

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## NAMES WITH A TWIST

### FEATHERSTONEHAUGH UKRIDGE

Plum liked odd names and used Stanley Featherstonehaugh Ukridge as the head character in nineteen short stories and one novel. Ukridge is pronounced youk-ridge. Plum however never told us how Featherstonehaugh should be pronounced. Plum based this character mainly on his friend Herbert Westbrook.

N. T. P. Murphy advocates the pronunciation *Fan-shaw*. He says that the Dictionary of English Names states that this is the sole British name with seven accepted pronunciations: feeson-haw, feeson-hay, feeson-huff, feather-stone-haw, feather-stone-hay, featherstone-huff and fan-shaw. Murphy argues: *The triple set of trochees (long-short) of Stan-ley Fan-shaw Uk-ridge fits very well with Her-bert Wot-ton West-brook.* (Murphy: A Wodehouse Handbook, Volume One, 2013)

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### FOTHERINGAY-PHIPPS

*"What's your name?" "Mine?" Barmy thought for a moment. "Oh, Fotheringay – I mean Phipps." "Well, which?" "Eh?" "Is it Fotheringay or Phipps?" "It's both." Dinty frowned, as if at some smooth sophistry which in her opinion could only cloud the issue. "It can't be both." "There's a hyphen in the middle." "That may be your story, but it seems thin to me." "As a matter of fact, it isn't exactly Fotheringay, if you follow me." "I don't." "It's pronounced Fungy." "You can't pronounce Phipps Fungy." "No, the Fotheringay." "You said it wasn't Fotheringay." "No it isn't." Dinty's sternness seemed to deepen. It was plain that she was beginning to feel that she was being played fast and loose with.* (Barmy in Wonderland, 1952)

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### PSMITH

*"The name is Psmith. P-smith." "Pea-smith, sir?" "No, no. P-s-m-i-t-h. I should explain to you that I started life without the initial letter, and my father always clung ruggedly to the plain Smith. But it seemed to me that there were so many Smiths in the world that a little variety might well be introduced.*

*Smythe I took on as a coward evasion, nor do I approve of the too prevalent custom of tacking another name on it in front by means of a hyphen. So I decided to adopt the Psmith. The p, I should add for your guidance, is silent, as in phthisis, psychic and ptarmigan."* (Leave it to Psmith, 1923)

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### FITCH-FITCH

*"So you are Mr. Fitch? Ha! Fiend!" "Eh?" "I am not mistaken. You are Frederick Fitch?" "Frederick Fitch-Fitch." "I beg your pardon. In that case, I should have said 'Fiend! Fiend!'" "How do you mean – Fiend-Fiend?" he asked. The other sneered unpleasantly. "Cad!" he said, twirling his moustach. "Cad?" said Freddie mystified. "Yes, sir. Cad. You have stolen the girl I love," (Romance at Droitgate Spa, 1937)*

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### WILDERSHAM

*His uncle, Lord Wildersham (pronounced Wing, to rime with Chiddingfold), on whose grudging bounty Algy was dependant, took him into the library and spoke serious, guarded words.* (The Fatal Kink in Algernon, 1916)

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### ffinch-ffarrowmere

*"Sir Jasper Finch-Farrowmere?" said Wilfred. "ffinch-ffarrowmere," corrected the visitor, his sensitive ear detecting the capital letters. "Ah yes. You spell it with two small f's." "Four small f's." (A Slice of Life, 1926)*

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### WEATHERSTONEHOPE

*Some time ago, when spending a delightful weekend at the ancestral castle of my dear old friend the Duke of Weatherstonhope (pronounced "Wop"), I came across an old blackletter MS. It is on this that the story which follows is based.* (Sir Agravaire, 1912)

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### CIRENCESTER

*Mr. Fawcitt, when he was a small boy, used to live in a little village in Gloucestershire, near a place called Cirencester – at least, it isn't: it is called Cissister, which I bet you didn't know.* (The Adventures of Sally, 1922)

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### CHOLMONDELEY

*It was, she felt resignedly, the sort of thing one had to expect in England, like driving on the left and calling Cholmondeley Marchbanks.* (Company for Henry, 1967)

Kelly is here confusing two English names with pronunciation peculiarities: Cholmondeley is pronounced Chumley and Marchbanks is how Marjoribanks is pronounced. (Murphy: A Wodehouse Handbook Volume Two, 2013)

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### FINK-NOTTLE

Bertie Wooster's Aunt Dahlia had no high opinion about the potty newt-freak Gussie Fink-Nottle. She showed this by always distorting his name to Spink-Bottle. She did this even before she actually met him, knowing that he was a friend of Bertie's. She addressed him: *Spink-Bottle, you ghastly goggle-eyed piece of gorgonzola.* (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

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