

# Life *Almanac*

From misty mornings to roaring fires, November is your month for big coats, bold ideas and small joys that sparkle. Here's what's clever, cultural and quietly brilliant right now.

## *Noted & noteworthy*

**November's nature marker – bare branches, bright thoughts**

By now, the leaves have mostly fallen. The trees stand tall and stripped back, like they're making space for something new. Bonfire smoke curls in the air, and the moon seems just a bit brighter. It's the season of the inner spark. Time to embrace early nights, mulled wine moods, and the unapologetic beauty of rest.

WORDS: CAROLINE BLIGHT & EMMA COXON. IMAGES: JOHN LAW FOR WELLS FOOD FESTIVAL; SHUTTERSTOCK, AND VARIOUS BRANDS.



# What's on: culture, connection & cosy escapes

From Nicola Walker's moving new stage role to artisan markets, bold exhibitions and a soulful podcast pick – November is full of thoughtful finds and feel-good inspiration. Add in a lyrical audiobook and ideas for cosy days out, and you've got the season sorted.



## MUST-WATCH SERIES

### *Frauds* – coming soon, ITV

Jodie Whittaker (left) and Suranne Jones (right) are joining forces for this tense new heist drama. They play Bert (Jones) and Sam (Whittaker), whose past resurfaces in Spain after a decade apart. While Sam is happy with her quiet life in the Spanish hills, Bert is fresh out of prison and needs her old friend to pull off a multi-million-pound art heist. 'We took the idea of toxic female friendship and turned it on its head to give the heist genre an emotional heartbeat,' says Suranne, who also produced the series. 'I have always wanted to work with Jodie, and now I am!'



A wise, witty listen to spark up November evenings.

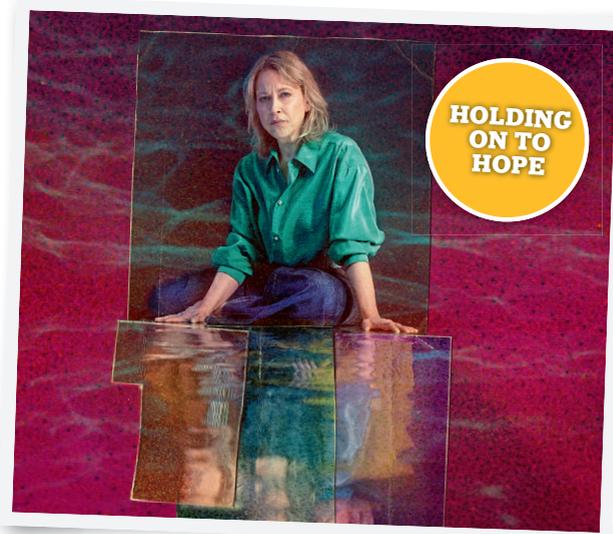
### *Wiser Than Me*

Hosted by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, this award-winning podcast is a tender, intelligent space where Julia interviews extraordinary women – often over 70 – about the wisdom, insight and lived experience they bring to midlife and beyond. It's thoughtful, beautifully unfiltered, and wildly affirming. Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and all major platforms.



## Stage spotlight

*The Unbelievers* – Nicola Walker (right) is back on stage in this new play by Nick Payne. It centres on the emotional journey of a mother after her teenage son disappears, with all the nuance we have come to expect from Nicola. She is determined not to lose hope, and the result is a thought-provoking portrait of motherhood, faith, family – and the lengths we will go to for those we refuse to forget. It sees Nicola reunite with Marianne Elliott after they worked on *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, for which Nicola won an Olivier Award in 2013. *The Unbelievers*, Royal Court Theatre, 10 Oct–29 Nov. [royalcourttheatre.com](http://royalcourttheatre.com)



## Tics, tears and triumph

Breaking the stigma

This hard-hitting and heartfelt new drama, written, directed and produced by Kirk Jones, recounts the true story of John Davidson – a teenage Tourette’s syndrome campaigner trying to survive life in 1980s Scotland when the condition was widely misunderstood. During his early years, his involuntary tics – including blinking, twitching and vocal outbursts – are seen as insanity, and he is socially alienated and attacked. Thanks to the kindness of the minority, he goes on to become a campaigner for awareness and was recognised for his work with an MBE in 2019. Robert Aramayo gives a stunning performance as Davidson, with Maxine Peake as his mum who faces challenges of her own because of his condition.

*I Swear*, in cinemas from 10 October.

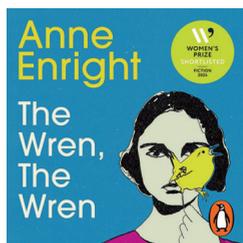


### AUDIOBOOK SPOTLIGHT

Stories to bake to, curl up with, or simply get lost in...

*The Wren, The Wren*  
by Anne Enright  
(Vintage)

Haunting and lyrical, this tale of three generations of Irish women weaves love, loss, poetry and fractured family bonds into something unforgettable. Enright’s prose is like holding a piece of sea glass: sharp, beautiful, and perfectly weathered. Available from Audible.



## Musical voyage

Miss Saigon

Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil’s powerful musical *Miss Saigon*, inspired by Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly*, is on tour. Set during the Vietnam War, it tells the tragic love story between Kim, a young Vietnamese woman forced to work in a bar, and Chris, an American soldier. Their brief romance is shattered by war, separation and cultural divides. Undeterred, Kim goes on a three-year journey to find her way to Chris with Tam, the baby he fathered but has no idea even exists. With iconic songs like *The Movie in My Mind* and *The American Dream*, *Miss Saigon* is still captivating audiences almost 40 years on. The tour begins in Newcastle, 4 October. [miss-saigon.com](http://miss-saigon.com)



## Speaking out

Language is the star of the show

*Voiced: The Festival for Endangered Languages*

In a UK first, this festival celebrates the importance and joy of language with artists making work in endangered vernaculars and dialects. Using

poetry, music, visual art, performance, talks and live events, this innovative festival brings together living and ancient languages. There are new commissions from a range of global artists, and the creative impact art has on language and vice versa is explored. With some languages close to extinction, *Voiced* shows how they are being archived and the attempts to keep them alive. Workshops allow visitors to get involved and be part of this fascinating and underexplored subject. Catch *Voiced*, 1-31 October at The Barbican Centre, London. [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk)



# Wells and truly worth it: a feast for eyes, minds and taste buds

Wells may be England's smallest city, but it's big on charm – cobbled streets, a soaring cathedral, and markets with seriously good cheese and coffee. This October, it offers two brilliant reasons to visit: a flavour-packed food festival and a bold contemporary art show set in its stunning cathedral.

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## WELLS ART CONTEMPORARY

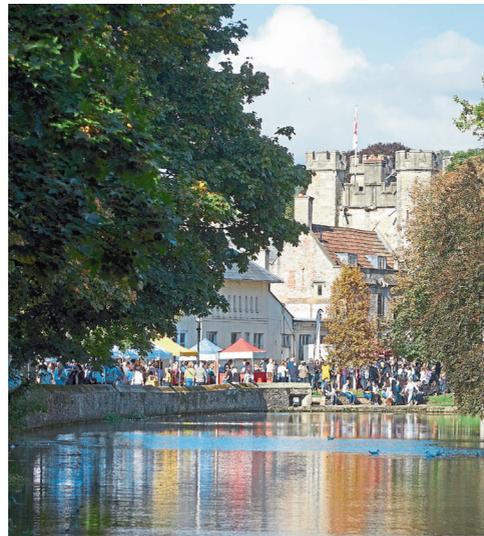
8 October–1 November |  
Entry included with  
Cathedral admission

Modern art in a medieval cathedral? It works. Beautifully. Now in its 14th year, WAC brings more than 100 global works to the cloisters, plus 20 site-specific installations tucked into corners of the cathedral and its grounds. It's thoughtful, surprising and quietly powerful – with extra heart from local artists, including a batch of hand-painted skateboards raising funds for a new community skatepark. [wellsartcontemporary.co.uk](http://wellsartcontemporary.co.uk)

## 2 WELLS FOOD FESTIVAL

Sunday 12 October, 10.30am –  
4.30pm | Free entry

Tiny city, big appetite. Wells pulls out all the stops with 200 brilliant producers and street food stars serving up everything from zingy dim sum to award-winning Cheddar – all best washed down with something fizzy (kombucha or local gin, your call). Alongside the feasting, you'll find Food for Thought talks on everything from no-dig gardening to food poverty, a marquee devoted to English wine, and hands-on cookery workshops for both kids and grown-ups. Come hungry, leave inspired. [wellsfoodfestival.co.uk](http://wellsfoodfestival.co.uk)



## WORDS OF WISDOM

'You don't have to set  
yourself on fire to  
keep others warm'

- Unknown

This November,  
light your own fire first.  
Protect your peace. Honour  
your boundaries. You've  
earned every spark.