

Platinum

# TEN GOOD IDEAS



## Go to Latitude

The festival with culture, music and lakeside charm

There are festivals, and then there is Latitude. Now in its 20th year, it has always understood its audience wants more than headline acts; they want atmosphere, ideas and somewhere beautiful to lose themselves for a few days. Set within the ancient oak woods and sweeping meadows of Henham Park in Suffolk, with its mysterious paths, hidden woodland stages and glittering lake, it

remains one of England's most cherished festivals.

This year, David Byrne of Talking Heads fame headlines his only UK festival appearance of 2026, while Billy Ocean brings timeless feel-good nostalgia.

Latitude has always been about far more than music. Comedy, literature, cabaret and poetry make it the kind of weekend where you come home feeling enriched,



Be inspired!

You could be one of the shiny, happy people at Latitude this year



and possibly slightly evangelical about it to anyone who will listen. The comedy line-up alone is worth the trip, with Jack Dee, Sara Pascoe and Lenny Henry both appearing across the weekend – and the poetry and literature stages are equally unmissable.

The lake is what gives Latitude its particular magic – and it is put

Bright souls and creative moments await at Latitude Festival

to very good use. Each morning you can join one of SwimTrek's guided open-water swims or try stand-up paddleboarding and paddleboard yoga out on the water. It is genuinely one of the most memorable ways to start a festival day, and rather a long way from the usual experience of queuing for lukewarm coffee.

Latitude does glamping beautifully too – bell tents, tipis and Airstreams are all available if you would rather not wrestle with a sleeping bag. If you need to

recharge between sets, the Mind, Body and Zen wellness area offers yoga, relaxation and a chance to step away from the crowds.

Whether you come for the music, the comedy, the swimming or simply the pleasure of being in beautiful Suffolk in the sunshine, it is a weekend that genuinely stays with you. It attracts a warm, curious crowd, and the atmosphere is totally infectious.

Tickets at [latitudefestival.com](http://latitudefestival.com)

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## Summer's spell

Performance in the park



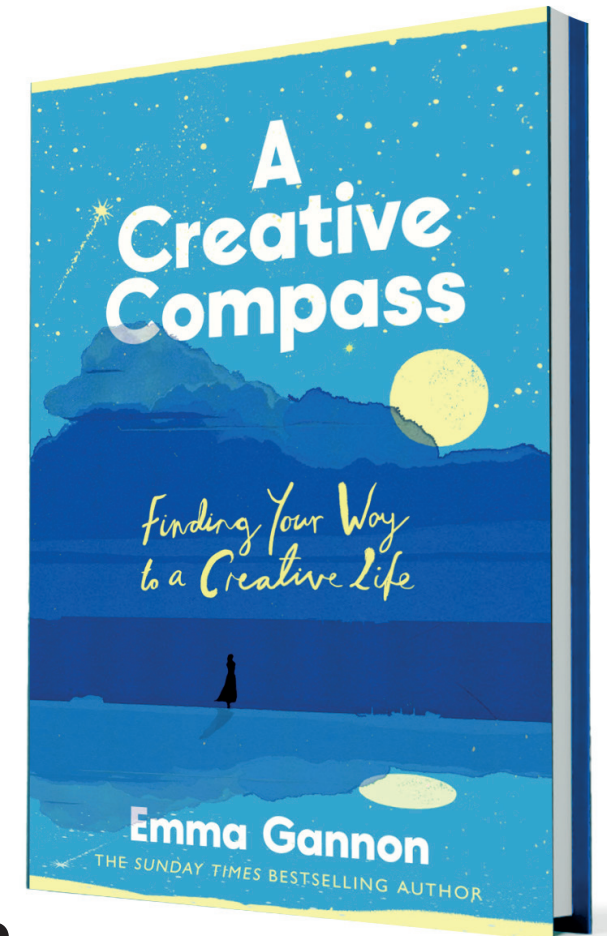
This beautiful new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Atri Banerjee, sees Shakespeare's most spellbinding comedy performed in a magical outdoor setting and accompanied by folk-infused melodies for a truly perfect summer night of theatre. The al fresco backdrop makes the perfect stage for the story of a bitter dispute in the fairy kingdom. Four fleeing lovers and an unsuspecting weaver called Bottom find themselves adrift in an enchanted forest thanks to the mischievous Puck. This retelling will enthral summertime audiences.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Saturday 20 June – Saturday 18 July, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, London

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* outdoors – utterly evocative

## Ten good ideas

Emma Gannon (pictured) helps you discover a way back to your creativity with her brilliant guide



## 3 Non-fiction book of the month

Platinum's new non-fiction editor Liz Allard recommends her top book: *A Creative Compass – Finding Your Way to a Creative Life*

Are you overwhelmed by our uncertain world? Have you lost your way? Has your creative spark gone out? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, Emma Gannon's new book is a must-read.

*Sunday Times* bestselling and award-winning author, and founder of The Hyphen Substack – one of the most popular newsletters in the UK – Emma shares her journey back to creativity after burnout extinguished her spark, and how she came to trust what she calls the

lost art of inner navigation to forge her own metaphorical compass, one that guided her back to her personal north star. She invites us to do the same and discover our own creative lodestars.

First, she lets us in on 10 ways to power up our personal compasses, from giving ourselves permission to feel joy to noticing the beauty in the everyday. Once we are set, Emma gently encourages us to find our own unique path to creating a fulfilling and joyful life, using her lived experience and a set of

thought-provoking prompts to coax reflection on what's stopping us, and essentially what will lead us to unlocking, igniting and embracing our creative spark.

Whether our ambitions are big or small, whether we want to make something or simply live a richer, calmer and happier life, this book is the perfect starting point.

My copy is by my bedside; whenever my hopes or creative energy begin to dim, this is the book I'll be turning to for inspiration and uplift.

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# Celebrating illustration

## Quentin's place

With three exhibitions, gardens and free spaces, including a library and creative studio, this is the world's largest space dedicated to illustration. To celebrate the opening, visitors will be able to view more than 100 original drawings in *Quentin Blake: Performance*, showcasing the theatrical influences of the much-loved illustrator. There's also an exhibition about queer comic-making in the UK from the 1940s onward, and the colourful MURUGIAH's world exploring themes of identity and mental health.

*Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration, opening Friday 5 June, Clerkenwell, London EC1R 1AG; qbcentre.org.uk*



See more than 100 works from the renowned illustrator Quentin Blake



Nicola Walker (right) and Jemaine Clement (left) star in this messy relationship comedy

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# Friends to enemies

Nicola Walker stars in *Alice and Steve*, a new anti-romantic comedy, which asks how far would you go for love – or revenge? Alice is devastated when her best friend Steve (Jemaine Clement) starts dating her 26-year-old daughter Izzy (Yali Topol Margalith). Worried she will lose her best friend and her daughter, she tries to end the relationship. But as Steve fights back, their friendship turns into a messy feud.

*Alice and Steve, 8 June, Disney+*

# 6

## Scents that transport you

A little bit of Glencoe, Positano or Cornwall, whenever you need it

Bring the outdoors in with Lords Fragrance House

There is something quietly transformative about a scent that takes you somewhere else. A fragrance can do what a photograph cannot – it puts you back in a place, instantly. The smoke of a Scottish hillside. The bright citrus lift of an Amalfi morning. The fresh, salty air of

a Cornish beach. Lords Fragrance House builds each fragrance around a real location, bottling the feeling of being there. Handmade in Oxfordshire, their reed diffusers, candles and beautiful new ceramic range bring those places home.

[lordsfragrancehouse.com](http://lordsfragrancehouse.com)

## Ten good ideas



Reflect, reset and restore on a retreat in South Devon

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## Escape to the woods

Bell tents, birdsong and the banks of the River Dart

Swap your sofa for a bell tent and your inbox for the River Dart. The Sharpham Trust's Woodland Retreats, set on a beautiful organic estate near Totnes in South Devon, offer three and five

nights of guided meditation, nature immersion and genuinely delicious vegetarian food, much of it grown on the estate itself. Open to beginners and seasoned meditators alike, days are spent connecting with nature,

with evenings gathered around the Fire Temple for quiet contemplation.

Running throughout the summer, from £395 including all food; to book, visit [sharphamtrust.org/woodland](http://sharphamtrust.org/woodland)



Is Emily Blunt forecasting the existence of aliens?

# 8

## Big screen revelations

Do we really want to know if aliens are out there? Would the confirmation be a comfort or a curse? That's what new sci-fi blockbuster *Disclosure Day* explores in the most unsettling way. It's been hinted the movie is a follow-up to the classic *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The story sees a TV meteorologist, played by Emily Blunt, attempt to reveal the truth behind an alien conspiracy being hidden by the government.

*Disclosure Day*, in cinemas from 12 June

# Ten good ideas



Words of wisdom from  
Jenny and Judith

## 9 Listen to Older & Wider

Jenny Eclair and Judith Holder on life over 60

If you have somehow not yet discovered *Older & Wider*, consider this your permission to download the back catalogue. Comedian Jenny Eclair and producer and writer Judith Holder deliver a weekly conversation between two brilliantly funny women, about life over 60. Topics

range from gym inductions and root canal surgery to mustard debates, village life, Nana duty and hotel buffet defences. Warm, hilarious and the kind of podcast that leaves you feeling much brighter.

Available on all podcast platforms, search *Older & Wider*

WORDS: EMMA COXON, CAROLINE BLIGHT AND LIZ ALLARD. IMAGES: PAUL STORRIE FOR NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE MONTH; SARAH LOUISE BENNETT FOR LATITUDE; FEAST CREATIVE FOR A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM; QUENTIN BLAKE, AND SHUTTERSTOCK.



## 10 Finally! Fitness kit with flair

As we get older, staying strong becomes one of the best things we can do for ourselves – but most fitness kit is an eyesore you'd rather hide in a cupboard. Onyx, founded by Pilates studio owner Alison Banks, thought the same and created a range to take pride of place at home. Yoga mats, hand weights, bracelet weights, resistance bands and Pilates accessories – functional, beautiful and built to last.

[onyx-fitness.com](https://onyx-fitness.com)



Plus!

### SEASONAL BALANCE

Ayurveda, an ancient Indian system of wellbeing, works with the body's natural rhythms and the changing seasons to support balance and vitality. In summer, it recommends cooling, hydrating foods such as cucumber, mint, coconut, melon, lemon and leafy greens, while reducing spicy, fried or heavy meals that can increase fatigue and inflammation. It also encourages earlier mornings for movement and calmer daily rhythms.

For more seasonal guidance, visit [joannawebber.com](https://joannawebber.com)