We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s Baroness (Jean) Trumpington

The prized possession you value above all others… My flat in Battersea, south London. I’ve been here since 1988. Every old bird needs a nest and this is mine.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend… Not having more children. I have a son, Adam, so I’m lucky. My husband [historian and writer Alan Barker, who died in 1988] and I tried for another child, but it wasn’t to be.

The temptation you wish you could resist… Cigars. Twice a month I like a Cuban Cohiba – a big fat cigar for a big fat girl! I smoked 50 cigarettes a day, but I quit in 2001. Cigars are a naughty treat.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance… Alan’s The Civil War In America. It brings to life the tragedy of the war. He dedicated it to me.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day… I’d go to a men’s Turkish baths then become visible just to see the shock on their faces!

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions… I’d have eggs and bacon with coffee for breakfast at The Farmers Club in Whitehall with Adam. I’d swim in Lake Como, Italy, before lunch at the House of Lords with Baroness Turner. She’s a great buddy, even though she’s a trade unionist! I’d have pan-fried skate with anchovies, salad and a carafe of white wine. After, I’d play tennis with Roger Federer at the River Club in New York, and I’d win. Later I’d wander around Turenne in France and have a glass of champagne. I’d have a spicy Bloody Mary at the Knickerbocker Club in New York, then dinner there with George Clooney. We’d have lobster and vintage Armand Rousseau Gevrey-Chambertin red wine. I’d end the day dancing at Anna’s bel’s in London – with Mikhail Baryshnikov!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise… Rafa Nadal picking at his underwea when he serves. I love tennis but I find that so unattractive.

The unending quest that drives you on… To go to sleep at night with no regrets.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions… I’d steal a Rolls-Royce with a chauffeur and a police escort! I worked for the Queen in the 80s [as a barones-in-waiting] and had to greet heads of state at Heathrow. Driving back to London with a police escort was thrilling.

The film you can watch time and time again… Casablanca. It’s so romantic. Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart are wonderful together.

The person who has influenced you most… Rab Butler [a Tory minister in the 40s, 50s and 60s]. He was a generous and wise advisor and friend.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint… Charles II. He turned England back into a lovely place to live after Cromwell. He was jolly attractive, so we’d probably have a good flirt!

The philosophy that underpins your life… Be prepared to take chances.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it… I’d steal a Rolls-Royce with a chauffeur and a police escort! I worked for the Queen in the 80s [as a barones-in-waiting] and had to greet heads of state at Heathrow. Driving back to London with a police escort was thrilling.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity… Needlepoint. I used to make cushions for rich friends with images of their fine houses, but I’m 91 now and my eyesight is bad, so it’s not possible.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again… My mother’s wedding ring. I lost it on my way to London when I was 21.

The song that means most to you… ‘If I was invisible, I’d go to a men’s Turkish baths then become visible just to see the shock on their faces!’

The order of service at your funeral… The service will be at St Margaret’s, Westminster, with everyone singing All Things Bright And Beautiful and the Battle Hymn Of The Republic. I want my ashes scattered under a cherry tree in Kew Gardens that I planted in memory of Alan and where his ashes are.

The way you want to be remembered… For giving pleasure to other people.

The Plug… My two grandchildren have started businesses. Virginia’s personal training company is Over-Training (over-training.com).

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you… If I was invisible, I’d go to a men’s Turkish baths then become visible just to see the shock on their faces!

Next Week

• Animal magic… the true heart-warming story behind BBC’s new drama, Our Zoo
• Create a dazzling display with Monty Don’s white garden • PLUS Britain’s biggest and best TV guide