



January 2024

To: Campaigning Stall Holders

Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival Friday 19th to Sunday 21st July 2024 Campaign Stall Application

The Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival is a very special event for the trade union and labour movement.

It is a unique blend of music, comedy, poetry, kids' activities and politics. There is something for everyone and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. It has grown over recent years and squeezes a lot into a fairly small space.



The festival site includes the lawns of the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Cottages and Martyrs Museum, and the neighbouring field where additional entertainment can be found as well as the main camping and parking area.

Visitors and campers can find more information on our website closer to the date including the full programme:

History of the Festival

There have been events in and around Tolpuddle to remember the story of the Martyrs almost since they returned as free men from transportation to Australia. Massive protests across the country forced the government to back down from the attack on farm workers forming a trade union.

The annual rally has been a feature in trade union calendars since the grand gala in 1934. For most of its history, the event was a rally consisting of a parade through the village, wreaths laid on the grave of Martyr James Hammett and speeches. The only music was the brass band at the front of the March. Beer was in the pub and sandwiches in a "tea tent".





Through the years, leaders of the labour movement have spoken at Tolpuddle from Walter Citrine, Ernie Bevin, Harold Wilson, Jim Gallagher, Neil Kinnock, John Smith, Jack Jones, John Monks, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Jeremy Corbyn and recently Angela Rayner.

The procession of banners is now as big as ever and we urge everyone to join in. We lay wreaths on the grave of one of the Martyrs and we have speakers, debates and workshops involving a diverse range of organisations spread across the weekend.

We welcome applications for stalls from a wide variety of campaign groups. The diversity of stalls adds to the enjoyment of the event and helps promote progressive causes, especially those with links to the trade union movement. The Festival has limited space and whilst all applications received by the deadline will be considered, we are unable to guarantee a stall. Priority is given to campaigns that are trade union backed and fall within the TUC's campaigning objectives.

The South West TUC reserves the right to refuse applications and its decision shall be final.

Who pays for it?

The Festival relies on a lot of support from unions and volunteers. It is heavily subsidised by the TUC. It is a very relaxed, friendly event.

Costs and Payment for Campaigning Stall Holders

Applications will be looked at after the closing date of 31 March 2024 and all applicants will be informed on whether they have been successful or not via email. Once you have received approval you will then be able to pay on-line via the Tolpuddle Martyrs' website or request an invoice by end of April 2024 at the very latest. You will also be able to purchase tent and campervan spaces and additional entrance wristbands and vehicle passes.

Cancellations can take place up until end of May 2024 for a full refund.

If you have not attended with a stall before and would like further information please don't hesitate to contact the office on 0117 9470521 or southwest@tuc.org.uk

Campaigning Stalls inside the Martyrs' Marquee (Saturday & Sunday)

We are planning a full weekend programme of poetry, speakers, discussion groups and music inside the Martyrs' Marquee. This will include a 'speakers' corner' on Saturday. You will be invited to say a few words about your stall if you wish. There will be a cost of **£120** per stall you will be provided with: one entrance wristband

(worth £60) and one vehicle access pass (worth £15). Stall space must be occupied on both Saturday and Sunday. There is no wall space, electricity or secure storage inside the Martyrs Marquee and because of the Saturday evening performance your stall must be dismantled each day. You will be provided with one 6ft long trestle table and 2 chairs per stall.

Saturday

Set up between the hours 0900-1100

Pack away between the hours of 1630-1700

Sunday

Set up between the hours of 0900-1000

Packed up between the hours 1600-1800

Campaigning Stalls Outside the Martyrs' Marquee (Friday – Sunday)

There are a limited number of spaces outside the Martyrs marquee. You will have to provide your own gazebo (**max 3x3m**). There will be a charge of **£175** for outside stalls and you will be provided with: one entrance wristband (worth £60) and one vehicle access pass (worth £15). Stall space can be set up for the whole weekend from either Friday or Saturday (see timings below, but must be occupied on both Saturday and Sunday).

Friday

Set up between the hours of 0900-1700 or

Saturday

Set up between the hours of 0900-1100

Sunday

Packed up between the hours of 1600-1800

We have security on site over the festival weekend from 11 pm on the Thursday evening until 8am Monday morning. No generators allowed, if you need lighting then you will require a lighting travel battery. You will also be required to have a fire extinguisher at your stall.

Temporary structures (Outside Marquee Campaigning Stalls ONLY)

As you be bringing a temporary structure on site (whether this is a tent, gazebo, marquee, or other similar item) make sure you have sought the permission of festival organisers beforehand. The opportunity for this will be in your application for a stall space. We reserve the right to ask you to remove this structure if you have failed to gain our permission beforehand.

Please also make sure you let us know in advance on the form:

- What temporary structures you are bringing, specifically.

- It's wind loading speed (this is usually available in the instruction manual, or from your supplier or contractor)
- How you will secure this to the ground (and who will do this). Please note our volunteers and crew are very busy and often unable to help put up stalls.
- Who will be the point of contact for your organisation/union during the weekend

Please note we will carry out checks throughout the festival period to ensure that temporary structures are safe and well-anchored.

However, neither the TUC nor Festival organisers will be liable for any damage incurred or injury caused should your temporary structure collapse, is poorly erected and/or maintained. We reserve the right to ask you to move, alter or, where absolutely necessary, take down your temporary structure. We will do all we can to make sure you, your staff and festival guests are kept safe.

This applies during the duration of the festival as well as the set-up and de-rig periods.

In the past our volunteers and crew have helped organisations erect their tents; where possible, this may still occur but it is important that you and/or your organisation are fully prepared to erect your structure without our help. It is therefore important that the individual(s) responsible for putting up and taking down your temporary structures know what they are doing. Any support given by volunteers or festival crew will not deem the festival or its organisers liable for any damage or harm that may occur in whatever eventuality.

Vehicle Access

Weather conditions permitting we allow one vehicle per stall (showing the access to unload sticker in the windscreen) which will be directed to a designated parking point. From there you can transport small items to your stall using wheel barrows and trolleys, large items maybe allowed to be transported up to back of main marquee but this is at the discretion of the Car Park senior steward plus availability of stewards to accommodate this request.

Placards, Merchandise, Plastics, Going Green and how the General public will pay

No placards or advertising materials are to be placed around the site other than at your own stall.

We continue to make considerable efforts to improve the festival's sustainability. All stall holders and organisations play a key part in getting us there.

Around the site you will find recycling bins; please use them and deposit relevant items in the correct bins.

Food and drinks stall are not allowed to sell plastic bottles of drink and instead are encouraged to seek alternatives. The Workers Beer Company, run a bar across the site and operate a reusable cup scheme. Campaigning and union stalls are asked to be mindful of literature and avoid bringing plastic single-use memorabilia and giveaways.

We are determined to reduce the quality of plastic waste at the festival and would urge all stall-holders to consider the nature of any packaging materials and giveaway items.

We will not accept stalls including materials that are designed to cause offense, are racist or anti-Semitic. This also includes gender-specific goods such as 'toys for boys and toys for girls'. If in doubt please do not hesitate to contact us.

Over the past few years cash has become less popular and a vast majority of people are now paying by card. We are asking that all of our traders have the facility to take card payment.

Documents/equipment/information required either on the booking form or sent to southwest@tuc.org.uk

- General Risk Assessment – inside and outside stalls (include wind issues for outside stalls)
- Fire Risk Assessment (for outside stalls only)
- Public Liability Insurance (both inside/outside stalls)
- Employers Liability Insurance (both inside/outside stalls)
- Fire extinguisher for outside stalls only
- How you will secure your marquee (for outside stalls only)
- Point of contact over the weekend (all stalls)
- Wind loading (outside stalls only)

Staying safe

Each year, we review our safety plan and re-assess risks to ensure we remain a safe, vibrant, family-friendly event for trade unionists, families and friends to attend. The festival is built on the strong trade union values we celebrate so we will always endeavour to support, wherever possible, all those who help make this such a great weekend.

Come prepared

It is important that you, your team and any external contractors you employ are fully prepared for all weather conditions and eventualities, both during set-up and de-rig as well as the duration of the festival.

We've had a mix of rain, sun, and high winds over the years – sometimes in one day! Bring suncream, water bottles (we have a number of free drinking taps around the site) and wellies and rain macs.

A number of food stalls are present during the weekend and we endeavour to ensure they offer a range of cuisines and cater for as many dietary needs as possible. Bring cash as card readers and wifi can be patchy.

There is also the Martyrs' Inn pub, saved by the community and trade unionists through collective ownership. It is located in the village.

The nearest convenience store is in the neighbouring town Puddletown. Otherwise, Dorchester will have a range of shops and stores for last minute purchases.

In 2023, for the first time in its history, the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival had to be cut short due to dangerously high winds, preceded by heavy rainfall that made the site unsafe and unsustainable. Therefore, ensure where possible, you obtain relevant and necessary insurances to cover you for any losses or damage incurred. Neither the TUC nor the festival will be liable for any losses or damage as a result of adverse weather or other incidents beyond our control. We will communicate with you as soon as practicable and necessary to ensure you and your staff are safe and updated on the situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ines Lage'.

Ines Lage

Regional Secretary and Tolpuddle Festival Organiser

