

# Society News

## *Wodehouse Essays (and a Map)*

Book sales were brisk at Wodehouse in the Springtime in Bath, and it was good to see such demand for: Robert Bruce's *Blandings and Beyond* map of Wodehouse locations (see *Wooster Sauce*, December 2023, p.3); Paul Kent's series of occasional papers, *What ho! P. G. Wodehouse on...* (10 volumes now published); and our Society's book of the winning entries in the 2022 Essay Prize. The last of these, if I may remind you, may be ordered directly from me. Please send your name and address with a cheque made out to 'The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)' to me (Tim Andrew) at 1 Codmore Crescent, Chesham, HP5 3LX. If you prefer, you can use PayPal to pay [treasurer@pgwodehousesociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@pgwodehousesociety.org.uk), in which case you also need to send an email to [chairman@pgwodehousesociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@pgwodehousesociety.org.uk) with your name and address.

## *Plum Statue*

We hear that the Emsworth Heritage Group is currently planning to commission a statue of P. G. Wodehouse for the Hampshire seaside town which Plum first visited in 1903 and where he lived between 1904 and 1910 in his house 'Threepwood'. The town and the house, of course, gave him two out of many local names that he used in his Blandings stories. Emsworth is justifiably proud of its Wodehouse connections, and the town's museum ("The Gem of Emsworth") contains a permanent exhibition devoted to PGW. It is open every weekend until October and on Fridays in August; see [emsworthmuseum.org.uk](http://emsworthmuseum.org.uk) for details of opening times and other information. We await further news on how the statue plans are developing, but we hope to bring you glad tidings before the end of the year.

## *Honour for the Chairman*

No, not me! Peter Nieuwenhuizen, chairman of the P. G. Wodehouse Society in the Netherlands and member of our own Society, has received the award of Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau. I am told that this translates as 'Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau', a chivalric order open to "everyone who has performed acts of special merits for society". Many congratulations, Peter, from all your friends in The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)!

—TIM ANDREW



*Peter celebrating with his wife and daughters*

## Cosy Moments

***Cooking: Simply and Well, for One or Many,***  
**by Jeremy Lee (2022)**  
(from Robert Bruce)

In his introduction, British chef Lee recounts his early employment path and recalls moving from the London club Boodle's to "a catering company called Duff & Trotter, named for the caterer in the books by P. G. Wodehouse".

***The Accidental Collector, by Guy Kennaway (2021)***  
(from Sophie W. Brand)

In this Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse prizewinner, extraordinarily wealthy Marie, wife of accidental art dealer Herman, is at one point discovered "sitting in an armchair engrossed in a book. On the table beside her was Seamus Heaney's recent translation of the Aeneid and in her hands was P. G. Wodehouse's *Pigs Have Wings*."

***'Steven Pinker's Muscular Secularism',***  
**by Richard Rex, in *First Things* (August 2018)**  
(from David Taylor)

In a long, erudite review of *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*, by Steven Pinker (2018), Professor Rex draws the following conclusion in his final paragraph:

While he figures in Pinker's narrative simply as the arch-enemy of the Enlightenment, Nietzsche takes us to the heart of the problem. For if he is the Enlightenment's most potent critic, he is likewise its rebellious child, turning its distrust for authority against itself. Pinker is quite right to quote the immortal Jeeves's lapidary judgment that Nietzsche was "fundamentally unsound." But the Wodehousian allusion brings irresistibly to mind another of the master's comic creations, the Reverend Harold Pinker, the clumsy clergyman who could not be trusted within ten feet of any occasional table freighted with ornamental crockery. An exponent of muscular secularism rather than muscular Christianity, Professor Steven Pinker shoulders his way into the china shop of history with equally devastating effect.