

It has been an interesting time for those of us who love the works of P G Wodehouse, following the article in the *Sunday Telegraph* of 16 March headlined: “‘Unacceptable’ and ‘outdated’ prose by P G Wodehouse is purged or reworked.”

The P G Wodehouse Society (UK) has not commented on the rights and wrongs of the matter, and we do not intend to do so. The responsibility for explaining and/or justifying any changes lies with the publisher and the Trustees of Wodehouse’s literary estate, who are the guardians of his literary heritage.

The Society’s stated aim is to celebrate, share and enhance our members’ enjoyment of Wodehouse’s writing through activities and our quarterly journal. Among our membership there will no doubt be as wide a range of views about the proposed changes as among the general public, but we sense no clear consensus. What is more, anyone who has already commented has done so in a vacuum, since at the time of writing we know of no one who has seen the proposed changes. From what has been written, it is unlikely they will be extensive, for Wodehouse was never one to knowingly offend his readers. Perhaps two of over 90 books will be affected.

If you don’t wish to read the new versions, you are of course entitled not to buy them. The second-hand market in Wodehouse’s books is fertile ground and we understand that there is no intention to alter the texts of the Everyman volumes.

Our President, Alexander Armstrong, has tried to explain some of these points succinctly on our behalf. His comments were, unfairly in our view, characterised as accepting or even supporting the changes. This is not his or our position.

What we *do* say is that you should read Wodehouse, since his timeless humour remains the ideal respite when, as on this occasion, discussion seems to have generated more heat than light.