

# Labour & Love



If you had asked a Bacupian in 1913, what Labour & Love was they most probably would have said it was the musical test piece that won Irwell Springs Band the National Championships at the Crystal Palace in 1913. Following on from the band's success, March 25th 1914 saw them play a Royal Command Performance at the home of Lord Derby at Knowsley Hall. Both Mr Halliwell and Mr Walter Nuttall were presented to His Majesty and received high congratulations on their well-deserved honour. When the band went out of existence in August 1960, Walter Nuttall was the oldest surviving member having led the band for 21 years becoming Mayor of Bacup and a Freeman of the Borough in January 1945. There is no doubt that being a member of Irwell Springs was indeed a Labour of Love, not only for the band member but for their families and employers also. Bandsmen did receive some payments for their services.

For instance in 1916 the band played engagements in Bacup, Rochdale, Haslingden, Rawtenstall, Todmorden, Burnley, Heaton park, Nelson, Waterfoot, Blackpool, Stockport and Belle Vue. The Heaton Park engagement costing a total of £19.6s in wages was paid to the bandsmen. A trip to Crystal Palace in September of 1920 cost a total of £23.00 in wages to bandsmen. Other engagements played in 1920 were, Nelson, Bingley, Heaton Park, Trentham, Littleborough, Stalybridge, Runcorn, Rochdale, Burnley, Todmorden and the Free Trade Hall. March 24th 1927 was the date Irwell Springs played their Third Royal Command Performance at Knowsley Hall, home of Lord Derby, for which each bandsman playing received a sum of 12s 6d.

1927 seemed to be a very busy year for the band who played engagements throughout the year starting March with the Royal command performance at Knowsley. On the 6th April they played at Broughton followed on the 7th and 11th May by engagements at Wigan and Trentham. 7 days later they played at Manchester and on the 22 May Huddersfield, finishing in May with a concert at

Haslingden. June saw them playing at the following locations, Edenfield, Bradford, Colne, Leicester, Warrington, Widnes and Southport. Throughout July they travelled back to Stalybridge, Warrington, Blackburn, Barnsley and Blackpool. 1st August saw the band embark on their Tour Of The South Coast beginning with a show in Ryde, the BBC in London, Higglecoate, Bournemouth, Margate and Eastbourne.



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