



From top: Coworth Park Hotel where Gregg married in January, a knickerbocker glory, Alexander the Great, England v The All Blacks and Winnie-the-Pooh



**The prized possession you value above all others...**

My whippet Snoopy. Walking alone with him on the hills or the beaches in Kent are special times for me to relax. He was a rescue dog my wife Heidi found. He's a real character – like an excitable teenager.

**The unqualified regret you wish you could amend...**

Leaving school when I was 14. My parents broke up when I was young and I lost all direction. Messing up the chance of higher education is an enormous regret.

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

I would give myself over to gluttony by eating from breakfast to dinner at every three-star Michelin restaurant in Europe. It would have to be just me and Snoopy because my wife would make me watch what I eat.

**The temptation you wish you could resist...**

Sweetened Chantilly cream with vanilla. As my mate Michel Roux Junior says, 'Put Chantilly cream on anything and Gregg will eat it!'

**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...**

The Art Of War In The Western World by Archer Jones. It explains army strategies in perfect detail.

**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day...**

I'd be on the pitch during the final in this autumn's Rugby World Cup and trip up the New Zealand wingers so England win.

**The way fame and fortune has changed you, for better and worse...**

I can get a table at any restaurant at any time, but being stuck on the Tube with people staring at you is not so great.

**The film you can watch time and time again...**

Waterloo from 1970 with Rod Steiger as Napoleon. It is incredible and has so many layers of stories.

**The person who has influenced you most...**

Karen Ross, the executive producer of MasterChef. I had a cup of tea with her in 2005 and she asked me to talk about food. I spoke continuously for 40 minutes, then she gave me the job. She completely changed my life.

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

Alexander the Great, the ancient king of Macedonia. He came from a country the size and strength of Wales, but defeated the world's biggest empires.

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...**

Make friends with everyone – whether you like them or not – because they might be able to help you one day.



My parents broke up when I was young and I left school at 14. I'm determined to get a history degree one day

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...**

Getting a job as a fruit and veg salesman at New Covent Garden Market in 1987 when I was 22. Up until then, I'd only had manual jobs and being paid to use my brain was a massive step. In two years, I had my own greengrocery business.

**The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...**

I'd set myself up for life with a bank robbery.

**The song that means most to you...**

Romeo And Juliet by Dire Straits. Heidi and I met on Twitter two-and-half years ago by quoting lyrics from that song. We pussyfooted around until she tweeted, 'You and me babe, how about it?' And boom! That was it.

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...**

My wedding on 8 January this year at Coworth Park Hotel near Ascot. Heidi cuddled me all the way through the ceremony because I couldn't stop crying. It was the loveliest of days.

**The saddest time that shook your world...**

My grandfather Sid dying from a haemorrhage when I was 19. I sat with him in intensive care, but he never pulled through. He was a strong, great man and like a father to me.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...**

I'm determined to get a history degree one day.

**The philosophy that underpins your life...**

To keep progressing in all I do.

**The order of service at your funeral...**

I'd like the hymn Jerusalem, which always moves me when it's sung at international rugby matches. And I would want everyone to have a huge knickerbocker glory. I loved them as a kid and always got one when my grandad took me to Margate.

**The way you want to be remembered...**

As a single dad who did a decent job raising his kids, Tom and Libby [Gregg endured a long custody battle with their mother]. To have been a good father is my proudest boast.

As told to Rob McGibbon

Rugby fan Gregg is encouraging supporters to Get Up For England, with O2. Win a trip to New Zealand at [www.getupforengland.co.uk](http://www.getupforengland.co.uk)

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's MasterChef's Gregg Wallace

**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...**

I love history. My house is stacked with history books.

**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...**

My hair! I was 17 when it started falling out. I was born bald, was hairy for a few years, then reverted to type.

**The unending quest that drives you on...**

I left home at 14 with nothing and I've been grafting ever since because I'm scared of having nothing again.

**The poem that touches your soul...**

It's not a poem but a song from a Winnie the Pooh book that goes, 'The more it snows (Tiddely pom), The more it goes (Tiddely pom), On snowing.' I love the humour and innocence of Pooh and still read the books. They're brilliant.

**The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase...**

Everyone thinks I'm a chef, but I'm a greengrocer with a love of fine food.

PS...

Anne Hathaway stars in *One Day*, the bestseller turned summer blockbuster, out Wednesday. David Haig goes round the bend

in *The Madness Of King George* at Bath's Theatre Royal.

And Will Young's new album, *Echoes*, is out on Monday



## NEXT WEEK

● Rachel Weisz and Ralph

Fiennes star in a gripping new

BBC1 spy thriller ● Delicious summer

dishes for alfresco dining ● How

to give your garden a budget

Bank Holiday makeover ● PLUS

Britain's biggest TV listings guide