



# BY THE WAY

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## Wodehouse's Detectives and Detective Agencies

Having provided the names of Wodehouse's lawyers in June 2011 (*By The Way* 44) we turn our attention to the numerous private detectives and detective agencies in his books.

### Adair, J Sheringham

The proprietor of the Tilbury Detective Agency, he is, along with Percy Pilbeam, one of the two most important private detectives in Wodehouse. His career has been varied – including odd-job man in *Sam the Sudden*, proprietor of a health resort in *Money for Nothing*, and valet to Ikey Llewellyn in *Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin*. He would have made a fortune in fees had he detected himself, as he was guilty of many crimes, not the least of which were breaking and entering, administering knock-out drops, profiteering, and conspiring to steal a string of pearls.

### Dennis

Employed by Elmer Ford to look after Ogden in *The Eighteen-Carat Kid*.

### Devereux, Janice

A fictional detective in a book being read by Medway in *Hot Water*, chapter 8.

### Dolby, Daphne

Assigned by the Eagle Eye detective agency to ensure that Sally Fitch fulfilled the conditions required by her inheritance in *Bachelors Anonymous*, chapter 5.

### Donahue

A fictional employee of The Tilbury Detective Agency, in *Sam the Sudden*, chapter 19.

### Evans

A fictional employee of The J Sheringham Adair investigation agency (it had dropped the name 'Tilbury' by now), in *Ice in the Bedroom*, chapter 17.

### Galer, Samuel

Of Dodson's Private Enquiry Agency, employed by Mr McEachern to keep an eye on Jimmy Pitt and Spike Mullins in *A Gentleman of Leisure*, chapter 18.

### Hawkshaw

Bertie Wooster modelled himself on this detective in his ability to spot Love's Young Dream, in 'The Inferiority Complex of Old Sippy'. Hawkshaw was a character in *The Ticket of Leave Man* (1863), by Tom Taylor.

### Jellaby, Mr

An employee of the Argus Detective Agency in *Frozen Assets*, chapter 9.

### Jones (1)

A second fictional employee of The J Sheringham Adair investigation agency in *Ice in the Bedroom*, chapter 17.

### Jones, Mr (2)

An active assistant at the Argus Enquiry Agency, in *Summer Lightning*, chapter 4.

### McGee, John

The house detective at the Hotel Delehay, to whom something happened in 'Mr McGee's Big Day'.

### Meredith

A third fictional employee of The J Sheringham Adair investigation agency, in *Ice in the Bedroom*, chapter 17, named after PGW's American agent.

### Mulliner, Adrian

While working for the firm of Widgery and Boon, his smile brought him a wife, financial security, and the membership of the Senior Bloodstain Club in 'The Smile That Wins'.

### Murphy, Mr

A colleague of Mr Jones (2) at the Argus Enquiry Agency, in *Summer Lightning*, chapter 4.

### O'Neil, Timothy 'Pieface'

A house detective of the Hotel Cosmopolis who, in *Indiscretions of Archie*, chapter 19, was knocked out in a brawl by Pauline Preston.

### Oakes, Elliott

Employee of Paul Snyder's Detective Agency who received an education from Mrs Pickett in 'The Education of Detective Oakes'.

### Pilbeam, Percy

The other significant detective in the oeuvre was a member of the Junior Constitutional Club and former editor of the scandal sheet *Society Spice*, in which

capacity he first came across Galahad Threepwood. He was never popular with that family as Lady Julia Fish considered any time the right time for him to be laid low with headaches, botts, glanders, quartan ague, frog in the throat and the Black Death. For more detail see *Summer Lightning* and *Heavy Weather*. His activities in *Bill the Conqueror*, *Something Fishy*, and *Frozen Assets* make him the equal of Chimp Twist for sheer exhilaration.

#### **Pott, Claud**

Friend of the 5th Earl of Ickenham, he was employed by Horace Davenport to spy on his betrothed during a Drones Club visit to Le Touquet in *Uncle Fred in the Springtime*, chapter 1.

#### **Putnam, Kate Amelia**

Employed incognito by Julia Gedge in *Hot Water*, she was on the staff of the James B Flahery Agency.

#### **Quayle, Gridley**

The fictional spy whose adventures, written by Ashe Marson, so thrilled Freddie in *Something Fresh*.

#### **Rice, Henry Pifield**

An indifferent private detective on the staff of Stafford's International Investigation Bureau, he pursued Alice Weston's love, earned the soubriquet 'Bill the Bloodhound', and ended up as a theatrical mascot, in 'Bill the Bloodhound'.

#### **Schwed**

A fourth fictional employee of The J Sheringham Adair investigation agency, in *Ice in the Bedroom*, chapter 17, named after PGW's American publisher.

#### **Simmonds**

A fellow-employee alongside Henry Rice at Stafford's.

#### **Simmons, Miss Susan**

An employee of Wragge's, summoned by Rupert Baxter to guard Lady Constance's necklace in *Leave It to Psmith*.

#### **Stubbs, Cedric**

Late husband of Maudie Stubbs, he was the proprietor of Digby's Day and Night Detectives, during the course of duties for which he caught double pneumonia while standing outside in the rain.

#### **Stubbs, Maudie**

Widow of the late Cedric and now the agency's eyes and ears, she is also Beach's niece, and was summoned to Blandings Castle in *Pigs Have Wings* to protect the

Empress of Blandings from the evil intentions of her one-time prospective husband, Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe.

#### **Sturgis, Denman**

An eminent private investigator who discovered the injured Serene Highness the Prince of Saxburg-Leignitz in Rallying Round Old George, but ended up with the wrong end of the stick. It may have been him – or a completely different Sturgis – who was employed by the International Detective Agency, and acted for Mrs Pett, both when she was a Ford and under her new name, in *Piccadilly Jim*. He recommended the employment of one of his staff, Miss Trimble, to augment the team.

#### **Trimble, Miss**

One of Mr Sturgis's detectives, regarded as the smartest worker in his office, she is a former strong woman in vaudeville and a first-class revolver shot, but was disappointed with the results in *Piccadilly Jim*.

#### **Twist, Chimp**

See Adair, J Sheringham.

#### **Wilbraham**

Another fictional employee of The Tilbury Detective Agency, also in *Sam the Sudden*, chapter 19, who was still with the firm after it had become The J Sheringham Adair investigation agency in *Ice in the Bedroom*, chapter 17.

#### **Yates, Drexdale**

A fictional detective, familiar to Bertie Wooster from the book *The Masked Seven*, in which he finds himself in a cellar with the trapdoor shut, with whose case Bertie saw similarities in his own situation in *Thank You, Jeeves*, chapter 12.

#### **Anon (1)**

Appointed by Freddie Rooke to trace Jill in *Jill the Reckless*, chapter 13 (ii).

#### **Anon (2)**

Employee of Wragge's, taking a position as valet to Sir Thomas Blunt in *A Gentleman of Leisure*, chapter 18.

#### **Anon (3)**

Another house detective of the Hotel Cosmopolis in *Indiscretions of Archie*, chapter 8.

#### **Anon (4)**

A fictional character who influenced Bertie Wooster's behaviour in *The Code of the Woosters*, chapter 7.