and a pint...** I'd ask Adolf Hitler why he caused all that misery. But I'd buy him nothing!

**The poem that touches your soul...** The Life That I Have by Leo Marks says it all for me.

Right: Harry Secombe. Above right: a red kite. Far right: Jimmy (fourth from right) with primary school friend John Lennon (third from left)



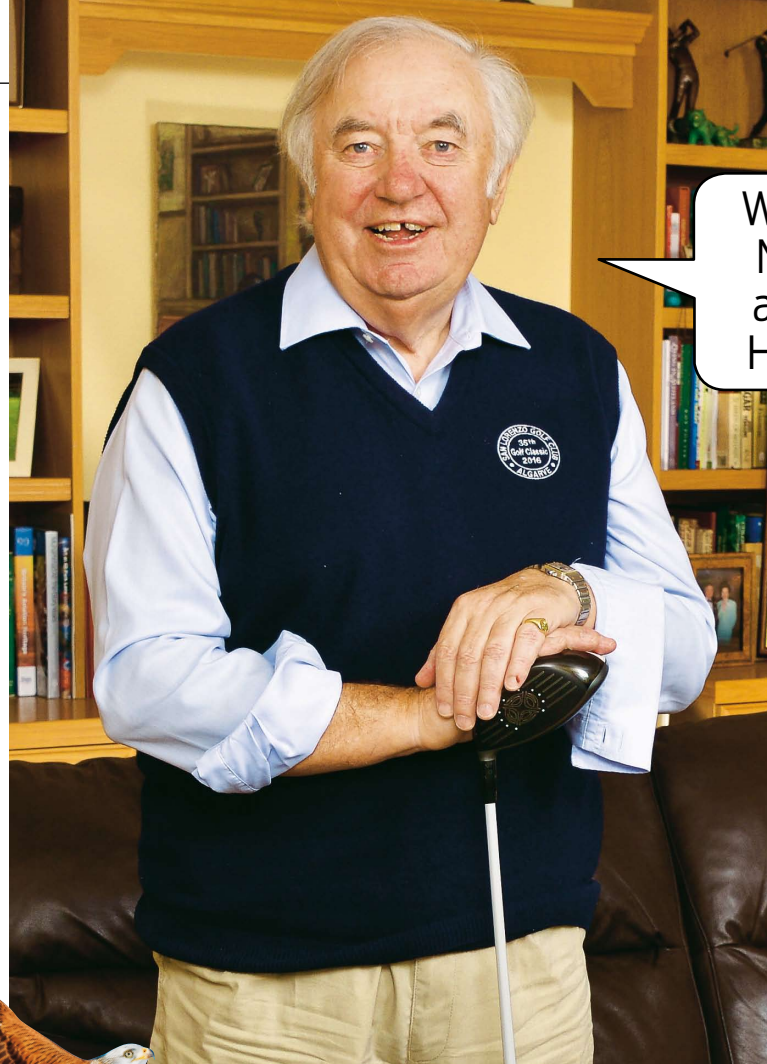
**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...** The Best Of Henry Longhurst, a compilation of his articles about golf. It's full of terrific humour and advice.

**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...** Bird-watching. I am lucky to live near nature and look at birds every day.

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...** Always be kind and remember your manners.

**The person who has influenced you most...** Harry Secombe. My happiest year in showbusiness was working with him on London Laughs! at the Palladium when I was 25. He told me, 'Jim, you'll be a big star, but remember: it's nice to be big, but you don't have to be big to be nice.'

**The song that means most to you...** Chuck Berry's Johnny B Goode, sung by The Beatles. I was at primary school with John Lennon and used to go to The Cavern. I went there with my wife Pauline a lot in our early years together. They were heady, fun days.



When I was live on Sky News recently, a lady asked me if I was Roy Hudd. It was hilarious!

kids, Cheryl, 56, and Liza, 53, and our five grandchildren – at La Famiglia, Chelsea. I always have the seafood pasta. Then home to Surrey to kip!

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** The births of my kids, but marrying Pauline in 1959 was special. Bobby Campbell was my best man.

**The saddest time that shook your world...** When my mother Fanny died from stomach cancer in 1970, aged 72. I thought my parents were immortal.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** To score the winning goal for Liverpool in the FA Cup Final. I'm 78 but there's still time...

**The philosophy that underpins your life...** Never hurry, never worry, and stop and smell the flowers sometimes.

**The order of service at your funeral...** I'd be carried in to You'll Never Walk Alone, sung by Tom Jones and The Kop Choir. There'll be words from Michael Parkinson, then my grandson Rico, six, will give out choc ices.

**The way you want to be remembered...** He managed to bring a little pleasure to a few people.

**The Plug...** Des O'Connor And Jimmy Tarbuck Live is at The Broadway Theatre, Peterborough, on 16 June and Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on 20 June. Autumn dates will be announced on desoconnornow.com. To help the homeless of Liverpool in honour of Sir Ken Dodd visit whitechapelcentre.co.uk. ■

*As told to Rob McGibbon*

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...** 27 October 1963, my first time on Sunday Night At The London Palladium.

I was meant to do six minutes but I did nine and got an amazing reaction. Everything I have now started with that night. I have an audio of the show and smile when I hear my little voice.

**The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...** I would change the inheritance tax laws. It's so unfair that you can't leave all you've worked for to your loved ones without the taxman taking a chunk.

**The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...** I'd take Concorde to Sardinia

with my friend Vice Admiral Donald Gosling to feed fish and snorkel. I'd play golf with Pauline at San Lorenzo Club, Quinta do Lago, Portugal. We'd have a cold beer and sea bass at Gigi's, then fly to Royal Dornoch, Scotland, to play golf with my son James, 48. I'd have dinner with all the family – our other

**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day...** I would re-route the mountain of wasted food from supermarkets to children, the elderly and the homeless.

**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...** Many dear friends. In the last few years I've lost Bruce Forsyth, Cilla Black, Ronnie, Bobby Campbell [the former Chelsea manager] and Ken Dodd.

**The unending quest that drives you on...** To continue to have total enjoyment in my work. I give thanks every day because laughter is a drug and I still love performing immensely.

**The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase...** That I'm Roy Hudd! A lady asked me if I was him when I was live on Sky News after Ken Dodd's funeral. It was hilarious, my mates enjoyed it.

**The film you can watch time and time again...** The Godfather trilogy is glorious. The acting is so good.



## PS...

*Charlize Theron stars in pregnancy comedy Tully, out Friday.*

*Plan B's new album Heaven Before All Hell Breaks Loose is out the same day. And Michael Ball opens in Chess, by Tim Rice and ABBA's Benny and Björn, at London's Coliseum on Tuesday*



## NEXT WEEK

- Part two of our brilliant step-by-step guide to cake decorating with Royal Wedding baker Fiona Cairns
- Monty Don on the beauty of buttercups
- Britain's best TV guide