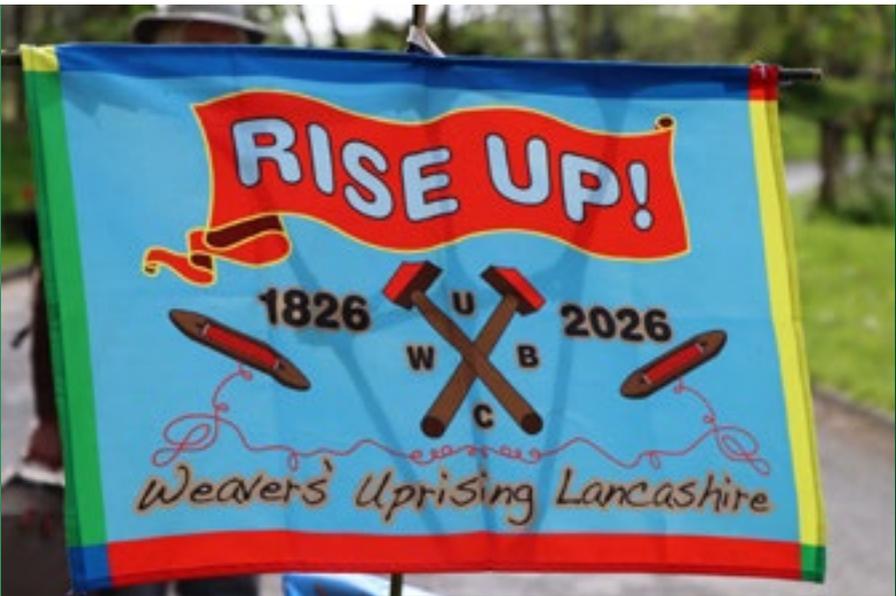


UPRISING!

THE VOICES OF LANCASHIRE'S WEAVERS
LIBRARY TOUR, MARCH - NOVEMBER 2026



1826
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2026

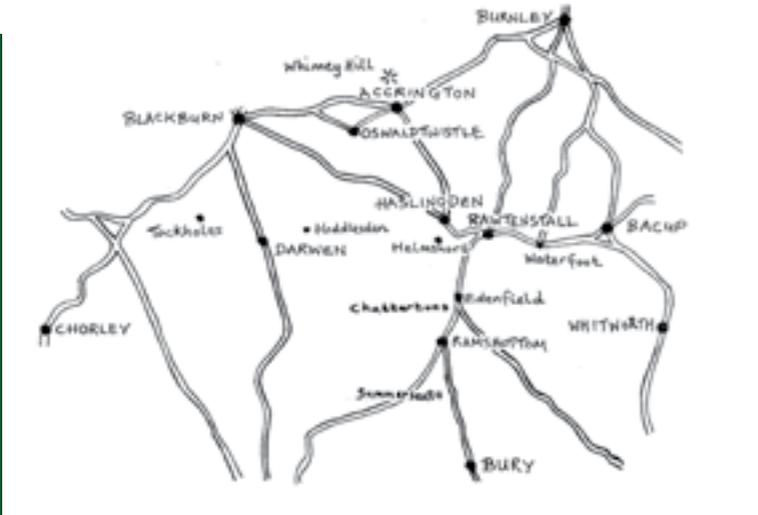


www.weavers-uprising.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

2026 marks the 200th Anniversary of the 1826 Lancashire weavers uprising. The rising involved many thousands of people living in Pennine Lancashire at that time and took place between 24th-27th April 1826. After decades of financial hardship, increased food prices and mass unemployment following the 1825 banking crisis, as a last resort people of Lancashire engaged in the targeted destruction of more than 1,100 power looms as a way of sending a symbolic message to authorities that something needed to be urgently done to ameliorate their suffering and protect their way of life. The protestors' demand for help in alleviating their plight was met not with food and welfare policies, but sabres, bullets and bayonets.

The lecture tour accompanies a touring exhibition 'Uprising: Voices of Lancashire Weavers' (created with Lancashire County Museum Service) that will be on display on 10 libraries in Lancashire during the 200th commemorative year of the 1826 Lancashire Rising (March – November 2026). Each talk will have a different focus, and people are encouraged to attend their local venue and any of the other talks in the region that they will find of interest.



1826
~
2026



TALK SUMMARIES

The ten talks in the lecture series connect to the exhibition but also reflect the contents of *Rise Up! An Anthology Commemorating the Bicentennial of the 1826 Lancashire Rising and Chatterton Massacre* (book 1) and other associated publications by the speakers. All talks are on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm unless otherwise stated.

Bookings details can be found via:-

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries>.



1. Alas Poor Weavers: The Lancashire Rising in Social and Economic Context

This first talk in the lecture series will provide a context to the living conditions facing the people of Lancashire in 1826. It will explore the implications of the '1825 Panic', several decades of economic instability and the desperate living conditions of the handloom weavers in the months prior to the Lancashire rising. This talk will be co-led by local historian Kate Hurst.

Date: 18th March 2026 (please note that this talk will take place on Wednesday evening)

Location: Darwen Library, Knott St, Darwen BB3 3BU .

2. Rise Up! the WUBC Bicentennial Commemorations in 2026

In late 2021 The Open University began the public history project Rise Up! and in April 2022 the charity The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee [WUBC] was formed. Together the Open University and the WUBC have been spearheading the bicentennial commemorations and in February 2025 the WUBC was awarded a £170,000 heritage fund grant. This talk will highlight the many different commemorative activities and educational resources that have been (or are about to be delivered) by The Open University and WUBC.

Date: 8th April 2026

Location: Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR

3. Why Loom Breaking? A History of Protest and Machine Breaking in Lancashire

The third talk will focus on the history of protest in Lancashire in the period between the 1760s and the 1820s. It will focus on protests in the area that involved the confiscation or destruction of machinery and explain both the meanings and messages of machine breaking and how this kind of protest was deeply embedded in working class customs in the area at this time.

Date: 6th May 2026

Location: Chorley Library, Union St, Chorley PR7 1EB

4. The Red-Letter April Days: The 1826 Pennine Lancashire Rising

The fourth talk in the library tour will be co-led by Kate Hurst and will draw upon both archival research and secondary sources to tell the tale of the four-day uprising in Pennen Lancashire between 24th and 27th April 1826. In the talk we will draw upon the legal depositions gathered at the time to support criminal prosecutions of protestors.

Date: 10th June 2026

Location: Bacup Library, James St, Lane Head, Bacup, OL13 9AH

5. Remembering The 1826 Chatterton Massacre

The killing of at least six protestors at Chatterton on 26th April 1826 is the focus of this talk. Drawing upon various archival sources, this talk will detail not only the events of the day as recorded by eyewitness testimony but also highlight the ten main ways in which the massacre was covered up and consequently remained relatively unknown for nearly two centuries.

Date: 1st July 2026

Location: Haslingden Library, Deardengate,
Rossendale BB4 5QJ

6. Framing the Weavers: Questioning Historical Narratives

This talk will focus on the way in which the 1826 rising has been written about and remembered in secondary historical sources. Reflecting first on the way in which the protests were named and talked about at the time, the focus then shifts to the way in which the language of “riot” and fight rather than rising and massacre diminished the presence of these events in public memory.

Date: 22nd July 2026

Location: Accrington Library, James’ St,
Accrington BB5 1NQ

7. Protest, Punishment and Legal Repression: State Responses to Popular Dissent in the 1800s

The seventh talk will focus on how the government responded to the 1826 uprising. Situating this first within the wider strategy of policing economic crisis and popular dissent through a ‘law and order’ ideology, the discussion then turns to specific response to the protestors convicted at the Lancaster Assize in 1826. Several stories of people who were either imprisoned or transported are covered in the talk.

Date: 2nd September 2026

Location: Lancaster Library, Library Ave,
Lancaster LA1 4YH

8. Georgian Women Martyrs – The Experiences of Three Women during the Rising

This talk will explore the lives of three of the women who were, in different ways, victims of the legal repression of the protests. The talk will be co-led by Kate Hurst and will explore the lives of Mary Hindle, Mary Simpson and Betty Upton. We will consider if these three women should be today considered as ‘Georgian Women Martyrs’.

Date: 23rd September 2026

Location: Oswaldtwistle Library, 289 Union Rd,
Accrington BB5 3HS

9. After the Rising: The Legacy of the 1826 Uprising

This penultimate talk in the library tour will explore the legacy and long-term implications of the uprising. It will reflect also on the way in which the rising has been remembered prior to the bicentennial events, reflect upon the various activities that have taken place so far in 2026 and consider how the rising and Chatterton massacre can continue to remain in public memory in the area and nationally/internationally in the future.

Date: 14th October 2026

Location: Whitworth Library, Lloyd Street,
Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8AA

10. Book Launch

The final talk in the series will formally launch the Rise Up! Book 1. The session will be led by the authors Dr David Gordon Scott and Kate Hurst.

You can find filmed summaries of the Rise Up! book 1 chapters at:

<https://www.youtube.com/huckleberryfilms>

Date: November 2026

Booking information can be found via links to the LCC booking page on the WUBC website from February 2026 or

Email: Library@Lancashire.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 123 6703

Website: www.Lancashire.gov.uk/libraries

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SPEAKERS

The talks are being led by Dr David Gordon Scott
with further contributions from Kate Hurst.



David Gordon Scott works at The Open University and has published 24 academic books and more than 100 book chapters or journal articles. He is co-author (with Kate Hurst) of *Rise Up! An Anthology Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lancashire Rising and Chatterton Massacre* (Book1). David is founder and chair of the registered charity The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee. <https://profiles.open.ac.uk/david-scott>



Kate Hurst is a local historian. She has been working as a research assistant on The Open University project 'Life and Death in Pennine Lancashire during the Regency' since March 2022 and is co-author (with David Gordon Scott) of *Rise Up! An Anthology Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lancashire Rising and Chatterton Massacre* (Book1). <https://katehurst.wixsite.com/kate-hurst-research>

www.weavers-uprising.org.uk

