

Tom Garrett

Md Broadleaf Timber

■ **Did you get into trouble at school?** Not really, all the kids thought I was clever so they picked on me and all the teachers thought I was lazy so they picked on me, it wasn't until I left school that things started to go pear shaped.

■ **What was your first part-time job?** I used to cut cheese in a delicatessen on Saturday mornings.

■ **What did you spend your first pay cheque on?** Pellets for my air gun!

■ **What was your first full-time job?** I made Iroko window frames for a double glazing company to pay my debts.

■ **What was the best piece of advice you have been given?** Take what you want.

■ **What was your worst business mistake?** Partnership with someone without the same values.

■ **What was your greatest business achievement?** I am about to launch a product called Strata which I hope will revolutionise the timber flooring market and meet this brief.

■ **What car do you drive today and what does it say about you?** An old Volvo V70 T5R estate - either wolf in sheep's clothing, or daddy cool!

■ **If you could have invented any product what would it have been?** Google.

■ **What do you most like about the flooring industry?** My brother.

■ **What do you least like about the industry?** China and greedy suppliers who spoil a good product for the last penny of profit.

■ **Name one change you would make to the industry.** More quality and less price driven.

■ **Which company in the flooring industry, other than your own, do you admire?** Fired Earth because they created a brand from nothing.

■ **Where should we have a flooring show?** NEC - Almost the centre of England.

■ **Which single possession would you rescue if your house caught fire?** A bottle of something nice and strong because a bonfire is always more fun with a wee dram or two.

■ **Do you have any pets?** I have a French teenager, does this count?

■ **Do you have any hobbies?** I am an armchair inside centre, a keen gardener and a bit of a tree buff (unbearded, and without sandals).

■ **How do you relax?** I love cooking, simple and complicated. I often make bread with the kids or spend a Saturday afternoon making pate.

■ **What is your favourite tippie?** Pastis at five, Champagne at seven, white wine with the fish course, red with the beef, and a good Cognac to follow.

■ **How many times a year do you take a holiday?** A ski holiday in the winter and a break in the south of France in the summer - skiing is by far the most relaxing.

■ **What is your idea of heaven?** Skiing instead of Christmas.

■ **What is your idea of hell?** Christmas instead of skiing.



■ **Which one record and book would you take to a desert island?** *Blood on the tracks* by King Bob and *Lord of the Rings* by JRR; both for exactly the same reasons: each time I revisit them they hold some thing new, yet the nostalgia does not wear out.

■ **Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?** My wife - she never bores me and is great to look at.

■ **If you could be anyone (living or dead, fictional or real) who would it be?** Most people that I admire have had relatively tortured lives: Picasso or Gaudi if I could have their talents without the pain.

■ **Choose five words that describe yourself.** Normally I'd include tall, dark and handsome so nobody mistakes me for my brother, others might say: lucky, lucky, lucky, lucky b*****.

Self confessed tree buff, Tom Garrett hugs his children Timothy and Jessica. Although he is fond of trees, he says he doesn't hug them

■ **Do you have any regrets?** Not to have played a team sport to at least pub level - my schooling left me with a phobia of collective sports that the Welsh have cured but, unfortunately too late for anything other than perhaps a bit of coaching.

■ **Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?** Not yet.

■ **What was your most embarrassing moment?** If I told you, you wouldn't be able to print it - so I won't!

■ **If you had to choose another career what would it be?** Fine wine dealer sounds good to me or maybe coaching a small rugby team. **CFJ**