

To make advance group bookings (15-20 persons) please email tolpuddle@tuc.org.uk or phone 01305 848237

Opening times

Apr-Oct: Tues-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 11.00-17.00.
 Nov-Mar: Thurs-Sat 10.00-16.00, Sun 11.00-16.00.
 Open Bank Holiday Mondays except Christmas and New Year. Admission free.

Weddings

The Museum is registered for wedding and civil ceremonies and can offer couples who want a less formal occasion or one associated with the Tolpuddle Martyrs and the labour movement.

Contact the Museum for more details.

Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival

The annual celebration, with music, speeches, stalls and grand procession, takes place over the weekend of the third Saturday in July.



Tolpuddle MARTYRS MUSEUM

Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum and Memorial Cottages
 Dorchester Road, Tolpuddle, Dorset DT2 7EH United Kingdom
 Tel 01305 848237 tolpuddle@tuc.org.uk
www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk @TolpuddleFest

Tolpuddle MARTYRS MUSEUM

TOLPUDDLE DORSET

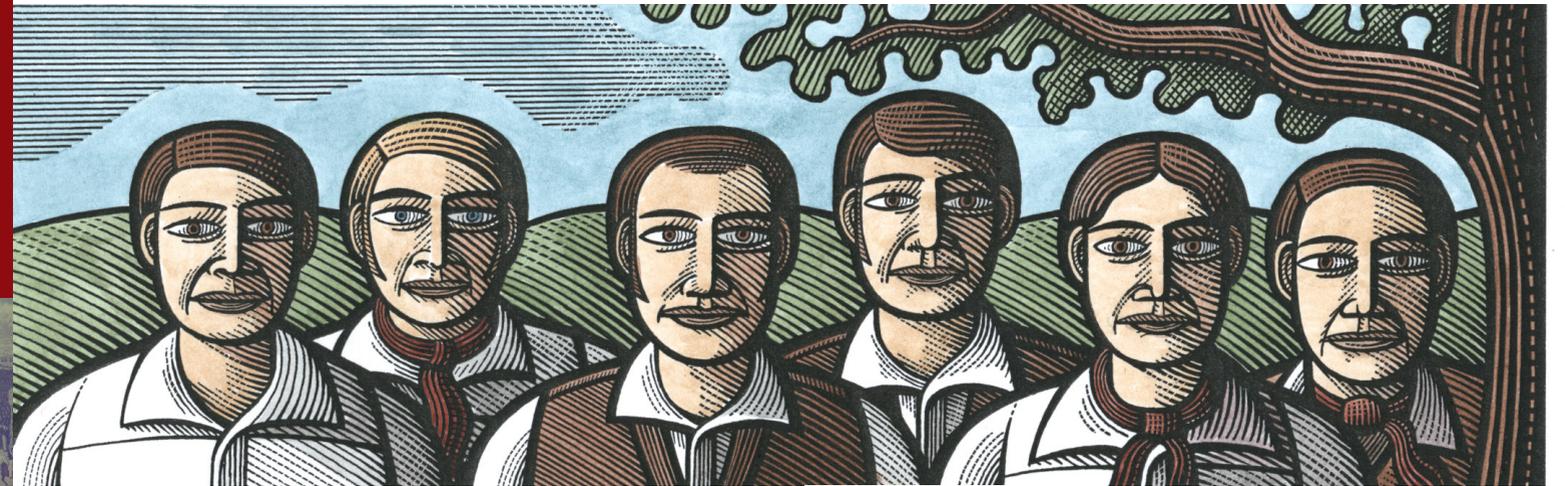


From arrest, through hell, to freedom



TUC 150 YEARS 1868-2018
 Changing the world of work for good

From arrest, through hell and back



George Loveless James Hammett James Loveless Thomas Standfield John Standfield James Brine

One dawn, in the bitter February of 1834, six Tolpuddle farm labourers were arrested and escorted to Dorchester.

Their crime?

Attempting to escape from grinding poverty and harsh employers.

The charge?

Swearing an oath of unity, after being betrayed by a friend.

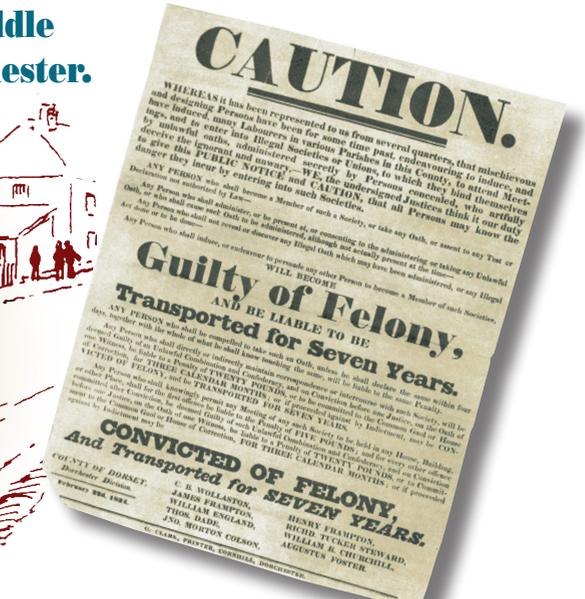
The punishment?

Seven years of hell as convicts transported to Australia with little hope of return.

The outcome?

A massive protest across the country leading to free pardons and a return home in triumph. A frightened squire's trumped-up charge triggered one of the most celebrated stories in the history of human rights. Their trial was a travesty of justice.

The sentence by a biased judge created mass public protest. The Government was forced to back down.

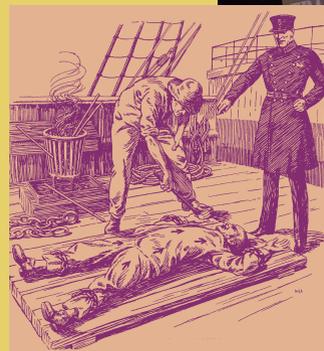


That dawn arrest created The Tolpuddle Martyrs This is their story

The experience



- ◆ Follow the fate of the Martyrs
- ◆ Discover why the Squire and judge were so frightened of unions
- ◆ Learn about the oath in the company of Death and the Skeleton
- ◆ Find out who betrayed the Martyrs
- ◆ Explore the minds of the Martyrs and the masters
- ◆ Hear about the hell of transportation to the other side of the world
- ◆ Re-live the anger and protest that swept the country
- ◆ Share the triumph of their freedom and homecoming.



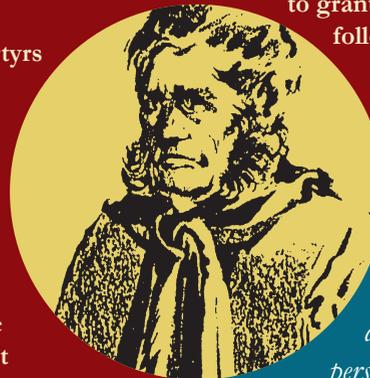
The Exhibition

Packed with illustrated displays, this new state-of-the-art, interactive exhibition tells the Tolpuddle Martyrs story in four sections, partly through the eyes and voices of the main characters.

Before the Arrest explains how the Martyrs struggled for survival on pitiful wages and why they decided to form a union. Why the squire was so frightened and how he trapped the men. It explores the reason for rural poverty, and introduces the riotous *Captain Swing*.

The Oath and Betrayal

reveals how the magistrates trapped the Martyrs and how they were betrayed. It relates the dramas of the oath ceremony, the travesty of the trial and the Judge's dreadful sentence. Learn how public outrage and a mass rally began the campaign for their freedom.



1834

Transportation to hell on earth follows the Martyrs through the horrors of prison hulks and convict ships to the brutal conditions of penal colonies in Australia, where they were sold like slaves to bullying masters for £1 a head. It details how the King was forced to grant their pardons, and the delays which followed.

The Homecoming

celebrates the Martyrs' return, their freedom as farmers and activists in Essex, and their search for new lives in Canada.

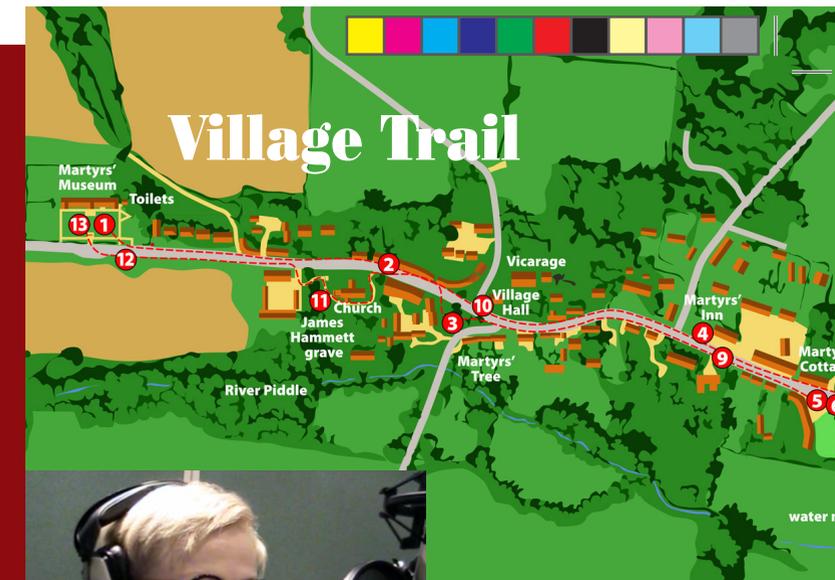
"If we have violated any law, it was not done intentionally. We have injured no person or property. We were uniting to preserve ourselves, our wives and our children from utter degradation and starvation".

Defence statement of George Loveless at the Martyrs' trial in 1834



Museum

The small museum in the centre of the Memorial Cottages packs in a lot including interactive displays. Visitors can listen to Tony Robinson's introduction and delve deeper into the events that changed the world.



Let Maxine Peake take you on an audio-visual walk through the village. Hire a tablet from the museum or use your own smart phone

to bring to life the story of the Martyrs. The tour takes around an hour and features animations and dramatic re-enactments.

Full instructions from the museum or see the web site:

www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk



Gifts and souvenirs

The museum shop has a range of gifts, souvenirs, books and educational items related to the story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. They are also available to buy on-line at

www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk

