

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## FANCY-DRESSES

### SINDBAD THE SAILOR

Jeeves told Bertie: "In the course of her visit yesterday, Miss Hopwood mentioned a fancy dress ball which, it appears, is to take place at East Wibley, the market town adjacent to Steeple Bumbleigh. You will enjoy that, sir." "I shall, indeed," I asserted, "for as a dancer I out-Fred the nimblest Astaire, and fancy dress binges have always been my dish.... When I have break-fasted, I will go out and buy a costume. Sindbad the Sailor, don't you think?" That should prove most effective, sir." "Not forgetting the ginger whiskers that go with it." ...

"How do you get round that, Jeeves?" "Quite simply, miss. I fear it will be necessary for you to lend his lordship (Lord Worplesdon) your Sindbad the Sailor costume, sir."... "You've never seen me as Sindbad the Sailor, have you, Nobby?" "No." "You haven't lived."

(Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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### PIERROT

Bertie asked Boko Fittleworth: "Did you get the costumes? "Of course I got the costumes ... Two in all, one for self and one for you, the finest Bros. Cohen could supply. Mine is a Cavalier. A rather sex-appeal wig goes with it. Yours ---" Yes, what about mine?" He hesitated a moment. "You'll like yours. It's a Pierrot." I uttered a cry in chagrin. Boko, like all my circle is well acquainted with my views on going to fancy dress dances as a Pierrot

(Joy in the Morning, 1947)

Bertie said about Gussie Fink-Nottle: he was attending that fancy-dress ball, mark you – not, like every other well-bred Englishman, as a Pierrot.

(Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

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### FOOTBALL SUIT

"But I'll show it to you, and I'll bet you go on dancing about the house, clapping your hands." He reached for the suitcase which lay in the foreground, opened it, pulled out its contents and stared

at them, aghast... They consisted of what appeared to be a football suit. There was a pair of blue shorts, a pair of purple stockings and a crimson jersey. Across the chest of the Jersey, in large white letters, ran the legend "BORSTAL ROVERS."

(Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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### POLICEMAN'S UNIFORM

"Where is this costume, Jeeves?" "I have placed it on the bed in Mr. Wooster's room sir." "But where on earth did you get it?" "I found it, sir." "Found it? Just lying around, do you mean?" "Yes, sir. On the banks of the river."... "Jeeves," I faltered, "this thing ... this what-you-may-call-it ... this costume of which you speak ... what is it?" "A policeman's uniform, sir."

(Joy in the morning, 1947)

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### MEPHISTOPHELES

Gussie Fink-Nottle was going to attend a fancy-dress ball dressed as Mephistopheles, - this including, as I need scarcely stress, not only scarlet tights but a pretty frightful false beard... Jeeves had recommended him the use of this dress. "He thinks I might be emboldened in a striking costume like this. He said a Pirate Chief would be just as good. In fact, a Pirate Chief was the first suggestion, but I objected to the boots." Gussie, however, never arrived at the ball, because he had got the wrong address and also had forgotten his wallet, so he couldn't pay the cab.

(Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

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### BOY SCOUT AND ZULU WARRIOR

Mustard Pott arrived at the Drones Club at the same time as Horace Pendlebury-Davenport. The night before, Horace had attended the Bohemian Ball at the Albert Hall and had not been to bed yet. Mustard locked Horace up in a telephone box and was

arranging a Clothes Stakes among the members about how the locked-in person was dressed. And like the knell of a tolling bell here rang into his (Pongo Twistleton's) ears Horace's words: "I'm going as a Boy Scout."

Pongo saw a chance of a life-time. But, Horace attended the Ball with Polly Pott and she had changed her mind. "The thing was, you see, that Polly thought it would be fun if I went as a Zulu Warrior."

Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time, but few stranger than the one that now whizzed out of the telephone box, whizzed down the corridor, whizzed past the little group at the desk and, bursting through the door of the club, whizzed down the steps and into a passing cab. The face of this individual, as the hall porter had fore-shadowed, was a rich black in colour. It's long body was draped in tights of the same sombre hue, surmounted by a leopard's skin. Towering above his head was a head-dress of ostrich feathers, and in its right hand it grasped an assegai. It was wearing tortoiseshell-rimmed spectacles.

(Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

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### SAILOR BOY

Dudley Finch was visiting a country home and was going to change for dinner when he made a discovery. The clothes, which the servants had unpacked for him, were not his clothes. Reading from left to right, the objects were as follows: A pair of short white woollen socks; a crimson made-up bow-tie of enormous size; a sort of middy-blouse arrangement; a pair of blue velvet knicker-bockers; and finally – and it was this that seemed to Dudley to make it all so sad and hopeless – a very small sailor-hat with a broad blue ribbon, across which in large white letters ran the legend **H.M.S. See-Sik**.

When visiting the Drone's club, before leaving London, he had overheard two guys talking about a Fancy-dress ball and, they must have taken the wrong bag.

(The Awful Gladness of the Mater, 1925)

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