



January 2024

To: Commercial Stall Applicants (non-food)

Commercial Stall at Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival Friday 19th to Sunday 21st July 2024

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, along with the festival programme: www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/festival

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.

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 Commercial Stall Holders

The stall fee for this year will be £230 and will include one entrance wristband (worth £60) and one unloading pass (worth £15) which will entitle you to park for the weekend for free. Once you have received your confirmation email you will then be instructed on how to pay for your pitch and tent/campervan space and additional entrance wristbands and parking by the end of April 2024 at the very latest. You will have up to the end of May 2024 to cancel your pitch for a full refund.

If you are a new commercial stall applying for the first time we will require photos of your stall and as much information about your merchandise (fair trade etc).

Storage/Electricity/Equipment

We cannot provide electricity or secure storage so you must be responsible for all your equipment/stock during the weekend. We do however 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

If you are 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)
- Size of your temporary structure
- 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.

Set up and take down

If successful your stall will need to be set up between the hours of 9am-5pm on Thursday, 18 July 2024. Festival goers arrive from about 12 noon on the Friday with the festival starting with entertainment on the Friday afternoon. Your marquee must not be taken down until the end of the festival usually approx. 6p.m. on the Sunday. Vehicle movement on and off site during the festival is tricky and often not possible, especially during key times of the day. Please always ask a radio holder if you need to move your vehicle into or off the site as you will need to be chaperoned by a member of the crew. We will ask you to put your hazard lights on and follow instructions carefully.

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

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 quantity 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 (include wind issues)
- Fire Risk Assessment
- Public Liability Insurance
- Employers Liability Insurance
- Fire extinguisher
- How you will secure you marquee
- Point of contact over the weekend
- Windloading

Once a decision has been made a confirmation email will be sent to you on how to pay.

Closing date 31 March 2024.

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



Ines Lage

Regional Secretary and Tolpuddle Festival Organiser

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