The prized possession you value above all others... A painted wooden voting stick presented to me by the Kuna tribe in the rainforests of Panama [pictured]. I filmed with them in the 1970s and the stick made me an honorary tribesman, which meant I could take part in their council meetings – a great honour. The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... That I didn’t study harder at school. I left at 16 with five O-levels. The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... My wife Marilyn and I would wake up in our Oxfordshire cottage and have breakfast in bed and read the newspapers. We’d watch whales in Baja California, off Mexico, then have a beach lunch with the family – our daughters Emma and Victoria, their husbands and our five grandchildren – at the Hilton Resort at Flic en Flac, Mauritius. I’d spend the afternoon walking in the Yorkshire Dales, followed by a cream tea on the Cornish coast. I’d sip a Manhattan cocktail in the penthouse of a New York skyscraper hotel before having supper at home with Marilyn, because she’s the world’s best cook! The temptation you wish you could resist... Pork scratchings at the pub! The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar, which I studied for O-levels. It made me realise just how powerful the English language is in the right hands. The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d eavesdrop on a Cabinet meeting at No 10 and reveal what was really said. The pet-hate that makes your hackles rise... People in service industries who, when you ask for something, say, ‘No problem’ instead of ‘Of course’. Why should there be a problem?!

The film you can watch time and time again... Some Like It Hot still makes me laugh. Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis are the funniest odd-couple ever and Marilyn Monroe is sensational. The person who has influenced you most... My father Bill. He spent three years in a Japanese hell camp in WWII and never fully recovered. But, like a stick made me an honorary tribesman, which I studied for O-levels. It imbued in me a set of values to live by. The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pint... Horatio Nelson. I want to know why he wore his Admiral’s uniform on the deck of HMS Victory at Trafalgar, making himself a sitting duck!

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Never stop believing in yourself. The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Civil aviation. I’m a bit of a plane-spotter and read magazines about it. The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... That I was part of the NHS at the age of 50, I was an orphan. The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Never stop believing in yourself. The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Civil aviation. I’m a bit of a plane-spotter and read magazines about it. The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... That I was part of the NHS at the age of 50, I was an orphan. The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... The misapprehension about yourself. The philosophy that underpins your life... Have a go. The order of service at your funeral... I’d like a couple of stirring hymns to send me on my way, then to have my ashes scattered either near the Buckinghamshire village where my children grew up, or at Wharfedale, Yorkshire, where as a boy I first discovered the countryside. Maybe a few here, a few there! The way you want to be remembered... A good broadcaster who loved the medium of television, but regarded fame as a by-product, not a goal. The Plug... John is on Countryfile, Sundays, BBC1 and his Countryfile Handbook is published by BBC Books.

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: Countryfile presenter John Craven

The unending quest that drives you on... Making sure I have something interesting to do tomorrow. The poem that touches your soul... High Flight by John Gillespie Magee, who died flying a Spitfire aged 19 in 1941. It is about joy and enthusiasm. The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I didn’t study harder at school. I left at 16 with five O-levels. The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d eavesdrop on a Cabinet meeting at No 10 and reveal what was really said. The pet-hate that makes your hackles rise... People in service industries who, when you ask for something, say, ‘No problem’ instead of ‘Of course’. Why should there be a problem?!

The film you can watch time and time again... Some Like It Hot still makes me laugh. Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis are the funniest odd-couple ever and Marilyn Monroe is sensational. The person who has influenced you most... My father Bill. He spent three years in a Japanese hell camp in WWII and never fully recovered. But, like a stick made me an honorary tribesman, which I studied for O-levels. It imbued in me a set of values to live by. The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pint... Horatio Nelson. I want to know why he wore his Admiral’s uniform on the deck of HMS Victory at Trafalgar, making himself a sitting duck!