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FEBRUARY 2026

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Woodbridge & Waldringfield Boatyards have been shortlisted in the international Classic Boat Awards in the 'Yards & Harbours' category which covers customer service, sustainability, the environment and promoting skills and learning. What an achievement! If you would like to help them along then please go to page 7 and cast your vote to see them on their way to receiving this prestigious award for Woodbridge. I wish them success!

Drop me a line to boost your business by advertising in the Woodbridge Talk or any of our other five titles. My email is: lou@tidecollection.com
Quote of the month

The town was so dull: one day the tide went out, and it never came back.

Tommy Cooper

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INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

- | | |
|---|----|
| FUNDRAISER FOR LOOSEHEADZ FOUNDATION
- Local rugby player, Tom Mitchell takes on New Zealand on two wheels | 4 |
| WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL NEWS
- Youth Council, Government reform & more | 5 |
| U3A EAST SUFFOLK

- Walks, talks and so much more for the retired and semi-retired | 5 |
| MARTLESHAM WILDS
- New viewing platforms in place | 9 |
| CITIZENS ADVICE EAST
- Staying Warm This Winter: How to get help | 14 |

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TOM'S FUNDRAISER FOR LOOSEHEADZ FOUNDATION

I am an 18 year old rugby player from Woodbridge and in February I'll be cycling 2300km across New Zealand to raise awareness and funds for men's mental health with the LooseHeadz Foundation.

On the 3rd of January 2026 I ran a 53km ultramarathon, covering all the Deben Inns pubs, (documented on my instagram account Mitchmovesnz) and I wanted to take the message further and use rugby culture and endurance to highlight how many young men struggle in silence.

I've already raised over £1,250 and will be visiting rugby clubs across New Zealand along the route.

I fly into Auckland on Feb 1st, from where I will cycle from Cape Reinga to Wellington, bikepacking the island whilst organising fundraising events at rugby clubs to further interact with New Zealand rugby culture.

If you would like to support Tom in his endeavours for this great cause and see how he is getting on, please visit the Just Giving page below and follow him on Instagram.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/mitchmovesnz?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Tom Mitchell



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WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's monthly - January

2026 is underway and it will be a busy year for the Council – more on that below. But first I wanted to talk about an important part of Woodbridge – our Youth Council.

Under the guiding hand of Councillor Mike Sutton, following COVID it was re-convened in September 2023. The young Councillors come from Farlingaye High school and Woodbridge School, mostly from years 10 and above. They meet every Tuesday during school term. The focus of the Youth Council is in three broad areas. They develop specific projects with recommendations to Council on how to use their budget – e.g. the skateboard days with free/subsidised training; the community rebuilding of the sandpit in Kingston Field (which was led by some of the Youth Councillors); fundraising for the hop-to-it summer trail, support for Woodbridge Football Club etc.

They review items of the main Council's agenda to help inform its priorities from a youth perspective – e.g. on our park's strategy, they reviewed and gave feedback on proposed playground investments and the biodiversity plan. They try to fit in general discussion on an issue of the day – e.g. lowering the voting age to 16, and on this issue a majority were not in favour as they were concerned about how information would be provided to them as voters. The Youth Council has a budget of £5,000 a year.

In January and February, they help review the Council's full budget for the forthcoming year. In 2025/26 this budget totalled nearly £550,000.



Twinning. Photo by Councillor Ruth Leach

So here in brief, is what you can expect to see from your Council in 2026

More on Local Government Reform. We consulted last year on whether you'd like Woodbridge Town Council to take on more – and the answer was a definitive 'YES'. There will be grants that can help but at the end of the day the level of ambition will have to be paid either through taxation via your Town Council, or through local voluntary contributions.

Renovation works to begin in spring on the ground floor windows of the Shire Hall, which is the first step in what is a long-term project for the building.

The Green Fingers project and our new, in-house gardening staff who will be up and gardening by April 2026.

The outcome of the Kingston Field consultation, the renewal of playgrounds in Fen Meadow and in Newnham Avenue (jointly with East Suffolk Council) and the delivery of our bio-diversity action plan. Further action on the impact on Woodbridge of the three major energy infrastructure projects in East Suffolk and a myriad of other projects. This is beginning to put unacceptable strain on the A12. We have joined our MP's campaign for more rail capacity and more frequent Greater Anglia trains.

Shire Hall Photo: Mike Whitby



Nigel Phipps

Mayor of Woodbridge
CouncillorPhipps@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk

U3A EAST SUFFOLK

Members enjoy walks, quizzes, dining out, visiting gardens or churches, discussing architecture, the arts or current affairs. Other groups focus on geology, photography, playing ukulele and speaking other European languages. There is also a varied programme of talks at venues in East Suffolk.

10.30am at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe:

February 5th: The speaker is Mike Kwasniak, a theatre photographer for more than 40 years.

5th March: Sally Sibley, talks about the Enigma of Sutton Hoo.

10.30am at Woodbridge Football Club:

16th February: Paul Constantine tells the story of Suffolk estuaries.

16th March: An ex-firefighter tells the story of his highly acclaimed published book about dealing with his personal grief at the loss of his wife to cancer.

2pm at Saxmundham's Fromus Centre:

12th February: A talk entitled 'Target Lowestoft 1942-5'

12th March: 'The A-Z of Curious Suffolk'.

2pm at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre:

23rd February: Rob Neal talks about the old songs of East Anglia, with a performance by The Harbour Lights Trio.

New members are welcome, with the expectation that they will contribute to the success of the group. Membership is on an annual basis

Full up to date information is available on the u3a website: www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk. For more information, please see the website or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

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WOODBIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST

The wintry weather of late is a reminder of past winters of 50 or 60 years ago when snow was pretty much guaranteed, milk bottles on doorsteps froze with their tops pushed off by frozen cream expanding out of the bottle and lakes and rivers (and sometimes the sea) iced over regularly.

Speaking of 'years ago', the photo below is a reminder of how Whisstock's Place looked 25 or more years ago, before a group of hugely dedicated people fought to rescue it from dereliction and helped to make it the destination it now is for visitors from far and wide.



Our next talk in the John Gibbins Gallery in The Longshed is at 3pm on **Saturday February 14th** and for some it will evoke personal memories! Sue Bale's talk is entitled '*Up the Steps*'. From Corn Market and Court House to Council Chamber and Wedding Venue - a brief history of the Shire Hall. Tickets, £8 to include tea and cake, are available from Eventbrite (no booking fee) or The Longshed Gift Shop.

Later in the month, on **Saturday 28th February**, we are holding two half day courses (one in the morning, 9pm - 12 noon, and one in the afternoon, 1 - 4pm, on '*Rope Making*' with Sue Pennison. The output will be a small rope mat and/or rope fender. There are just 8 places on each course. The cost for adults is £15 for the three-hour course to include materials and refreshments. As part of our commitment to young people, the Trust is sponsoring four of the eight places on each course free of charge for 14-17 year olds on a 'first come, first served basis'.

If you would like to book a place, please contact admin@woodbridgeriversidetrust.org



Thank you for your support, and we look forward to welcoming you to The Longshed.
www.woodbridgeriversidetrust.org

WOODBIDGE & WALDRINGFIELD BOATYARDS

Have your vote! - Woodbridge & Waldringfield Boatyards needs your help! They have been shortlisted alongside three other British and three American boatyards in the international Classic Boat Awards in the '*Yards & Harbours*' category which celebrates outstanding effort in customer service, sustainability, the environment and the need to promote skills and learning. The winner will be decided by public vote which is open now! You can learn more and cast your vote at awards.classicboat.co.uk.



PROJECT UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2026

There has been good progress on the Sizewell C project in the first month of 2026.

We will continue to keep the community informed throughout the year and our Works Tracker will be continuously updated. We will also be making further improvements throughout the year including overlaying the Causeway one.network traffic management website with the Works Tracker to ensure consistency and live traffic management updates. To sign up for email and/or SMS updates, please create an account by visiting www.szcworkstracker.co.uk and clicking the subscribe button.

A key focus of the project in the first half of 2026 is getting the Friday Street and Yoxford roundabouts linked to the A12 and open to the road network, which we expect to be in late spring. This will require necessary traffic management (two-way traffic lights and cones) in place as the roundabouts are prepared to be connected to the A12, and weekend closures of

the A12, which are outlined on the Works Tracker. Both the Southern Park and Ride (Wickham Market) and Northern Park and Ride (Darsham) will open in phases, with full openings later in the year.

From the New Year, works along Sizewell beach will start including, the construction of the temporary Main Bulk Import Facility and installation of the Temporary Marine Outfall pipeline, which will eject clean surface water from the main site. This will require footpath restrictions, which will be lifted over the weekends (17:00 Friday – 17:00 Sunday).

The first part of the bridge across the Site of Special Scientific Interest, that links the Temporary Construction Area to the Main Construction Area, has been successfully installed. The bridge will streamline vehicle movement between our sites and will reduce traffic on the local road network.

Thank you for your patience as we work towards the completion of many of the road schemes and as always if you need to speak to us please contact us via the **FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102***.

FORUM

SCHEDULE

Forum timings

2026 | 18:00 - 20:00
(Arrival from 17:45)

Northern Transport Forum	Wed 4 February	High Lodge Darsham
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Southern Transport Forum	Wed 4 March	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
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Community Forum	Thurs 19 March	Sizewell Sports and Social Club
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For more information and for more forum dates visit sizewellc.com/community/forums

*Calls to 0800 numbers are free from UK landlines. Call costs from mobile and international numbers may vary.

VISIT THE WORKS
TRACKER SITE



MARTLESHAM WILDS UPDATE

We would like to thank all our incredible volunteers, who have worked so hard in 2025. We couldn't achieve half of what we do without their tireless work, and we are incredibly inspired and grateful.

We are really pleased with the works which are progressing at Martlesham Wilds. With two viewing platforms now in place along the King Charles III Coastal Path, it is a fantastic time to go for a walk and take a moment to see if there are any resident wading birds on the new scrape water features.

The path across the grassy marsh is still a little muddier than normal! We are raising this path, but it still needs to settle, and the grass needs to grow over, so please bear with us and continue to use the slight diversion to the side.

On Wednesday 11 February, 7 - 9pm, the Martlesham Wilds team will be hosting a talk 'Martlesham Wilds – Two years on', at St Michael and All Angels Church, Martlesham Heath. We hope to talk you through all the changes that have taken place over the last few years and share some of the survey results.

We would absolutely love to see you there to hear our stories.

Walks & Talks

Wed 11 February: Talk: Martlesham Wilds – Two years on. £5 per ticket. 7 - 9pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, Martlesham Heath.

Wed 18 March: Walk: Be inspired by Martlesham Wilds. 10am – 12noon

Tues 14 April: Walk: Discover the Magic of Spring. 10am – 12noon

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Booking for all walks and talks: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events

Enquiries: martlesham.engagement@suffolkwildlifetrust.org



View from platform on coastal path

WOODBIDGE MUSEUM

During the winter period when we are closed during the week the Collections Team have taken the opportunity to put up some temporary displays. These include a display about Shipbuilding in Woodbridge, the Lady Alice Kenlis (the remains of which were recently identified near Sutton Hoo) and the Voyage of the Thomas.

The latter was a 58 ton billy-boy which transported wheat and other commodities around the UK and returned with coal. We are sure you will find the displays interesting so do call in and have a look.

We have also revamped the area aimed at younger visitors, although we hope the displays are of interest to adults. These include a pictorial display of the Sutton Hoo Story and a 'Place the Photos' Quiz. We have some interesting anecdotes and a ballot box for children to vote for their favourite.

Friends of Woodbridge Museum monthly talks continue, the next being on 13th February with Barbara McElroy presenting 'Castle on the Hill' about Framlingham Castle and its impact on the town through the ages.

On 13th March Geoffrey Kay will talk about the USAAF in Suffolk in World War 11 - 'Overpaid, Over Sexed, Over Here'. The talks are held at the Community Hall, Woodbridge at 2.30pm and visitors are very welcome.

Woodbridge Museum will be open every weekend during the Winter Season although we plan to open every day during the February Half Term School holiday.

We are dependent on our volunteer stewards being available and we would welcome more stewards so if you are interested in finding out more please email: stewards@woodbridgemuseum.com.



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WOODBIDGE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The Christmas Draw proved to be very successful and it raised much needed funds for the Club. Many thanks go out to all our sponsors for their support in donating prizes and also to the numerous club members, players and volunteers for selling tickets.

Steve Foster has agreed to host another General Knowledge Quiz on **Friday March 13th** at 7 for 7.30pm. Teams will be limited up to 6 persons with hot food included in the price of £10 per person. This event and most events at the Club are open to all and not just members. For all bookings to use the Clubhouse for parties, celebrations, wakes, meetings etc. please contact Paul at Wtfc-VenueBookings@outlook.com

Forthcoming home fixtures for February:

Sat. February 7: Under 23s v Parson Drove Under 23s @ 3pm
Sun. February 8: Ladies v Sudbury Reserves @ 2pm
Sun. February 15: Veterans v Ransomes Sports @ 2pm
Thurs. February 19: Under 18s v Walsham le Willows Under 18s @ 7.45pm

Sat. February 21: First Team v Ely City @ 3pm

Thurs. February 26: Under 18s v Haverhill Borough Under 18s @ 7.45pm

Sat. February 28: Under 23s v Needham Market Under 23s @ 3pm



Woodbridge F C Suffolk F. A Veterans Cup Winners 2022 - 2023

WOODBIDGE ROTARY CLUB

Our last report featured an account of a very successful 'Ruff Stuff', the off-road bicycle event around and through Rendlesham and Tunstall Forests. This was organised by Woodbridge Rotary Club with Woodbridge Inner Wheel providing refreshments. We were very pleased with the outcome enabling both clubs to raise much needed funds for various charities.

Some valiant members of WRC, led by Robin Pivett, braved the inclement weather and installed the Christmas tree outside the Shire Hall back in November and then adorned it with lights, in readiness for the Town's lighting up ceremony and thereafter the annual open air Carol Service. The Christmas Market took place on 7th December, another day of inclement weather, nevertheless, WRC raised £575 net for our various charities by way of the wine tombola stall, a grand effort indeed!

The 73rd open air Carol Service took place on Market Hill by the Shire Hall one week before Christmas at 6:30pm on 17th December. The tree has been provided by WRC for many years and it is a tradition we are proud to have been able to maintain. The evening began at 6pm with David Farrow singing popular Christmas songs which were very well received. For many people this event marks the start of Christmas festivities. There is a short ecumenical service which this year was led by Father Nigel Prior, the parish priest of St Mary's Church.

In his address he asked us to consider the Nativity story in Woodbridge today, ie refugees with nowhere to stay seeking basic accommodation similar to a stable at an Inn, it was indeed thought provoking. The carols for the service were led by St Mary's Choir with carol sheets provided to encourage those attending to participate. After the service Father Christmas arrived on a delightfully decorated tractor provided by James Foskett Farms Ltd., driven by Ruby, the winner of the most recent 150 Tractor Light Parade.

It was a kindness appreciated by Father Christmas, enabling Rudolph and the team to have a well-earned break and a meal at the farm! Thanks are due to the compère who was once again WRC's Ronnie Hepworth MBE. We collected £1158 thanks to all those who generously supported us; the NSPCC was the main charity benefitting this year with 70%, the balance going to the other charities supported by WRC.

The Club has a short break before the next event which is a new venture for us. We are organising a Pop Quiz! This will feature music from the 1970s - 1990s and will be hosted by Lee Thompson, who composes the questions for BBC Radio 2's Ten to the Top, Vernon Kay's pop quiz. **Save the date - Friday 20th March** at Woodbridge Town FC Fynn Road, Woodbridge IP12 4LS. Proceeds to go to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of February at £40 for a team of four, and £10 for each additional team member. Watch notice boards and/or Woodbridge Rotary Club's website for details.



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Woodbridge Wildlife Group invite you to come and hear about the work being undertaken along the Suffolk Coastline when Natural England Reserves Manager Harry Tucker gives a talk at Woodbridge Community Hall, Station Road, IP12 4AU on **Thursday 26 February 2026** at 7.30pm.

Woodbridge Wildlife Group chairman Phil Smith said *"Harry has been working with his team of Natural England staff and volunteers on various projects along the Suffolk Coast. With regular changes in the coastline and coastal erosion frequently in the news, this is important work and it is going to be interesting to hear about the efforts being made to create a more resilient coastal landscape."*

Admission to the talk is £4 for adults, with under 25s free. Light refreshments will be served during the evening and there will be a raffle. Doors open at 7pm and there is no need to book for the talk, pay on the door with cash or card.

For further information ring 01473 625630 or e mail swtwoodbridge@outlook.com

WOODBIDGE CRUISING CLUB

Woodbridge Cruising Club are looking forward to the start of the 2026 sailing season, the organised cruises being a highlight for most members. The onshore programme provides a chance for members to socialise in winter months, during the cold days, when boats are laid up for winter.

Members really relish the popular Wednesday suppers and also the nautically themed Sunday talks. The first talk of January was a local travel agent's range of cruises. The Fish and Ships supper saw members enjoy fish and chips and a talk about Distant Water Fishing by Will, whose family have long been involved in this tough and dangerous industry. A talk on antifouling was invaluable as the maintenance season progresses.

The Burn's night supper was a sell-out, with the traditional haggis, tatties and neaps (as well as the Address to the Haggis).

The first walk of January, led by Clare and Mark was enjoyed by hardy members and dogs, with a welcome pub lunch. The fortnightly Thursday walks are usually a four-mile stroll around the beautiful Suffolk countryside, ending with a lunch at a local hostelry.

The winner of the Don George Trophy for the best photo taken on a cruise was won by Martin. This was voted for by members on an anonymous basis at the Commodore's Christmas party. Please visit: www.woodbridgecruisingclub.org.

New members are always welcome.



TRANSITION WOODBRIDGE



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Woodbridge Repair Café on the first Monday of every

month at St Johns Church, Woodbridge 10 - 12noon. We are pleased to offer repairs and advice from our fantastic volunteers for electrical, electronic, mechanical, leatherwork, sewing items. Refreshments are also available.



At this time of year, we're all looking round Notcutts, Dobbies or poring over the seed catalogues.

From February 2nd onwards we'll be offering a seed swap. Bring your surplus seeds and swap for free.

A reminder too that Potato Day East Anglia Potato Day is on February 14th at Suffolk Rural (Otley) College.

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Staying Warm This Winter: How to get help

As temperatures drop, many households are feeling the pressure of rising energy bills. Whether you are struggling to pay for a tank of heating oil, worried about a prepayment meter running low, or living in a cold, draughty home, East Suffolk Council and its partners have several support schemes available to help you stay safe and warm this winter.

For those in urgent financial need, the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) can help. Managed by Suffolk County Council, it offers financial help for essentials like heating and electricity. Generally, this is targeted at households with an income below £30,000 and limited savings. If you have not received one of these payments since 1st October you can apply on-line at <https://residents.suffolk.gov.uk> or ask Citizens Advice to help you apply.

If you use a prepayment meter and are at risk of self-disconnecting because you cannot afford to top up, East Suffolk Council has a dedicated support team, they can be contacted by emailing prepay@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or calling 07769 366229. You can also contact Citizens Advice for access to vouchers.

The Surviving Winter Scheme, run in partnership with the Suffolk Community Foundation and Citizens Advice, provides direct grants toward heating costs for elderly and vulnerable households in fuel poverty.

For residents who rely on heating oil, the council has partnered with Eastern Savings and Loans to offer interest-free loans of up to £500.

This allows households to purchase a bulk delivery of oil and spread the cost over 12 months, avoiding the high prices often associated with smaller, emergency orders.

The Warm Homes Healthy People project from East Suffolk Council can provide help and advice to make your home more energy efficient and therefore cheaper to keep warm. There is further information at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/energy-efficiency-and-warm-homes.

Warm Homes Suffolk offers significant grants for home improvements such as loft and cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, and solar panels. These grants are typically available to homeowners or private tenants whose properties have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D or lower, and a household income of less than £36,000. You can check your eligibility by visiting www.warmhomessuffolk.org or by calling 03456 037 686.

Beyond financial aid, the Council supports a network of 'Warm Welcomes' (formerly known as Warm Spaces). These are local libraries, community centres, and church halls that open their doors to provide a heated environment, a hot drink, and a friendly face during the day.

If you are struggling, do not wait for a crisis to occur. Contact the above schemes or us through our website: www.caes.org.uk/ email-service. You can also phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10-2 Mon-Fri). We have a dedicated Energy Team who can help you. Our website www.caes.org.uk also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.

BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

The new year season at the Block kicks off with a fund raising quiz on Friday **13th March** (lucky for some!). This time we will be at Newbourne Village Hall. Tables for teams of up to 6 people can be booked in advance, via info@bawdseyradar.org.uk. Entry is £7 per person, payable on the night. More details are available on the website.

The Museum itself re-opens on Thursday 2nd April ready for Easter. The Museum will then be open every Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of October. Further details are on our website: www.bawdseyradar.org.uk. For more information contact info@bawdseyradar.org.uk or phone 07821 162879.

This issue was designed, printed & published by Leiston Press.

Woodbridge Talk is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month. We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets. The next issue will be published Monday 2nd March copy deadline is 14th February - but the earlier the better to ensure inclusion.

Contacts/Advertisers/Editorial:

Louise Gissing at Leiston Press, Unit 1b Masterlord Industrial Estate, Station Road, Leiston, IP16 4JD
lou@tidecollection.com Tel 01728 833003

Reports, press releases; letters and other editorial contributions with news value are all welcome but are accepted on the understanding that there is no guarantee of inclusion and that they will be selected and edited at the editor's discretion.



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 Sun 8th Feb at 6.00pm
 Tues 10th Feb at 7.15pm
 Wed 11th Feb at 3.00pm
 Thurs 12th Feb at 7.15pm

RENTAL FAMILY 12A

Fri 13th & Sat 14th Feb at 7.15pm
 Sun 15th Feb at 6.00pm
 Tues 17th & Wed 18th Feb at 2.00pm
 Thurs 19th Feb at 3.00pm

KANGAROO PG

Tues 17th & Wed 18th Feb at 7.00pm
AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH 12A

Fri 20th, Sat 21st, Tues 24th &
 Thurs 26th Feb at 7.15pm

PRIMATE 18

Sun 22nd Feb at 6.00pm

HAMNET 12A

Sun 22nd Feb at 3.00pm
 Wed 25th Feb at 7.15pm

I SWEAR 15

Fri 27th Feb at 7.15pm
 Sun 1st Mar at 6.00pm
 Mon 2nd Mar at 1.00pm
 Tues 3rd Mar at 7.15pm
 Wed 4th Mar at 3.00pm
 Thurs 5th Mar at 7.15pm

WUTHERING HEIGHTS 15

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