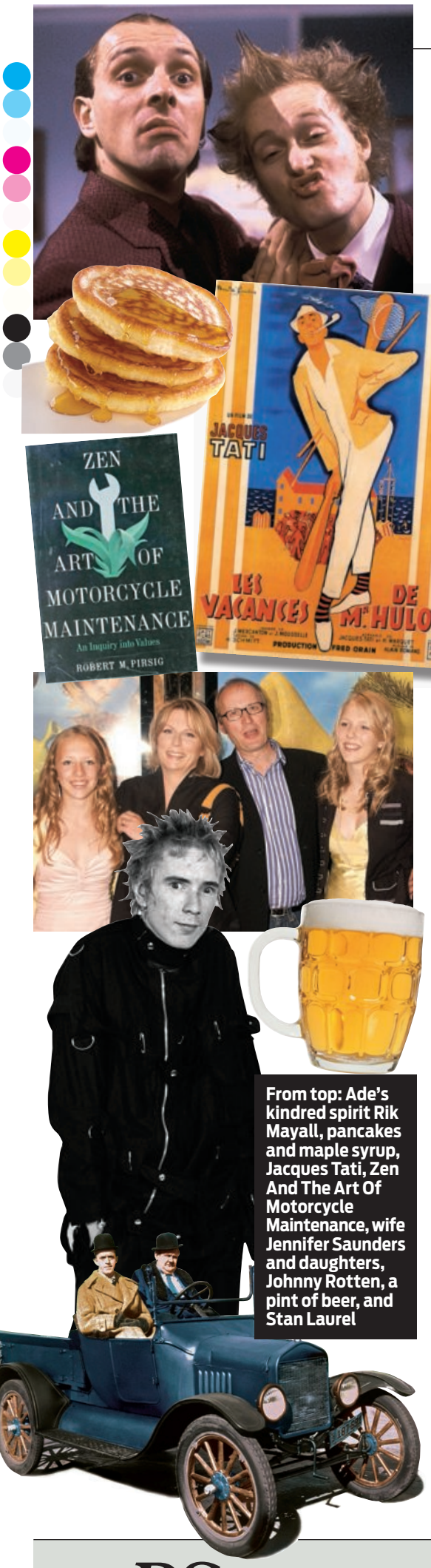

From top: Ade's kindred spirit Rik Mayall, pancakes and maple syrup, Jacques Tati, Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance, wife Jennifer Saunders and daughters, Johnny Rotten, a pint of beer, and Stan Laurel

I'd desperately like to know how to use the Leica camera I got for Christmas properly

DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's Adrian Edmondson's turn

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... An acoustic guitar onto which my best friend Robert painted a poem by Leonard Cohen while I was at school. I ran out of cash and sold it for a fiver.

The unending quest that drives you on... To have fun until I die.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... Breakfast of pancakes and maple syrup in Beaver Creek, Colorado, with my wife Jennifer [Saunders] and daughters Ella, Beattie and Freya, followed by skiing on freshly groomed slopes. Teleport onto a fishing boat pootling along the Amalfi coast in Italy to lunch in Positano. Back to Exeter to watch Exeter City beat Barcelona in the Champions League, followed by an evening in my favourite pub on Dartmoor with my band, The Bad Shepherds. We'd play a set with David Bowie and Nick Cave.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Beer. I love the taste and the effect. The trouble is it makes me the wrong size for my clothes.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig. There are simple lessons in it; unfortunately I rarely act on them.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... Being recognised can be tedious, so it would be great to be able to disappear at will.

The way fame and fortune has changed you, for better and worse... The only thing that really changed me was having children. I went from being selfish to selfless. The rest is rubbish.

The film you can watch time and time again... Monsieur Hulot's Holiday with Jacques Tati. The gentle poignancy makes it so re-watchable.

The person who has influenced you most... Johnny Rotten. He showed me that you didn't have to do things the way we'd been taught. I'm still in his thrall, but I imagine he'd think I was a middle-class ******!

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Stan Laurel. I still watch Laurel and Hardy obsessively. All the jokes you see on modern telly are there. I'd ask him where he got them from.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Do what you want, not what is easiest.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I like 'collecting' tors, the small Dartmoor hills, while walking. I have a dream of doing them all in a year, but as there are more than 200, I'd have to do some serious walking.

The prized possession you value above all others... I'd be gutted if we lost our family photograph albums.

The regret you wish you could amend... I wish I knew more physics and chemistry. Or, indeed, any.

The poem that touches your soul... Summoned By Bells, John Betjeman's verse autobiography. It's comic but tear-jerking, and the section about being abandoned at boarding school really gets me. I had the same experience and reading it is quite cathartic.

The misapprehension about yourself that you wish you could erase... I've stopped worrying about the gulf between what I am and what people think I am. In fact, I rather enjoy it.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Meeting Rik Mayall at Manchester University in 1975 when I was 18. He is a kindred spirit, and we have a limitless ability to amuse each other. Back then we thought we were going to be straight actors, but suddenly became comics, which changed everything.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd do a Pink Panther-style heist, steal the orb and sceptre from the Crown Jewels and use them as doorstops in my downstairs toilet.

The song that means most to you... $1,000 Wedding by Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris. Jennifer introduced me to country music when we were courting, and this was one of those songs. We still sing it in the car – I'm Gram and Jennifer is Emmylou.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... The Bad Shepherds played at Glastonbury last year. We were on top form and the reception was extraordinary. It touched all three of us.

The saddest time that shook your world... Dealing with my daughters leaving home. I still see them a lot, but I miss sitting round the kitchen table with a mug of tea and a sticky bun, listening to them whinge about school.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... Many, but above all, I'd like to know how to use the Leica camera I got for Christmas properly.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Cheer up you stupid twit!

The order of service at your funeral... Abide With Me to make them cry, Jazz Delicious Hot, Disgusting Cold by the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band to cheer them up. Six black horses and some cancan dancers.

The way you want to be remembered... 'That b****** stole my pint!'

The Plug... The Bad Shepherds are touring this summer. Visit www.thebadshepherds.com for details.

PHOTOGRAPHS: XXXX