



Brian J. Ford

**B**rian J. Ford is a world-famous scientist, a best-selling author, and a familiar face on TV.

He was born in Wiltshire, brought up in North London and has lived in Eastrea for thirty years, where he was behind the Eastrea Centre and, as Chairman of the Storer's, used to organise the annual free pensioners' lunch. Prof. Ford travels around the world to lecture on his research, and writes a column for an American magazine.

**1 WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF YOUR CHILDHOOD?**

Finding shells on the beaches near Padstow (my mother's home) and fossils in the clay pits (when I was at King's School, Peterborough).

**2 WHO HAS HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE AND WHY?**

A tutor at King's, Dr A. G. Lowndes. He introduced me to the microscope and taught me how to look at life through a scientist's eyes.

**3 WHICH TWO CHARACTERS, ALIVE OR DEAD, WOULD YOU MOST ENJOY SHARING A MEAL WITH AND WHY?**

**Living?** Liam Hudson. We fostered him as a three-year-old and he was astonishingly bright. Now he'd be over forty, and we often wondered what happened to him.

**Dead?** Annie Tinkler, who once lived next door. She started the campaign for a village hall during WWII and was a remarkable character.

**4 HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN JUST FIVE WORDS?**

Inquisitive, sociable, impetuous, philosophical, untidy.

**5 WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT WHITTLESEY?**

It's a traditional market town that has all the hidden appeal of a Cotswold village. People don't appreciate its importance, like the historic houses or the carillon in St Mary's church.

**6 AND IF THERE WAS ONE THING YOU COULD CHANGE, WHAT WOULD IT BE, AND WHY?**

The modern-looking tiles under the Buttercross, and its ghastly pine ceiling. They belong in a kitchen from the 1960s!

**7 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A 16-YEAR-OLD YOU?**

Keep at it. If you think something through, it'll work.

**8 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE FUTURE?**

Tending the garden, travelling around to lecture with the odd spot of broadcasting, and (best of all) being home with my adorable wife Jan and our dog.