

Ye Olde Plum News

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SOME PROMINENT DRONES

BERTRAM "BERTIE" WOOSTER

Like many drones he is idle, but, unlike many, he is wealthy. His fortune is inherited. According to Jeeves he is *mentally negligible*, but I don't agree as he is the excellent narrator of many short stories and novels. He studied in Oxford but probably not graduated.

He was slim and elegant and a preux chevalier. He unintentionally got engaged several times, but succeeded to remain unmarried, thanks to Jeeves. *Scanning the roster of the females I've nearly got married to in my time, we find the names of some tough babies. The eye rests on that of Honoria Glossop, and a shudder passes through the frame. So it does when we turn to the B's and come upon Madeline Basset. But, taking everything into consideration and weighing this and that, I have always been inclined to consider Florence Craye the top.* (Joy in the Morning, 1947) (His engagements, see YOPN #3, aug 2020.)

A dedicated sportsman, keen on betting of all kinds from horse races to Sermon handicap for vicars. He played golf and tennis and won the Club Championship in dart when Horace Pendlebury-Davenport resigned.

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### RICHARD "BINGO" LITTLE

Always in love : Mabel (a waitress), Honoria Glossop, Daphne Braythwaite, Charlotte Corday Rowbotham, Cyntia Wickhammersley and Mary Burgess. The parade ended when he met the successful novelist Rosie M. Banks. They quickly married and got a baby son. A happy marriage, but his wife forbade him to engage in betting, a quite unnatural thing for a drone. He simply couldn't resist a sign or an inside tip. Many a time he was horrified should Rosie discover his disobedience. She also didn't like him to be idle so she fixed a job for him as editor of Wee Tots. (The Inimitable Jeeves, 1923)

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CYRIL "BARMY" FOTHERINGAY- PHIPPS

Tall and willowy, a young Englishman of the type so common in the Drones Club. ... His disposition was intensely amiable, his hair the colour of creamy butter and his face one of those open engaging faces which arouse maternal instinct in women. He would

have been the first to agree that he had never been one of the brainy birds whose heads bulge out at the back...

An employer (for a short time) judged his I.Q. as *somewhat lower than a back-ward clam.* (Barmy in Wonderland, 1952)

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### FREDERICK "FREDDIE" WIDGEON

His chivalry caused him trouble. *"Do you know," said a thoughtful Bean, "I'll bet that if all the girls Freddie Widgeon has loved and lost were placed end to end – not that I suppose one could do it – they would reach halfway down Piccadilly."* *"Further than that," said the Egg. "Some of them were pretty tall."* (Goodbye to all Cats, 1934) (His entanglements, see YOPN #10, Febr 2021.)

Among the drones his intellect was ranked to be at about the same level as *Pongo Twistleton's, which is pretty low on the list.* (Ring for Jeeves, 1953)

Freddie was a dedicated practical joker. *Catsmeat Potter-Pirbright was suffering from a hangover at the moment, and I shall never forget his emotion when he picked up his roll and it squeaked and a rubber mouse ran out of it.* (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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HORACE PENDLEBURY-DAVENPORT

Horace was a young man of great height but ... Nature, stretching Horace Davenport out, had forgotten to stretch him sideways. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

He was engaged to Valery, a cousin to Pongo Twistleton, and he was the *Drones Club's leading Othello.* (The Shadow Passes, 1950).

She complained over his dancing. *A chap of that length didn't really get on to what his feet were doing till some minutes after it happened.* (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

He was the Club Dart Champion and famous for his uncanny skill in throwing crusty rolls. When married, Valery demanded him to resign his membership.

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### ALEXANDER "OOFY" PROSSER

The richest and the only really unsympathetic Drone. He did not only refuse to help fellow members in temporary distress with small loans, but had no scruples to enrich himself on their expense. He, for instance, tried to sell his ticket on Horace Davenport in the Club Dart Championship sweepstake to Bingo, well aware of, but not telling, that this favourite was going to withdraw. (The Shadow Passes, 1950)

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CLAUDE CATTERMOLE "CATSMEAT" POTTER-PIRBRIGHT

A pal to Bertie Wooster since childhood. A master of throwing crumpets. *Catsmeat Potter-Pirbright once hit the game pie from the far window six times, with six consecutive bread rolls.* (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

A theatre actor and *I should say that of all the rollicking lads at the Drones Club, Claude Cattermole Pirbright is perhaps the most rollicking.* (The Mating Season, 1949)

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### REGINALD "PONGO" TWISTLETON

Indecisive fellow. He and Barmy *do each year at the Drones smoker the knock-about Pat and Mike cross-talk act.* (The Mating Season, 1949) He was a nephew to the Earl of Ickenham and suffered severely from his excesses. (Uncle Fred flits By, 1935)

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ARCHIBALD MULLINER

He had one unique skill: imitating a hen laying an egg. (Archibald and the Masses, 1935) *Even at the Drones Club, where the average of intellect is not high, it was often said of Archibald that, had his brain been constructed of silk, he would have been hard put to it to find sufficient material to make a canary a pair of cami-knickers.* (The Reverent Wooing of Archibald, 1928)

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