



ARC.
BOOK FESTIVAL

PROGRAMME GUIDE 2026

ARC UXBRIDGE
The Clubhouse
Sanderson Road
Uxbridge UB8 1DH

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2026

11am-12pm



TWISTED FAIRY TALES FOR TOTS: GARETH P JONES

Author/performer/composer Gareth P Jones brings his twisted fairytales to life with music and silliness.

Rabunzel is a long-eared rabbit who gets locked away in a high hutch by her over-protective mother.

CinderGorilla is a disco dancing gorilla who can't go to the disco ball. Gareth P Jones doesn't simply read these books. Instead, the audience becomes collaborator as we adapt these books into musicals.

Featuring original sing-along songs, live music, fast rapping, funky ukuleles, heartfelt ballads & frenetic storytelling, this show is interactive, inclusive, irreverent and made to entertain all ages.

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2026

12pm-1pm



ARC BOOK FESTIVAL

ZOHRA NABI: Friday June 12, 12pm-1pm

AN AIR OF MYSTERY: ZOHRA NABI

Join Zora on an adventure through the dark world of 19th century Britain. From the secret rivers of London to the desolate moors in Lancashire, Zohra will explain how history can be the perfect inspiration for creating a truly terrifying story, and show how to create a monster that fits in a historical setting.

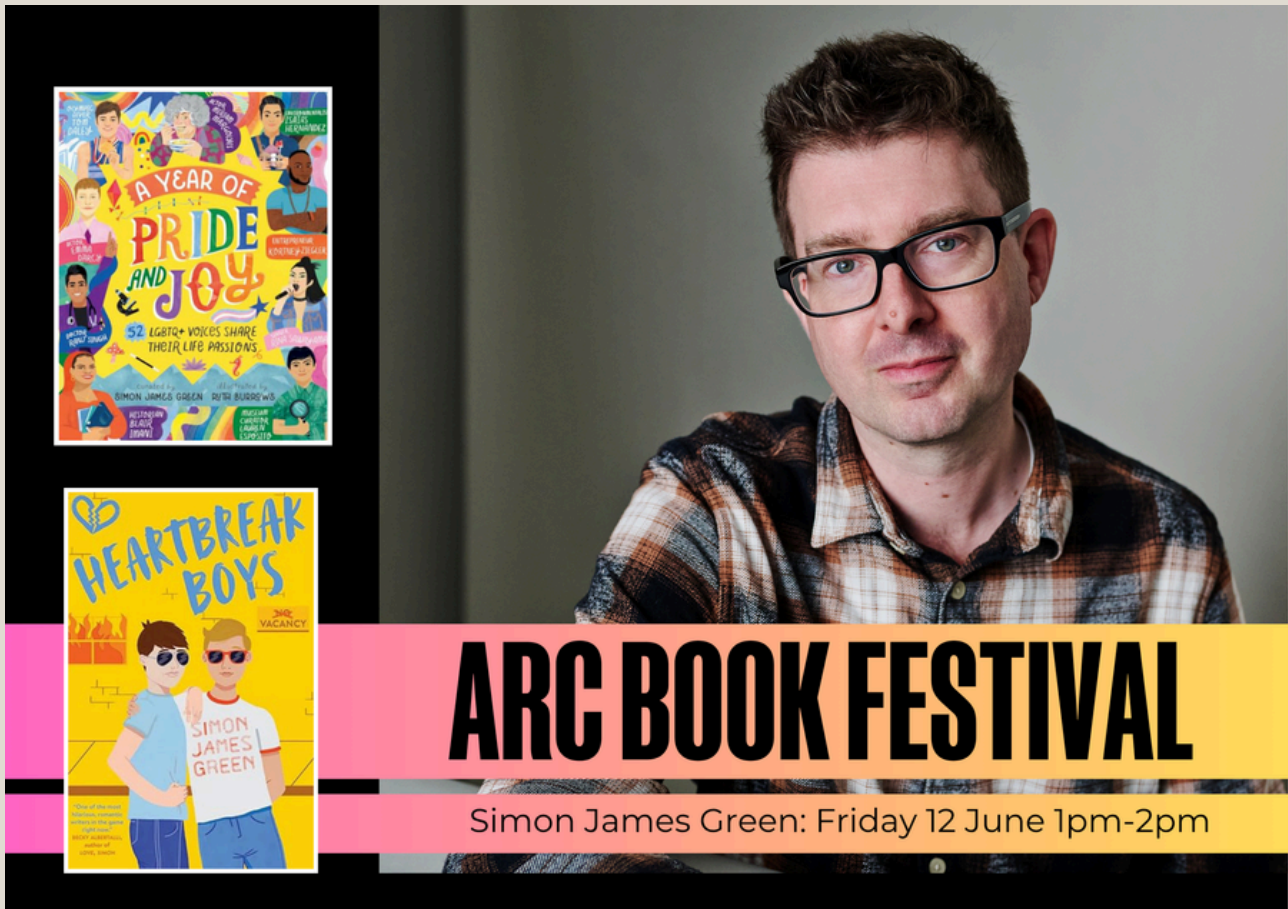
Zohra studied law at Cambridge and Oxford universities, but secretly dreamed of being an author. Her first book, *The Kingdom over the Sea*, was Waterstones book of the month, and a children's bestseller.

Deep Dark, the first book in *The Cassia Thorne Mysteries*, was a Times' children's book of the week, and listed as a best book of 2025 by *The Times* and *The Guardian*.

When not writing, she can usually be found in a pond, in a bookshop, or buried in *The London Archives*.

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2026

1pm-2pm



ARC BOOK FESTIVAL

Simon James Green: Friday 12 June 1pm-2pm

CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH: SIMON JAMES GREEN

Simon James Green is the award-winning author of 17 books for children and young adults.

He read law at Cambridge before becoming a theatre director, working on a variety of West End musicals and touring productions. Simon's middle-grade titles include Finn Jones Was Here, which was shortlisted for UKLA Book Award, and The Double Life of Ted Amos, which was selected for BookTrust's BookBuzz programme.

His titles include Finn Jones Was Here (an Indie Book of the Month); Noah Can't Even (picked by WHSmith as one of the most important LGBT books of the last 50 years); Alex in Wonderland (nominated for the Carnegie medal); Heartbreak Boys, (an Indie Next List Pick in the US); You're the One That I Want (shortlisted for the YA Book Prize), Gay Club! (nominated for the Carnegie Medal); and Boy Like Me (long listed for the Carnegie Medal, and winner of the Readers' Choice Award at the Diverse Book Awards).

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2026

2pm-3pm



MANGA WORKSHOPS
From kids to adults, everyone joined in to experience making manga hands-on.

ARC BOOK FESTIVAL
Elena Vitagliano: Friday 12 June 2pm-3pm

ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP: ELENA VITAGLIANO

Elena Vitagliano grew up in Italy during an era of predominantly Japanese anime, thus having a steady diet of the old anime classics from the 70s and 80.

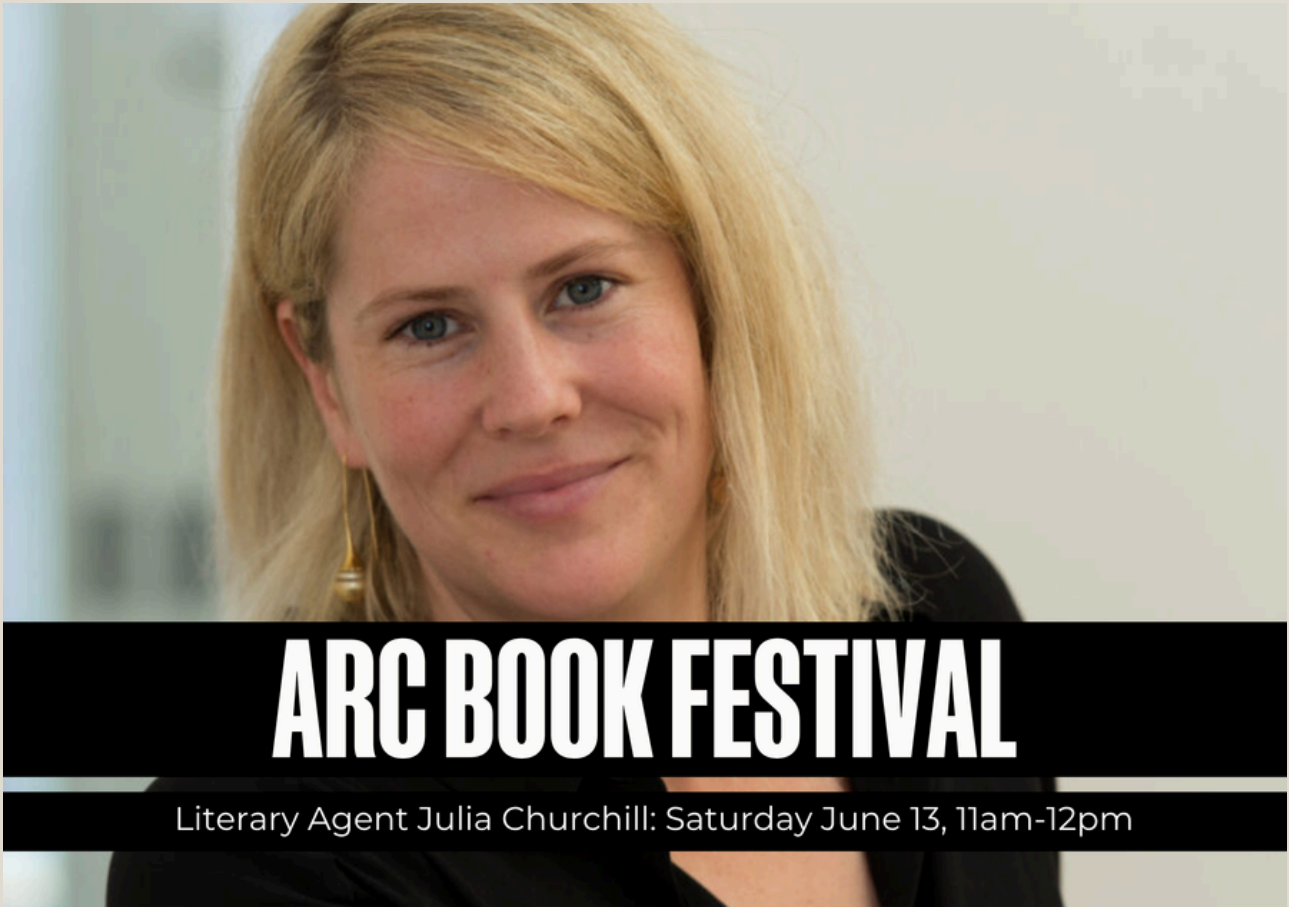
This had a massive impact on her, leading to her developing a keen interest in the Japanese culture, culminating in a degree revolving around Oriental culture, art and language, and even spending a year living and studying in Tokyo. She is the first European woman to have her work published on Shonen Jump+, the same platform that features titles like One Piece and Naruto.

Her work is related to the analysis of human emotions and the meaning of life. Her work draws from everyday experiences and follows themes of racism, the hopes and struggles of a colourful array of characters, with a strong emotional element present in most of her works.

Join her workshop and learn from the best!

SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026

11am-12pm



MEET THE LITERARY AGENT: JULIA CHURCHILL

Have you ever dreamed of being an author? Would you like some invaluable insider tips on what literary agents are looking for in a manuscript?

The ARC Book Festival is delighted to present Julia Churchill, top children's literary agent, at AM Heath.

Julia Churchill joined AM Heath literary agency in 2013, after four years working to build up the UK side of the Greenhouse Literary Agency, and six years at the Darley Anderson Agency, where she started the children's book list.

The talk will include a Q&A session where you can ask Julia all your burning questions about the submissions process.

SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026

12pm-1pm



ARC BOOK FESTIVAL

Holly Hepburn: Saturday June 13, 12pm-1pm

ESCAPIST FICTION: HOLLY HEPBURN

Holly Hepburn is the bestselling author of many feel-good novels, including *A Year at the Star and Sixpence*, *Coming Home to Brightwater Bay* and *The Little Shop of Hidden Treasures*.

She tries to write escapist fiction set in places she wished she lived. Her latest book is *Healing Hearts on Thistledown Lane*.

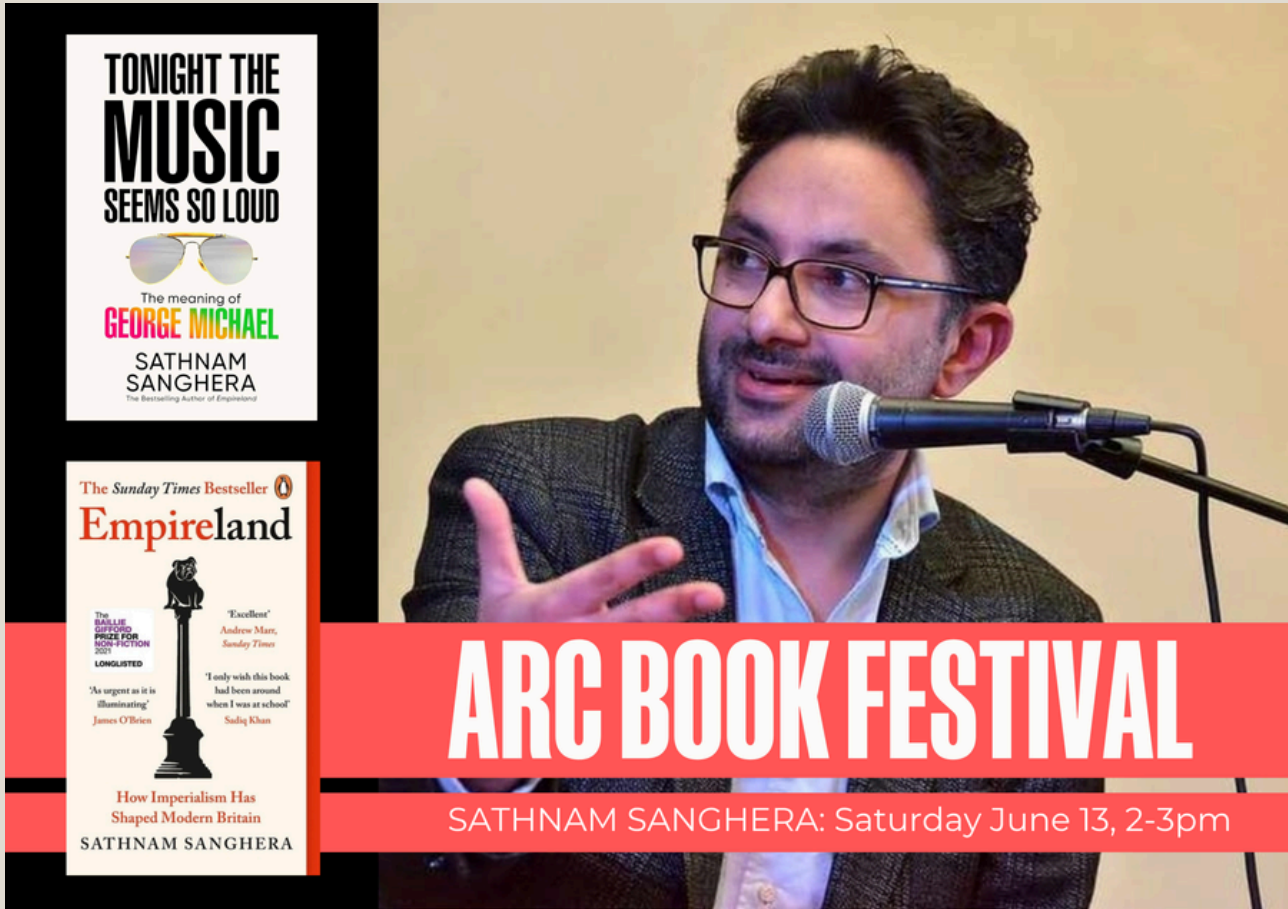
But Holly has also turned her hand to cosy crime, with *The Baker Street Mysteries*. The first novel in the series, *The Missing Maid*, is set in London, 1932, and was inspired by Sherlock Holmes.

The second book - *The Cursed Writer* - is a gothic adventure among the eerie Cambridgeshire fens.

The newest title in the series is *The Locked Room* - a fiendish mystery in which the diabolical Professor Moriarty challenges Holmes to solve an impossible crime.

SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026

2pm-3pm



AN AUDIENCE WITH SATHNAM SANGHERA

Bestselling author Sathnam Sanghera headlines in a fireside chat that draws on both his personal journey and wide-ranging body of work.

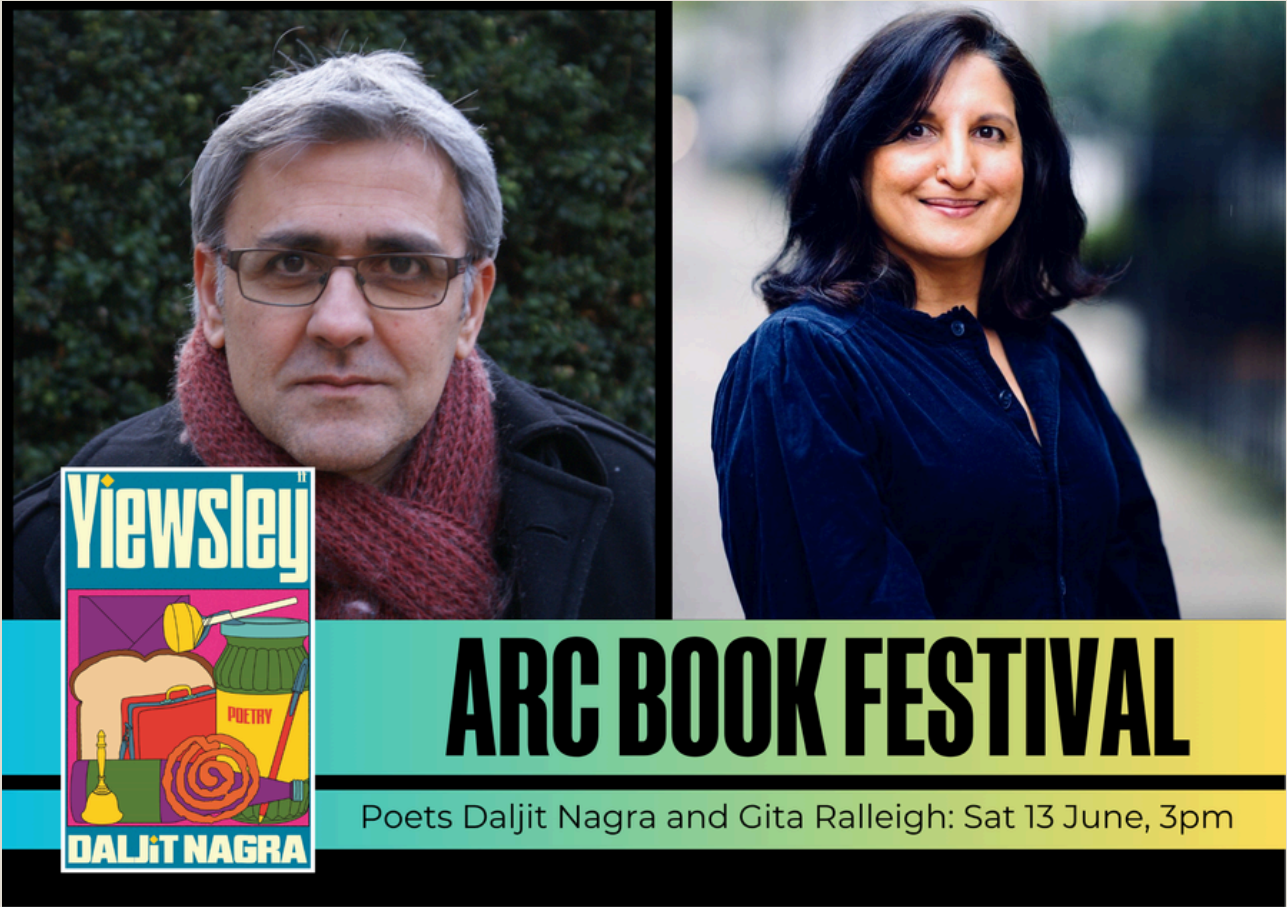
Born to Punjabi immigrant parents in Wolverhampton, his path from a struggling school student to a University of Cambridge graduate and acclaimed, best-selling writer informs his nuanced reflections on British identity, race and history.

The discussion will spotlight his new book, *Tonight the Music Seems So Loud: The Meaning of George Michael*, an exploration of the life and cultural impact of George Michael. Blending biography with social commentary, it examines fame, sexuality and belonging in modern Britain.

Alongside this, Sanghera's earlier works — *The Boy with the Topknot*, *Marriage Material*, *Empireland* and *Empireworld*—provide a rich backdrop for conversation, promising an engaging and thought-provoking event.

SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026

3pm-4.30pm



ARC BOOK FESTIVAL

Poets Daljit Nagra and Gita Ralleigh: Sat 13 June, 3pm

A POETIC FINALE: WITH DALJIT NAGRA & GITA RALLEIGH

How can we have a book festival without celebrating local poets? We are delighted to bring you Daljit Nagra in conversation with Gita Ralleigh.

Both are accomplished authors and poets. If you are a budding poet, or have poetry to share, this session will include an open mic element!

DALJIT NAGRA: Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University of London, Vice President of the Royal Society of Literature and Lead Advisor to Poetry By Heart. Daljit's new collection - *Yiewsley* - presents a spirited and stirring return to his boyhood and the town that made him.

GITA RALLEIGH: A poet and writer born to Indian immigrant parents in London. Her children's novels, *The Destiny of Minou Moonshine* and *The Voyage of Sam Singh* are published by Bloomsbury UK, and she has written three poetry books for adults: *A Terrible Thing* (Bad Betty Press) *Siren* (Broken Sleep Books) and *Empirical* out now with The Braag.