

Trove

celebrity traveller **Len Goodman**

Strictly Come Dancing judge LEN GOODMAN, 70, lives in Kent with his wife Sue. He has been on the BBC show since it began 10 years ago.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE HOLIDAY?

A few years ago I said to my wife that I was fed up with going abroad and so we decided to discover more of Britain and travelled to Scotland, the Lake District, Devon and Cornwall.

For me Britain is best. I'm not a big fan of all that waiting around at airports.

AND YOUR WORST?

My wife decided to take me to Qatar for Christmas and it was the coldest it had been for 60 years. There wasn't a lot to do. It wasn't my cup of tea.

WHICH GADGET IS ESSENTIAL?

A corkscrew is my must-have holiday gadget.

I know more and more wine now is produced in screw-top bottles but it's better to be safe than sorry.

I suppose most people would say they couldn't possibly be without their mobile or laptop. If I had my way I'd ban them from being used in public places except for emergencies.

Call me old-fashioned but they're so annoying.



● Len is head judge on BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*. He will also be presenting a new BBC1

daytime travel series, *Holiday Of My Lifetime*, this Autumn.

STUART BRODWIN

get packing

By CHARLOTTE CIVIL

GOLDEN DELIGHT

You don't have to go as far as New England to enjoy an incredible display of Autumn foliage.

Batford Arboretum (01386 701441/batfordarb.co.uk) in Gloucestershire, a 56-acre hillside site and botanical garden, is transformed into a riot of colour in late September and early October thanks to its magnificent collection of maple and cherry trees.

Enjoy scenic strolls amongst the largest private collection of trees and shrubs in the country.

Stay nearby at former 17th-century coaching inn The White Hart Royal in Moreton in Marsh (01608 650731/whitehartroyal.co.uk). Its pretty exterior is typical of the area. Boutique-style rooms have four-poster beds and roll-top baths, doubles from £76.50, B&B.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Marrell Bare Access Trail GTX are the perfect footwear or active types. The lightweight shoe with reflective detail is designed for off-road use - so perfect for yomping down forest tracks or clambering up rugged coastal paths. Gore-Tex



SHADES OF AUTUMN: Batford, pretty as a picture in its golden seasonal glory

waterproof performance ensures feet will stay dry too. (Cotswoldoutdoor.com), £115.

THE WIGHT WALK

Get your walking shoes at the ready for the Isle of Wight's Walking Festival. From October 24 to 27 you could be hot-footing it around this scenic isle with more than 500 miles of footpaths.

There's something here to suit everyone. A Tiny Tots and Toddlers Tea Party Walk includes some farm

animal spotting in the surrounding fields while those on the lookout for



love should join the four-mile Speed Dotting Walk along Sandown Bay.

For more details visit: isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk. Wighthink (0333 9997 333/wighthink.co.uk) is offering day return ferry crossings (car plus seven passengers) from Portsmouth and Lymington from £48. Foot passengers from £13.80pp.

FLIGHT ESSENTIAL

Ensure your Inflight snooze is without any interruption wearing this lavender filled eye mask from Wellicious (wellicious.com). Its gentle aroma will soothe tired eyes and help you to drift off. £45.95.