



'IN THE SPOTLIGHT'

Each month we put a different person 'in the spotlight' and pose 12 wide-ranging questions to them. This month, we feature **TV and radio broadcaster, journalist, and Festival Patron, Michael Collie.**

1. Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.

I am told that my first appearance as a broadcaster was when I was aged two and my mother was being interviewed for *Woman's Hour*. Quite why, I've no idea. I came down from my afternoon sleep and the interviewer asked me what I had in my hand, and I said "a lollipop". And so my career began – probably on the cutting room floor, to be fair.

2. What book made most impact on you as a child?

Little Rogue by Mollie Clarke was definitely highly influential in my childhood. All about an elephant who because so naughty he was sent away and told not to come back until he had done something good. I probably lived in fear of being bad ever after...

3. What is your favourite film, and why?

Hot Fuzz. Because it is. Isn't it everyone's, officer?

4. What are your main hobbies/interests, apart from reading, of course?

Watching *Hot Fuzz*. Although, to be fair, I spend more time trying to empty my email inbox. I fail, but it does successfully fill up all my spare time.

5. What would be the three things you would like to have if you were stranded on a desert island?

A medium rare fillet steak, good wine and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

6. What would a look at your bookshelves tell us about you?

I'm a bit behind on my dusting.

7. If you could invite any three people, dead or alive, to a dinner party, who would they be, and why?

Sir Robert Mark, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who changed police culture, oversaw the Spaghetti House and Balcombe Street sieges ... and then ended up doing Goodyear tyre adverts, for some reason.

Captain Sir Tom Moore, of course. I'm reading his book, "Tomorrow will be a good day", and his life was fascinating. And it makes you think, how many other fascinating people are there in this world, whom we know nothing about? Never judge anyone ...



My mum, because she's fantastic, she's energetic, she's shielding ... and there'd never be a lull in the conversation. Love 'er.

8. What kind of music do you like, and is there one favourite soundtrack?

Impossible question. Different music for different occasions. Right now, I am sitting at home with a smooth glass of Cabalié, listening to some great café jazz – a track called *Hot Cocoa Jazz*. I recommend it. But not with cocoa.

9. What are your favourite charities/good causes, and why?

Right now Cancer Research UK and the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity are top of my list, but I love supporting friends who are doing something good and just need that boost to their target.

10. Who is the person who has influenced you most/you most admire?

I thought it was my job to ask hard questions! John Craven has to be up there. I watched him on television as a kid, and then worked with him for six years on *Countryfile*. He taught me that we only exist courtesy of our viewers and listeners, and we serve them.

11. What is your connection to Evesham?

Nowadays, so many ... but my first was coming to BBC Wood Norton and discovering an incredible maze of radio and television studios in the middle of the countryside, that's been so pivotal to the BBC – and much of its history.

12. What would you list as your greatest achievement to date?

My only achievement to date has been my four wonderful daughters: Charlotte, Emily, Brittany and Heidi. I'm their dad – and I'm so, so proud of them.