

TOLPUDDLE
MARTYRS

FESTIVAL 17TH-19TH JULY

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk

TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS FESTIVAL

WELCOME TO

Tolpuddle has long stood at the heart of the trade union movement ever since six local farm workers were punished for forming a union. Today, the Festival continues that legacy as a gathering that celebrates workers' collective power, honours the Martyrs, and fuels ongoing fights for justice, respect and dignity for working people.

Bringing together trade unionists, our families and allies, the Festival brings debates, music, organising workshops, comedy, radical history, theatre, poetry and a vibrant Kids' Area, to



create an inclusive space for learning, reflection and celebration.

Thanks to 160+ volunteers, our generous sponsors, 300+ speakers and performers, dedicated organisers and

thousands of guests, the Festival remains one of the most welcoming, family-friendly events rooted in trade union values. In the spirit of solidarity, we hope this year's Festival leaves you inspired and energised.

Who were the Tolpuddle Martyrs?

Our small but mighty museum retells the story of the six men of Dorset and the legacy they left behind.

Open on Friday and Saturday, 9am – 5.00pm, located in the central cottage, **FREE** and open to all.



FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2026

FRINGE TENT

14:00 – 17:00

MUSIC The Muskett
Sessions with:

- L Skin
- Eva Grant
- James Harriman
- The Blessed Crow
- Les Thomas

17:15 – 18:00

DEBATE Establishing
roots of resistance.
Launching the
Organise School at
Tolpuddle

21:00 – late

DJ set
With vinyl Van
Records

MARTYRS' MARQUEE

19:00

MUSIC
Ms. Mohammed

20:00

COMEDY
Mark Thomas

21:25

MUSIC
Skimmity Hitchers

22.50

MUSIC
Joe Yorke

UNITE TENT

18:00 – 20:00

THEATRE
Time and Tide
Theatre Company
perform:
'To win the Day' – a
powerful folk drama
telling the lives of the
women of Tolpuddle

VILLAGE HALL

Radical History School:
LABOUR & POWER
(This is a ticketed event – more
information at check-in)

12:00
Russia and the West
Chris Read

13:00
Tolpuddle Village Walking
Tour

14:00
Les Thomas
A musical interlude from
Australia

15:00
Empire and Education
Pete Yeandle

16:00
The political economy
of Palestine with Nadia
Naser-Najjab

17:30
The Jarrow Crusade
With Kate Osborne MP



****PLUS****

Visit the Organise Tent
in the afternoon to
design your own
radical t-shirt!



SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

FRINGE TENT

10:10 - 11:15

DEBATE

Unions beyond the pay claim

11:30 - 12:30

DEBATE

Unity Works: fighting hate by building solidarity

12:45 - 13:45

DEBATE

War and crisis in the Middle East

14:00 - 15:00

DEBATE

Forward to an Employment Rights #2 Bill

15:30 - 16:30

DEBATE

Who gets a voice?

19:00

MUSIC

Tolpuddle Unplugged. Experience unfiltered sounds led by Protest Family's Steve White and Lol Ross

MARTYRS' MARQUEE

11:00 - 12:30

DEBATE

Fighting for our jobs and our planet: a working class response

CAMPAIGNS SPEAK OUT

13:30 - 14:30

DEBATE

From tech puddles to Tolpuddle: what would the Martyrs think of AI?

19:00

MUSIC

Kid Hyena

20:15

MUSIC

Bridget

21:30

MUSIC

Logic & The People's Army

22:50

MUSIC

Rioghnaigh Connolly and Honeyfeet

INTERNATIONAL TENT

Join campaign groups and voices from around the globe as they delve into the injustices and solutions towards better rights for workers and humanity.

SOLIDARITY TENT

19:00

Tolpuddle Comedy

Enjoy an evening of revolutionary comedy.

Kev Mud

Leslie Gold

Jon Matthews

Simon Munnery



GET ACTIVE

Explore more than 50 stalls across the festival weekend, from the Martyrs' Marquee to the Unions' Lawns. Meet unions, charities and campaign groups bringing big ideas and taking bold action. Tolpuddle is where voices rise and movements grow. Find yours here.



SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

ORGANISING SCHOOL

NEW TO TOLPUDDLE

9:00 - 10:15
WORKSHOP –
Understanding and
building power

10:30 - 11:45
WORKSHOP
Negotiations and Strikes

12:00 - 13:15
WORKSHOP
Talking to workers –
workplace visits, the ERA
and patrols

14:15 - 15:30
WORKSHOP
Winning union
recognition and the
milestones along the way

15:45 - 16:30
WORKSHOP
Empowerment,
disempowerment and
burnout

OPEN MIC

Nestled between the Fringe and the Workers Beer bar is a small stage where the great, the good and sometimes the A* for effort come to showcase their talent? Add your name to the board and give it a go.

12:00 - 13:00
SPOKEN WORD

13:30 - 16:30
LIVE MUSIC

UNITE TENT

10:30 - 12:00
DEBATE
Unite Young Members
@Tolpuddles

12:00
The Great FDA and
Landworker giveaway

14:30 - 15:30
DEBATE
Rural Women –
celebrating the fearless
heart

17:00 - 18:00
MUSIC
Attila the Stockbroker



UNIZONE

10:00 - 11:00
MUSIC
Nature Voices

11:00 - 12:30
STRETCH
Yoga for Y.O.G.A

12:30 - 14:00
WORKSHOP
Delivering a Year of Green
Activism

14:30 - 15:30
WORKSHOP
Placard making

16:00 - 17:00
MUSIC
Big Mambo

VILLAGE HALL

Radical History School:
(This is a ticketed event –
please ask at
check-in/info tent)

10:00 - 11:00
The Great Upheaval
with Steven Parfitt

11:00 - 12:00
The General Strike of 1926
with Keith Layburn

12:00 - 13:00
Conviction Politics with
Hamish Maxwell-Stewart



9.15 - 12.00
POA -

FREEDOM HIKE

Join the Prison Officers' Association as they hike 8.5 miles from Dorchester Prison to Tolpuddle to highlight the injustices still faced by prison workers who have their right to protest restricted. The hike begins on Saturday at 10am. Meet at the Martyrs' Statues in front of the Museum where a coach will depart from the site at 9.30am. Water will be provided. Bring appropriate footwear and clothing including hats and suncream.

TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE TRAIL

Retrace the Martyrs' Steps with a Walking Tour of the Village with Museum Manager, @TolpuddleTom and local Trade Unionist Tony Gould as they share key locations of their story.

Meet at the martyrs' statue at 11.00am



SUNDAY 19TH JULY 2026

MAIN STAGE

11:00 – 11:40

MUSIC

Liam Vincent &
The Odd Foxes

11:55 – 12:30

MUSIC

Isaiah Dreads

12:30 – 12:55

SPEAKERS

13:00 – 13:45

MUSIC

Maddie Morris

15:00 – 15:45

SPEAKERS

Joanne Thomas,
USDAW General
Secretary

Steve Gillan,
POA General
Secretary, and TUC
President

Sharon Graham
Unite General
Secretary

Paul Nowak,
TUC General
Secretary

15:45 – 16:30

MUSIC

Girlband!

16:45 – 17:45

MUSIC

Beans on Toast

MARTYRS' MARQUEE

11:00 – 11:35

MUSIC

Sue Conroy

11:45 – 12:20

MUSIC

Generation Feral

12:30 – 13:05

MUSIC

Calum Baird

13:15 – 13:50

MUSIC

Yahmo

15:45 – 16:35

MUSIC

The Silver Darlings

Visit over 40
organisations,
campaign and
political groups
located inside
and outside of the
Martyrs' Marquee

FRINGE TENT

10:00 – 10:30

MUSIC

Dorset Red Choir
(In Unite Marquee)

10:00 – 11:00

DEBATE

What do disabled
people want from
a Burnham-led
government? –
Disabled People
Against Cuts

11:00 – 12:00

DEBATE

Organising for
education: winning
the schools we
deserve

CHURCH SERVICES

11:00

St. John the Evangelist Church
Songs of Praise

13:10 – 13:45

WREATH-LAYING

St. John the Evangelist Church
Wreath-Laying at James Hammett's
grave with songs from Bristol Red
Notes Choir

17:00 – 18:00

Methodist Chapel Festival Service



HONOURING THE MARTYRS

From 1:00pm union representatives and families of the Martyrs gather around the grave of James Hammett (the only Martyr to return to the village) to lay wreaths and pay their respects for the personal sacrifices the six men of Tolpuddle made. In this quiet, contemplative moment of the Festival, we stand shoulder to shoulder in unity and hope, much like all those who have stood defiantly, together, for a better, fairer future.



KIDS AREA

FRIDAY 17TH JULY

13:00 - 19:00 DIY Painting

11:30 - 19:00 Make Your Own Pizza

17:30 - 18:30 Bedtime Story

17:30 - 19:00 Circus skills

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

The Marquee

9:00 - 10:00 DIY Painting

10:00 - 10:45 Making Worry Dolls

11:00 - 12:30 Big Gob Puppets

14:30 - 15:15 Making Worry Dolls

16:30 - 18:00 Big Gob Puppets

Make your own pizza

11:00 - 19:00

(suggested donation £6)

Story Tent

13:30 - 14:30 Story Time

18:00 - 19:00 Bedtime Story

Green

11:00 - 12:30 Leaf Printing

14:30 - 15:30 Leaf Printing

16:00 - 16:45 Wolly the Clown

16:45 - 18:00 Circus Skills Workshop

Swap Shop

10:00 - 12:00

13:30 - 18:00

Woodcraft Folk -

Creative crafts and
collaborative games

Saturday 11:00 - 18:00

Sunday 10:00 - 12:00

All children must be
accompanied by their
parent or carer.

Sponsored by

NASUWT
The Teachers' Union

EARLY RISERS AND EVENING VIBES

From 8:00am, babies, young children, and their parents or carers can join a calm, low key space to ease into the morning.

In the evenings, the Kids Area transforms into a relaxed social space with a campfire welcoming anyone who wishes to sit, unwind and connect with other festival-goers.

SUNDAY 19TH JULY

The Marquee

9:00 - 10:00 DIY Painting

11:00 - 12:30 - Big Gob Puppets

12:30 - 13:15 Making Worry Dolls

14:15 - 15:45 Big Gob Puppets

16:45 - 17:30 Making Worry Dolls

Make your own pizza

11:00 - 18:00

(suggested donation £6)

Story Tent

10:00 - 11:00 Story Telling

13:15 - 14:15 Story Telling

Village Green

11:00 - 12:30 Leaf Printing

14:30 - 14:30 Leaf Printing

15:45 - 16:30 Wolly the Clown

16:30 - 18:00 Circus Skills
Workshop

Swap Shop

10:00 - 12:00

13:30 - 18:00

****PLUS****
Face painting
all weekend!
Visit the NASUWT
stall



SUNDAY PROCESSION & RALLY

The procession is the beating heart of the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival and the reason that brings us together each year. It honours the historic marches that demanded freedom for the Tolpuddle Martyrs, and celebrates the collective strength of workers and our unique power to shape a better and fairer world for all.

Unions, campaign groups, workers, families and friends all take their place in this proud tradition. Find your union on the Main Road and join the march from 2.00pm. Marching bands, samba groups, Morris dancers and choirs fill the route with colour and sound as union banners, flags and blimps echo the united, hopeful spirit of those who marched before us and those still fighting today.



A UNION RALLY OF HOPE

Before and after the march, celebrate with thousands of others on the Union Lawns and across the festival where solidarity speeches and campaigners join forces to commemorate the legacy of working people standing up for justice. Speakers include: TUC's 2026 President and Prison Officers' Association General Secretary, Steve Gillan, as well as Paul Nowak, longtime Tolpuddle friend and TUC General Secretary, Sharon Graham, Unite General Secretary, and leading campaigners like Lydia Kabute demanding a fairer visa system for migrant workers.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Food and Drink

We pride ourselves in supporting local, sustainable and unionised outlets wherever possible. Our food and drink stalls have become part of the fabric of our festival. You'll find a wide range of menus, including 'solidarity meals' that offer great food at more affordable prices. All our vendors accept card. **Allergen information is available at all catering outlets.*

Basilico Pizza Van

Bringing the uncharted taste of true, artisanal Neapolitan pizza (VG, VE, GF,)

Events Horizon

Hot and cold foods, sandwiches, quiches, salads and desserts (VG, VE, GF)

Jamie's Coffee

Premium coffee freshly ground and crafted (VG, VE, GF, DF)

Noodlehead

Delicious Thai food using locally sourced ingredients (VE, VG, GF)

One Love Caribbean Shack

Authentic Caribbean cuisines to make the soul sing (VE, VG, DE, GF)

Purbeck Ice Cream - Real Dairy Ice Cream with

60% Purbeck milk and 22% Dorset cream (VG, VE)

Taste of Spice

Authentic and delicious Indian curries and street food (VG, VE, DE, GF)

Tolpuddle Village Breakfast

cooked breakfasts and bacon rolls to get your morning going.

Workers

Beer

Company

Long-standing supporters of the festival they run our festival bars across the site including beers, local ales and ciders, spirits, wines and soft drinks.

Tolpuddle Village Hall

open Sunday, 10.00am – 4.30pm, serving cakes, teas, coffees and soft drinks and a 'Ploughman's in a box', including a choice of ham, cheese or home-made quiche and salad accompaniments.

The Martyrs' Inn

A community-owned pub in the heart of the village. Also playing the world cup final on Sunday.

T THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS

Visit **Thompsons Solicitors** stall throughout the weekend where legal experts will be on hand to share the latest on current and incoming workers' rights. The UK's most experienced personal injury and employment rights law firm for unions.





Tolpuddle Museum Shop

Located in the Union

Lawns, the stand sells snacks, ice-creams and cold drinks alongside Tolpuddle and union-related memorabilia. Don't forget to grab your festival t-shirt at the Museum shop.

Tolpuddle Shuttle Bus

Thank to Unite the Union, there is now a dedicated festival shuttle bus running between Dorchester South Station and the Tolpuddle Festival site from Friday evening until Sunday. This service is designed to connect with mainline trains, making it the easiest way to reach the village without a car. Tickets can be purchased in advance or on the day (subject to availability). For more information, visit the Information Tent.



First Aid

The Medical Tent is staffed throughout the festival by trained staff ready to help with anything from minor injuries to more urgent concerns. If you or someone near you needs assistance, head straight to the medical tent or alert a steward who can guide you.

Camping on site

The festival is located on a slope. Ensure that your tent is well secured. Paths are clearly marked but bring torches. There is space for everyone but please be considerate of other campers around you. Our festival has a habit of enabling lifelong friendships.

Dogs at Tolpuddle

Please keep your pooches on leads and under control at all times. And if your dog uses the



'facilities' make sure you pick it up and dispose of it appropriately. There are plenty of bins dotted across the site.

Campfires and BBQs

Open fires/fire pits, flares, Chinese lanterns and fireworks are banned across the site. If you are planning a BBQ, please

ensure that these are

off the ground and stable.

Ensure you extinguish it thoroughly after use.

In dry weather, grass

can become a

fire risk so it may become necessary to ban all BBQs and fires if these are deemed to pose a significant fire risk. We will do all we can to communicate with campers in advance of the festival.

Sunday Road closures (13.00 – 18.00)

The village main road will be closed to cars between 13.00 – 18.00 due to the procession.



A group of people, including a woman in a 'TOLPUDDLE SHOP' t-shirt, posing in front of a shop sign. The image is framed by a red, irregular border.

to stand in opposition to any form of hate, racism and discrimination, including but not limited to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia,

Islamophobia, gender-based abuse, and hatred against transgender people. This position also supports our commitment to

promote equality for all and to eliminate all forms of harassment, prejudice and unfair discrimination. If you see or experience anyone undermining this, please report it immediately to a steward, security or visit one of the Information Points.



The Festival is known for its friendly atmosphere and spirit of solidarity.

Lively debate is a central part of the Festival...

However, aggressive, offensive, intimidatory or disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated. The Festival is proud

the socialist bookshop  **bookmarks**

The largest socialist bookshop in Britain and the official booksellers of the TUC. Selling books covering politics, economics, trade unionism, labour history and more, visit their stall or attend one of their sessions at the festival.

**Thank you to all festival-goers and our brilliant sponsors.
Your support sustains the UK's best independent, trade
union backed and union organised festival of solidarity.
Together we are stronger. We are Tolpuddle.**



**Help us keep the legacy
of the Martyrs' alive by
donating what you can.**

**Share the vibes at Tolpuddle
@TolpuddleFest #TolpuddleFest**



ROOTED IN HISTORY.

POWERED BY AND FOR THE MOVEMENT.

Help keep the birthplace of modern trade unionism alive by donating to the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Memorial Trust.

Each year, the museum and festival organisers work hard to organise a vibrant festival of solidarity for our movement. It's a living reminder that collective action still shapes the world we're building today.

For more information visit:

www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk

