



The PG Wodehouse Society (UK)

Press release

Embargoed for 2000 hours on Friday 20th September 2019

PG Wodehouse to be commemorated by Westminster Abbey



Pictured: PG Wodehouse

PG Wodehouse, probably the greatest English comic writer the world has ever known, is to be commemorated with a stone laid in the South Quire Aisle at Westminster Abbey. The stone will be dedicated at a special Service on Friday 20 September 2019.

This accolade, which comes nearly half a century after the writer's death, will honour a writer of genius who was prolific in his output. Throughout his career until his death in 1975, he wrote nearly 100 novels and short stories, creating numerous much-loved characters - the inimitable Jeeves and Wooster, Lord Emsworth and his beloved Empress of Blandings, Mr Mulliner, Ukridge, and Psmith. His humorous articles were published in more than 80 magazines, including Punch, over six decades. He had a hand in 50 plays and musical comedies, writing the lyrics for over 200 songs.

Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, known to his family and friends as 'Plum', was knighted at the age of 93. He had also been made a Doctor of Letters by the University of Oxford.

The decision to grant a memorial stone at Westminster Abbey came about when The Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall agreed to honour PG Wodehouse following a request from The PG Wodehouse Society, a literary society that has some 1000 members. One of its Committee Members is Sir Edward Cazalet, the step-grandson of the writer. The stone will be dedicated by The Dean of Westminster. HRH The Duke of Kent, on behalf of The PG Wodehouse Society of which he is a Patron, will invite the Dean to receive the memorial into the safe custody of the Dean and Chapter. The Address will be given by the Society's President, the TV personality, Alexander Armstrong. Hal and Lara Cazalet, son and daughter of Sir Edward, will sing, accompanied by Stephen Higgins. Lucy Tregear, Martin Jarvis and Alexander Armstrong will read extracts from Wodehouse's works.

The Service is a ticketed event and will be attended by Members of the Society and other guests. A private reception for Members and guests of The PG Wodehouse Society will follow the Service. At the reception, guests will be entertained by singers Hal Cazalet, his sister Lara Cazalet, Lucy Tregear and Alexander Armstrong. Guests will also enjoy a Wodehouse reading given by Neil Pearson. Hilary Bruce, Chairman of The PG Wodehouse Society, said: "We were thrilled that the Dean agreed to this memorial in the Abbey, and on behalf of all our members and the family of PG Wodehouse, we thank him. This is an honour we had always hoped for, and we are pleased and satisfied beyond words that the man whose life's work was to make people happier will be commemorated amongst other great writers in this important and historic place."

The PG Wodehouse Society welcomes new members. For details visit:

<https://www.pgwodehousesociety.org.uk/>

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Notes to Editors

Westminster Abbey

All media inquiries about the Service and commemorative stone should be directed to:

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The PG Wodehouse Society

A brief biography of PG Wodehouse can be found here:

<https://www.pgwodehousesociety.org.uk/INFORM8%20rev%202018.pdf>

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