

## **"The Tolpuddle Matas"**

- a Guy Puddlers tale.

The origins of the trade union movement go back to when three groups of workers got together, in Dorset, to demand better conditions.

They were made up of the Toll Keepers, subjected to abuse from the travelling public. Then there were the Puddlers, who sealed the bottoms of canals, but often got stuck in the mud. And finally, the small, but vocal group of femme fatales, known as the Matas, who had a habit of getting shot or hanged.

The Guy Puddlers were a group of technology students who realised they could get free beer for performing in pubs and bars. However, their grasp of history was limited, so they just made it up, producing vaguely humorous stories.