



# 2026 EVENTS BROCHURE

Original artwork by James Fox



PRESENTED BY THE WUBC  
FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

[www.weavers-uprising.org.uk](http://www.weavers-uprising.org.uk)

# INTRODUCTION

The **Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee [WUBC]** is a registered charity dedicated to commemorating the 200th anniversary of the 1826 Lancashire Weavers Uprising. The committee's mission is to honour and remember the events of 1826, with particular emphasis on acknowledging the massacre of local people by soldiers at Aitkens Mill, Chatterton on 26 April 1826. Through the development of educational resources, the commissioning of new artwork and performances, and the organisation of commemorative events and activities throughout Lancashire and surrounding regions, the WUBC seeks to raise public awareness and foster a deeper understanding of this pivotal moment in local and national history.

In 2025 the WUBC was awarded a grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, to deliver a project entitled '**Remembering and Commemorating the April 1826 Lancashire Weavers Uprising**'. This has enabled the WUBC over the last year to collaborate closely with several heritage societies, local volunteers and key delivery partners to develop a series of key commemorative activities for the Bicentennial. In the time since receiving the grant the WUBC has planned and developed a comprehensive programme designed to broaden public engagement and participation throughout 2026. The grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund has not only facilitated opportunities for people to learn about the significance of the 1826 uprising but has also encouraged community members to come together in shared acts of remembrance and reflection.

The grant has made possible the delivery of the full range of events and activities detailed in this Brochure.

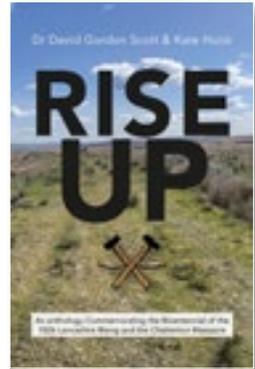
# LANCASHIRE WEAVERS UPRISING: TOURING EXHIBITION

Lancashire County Museum Service, Lancashire County Council

Drop in to Lancashire Libraries throughout 2026 to find out more about the 200th anniversary of the 1826 Lancashire Weavers Uprising, with a new touring exhibition and related talks. Visit us to discover the history of the rising and the how the suffering protestors' demands for help alleviating hardship was met not with food, but sabres, bullets and bayonets.

The Mobile Touring Exhibition will be accompanied by a series of talks by Dr David Gordon Scott at all participating libraries and archives (with Kate Hurst at a selection). Each talk will have a different focus, and people are encouraged to attend their local venue and any of the other talks that they will find of interest. For full details about each of the talks and updated timings, please consult the WUBC leaflet - *Uprising! The Voices of Lancashire's Weavers - Library Tour, March-November 2026* (available online at the WUBC website from March 2026).

The talks and the mobile touring exhibition provide accessible opportunities for the public to learn about and directly engage with the history of the 1826 uprising.



Venue	Mobile Exhibition Display Period	Date of Talk (afternoon talk, unless stated otherwise*)	Title	Speaker/s
Darwen Library	2 March 2026 to 21 March 2026	Wednesday 18th March 2026 *Evening	<i>Alas Poor Weavers: The Lancashire Rising in Social and Economic Context</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott and Kate Hurst
Bury Archives (located in Bury Art Museum)	30 March to 18 April	Wednesday 8th April	<i>Rise Up! the WUBC Bicentennial Commemorations in 2026</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott
Chorley Library	23 April to 16 May	Wednesday 6th May	<i>Why Loom Breaking? A history of Protest and Machine Breaking in Lancashire</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott
Bacup Library	25 May to 13 June	Wednesday 10th June	<i>The Red-Letter April Days: The 1826 Pennine Lancashire Rising</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott and Kate Hurst
Haslingden Library	22 June to 11 July	Wednesday 1st July	<i>Remembering The Chatterton Massacre</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott
Accrington Library	20 July to 8 August	Wednesday 22nd July	<i>Framing the Weavers: Questioning Historical Narratives</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott
Lancaster Library	17 August to 5 September	Wednesday 2nd September	<i>Protest, Punishment and Legal Repression: State Responses to Popular Dissent in the 1800s</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott
Oswaldtwistle Library	14 September to 3 October	Wednesday 23rd September	<i>Georgian Women Martyrs – the experiences of three women during the rising</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott and Kate Hurst
Whitworth Library	7 October to 28 October 2026	Wednesday 14th October 2026	<i>After The Rising: The legacy of the 1826 Weavers Uprising</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott
Rawtenstall Library	November - date TBC	November - date TBC	<i>'Rise Up' Book Launch</i>	Dr David Gordon Scott and Kate Hurst

### Accessibility

All venues are accessible.

### Contact details

library@lancashire.gov.uk

0300 123 6703

www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries

# WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

## The Remembrance Walks

To commemorate the bicentenary of the 1826 Weavers Uprising, throughout the spring and summer months of 2026, the WUBC has organised a series of guided walks recreating all the routes taken by protesting weavers in Pennine Lancashire and beyond. The planned 2026 walks build upon and develop previous remembrance walks organised by the WUBC over the last four years.

The journeys on foot, taken by thousands of weavers, were long and arduous, walked by people who were poor, starving and under threat of arrest or violence from the unsympathetic authorities. Walking in the footsteps of the weavers and recreating their journeys through the industrial towns, across fields, and over the moors, can establish a physical and emotional link with their forgotten stories from two hundred years ago. The network of roads, tracks and paths followed by the weavers remains largely intact, allowing walkers today to literally retrace their footsteps through history.

### Following the Routes

The Remembrance Walks have been organised to follow the historic events of the Weavers Uprising 1826 and recreate the following routes taken by the handloom weavers in Lancashire:

- 24 April 1826: Whinney Hill to Low Moor, Clitheroe  
Whinney Hill to Accrington, Oswaldtwistle and Blackburn
- 25 April 1826: Earcroft, Darwen to Hoddlesden and Helmshore
- 26 April 1826: Haslingden to Rawtenstall, Edenfield and Chatterton  
Chatterton to Summerseat and Bury  
Chatterton to Rawtenstall, Waterfoot and Bacup
- 27 April 1826: Tockholes to Brinscall and Chorley

Please Note - The walk on 16/8 is an accessible, easy paced walk available to all and is suitable for families, buggies and wheelchairs. It will take place at Calf Hey Reservoir, which is adjacent to the weaver's route.



# WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

## The Remembrance Walks

All the walks will be led by experienced walk leaders and volunteers. There are additional, related walks in Carlisle and West Yorkshire, also supported by the WUBC.

Full schedule of walks –

Route of Walk	Date of 2026 Walk
Whinney Hill to Clitheroe	21/3/26
Whinney Hill to Blackburn	29/3/26
Darwen to Haslingden	18/4/26
Haslingden to Chatterton	19/4/26
Chatterton to Elton	2/5/26
Chatterton to Bacup	10/5/26
Tockholes to Chorley Plus event by Sid Calderbank with the Lancashire Society	30/5/26
Carlisle Walks	6&7/6/26
Ball Grove to Cross Hills	13/6/26
Cross Hills to Addingham	20/6/26
Addingham to Skipton	26/6/26
Skipton to Gargrave	27/6/26
Calf Hey Reservoir, Haslingden Grane - Accessibility walk	16/8/26

\*Full details of all walks, routes and organisation can be found in the additional WUBC leaflet - *The 1826 Weavers Uprising – Remembrance Walks 2026* (available online at the WUBC website from March 2026).

### Contact details

To participate in any of the walks, please book in advance by contacting Nick Burton (WUBC Walks Coordinator) via email at: [wubc2026walks@gmail.com](mailto:wubc2026walks@gmail.com) or phone: 07864 627134



# THE WHITAKER MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Whitaker Park, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall, Rossendale BB4 6RE

16 April 2026 to 27 September 2026

Jamie Holman

The Weavers Uprising: Reframing History - Artist Intervention

In 2026, The Whitaker will present a powerful new artist intervention and accompanying events programme that re-examines one of Rossendale's most significant yet contested historical moments: the 1826 Weavers Uprising. At the heart of this project is a rare painted panel, (shown on the Back Cover, Bottom left), part of a series "The Story of The Whiteheads" which are five large artworks depicting the Whitehead family's textile business. One panel portrays what has long been described as the "Power Loom Riots," but its backboard contains asbestos and remained hidden from public view for years. As part of this project, the panel was safely treated and conserved, enabling it to return to the public gallery for the first time.

The restored panel is the catalyst for a major new artist commission. Through visual art, performance and mixed media, Jamie Holman, the commissioned artist re-narrates this moment as an uprising and critically questions who tells our histories, how language shapes public memory, and how stories of labour, class, protest and inequality continue to resonate today. The resulting contemporary response will be exhibited in our 'About Time' gallery space in 2026, marking the bicentenary and connecting past struggles for workers' rights with present-day issues. By bringing together heritage, artistic innovation, and public dialogue, The Whitaker invites visitors to explore the past, meet the present, and help create a future shaped by shared understanding and critical re-imagining.

The exhibition is accompanied by a public programme, including a talk from historian Dr David Gordon Scott (28th May 2026) entitled 'Chatterton: The Truth' which details new archival research undertaken by, or on behalf of, The Open University informing the project and an Artist's Talk from Jamie Holman.

## Accessibility

Ramp and lift access to all public spaces

## Contact details

[info@thewhitaker.org](mailto:info@thewhitaker.org)

01706 260785

[www.thewhitaker.org](http://www.thewhitaker.org)

# JAMES FOX, TEXTILE ARTIST EXHIBITION

‘Cut From the Same Cloth’

Prints, Sculptures & Soundscape

Locations – Heritage Sites in Pennine Lancashire and Lancaster, TBC

A multi-part exhibit, to be displayed simultaneously in several local settings, to potentially include The Whitaker Art Gallery & Museum, The Haworth, Helmshore Mills Textile Museum, Lancashire Archives, the Weavers Cottage and Lancaster Castle.

(Specific locations, times & openings will be publicised online, from April 2026)

## James outlines the context for his commissioned exhibit

*“My work draws on the events of April 1826 and their lasting links to working class struggle and culture. Through a range of creative processes, it commemorates the lives of those who were killed during conflicts over labour and social conditions. The work connects local histories of resistance to wider traditions of working class culture and collective memory, highlighting the historical fight for social justice and emancipation.”*

[www.jamesfoxtextileartist](http://www.jamesfoxtextileartist)

[Instagram/jamesfoxtextileartist](https://www.instagram.com/jamesfoxtextileartist)



## WEAVERS COTTAGE (Rossendale Civic Trust)

Fall Barn Fold, Bacup Road, Rawtenstall BB4 7NW

Opening Times – Second weekend of every month March to September 2026;  
other openings by arrangement.

‘Roots and Routes’ - A new exhibition on the life of the handloom weavers and how they and the military travelled across the area to come together at Chatterton on April 26th 1826.

An exhibition open to the public, or booked groups by request, in a building, which existed at the time of the uprising. Explore weavers’ lives in the 1820s, using our own working handlooms to demonstrate.

Explore the new displays on what part local administration, existing trackways, new roads and the military played in the events at Chatterton, on that fateful day in April 1826.

### Accessibility

Wheelchair access only available to ground floor

### Contact details

Kathy Fishwick

[Rossendalecivictrust@googlemail.com](mailto:Rossendalecivictrust@googlemail.com)

01706 229937

[www.rossendalecivictrust.wordpress.com/about-weavers-cottage/](http://www.rossendalecivictrust.wordpress.com/about-weavers-cottage/)



# BACUP MUSEUM

24 Yorkshire Street, Bacup, Lancashire OL13 9AE

14th March 2026 –20th September - New Exhibition & Events

Join us as we uncover Bacup’s story in the 1826 Weavers Uprising and reveal the local connections to the protests.

On March 14th visit the Bacup Museum between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM for the launch of our new exhibit, “Ned’s Corner”. This will feature a purpose-built diorama depicting a typical handloom weaver’s cottage and related artefacts.

Are you a descendant of one of the Bacup prisoners? Join us on the evening of June 17th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a family tree event.

On August 16th, we will host a costumed exhibit from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM, showcasing court records and contemporary accounts of Bacup residents who were arrested and tried for offences related to the weavers’ uprising.

## Accessibility

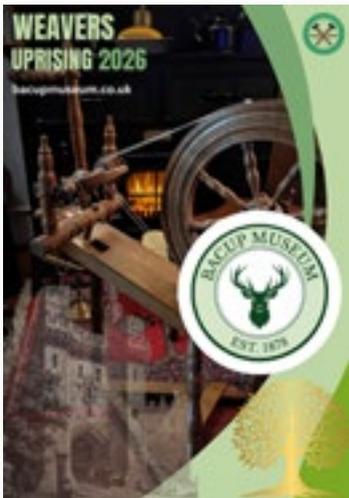
Disabled Access is limited, please contact the museum in advance of your visit.

## Contact details

Wendy Watters

[bacupnatural@gmail.com](mailto:bacupnatural@gmail.com)

[www.bacupmuseum.co.uk](http://www.bacupmuseum.co.uk)



# HELMSHORE MILLS TEXTILE MUSEUM

Holcombe Road, Helmshore, Rossendale BB4 4NP

Concert performance by members of The Lancashire Society

Sat 18 April 2026

13.30-15.30

The Lancashire Society will present a co-ordinated picture of the weavers' story with a narrative linking songs, readings and poems, with some clog dancing too! The performance will give a background explaining the economic and social conditions of the early 19th century that led to the desperate measures taken by the handloom weavers in 1826.

## Contact details for more information & to book e-tickets

[lancsocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lancsocsecretary@gmail.com)

Family Event - Step back to 1826 at Helmshore Mills

Saturday 25 April 2026

11:00-16:00

Join us for a fun family friendly day at Helmshore Mills – with costumed characters and lots of exciting activities to take you back in time 200 years to 1826 and the events unfolding in the village and beyond. Featuring costumed characters, tours, trails, crafts, and workshops.

Booking not required for general entry but will be for some activities.

## Contact details for Family Event

Louise Jacobsson, Helmshore Mills Textile Museum

[helmshoremuseum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:helmshoremuseum@lancashire.gov.uk)

01706 226459

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums)



# HELMSHORE MILLS TEXTILE MUSEUM

Holcombe Road, Helmshore, Rossendale BB4 4NP

Lancashire Weavers Uprising: School Workshops

Organised by Heritage Learning Lancashire, Lancashire County Council

27 to 30 April 2026 - 4 schools over 4 days at Helmshore Mills Textile Museum

Join Heritage Learning Lancashire and Sean Cooney—renowned storyteller, historian, and folk singer—for an engaging journey into the past. Together, we will explore the pivotal events of the Lancashire Weavers Uprising of 1826, drawing upon The Open University *Rise Up!* Teaching Toolkit. Pupils will also have the unique opportunity to collaborate with Sean in composing an original protest song, bringing history to life through music and creativity.

## Contact details for Schools Events

David Brookhouse

[heritagelearning@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:heritagelearning@lancashire.gov.uk)

01772 530382

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/heritage-learning/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/heritage-learning/)



# EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY



Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 2026

## **Discounted East Lancashire Railway tickets for the bicentennial weekend**

Take a train trip back in time through the heart of the Irwell Valley on Saturday 25th or Sunday 26th April 2026 (bicentennial weekend). Visitors can enjoy a 20% discount (see details below).

## **Board the train at an East Lancashire Railway station**

Rawtenstall Station, Bury Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 6AG

Irwell Vale Station, off Hardsough Lane, Rossendale BL0 0QG

Ramsbottom Station, Railway Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AL

Summerseat Station, Railway Street, Summerseat, BL9 5PZ

Burrs Country Park Station, next to Burrs Caravan Park, BL8 1DA

Bury Bolton Street Station, Bolton Street, Bury, BL9 0EY

Heywood Station, Green Lane, Heywood, OL10 1DW

To mark the Weavers Uprising Bicentennial, the East Lancashire Railway is offering a 20% discount off Day Rover tickets for Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 2026 when booked online at least one day in advance using the code **WEAVERS20**.

Step on board a heritage train and step into history and the chance to explore a 12-mile long string of stories that people of all ages can share together, all within captivating Lancastrian landscapes.



# EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

East Lancashire Railway tickets include complimentary access to Bury Transport Museum, which is open 10am – 4pm, last entrance is at 3:30pm.

## Contact details

[enquiries@eastlancsrailway.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastlancsrailway.co.uk)

0333 320 2830

[www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk)

## Accessibility

The East Lancashire Railway web site has accessibility information at the bottom of each individual station's web page [www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/plan-your-day-out/stations](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/plan-your-day-out/stations)

In June the East Lancashire Railway will also invite several local primary school classes (Years 5 & 6) to learn about the Weavers Uprising Bicentennial on the train. Pupils will be able to explore the key events of the Lancashire Weavers Uprising of 1826, drawing upon The Open University *Rise Up!* Teaching Toolkit, with support from The Whitaker. Places are limited - Schools can email: [enquiries@eastlancsrailway.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastlancsrailway.co.uk) to find out more about these free visits, including coach travel from school and back in some cases, and how to apply.



# 200TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

## The Bicentennial of the Weavers Uprising 1826

Sunday 26 April 2026

WUBC & LATUC volunteers

The Pennine Lancashire Weavers Uprising took place over 4 days from the 24th to the 27th April 1826. At approximately **11.00am on 26th April 1826** soldiers began to open fire upon a crowd of up to 3,000 people. Many hundreds of bullets were fired and at least six people were shot dead and several others were seriously wounded. Exactly 200 years on from the start of the Chatterton Massacre we begin our formal commemorations at the site the indiscriminate killings of protestors took place in remembrance of those who died as well as the wider suffering of those involved in the anti-starvation protests of 1826 in Lancashire and surrounding regions.

- 10.20 March assemble top of Chatterton Old Lane, Ramsbottom, near Bury BL0 0LZ  
(see map below)
- 10.30 March down the Lane led by the 'Baybeat' band (route is less than 1km)
- 10.50 Band play near Chatterton Memorial Plaque
- 11.00 Assemble at the Peace Park for the opening of the Bicentennial Commemoration
- 11.05 First Reading - Remembering the Lancashire Rising and Chatterton Massacre  
(Dr David Gordon Scott)
- 11.15 East Lancashire Clarion Choir
- 11.30 Second Reading - James Chambers, Betty Upton and the naming of the dead  
(Dr David Gordon Scott, Kate Hurst and descendants of protestors)
- 11.45 Trade union and TUC speakers – 'Then and Now: the fight goes on'
- 11.55 Laying of wreath, final words, planting of crosses and final song from Clarion Choir
- 12.05 Procession to St Phillips Church Hall, Chatterton Lane, led by 'Baybeat' band
- 12.15 Refreshments and folk band (Caffrey/McGurk/Madge) - St Phillips Church Hall,  
115 Chatterton Rd, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 0PQ  
(Toilets will be available for use at St Philips Church Hall)



Please Note - do not try to park in Chatterton, there is no public parking – park in Stubbins or elsewhere and walk down to the Peace Park/Church Hall/or via Old Chatterton Lane

# HAWORTH ART GALLERY

Hollins Lane, Accrington, BB5 2JS

The Haworth will develop a school-based piece of work from May/June 2026, related to the Lancashire Weavers Uprising, in collaboration with Broadside Balladeer Jennifer Reid. This will include, archival research, several workshops in primary schools, plus a final procession to The Haworth for a small performance/celebration event, in the Summer Term. The school workshops will explore the events of the Weavers Uprising of 1826, drawing upon The Open University *Rise Up!* Teaching Toolkit. The Haworth will also host artwork by James Fox, including his *Rise Up!* Banner.

## Contact details

For more information on school collaboration/performance

Alison Iddon

[haworth.artgallery@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:haworth.artgallery@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

01254 233782

[www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/haworthaccrington/](http://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/haworthaccrington/)

## Accessibility

Fully accessible via lift to first floor.

[www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/gallery-access/](http://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/gallery-access/)



# HORSE & BAMBOO THEATRE

679 Bacup Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale BB4 7HB

September-October 2026

Weavers' Stories: Writing Workshops & Theatre Performance

A series of community writing and performance workshops will be held in the Autumn at 'The Boo' in order to develop a final community performance event, facilitated by local theatre professionals with the additional help of volunteers.

## Contact details

To get involved, please contact the WUBC at [bicentennialcommittee@mail.com](mailto:bicentennialcommittee@mail.com)  
[www.horseandbamboo.org](http://www.horseandbamboo.org)

## Accessibility

Horse + Bamboo is a wheelchair accessible venue.

Entrance, theatre & toilets are all on the ground floor.

If you have any questions about accessibility or any specific access needs, please contact us on: 01706 220 241 or [info@horseandbamboo.org](mailto:info@horseandbamboo.org)

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# LANCASTER COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

Lancaster (including Lancaster Suite, Lancaster Castle)

October 2026

WUBC, RHC, Duchy of Lancaster and The Open University

Following the uprising many people were arrested and taken to Lancaster for trial. This event follows this part of the story, including raising awareness of those protestors who died in custody – Thomas Ashworth, James Chambers and Simeon Wright.

On 10th October 2026, The Regional Heritage Centre [RHC], Lancaster University and The Open University will deliver a special commemorative symposium. It will include speakers exploring the history and legacy of the 1826 Pennine Lancashire Weavers Uprising and the story of those who were prosecuted as well as providing a platform for the display of artwork.

Further information on speakers and venue will be made available from April 2026 on the WUBC and RHC websites/pages. For accessibility of Lancaster Suite see Lancaster Castle website.

For other commemorations in Lancaster see also the touring exhibition and talks at Lancaster Library in August/September 2026 and forthcoming announcements from the WUBC.

## WUBC FILMS

The WUBC are pleased to announce that Rossendale based Huckleberry Films will be our film partners for the project, bringing their expertise in filmmaking and animation to help create a digital legacy and record all our events and activities throughout 2026. You can find out more about their work and expertise online -

[www.huckleberryfilms.co.uk/](http://www.huckleberryfilms.co.uk/)

[www.instagram.com/huckleberryfilms/](https://www.instagram.com/huckleberryfilms/)

Huckleberry Films also host several short films from the WUBC / Open University *Rise Up!* Symposium (which was held in October 2025). These include chapter summaries of the forthcoming *Rise Up!* Book 1 and Book 2.

The actress Maxine Peake has made two films for the WUBC. The first film provides an overview of the WUBC and its commemorative work and second names the known dead at the April 1826 Chatterton Massacre. You can find these films, and other WUBC related content, at the True Level Media YOUTUBE channel.

[www.youtube.com/@truelevelmedia8953](http://www.youtube.com/@truelevelmedia8953)

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## FORTHCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS IN 2026

Additional remembrance work, events and activities, which are currently in development with other WUBC partners, will be announced by the WUBC during the commemorative year. These include commemorative partnerships with:

- The Grane at Haslingden;
- Chorley Heritage and Archaeological Society; and
- The Prospects Foundation, Accrington.

Please do check back online from April, for the full details of these forthcoming initiatives at: [www.weavers-uprising.org.uk/projects/](http://www.weavers-uprising.org.uk/projects/).

Open University [OU] research and learning materials have informed the work of the WUBC and all those delivering commemorative activities and events, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The OU has made this significant intellectual contribution to the bicentennial commemorations through:

- research articles and other publications that have reframed the April 1826 protests as a rising and massacre
- the undertaking of new archival work providing new evidence into events and their context
- the creation of educational packs, films, interactive maps, lesson plans and other engaging and publicly accessible learning resources through Open Learn and associated partner platforms.

As part of the project, The Open University and York University are also collaborating with an international panel to publish an expert statement regarding the April 1826 Chatterton Massacre.

We also gratefully acknowledge several grants from The Open University and Open Societal Challenges since 2021.





Panel from The Whitaker

