

## The Silk Mill Mural

A mural on the side of the Silk Mill Inn at Derby depicts one of Britain's earliest industrial disputes. The Silk Trades' Lockout of 1833-34 began in November 1833 when one of the mill operatives refused to pay a fine for poor quality workmanship. This led to a strike by around 800 members of an early trade union. Within a few weeks the dispute had escalated. Other trades became involved and financial support began to arrive from other parts of the country.

The mill owners retaliated by refusing to employ any member of a trade union. In the eyes of many this transformed the strike into a 'lockout' Fearing unrest the Mayor swore in a number of special constables and a troop of dragoons was summoned from Nottingham to prevent any public disorder.

There were sporadic cases of violent confrontation but by April poverty and destitution had forced the striking workers to renounce their trade union membership and return to work.

### Further Information

The Silk Mill Inn is on the corner of Full Street and Sowter Road facing Cathedral Green

The Museum of Making (Previously the Silk Mill Industrial Museum) is just a few hundred yards away

Access: The Silk Mill Mural is visible from the street. The Silk Mill Inn is open daily. (01332 365439)

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