

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## BERTIE'S MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

### BY CAR

Bertie often used his car when he visited Brinkley Court, Steeple Bumbleigh, Totleigh Towers and other places in the countryside. Sometimes Bertie was driving, sometimes Jeeves. It seems that he at first owned a Sunbeam, but later replaced it with a Widgeon Seven.

*What's your car? A Sunbeam, isn't it? (Bertie Changes his Mind, 1922)*

*As two-seaters go, I had always found mine fairly comfortable, but then I had never before tried to get the eight hours in it, and you would be surprised at the number of knobs and protuberances which seem suddenly to sprout out of a car's upholstery when you seek to convert it into a bed. ... But after half an hour in the seat of a Widgeon Seven, even sacking begins to look pretty good to you. (Thank You, Jeeves, 1934)*

*We were bowling along in the old two-seater on our way to Totleigh Towers, self at wheel, Jeeves at my side, the personal effects in the dickey. (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)*

*Another reason why I preferred to travel in the Wooster two-seater was that I was naturally anxious to get home and out of that uniform as speedily as possible. (Joy in the Morning, 1947)*

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### BY ROWING-BOAT

*In a weak moment, at Oxford, misled by my advisers, I once tried to do a bit of rowing, and Stilton was the bird who coached us from the towing path. ... My mind went back to the time at Oxford, when I had gone in for rowing and had drawn him as a coach. (Joy in the Morning, 1947)*

Bertie and Jeeves were looking for Mr. Filmer and found him stuck on an island without a boat. *I buzzed for the boathouse. ... As we drew nearer, striking a fast clip with self at the oars and Jeeves handling the tiller-ropes, we heard cries of gradually increasing volume. (Jeeves and the Impending Doom, 1926)*

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### BY AIRPLANE

Bertie needed to get away from London quickly and popped over to Paris. Given the All-Clear message, *I hopped on to a passing airplane and a couple of hours later was bowling through Croydon on my way to the centre of things. (Jeeves and the Spot of Art, 1929)*

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### BY BICYCLE

Jeeves and Aunt Dahlia considered the situation. They were locked out from Brinkley Court and someone had to go by bike to Kingsham, nine miles away, to fetch a spare key. *'Yes, Madam, Mr Wooster would perform the task admirably. He is an expert cyclist. He has often boasted to me of his triumphs on the wheel.' I hadn't done anything of the sort.... All I had ever done was to mention to him... that at the age of fourteen, ... I had won the Choir Boys' Handicap at the local school treat.*

*As I started now to pedal out into the great world, I was icily sober, and the old skill, in consequence, had deserted me entirely. I found myself wobbling badly, and all the stories I had ever heard of nasty bicycle accidents came back to me with a rush. ... had my thoughts not been diverted by the sudden necessity of zigzagging sharply in order to avoid a pig in the fairway.*

*The effect of this narrow squeak upon me was to shake the nerve to the utmost.... It set me thinking of all the other things that could happen to a man out and about on a velocipede without a lamp after lighting-up time. ... Indeed, taking it for all in all, it seemed to me that, with the possible exception of being bitten by sharks, there was virtually no front-page disaster that could not happen to a fellow, once he had allowed his dear ones to override his better judgment and shove him out into the great unknown on a push-bike, and I am not ashamed to confess that, taking it by and large, the amount of quailing I did from this point on was pretty considerable.*

Arriving at Kingsham, Bertie learned that the key was at Brinkley, in Jeeves's possession. *For some reason, not to be fathomed now, but most certainly to be gone well into as soon as I had pushed this infernal sewing-machine of mine over those nine miles of lonely country road and got within striking distance of him, Jeeves had been doing the dirty.... I leaped into the saddle and, stifling the cry of agony which rose to my lips as the bruised person touched the hard leather, set out on the homeward journey....*

*If you want to know what hell really can do in the way of furies, look at the chap who has been hornswoggled into taking a long and unnecessary bicycle ride in the dark without a lamp.*

(Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

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### BY OCEAN LINER

*There are excellent boats leaving every Wednesday and Saturday for New York' 'Jeeves,' I said, 'you are right, as always. Book the tickets.' (Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch, 1922)*

Bertie made a bargain with Jeeves. Jeeves revealed Roderick Spode's secret 'Eulalie', and Bertie agreed to go on the Round-the-World Cruise which Jeeves wanted. *'Perhaps the cruise won't be so foul, after all?' 'Most gentlemen find them enjoyable, sir.' ... 'You had better get the tickets tomorrow.' 'I have already procured them, sir.'* (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

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### BY YACHT

*'If I might make a suggestion, sir, why not adhere to your original intention of cruising in Mrs. Travers yacht in the Mediterranean? The yacht sails from Southampton on Tuesday next.' 'Why, then, dash it, nothing could be sweeter.' 'No, sir.' 'Ring up Aunt Dahlia and tell her we'll be there.'* (Jeeves and the Spot of Art, 1929)

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### BY TRAIN

*'I think the best plan, sir, would be for you to leave England, which is not pleasant at this time of the year, for some little while. I would not take the liberty of dictating your movements, sir, but as you already have accommodations engaged on the Blue Train for Monte Carlo for the day after tomorrow-' ... 'All right, Jeeves, Monte Carlo ho, then.'* (Jeeves and the Yule-tide spirit, 1927)

*He had run up from King's Deverill on the 2.54 milk train. ...The blokes who run the railway don't make it easy for you to get from Wimbledon to King's Deverill, feeling no doubt - and I suppose it's a kindly thought - that that abode of thugs and ghouls is a place you're better away from. You change twice before you get to Basingstoke and then change again and take the branch line. And once you're on the branch line, it's quicker to walk. (The Mating Season, 1949)*

*Most of the way down in the train that afternoon, I was wondering what could be up at the other end. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)*

*'How far is Harrogate from London?' 'Two hundred and six miles, sir.' 'Yes, I think you're right. Is there a train this afternoon?'* (Clustering Round Young Bingo, 1925)

*'By the way, is there a train to London tonight?' 'Yes, sir. The 10.21. You should be able to catch it comfortably, sir. I fear it is not an express.'* (Thank You, Jeeves, 1934)

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