

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

No 49 December 2023

## POLICE HARASSMENTS

### OATES

Constable Oates was not everybody's darling. Riding his bicycle, he was attacked by Stiffy Byng's terrier and ended in the ditch. Stiffy defended her dog: *"Don't be an ass, Oates. You can't expect a dog to pass up a policeman on a bicycle. It isn't human nature."*

"Stinker" Pinker, (a curate!) stole Constable Oates's helmet to please Stiffy. Oates accused Bertie Wooster. Sir Watkyn ordered Oates to spend the night watching his cow-creamer, in darkness. Oates was assaulted while endeavouring to recover Sir Watkyn's cow-creamer from a midnight marauder. Oates again wrongly suspected Bertie.

Bertie was displeased with Oates and derived nothing but gratification from the news that Constable Oates had been meeting with accidents. Sir Watkyn also believed Bertie to be guilty of stealing Oates's helmet, locked him into his room and put Constable Oates patrolling outside, under the window to prevent escape that way. Bertie was released, by intervention from Jeeves, but Sir Watkyn forgot to tell Oates, who, to the joy of Bertie, kept patrolling all night outside his window in heavy rain.

(The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

~~~\*~~~

### VOULES AND DOBSON

Sergeant Voules was stout and Constable Dobson, his nephew, tall, lean and stringy. They had spotted a smashed window in Bertie's cottage in Chuffnell Regis, and wanted to search his house for a burglar. As he hid Pauline Stoker inside, he declined. The constabulary were very persistent and claimed to be hindered from performing their duty catching marauders. They didn't give in.

Bertie decided to sleep in the car in the garage. *I don't suppose I was a dozen yards from the house when a heavy hand fell on my shoulder, occasioning me both mental and physical distress, and a shadowy form said "Gotcher!" ... The shadowy form now revealed itself as that of Constable Dobson of the Chuffnell Regis police force. He was in an apologetic mind ... I don't suppose I could have counted more than about a platoon and a half of sheep when a light suddenly flashed on the features and a voice instructed me to come on out of it ... Well, you know how it is when someone butts in on you just as you are*

*shaping for the beauty sleep. It breaks the spell, if you know what I mean ... At the end of about thirty-five minutes the door flew open and there was the old familiar lantern shining again ... "What, may I ask, is the meaning of this incessant chivying?" They appeared to ouze off ...*

*The next thing I remember is someone joggling my arm. The fellow who was joggling my arm was Chuffy. "The sergeant was worried about you, Bertie. He seemed to think your manner was strange ... It's all right, Sergeant. Nothing to worry about. He's simply as tight as an owl."* This was not true, but despite Bertie's protests they brought him to his bedroom.

Fortunately, Pauline had disappeared and finally the two policemen accepted that there was no marauder and also finally disappeared.

(Thank You, Jeeves, 1934)

~~~\*~~~

### D'ARCY "STILTON" CHEESEWRIGHT

Stilton, an old school chum of Bertie Wooster, was engaged to Florence Craye, who earlier had been engaged to Bertie. Now he had joined the police forces. He was hostile to Bertie as he suspected him of trying to steal Florence back. *"Do you seriously expect me to believe that you aren't trying to steal her from me?" "Nothing could be farther from my thoughts, old man."* Florence didn't like his choice of career. She wanted him to stand for parliament. When he didn't conform to her wish, she broke their engagement and declared: *"D'Arcy Cheesewright is an obstinate, mulish, pigheaded, overbearing unimaginative, tyrannical jack in the office! ... I will be your wife, Bertie."*

While he was swimming in the river Stilton's uniform was stolen. He suspected Bertie and wanted to arrest him. Bertie escaped to London. Stilton asked Bertie's Uncle, Percy lord Worplesdon, who was father to Florence, and Bertie's Aunt Agatha's second husband and Justice of the Peace, to sign an arrest warrant for Bertie. *"The man's a fool. And I should like to say," said Uncle Percy, swelling like a balloon and starting to give Stilton the strong remarks from the bench, "that we have had in my opinion far too much of late of these wild and irresponsible accusations on the part of the police ... It is outrageous."*

Stilton was disillusioned, decided to leave the Police Force and, to Bertie's relief, Stilton's engagement to Florence was on again.

(Joy in the Morning, 1947)

~~~\*~~~

### POTTER

Uncle Fred told Pongo Twistleton: *"I wish you would no keep harping on that day at the Dog Races. I have always maintained that the constable acted far too precipitately on that occasion ... I still think a wiser magistrate would have been content with a mere reprimand ... I remember, we were well on our way to the police station before I was able to select "George Robinson" for myself and to lean over to Pongo and whisper that he was Edwin Smith. Constable Harold Potter was the one who arrested them."*

He was later transferred to Ashenden Oakshott where they met again and he didn't believe in Pongos identity. *"Accused was drawn to my attention along of making himself conspicuous by conduct like as it might have been of a disorderly nature, and I apprehended him. Questioned while in custody, he stated his name was Edwin Smith."* Lord Ickenham assured that his true identity was Reginald Twistleton.

Potter's girlfriend Elsie wanted him to leave the police force and asked for help: *"There's only one way to make Harold be sensible and give up being a copper, and that's to dot him a good bop on the nose. Because he's nervous. He don't like being bopped on the nose."* Her prayers were answered. *"he got pushed into the duck pond this afternoon, and now on top of that comes this biff in the eye, so he feels he's had enough of being a policeman."*

(Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939, Uncle Dynamite, 1948)

~~~\*~~~

### SIMMS

The butler Chippendale didn't like Constable Simms. *"The local Gestapo. ... And arbitrary. If you described him as going about seeking whom he might devour, you wouldn't be far wrong."* He got his revenge when Simms, in uniform, was pushed into the pond.

(The Girl in Blue, 1970)

~~~\*~~~