



Cold Feet

SERIES 8 PRESS PACK

Cold Feet

Series 8

Award winning comedy drama COLD FEET returns for an eighth series; Adam (James Nesbitt) is back on the singles market, but for once in his life he's not finding any takers – has he finally lost his mojo?

Pete (John Thomson) on the other hand appears to have found his and, having recently renewed their wedding vows, some alfresco action is the icing on Pete and Jen's cake. However, mature student Jenny's (Fay Ripley) happiness is short lived when some unexpected news sends her into a tailspin.

Fiercely independent Karen is more interested in work than relationships, especially when a mystery author's manuscript lands on her desk.

Meanwhile, David (Robert Bathurst) and Nikki (Siobhan Finneran) are enjoying a more frugal life when Nikki's divorce settlement comes through tipping the balance. How far will David go to protect his pride?

Packed full of highs and heart-breaking lows, COLD FEET follows a tight-knit group of friends as they navigate their way through mid-life, facing whatever life throws at them, together.

"I'm delighted that viewers feel invested in the lives and loves of our imperfect heroes. And I'm excited that we're being given the opportunity to tell the next chapter of their stories. We've got plenty of trials and tribulations in store for them as they navigate their way through middle age, and more than a few laughs and tears along the way." - COLD FEET Creator, Mike Bullen.



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Cold Feet

Episode 1 Synopsis

After suffering a few knockbacks, Adam starts to question whether he's lost his mojo until he catches the eye of attractive young barista, Gemma. He's initially cautious, but when she makes the first move and he decides to go for it, Matt's reaction takes him by surprise.

Mature student Jenny's been throwing herself into uni life but all that looks set to change when she receives some unexpected news. Meanwhile, Pete bravely saves a young lad, Evan from drowning but his efforts aren't as appreciated as he might have liked.

Karen's shocked to learn that Josh has dropped out of uni but takes a more understanding stance than draconian dad, David who is adamant Josh needs to finish his course. Josh stands his ground causing David to take stock of his own career path. Is he really still trying to live up to his late father's expectations?

David and Nikki have been living together happily, getting by on minimum wage jobs. But when Nikki's divorce settlement comes through, it's a game changer; suddenly they're back to living the high life but will David be able to cope with being financial dependent on Nikki?

Both Matt and Karen throw Adam some hurtful home truths. Question is, can this leopard really change his spots?

Cold Feet

Interviews with Cast

JAMES NESBITT IS ADAM WILLIAMS

Q: What can we look forward to in the new series of Cold Feet?

“I think this series of Cold Feet is very strong. I’m really pleased with it. There’s big scope, range and ambition. It’s the best one of the reboots and one of the best there’s ever been. It’s found its place again. The previous series were good but now it really seems to have got its mojo back and is moving in the right direction.”

Q: You filmed the opening scenes in Anglesey. What was that like to shoot?

“It’s a great opening scene with our writer Mike Bullen wrong-footing the audience. It’s important to remember within the context of TV that Cold Feet was an innovative show in its time. It introduced a lot of devices that hadn’t been seen before. They were then taken up by other shows. The idea of fantasy and flashback and all that. Which is commonplace now.

“Also those wrong-footing devices that Mike writes are very much at the heart of the DNA of Cold Feet. I think this series has everything we still expect from the show but it has really stepped up to the modern television arena. I’m delighted with it.

“There is some classic Mike Bullen writing in this series. Including one scene involving Adam in episode two. It’s where Cold Feet is at its best. It’s very funny, original, surprising and tied up with a kind of epiphany for Adam. One of the most important moments of clarity since his wife Rachel died. A very key moment. It comes into focus where he’s been going wrong, what he needs to do and what he actually wants to do.”

Q: Do we see Adam finally growing up in this series?

“Growing up is such a broad term. But unquestionably Adam undergoes a change in this series. There is a moment of clarity. Maybe a moment of self-awareness. Which is really motivated mostly by his son Matt (Ceallach Spellman). It’s almost like he’s been waiting for this moment for a long time. And sometimes it takes people longer to get there than others.

“Where Cold Feet has been strong over the years is in identifying things like that in the human psyche. Adam has always been scared of this moment because he thinks that then somehow changes him for the worse. It takes away some of the real spark to his own identity, his individuality.

“But actually, as he finds, it hopefully enhances it. It’s just a natural progression that everyone has to face in life. We all have to go through different chapters in life and write new chapters. I think this is one that has been waiting to be written for a long time.

“Also from an audience point of view it’s important Adam got to this stage. Otherwise it just gets a bit boring. It’s also important that Adam got his likeability back. It’s an important series for Adam in terms of how he grows and progresses. Also in terms of his relationship with the audience.

“But just by him maybe growing up a bit doesn’t mean he has lost his vulnerability, his childishness and immaturity. Yet he has somehow become more mature. I’m pleased about how it has gone.”

Q: David (Robert Bathurst) says Adam has ‘a selfish vein of arrogance’. Is that fair?

“I think that is fair. I don’t think it’s necessarily conscious. But certainly, Adam can be selfish. He sometimes doesn’t have a lot of consideration. But it’s not malevolent. He’s also kind and funny and a supportive friend. But certainly, he’s always been someone who’s been selfish.”

Q: Adam says he’s not ready to grow old. Does he mean that?

“I think the minute you say that it means you are ready to grow old. There’s something about confronting it. It’s challenging the notion of it. That’s why you say you’re not ready. But what is unspoken is, ‘But I have to.’ Most of the time we dismiss it. We’re in denial. So I think that’s quite astute.

“Adam is thinking, ‘What am I here for? Matt is my legacy. Do I have other chapters to write in my life?’ Adam does have other chapters to write but he also wants to be with his son. So all of these things collide.

“We ask ourselves these questions all of the time. Those of us who are of this age are at a critical point in our lives. Our children have grown up or are growing up. I’ve got a 21-year-old and a 16-year-old embarking on their lives. I want to be around for them as much as possible but yet they want to be away, which is natural. I’ve got to consider what’s happening with the rest of my life.

“If ever there was a right time for Cold Feet, in a sense it is now. The characters are getting to their 50s when life is supposed to get settled. But life can also unravel then as well. As we see in this series.

“All of the characters are facing their own challenges and yet they are still bound together. I like that there is unravelling. And yet there they all are together, relying on each other, jostling with each other, supporting each other. It has that rather rich tapestry.

“It’s interesting how it’s your close friends who are the people who help you come to your senses, keep you grounded and offer the best advice. Cold Feet reminds you what friendship is. You just need those little moments.”

Q: We see some old footage of the Cold Feet characters. How did that make you feel?

“Truthfully I found that very moving to watch. A lot of it was from the very first pilot episode 20 years ago. Any emotion you see is very easily summoned up in that scene.

“Also it was just looking back on my own life. Looking back at the importance Cold Feet has had in my career. That was really right at the nascence. At the beginning. It was such a lovely thing to be able to do in this series.”

Q: How would you describe Adam's changing relationship with his son Matt?

"One of the traps parents fall into is becoming far too friendly with their teenagers. I completely understand the notion of communication. That's one of the great things which has changed, certainly for my generation, the ability to communicate with your children and listen as well.

"But as great as it is to be friendly I think it's also important that your parents are something to rebel against. It's interesting in this series that Matt lays down what the boundaries need to be rather than the other way around.

"I can see what Adam is trying to do. But Adam is doing it for himself. Not for Matt. And that's what the difference is. Having two children I'm constantly learning the more grown up they get. I think people will relate to that story."

Q: There are scenes at a music festival. Are you a festival-goer?

"I once introduced Ash on stage at the Leeds Festival. But generally, I'm not a festival-goer. Although I am someone who does camping. I've done a lot of that over the years.

"When the kids were young about 20 of us used to go and do that. They loved it. There's nothing kids love more than just being able to run around a field with each other, hide and play. Camping is glorious.

"The weather was just so bizarre when we were filming the music festival scenes. It was boiling one minute and chucking it down with rain the next. It made continuity quite difficult. But you don't notice that when you watch it on screen. There's also a bit of dancing. It was fun. You have to throw yourself into it."

Q: David talks about losing sight of what is important. Is that easy to do today?

"I think it's very easily done today. There is so much distraction. So much going on. When I was growing up I had a Slade poster and a Manchester United poster in my bedroom and that was it. No mobile phone, computer, games or whatever."

Q: What were some of the other highlights for you in this series?

"I also loved working with Eve Myles who plays a character called Caitlin. She has natural funny bones. While John Thomson (Pete) and I loved filmed scenes on a golf driving range. Hitting golf balls all day. John cracks me up."

Q: We see Adam in control at a barbecue. Is that something you would do off screen?

"I'll let other people do it. Because other people are usually better than me at most things like that. If I'm controlled by anything I'm controlled by my daughters."

Q: Is making a new series of Cold Feet always a leap of faith for the cast?

“To be honest that’s true for every job. It’s the nature of actors. Because we’re the faces on the screen you think we’re the people in charge. Well I’ve got news for you. We’re not in charge. In fact we’re like small children who are not allowed loose with any responsibility whatsoever.

“It’s partly why I’ve chosen to do other things with my life. Because for a grown up it’s a struggle. And also for a very opinionated controlling grown up. Trust me. It’s a nightmare.

“So it’s always a leap of faith to put what will be the next four months of your life very much into the hands of somebody else. Luckily for us we’ve known Mike Bullen for 25 years and we have started to work out that we’re probably going to be OK.

“But it’s new territory for Mike every time as much as it is for us because nobody has done this before. When they’ve come back 10 years later and have to keep creating interesting enough stuff about people’s lives.

“The show is not groundbreaking in its format any more when it probably was originally. But what is groundbreaking is we’re doing it again and again and again all these years later. So that’s the new bit and the part we’re all scared of. How do you keep the characters’ lives interesting?

“When I knew what we were going to tackle this time and when we all started work on it, this series is the first one, in terms of Cold Feet coming back, that in a way felt like the original series. It felt believable to all of us. Like we were getting back to form.”

Q: Where do we find Jenny and Pete (John Thomson) when we return to their lives?

“Having renewed their vows, Pete and Jen’s marriage is having a revival. It’s going well. But it’s Pete and Jen and she is still really irritated by him. She still loves him. But it’s like having another child. Pete is very needy of Jen. She is the grown up.”

Q: Jenny faces a family crisis in this series. Can you tell us about that?

“There’s that recognisable thing about it that you know from your own life or from your friends or people close to you - it’s why people say, ‘You’ve got to live in the moment.’ Because you can walk around a corner and what you are least expecting can be waiting for you. For good or bad. You can’t predict life. And in this series there is certainly something around the corner for that family.”

Q: Adam (James Nesbitt) describes Jenny as ‘opinionated and spiky’. Do you agree?

“I was genuinely really offended. When I watched that episode, having forgotten it was in the script, I was going, ‘All right, all right, calm down.’ I’m defensive of my own character. But OK, fine. The mouthy drunk one. Whatever.”

Q: We see film of the characters in their younger days in this series?

"I think for fans of the show who have followed it from the beginning that will be sweet. There is still such a reference in the show, especially with Adam's storyline, to Rachel, played by Helen Baxendale."

Q: There is a trip to a music festival in one of the episodes. How was that to film?

"It was a really beautiful place to film. Except for the fact it started off in lovely weather and then we had torrential rain. I think they've had to CGI out the mud from the bottom of my very bright dress in a couple of scenes because it was caked on."

"The production team did a great job setting up the backdrop for a music festival. That was good fun because I also got to do a bit of silly dancing and drinking acting."

"Do I go to music festivals? About 20 years ago I put camping into Room 101. Forget it. I have been to a music festival but I very much booked into a hotel down the road. I'm not a fan of Portaloos so it doesn't really work for me. I'm not good on a campsite."

Q: Jenny joins a local choir. Did you get to sing for real?

"It is really me singing on screen although I don't have to sing solo. I'm not surprised choirs are such a big deal now. The whole experience is very uplifting. Especially if you have someone at the helm who is really inspirational."

"We filmed again at Salford Lads Club. We did the yoga scene there in the last series. It's an amazing place. Very cool."

Q: David (Robert Bathurst) talks about what is important in life. Is it easy to concentrate on that today?

"It's almost impossible. Every time you try something distracts you. There is a lot of distraction in the world and in everyday life. Distraction is really useful by the way. I like distraction. You can't think about life on a daily basis. But moments in your life to reset your clock are good. To clear things out. To sometimes get rid of the detail is good. To spring clean. Then you can get going again."

"But there is so much out there on the news, on your phone, all around us with the people we know and love. There is so much out there to remind us of our own mortality, how things work and what is important."

Q: Does filming Cold Feet remind you of the value of true friendship?

"I've got a really close group of friends. That's important. We're going out tonight. I know I haven't got time and I've got a lot on tomorrow. But I just want to see these people's faces. This is my group. My family essentially."

"That's the thing about Cold Feet. As you get older, basically, your friends become your family. And if you're lucky enough to have friends you can rely on, I think that's what takes you through."

"My mother lives on her own in Brighton. I love my mum and talk to her every other day. But the people she sees on a daily basis are her friends at this stage of her life. And they all support each other. It's worth hanging on to your friends. That's what Cold Feet is all about."

ROBERT BATHURST IS DAVID MARSDEN

Q: What's ahead in this new series?

"When we were filming this series I did feel it was really strong. It's got that balance of serious and funny which our writer Mike Bullen does very well. It's getting to the stage where life is potentially more settled but also unravelling. You have to confront things which in youth people blithely ignore. It has that sense of unease and resilience which we have to bring to bear to all of our lives.

"David's life takes another downward slide as he struggles to keep his dignity. It looks like an abyss for David. He's facing it but he doesn't know quite how to cope.

"It's a story that acknowledges failure. And how do you measure success in life? Ultimately it's about what really matters in life. It causes a bit of reflection on that. Everybody has their own standards and values. We see people just getting by.

"What's good about the downward spiral is he has people he can fall back on. What we have with Cold Feet is a disparate group. But it's actually people who are instinctively looking out for each other.

"David has a strong friendship with Pete (John Thomson) and Adam (James Nesbitt), although that can be strained. Karen (Hermione Norris) and David were divorced 15 years ago and yet there is a constant connection there with different intensities for each of them at different times. Different yearnings and longings that don't always coincide.

"They aren't all family but they do look out for each other. Which takes the individual characters slightly by surprise. It's just an immediate pulling together of old friends."

Q: Is it easy in today's busy life to lose focus on things that really matter?

"It's very important not to lose sight of what is important in life. I was driving on a beautiful morning today and I was starting to get wound up by the news on the radio. So I turned it off and just took in the countryside. You've got to switch off."

"Mobile phones are such a distraction. In some American restaurants they come with the menus and a wooden box and you are encouraged to put your mobile phones into the box for the duration of the dinner.

"For somebody who is so driven by 80s' values, without being too glib a transition in his character, David does seem to come to a realignment as to what success actually means. I think David is in danger of beginning to learn from the experiences he's having. I wouldn't put it any stronger than that. But there are glimmerings of some level of humanity with David. Although I don't think we should hold up too many hopes for him. Any changes have to happen accidentally and certainly very much by degrees."

Q: David and Karen's twin daughters Olivia and Ellie turn 18 in this series. Does the march of time in Cold Feet sometimes surprise you?

"It's extraordinary how Cold Feet creates its own timeline of people's lives. It pulls people up short as to how long it's been going and, if they have watched it from the very start, how long they have been going too. People go, 'Crikey, what was I doing when that happened?' It does make people see the passage of their own timelines as well as just following what the characters are doing in the show.

"In terms of David and Karen, half of David's mind is still elsewhere. He's not someone who just simply moves on. And he's still unfeasibly possessive towards Karen. Without any cause or reason at all. But it is a deep, instinctive thing he has. David has a lot of baggage."

Q: David finds himself working in a call centre with 'motivational' quotes on the walls. Did they motivate you?

"Those slogans just show you that every occupation is a performance. Sometimes if you go to the back of a shop in the storeroom you see these slogans about closing a deal and things like that. You realise every hotel receptionist, retail assistant, doctor, waiter or whoever is involved in a degree of performance. Everybody is performing in everything they do in all of their jobs. The world of work is one big theatre."

Q: You filmed several scenes at Manchester Airport. How was that to shoot?

"We obviously had permissions to film there on an ordinary working day and used a few supporting artistes. But by and large we had members of the public walking backwards and forwards in the shots going about their own business. It was done very quietly. If you don't make too much noise and don't get in the way too much then everyone at airports is so busy trying to get to their flights that they ignore you."

"We also did some filming on a night bus. All of the extras were told they must not have their phones on set. So it's the only bus I've ever been on where people aren't on their mobiles."

Q: David leads a rebellion at one stage. Have you ever done that in real life?

"I've stood up for things on occasions. I don't think I've ever walked out of a job. I've only ever done acting, which is terrible really. I stand up for myself. I'm not shy of telling people if I think things are going wrong."

Q: One episode features scenes at a music festival. Are you a festival-goer?

"David has a very strange time at the music festival. But I'm not a music festival-goer myself. They had some really extraordinary circus acts on set. I'm intrigued by circus people. They are superhuman. We had a few contortionists and acrobats."

"I once said about Cold Feet that Jimmy Nesbitt is the peacock lead singer. John Thomson is the drummer and keeps everything going at so many beats a second and I'm the bass player who's allowed out for a solo every now and again and then told to go and stand at the back."

Q: What about other highlights this series?

"The opening to the series pulls the rug from under the audience. You don't quite know what is going on. That's Mike Bullen playing with us again. It was a beautiful location to film in."

"Mike Bullen also makes a cameo appearance in one scene involving David. Flashing his car lights. While another scene involved the closest I've got to being Jimmy Krankie."

Q: What is the future for Cold Feet?

“Life moves on and so does Cold Feet. You never know if there will be more or if this will be the end. We’re reconciled to that after every series. You always have to see what the viewing figures are like. But like life, Cold Feet endlessly throws up new challenges. So there is plenty for Mike Bullen to write about.

“That’s the thing about Cold Feet. No-one ever knows whether it’s going to work or not. We just get on and do it. But this series felt like it had both an emotional and comic weight to it. Which was encouraging. I thought, ‘This is possibly quite good.’”

HERMIONE NORRIS IS KAREN MARSDEN

Q: Is it always a leap of faith making another series of Cold Feet?

“You are always concerned about a new series. Not wanting to harm something I care about very much. But I think this is one of the strongest series we’ve made to date.

“Cold Feet isn’t about any individual character. It’s about the six of them as a whole. All of us have invested 20 years in these characters.

“The onus is always on our writer Mike Bullen every time. He has the raw ingredients in the characters and it is all down to the writing and what happens within that dynamic. That’s what is going to make or break it.

“We haven’t changed as a cast. We just do what we do as actors. But Mike really does have the pressure of keeping things relevant, current and real.”

Q: Does the march of time in Cold Feet still surprise you?

“Karen and David’s (Robert Bathurst) twins Olivia (Daisy Edgar-Jones) and Ellie (Sylvie Briggs) celebrate their 18th birthday in this series having been born in the third series. So it does come as a surprise to me.

“That’s the thing about Cold Feet. Revisiting Cold Feet more than any other experience in my life makes time expand and contract. I’m often caught up on set when I look at the others and think how long we have been doing this now.”

Q: Does Karen face more parenting challenges?

“There are some parenting challenges for Karen in this series. It’s an education looking at some things teenagers can get involved with today. Teenagers are dealing with so many different things now. As parents we’re basically parenting in the dark because we didn’t have social media, mobile phones, computers and all of those things.

“You have a blueprint as a parent of what you experienced when you were young. But when you haven’t had to navigate your way through social media and all of the consequences - good and bad - of that it’s quite challenging as a parent.”

Q: Adam talks to Karen about his fears of growing old. Do you worry about that?

“I don’t worry because it’s an inevitability. I can’t do anything about growing old. I am aware that I have a limited window of full capacity and I want to embrace that fully and live in the joy. I really am aware of that. I just want to find the joy. Not in anything grand. But just in everyday living. Really appreciate it.

“Who knows how long you have left? 20 years? 20 Christmases? 20 Easters? That will just go. When you have children you know how fast that goes. The thing is, I don’t want to go on and on. I’m not interested in long life. I’m interested in really good life. Allow me to see my children up and running with their partners. I do think about all of those things.

Q: We see some old footage of the characters on screen. How did that make you feel?

“It made me cry watching that old footage of us all. All that youth and hope. All of that Naivete with all of that life in front of you.”

Q: Karen is compared to Lauren Bacall in one scene and described as ‘effortlessly elegant’. What was your reaction to that?

“I felt a little embarrassed. Really? I did think Mike Bullen was taking the mickey. I don’t think of myself as effortlessly elegant. You don’t think about yourself like that. But Mike was very complimentary about Karen through the words of another character.”

Q: What were some of the other highlights for you?

“Paul Ritter returns as Karen’s business partner Benjamin Stevens. I love Paul Ritter and I love working with him. I think he’s a comedy genius. His physical comedy is just brilliant.

“We also have Paul Kaye playing a vicar called Dan. I’ve worked with Paul before. Another lovely actor and lovely man.

“Karen gets involved with helping at the church charity mission. That’s a nod back to old Cold Feet. Karen had quite a social conscience and political passion. That’s obviously all gone by the wayside with raising a family, single parenting and all the rest of it.

“But with what happens to David, who is really down on his luck in this series, it brings home the priorities in life. Doing a little to help. Doing what you can to help within your community. Not great grand things but just going to help.

“David’s storyline is a very relevant story about how quickly someone can find themselves in trouble. It’s too quick, too easy for people to fall off the radar.”

Q: Does adversity bring the important things in life into focus?

“Any kind of adversity that one experiences brings your priorities home to you. Illness, homelessness, losing a job, any kind of crisis, a death. It’s adversity that makes you appreciate what you have and what matters.”

Q: The cast filmed scenes set at a music festival. Was that fun to shoot?

“The festival episode was my favourite episode. I loved everyone being out and about out of context but all together. I thought there were really strong storylines. Comedy and tragedy and all the rest of it. A really well-balanced episode. But off-screen music festivals are not my thing really.”

JOHN THOMSON IS PETE GIFFORD

Q: What was your reaction when you read the scripts for this new series?

"I knew just how good this series was at the script readthrough before filming. There were tears and applause. It had a really good feel about it. Hermione Norris (Karen) said, 'The magic is back. It's Cold Feet as we always had it in our hearts.' So I'm very excited about that.

"We have learned a lot since Cold Feet returned and it has paid dividends. The scripts are strong and it's genuinely a nod to the old. There are parts of this series where you think, 'Well you didn't see that one coming, did you?'"

Q: Where do we find Pete and Jenny (Fay Ripley) when we meet them again?

"It's that time of life where everyone thinks, 'Well should I carry on or not?' It's that fork in the road. But they have settled their differences.

"They did split up once and they did have affairs. It did go wrong. But that's in the past and resolved. They are now moving forward. Then in this series the Giffords face a family crisis. It's written brilliantly with good humour. Without being irreverent.

"The public identify with Pete and Jenny because they are very representative of a normal couple and family. We represent the norm. The middle ground. The fact that we do fall out and make up again. You can see they have a great affection for one another despite everything.

"It's great they also play on Pete's vulnerability. He is so keen to help. Sometimes to his detriment. He is so keen and it's often ignored. You feel for him."

Q: Pete is involved in an emotional scene with his step-daughter Chloe (Madeleine Edmondson). Was much acting required?

"I'm adopted so that really struck a chord with me. That really got me in a place emotionally where it was very real. Scenes like that just come out of the blue. Sometimes Cold Feet is bittersweet. But sometimes it's bitter-bitter. Life is like that. Sometimes it will deal you spades.

"It's hard to believe Chloe is now 15 and how the kids on Cold Feet have grown up. It is terrifying. My daughter is 16. Which is a massive shock to me. A young woman now. Myself and Fay have got children who are around the same age as our children in the show. Which obviously helps. But they grow up so quickly now. And there's less innocence today with kids because of media and all the resources they have at their fingertips."

Q: Pete ends up in a canal in the first episode. How was that to film?

"It was really me in the canal. It's not a double. There's a lot of rubbish in those canals. I said, 'I could feel Victorian skulls cracking underneath my feet.' The bottom drops away like quicksand in parts. And there's other bits where you can stand on a plateau.

“Before we filmed they obviously did safety checks on where we were going to shoot and a run through. So I just watched what the stuntman did and copied that. Then after I filmed it he said, ‘Well you didn’t really need me.’ And I said, ‘I was just trying to make it look authentic.’ I wanted to give it a strong sense of realism.

“I wore a wet suit underneath the costume but it was still so cold. We also had to be covered because of health and safety. You can get Lyme disease because of the rats. So one of the things you have to do is drink copious amounts of full fat cola after you’ve been in because that kills Lyme disease. Although I don’t think they’ll market it that way.

“There was also anti-bacterial gel by the bucket load. All over faces, ears and up noses every time we came in and out of the canal. Just to be on the safe side. That water is not pleasant.”

Q: Where did you film the music festival scenes?

“We shot the music festival scenes in Delamere Forest in Cheshire. There was a heatwave when we filmed the first scenes and then we had torrential rain. It was freezing. But I loved filming those scenes.

“It was an incredible bit of work from the art department on basically a blank canvas. When I got there I went, ‘My God, this is amazing what they have done.’ All of the tents, the yurts the tepees. It was so good. Despite the fact I’m in the industry it never ceases to amaze me sometimes when you walk on set or on location. You go, ‘That’s amazing.’

“I’ve done stand up three times at Glastonbury. I also did Reading. Back in the day when I was a youth and a free spirit. I was very professional until my job was done and then I was away to the Green Fields. Glastonbury is an amazing thing. The sheer size and volume of it. It’s an eye-opener.

“I had a great time back then but I wouldn’t go near one now. Absolutely no way.”

Q: What were some of the other highlights of this series for you?

“David’s (Robert Bathurst) storyline in this series broke my heart. When he finds himself homeless. It’s so relevant now. There is a huge crisis. A serious problem. Respectable people are finding themselves on the streets. It’s even more prevalent now than when we shot it. It’s so topical. Pete is really shocked when he finds out.

“I also love some of the other scenes where the unexpected happens. One thing I don’t want Cold Feet ever to lose is those elements of breaking traditional drama conventions. That’s always got to be there for it to be Cold Feet. I’ve always loved that. Especially when it’s scenes I’m not in. The thing I love about watching the series back is not watching me but watching the things I’m not in. To see how it all gels together.”

Q: David talks about not losing sight of what is important. Is it easy to do that today?

“There are so many distractions today. That’s why mindfulness and meditation has become a bit of a movement now. Just for people to go, ‘Stop, put your phone down and just have a minute.’ It’s the pace of life today as well. Everything is quick. Cars are faster. Broadband is quicker. The attention spans of kids - flick this, flick that. Nobody sits still.”

Q: Pete goes to a golf driving range with Adam (James Nesbitt). How’s your swing?

“I don’t play golf. While Jimmy plays proper golf. But I can swing. I’ve stayed at hotels in the past that have done golf and I’ve had a lesson. So I’ve had my swing measured on a computer and I do know what to do.

“I’ve also had years of training on crazy golf courses for putting. And they say, ‘You swing for show but putt for dough.’ So I have played a little bit but I’ve not really grasped it. Maybe in later life. But I did find my putting was pretty good thanks to crazy golf. And there weren’t any obstacles either.”

Q: Your character likes to be in charge at a barbecue. Is it the same for you?

“I always have control at a barbecue. No-one ever tries to usurp me. They know it’s in good hands. As a non-drinker I’m quite happy to have that purpose as chief griller. So at a barbecue it’s a joy to be in control of the meat. Where back in the day I would have quite happily been barman. I love cooking and food anyway.”