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Luxury hotel the Boulevard opens at Blackpool Pleasure Beach

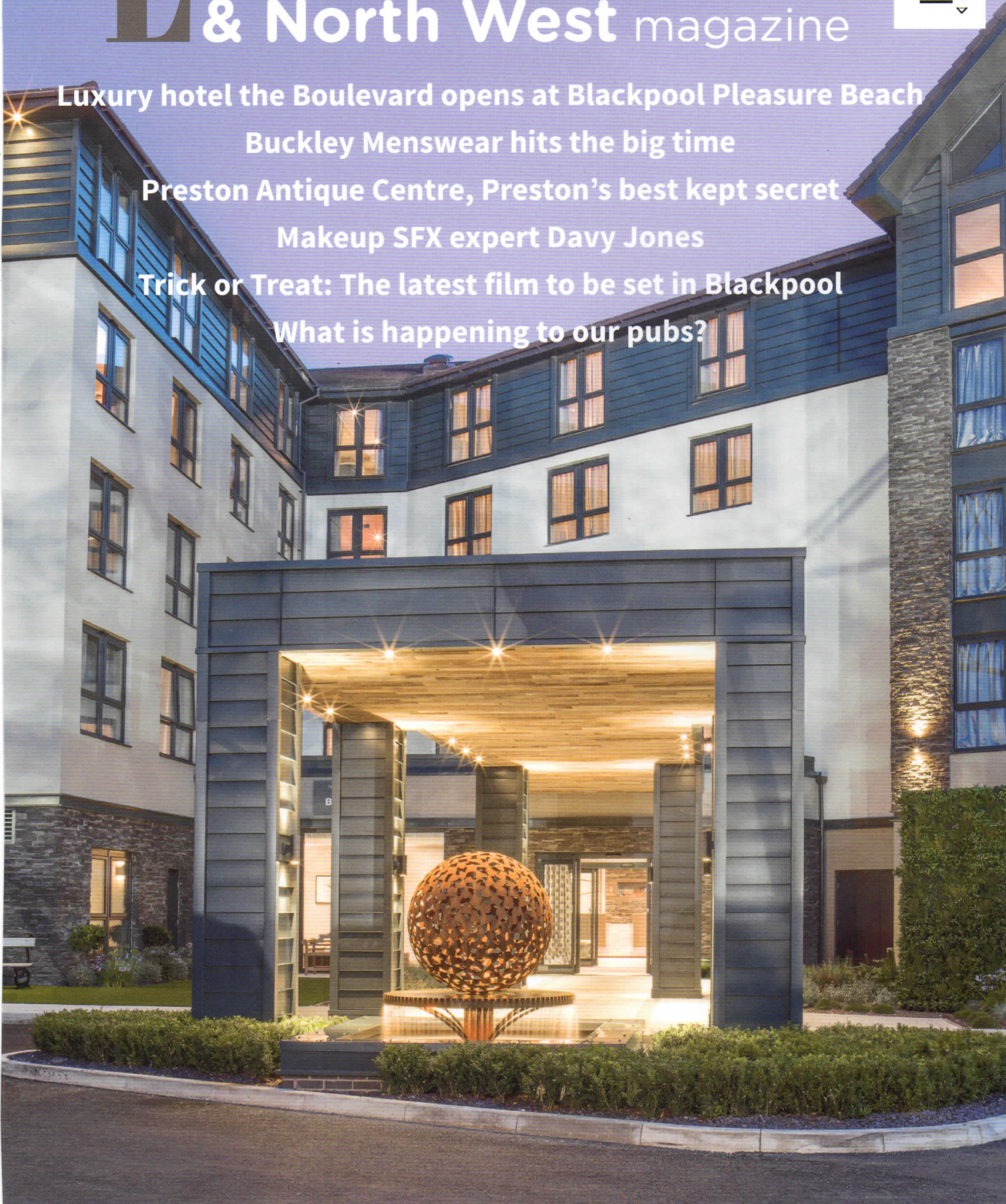
Buckley Menswear hits the big time

Preston Antique Centre, Preston's best kept secret

Makeup SFX expert Davy Jones

Trick or Treat: The latest film to be set in Blackpool

What is happening to our pubs?



4 LANC'S NEWS

By Andrew Harris



4 LANC'S soldiers undergoing infantry training.

4 LANC'S is the Army Reserve battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. 1 LANC'S and 2 LANC'S are regular – full time – battalions. They were all formed in 2006 to continue the proud traditions of predecessor regiments which recruited from our region. 3 LANC'S was disbanded in 2007.

The male and female soldiers of 4 LANC'S are part-time but fit, well trained and as capable as soldiers in the regular army. They are always seeking fit and motivated recruits so contact them at Preston's Kimberley Barracks – 01772 260638 - if you want the satisfaction of fulfilling an important role with more than a touch of adventure involved.

In our June edition we reported on how a 4 LANC'S team deployed to Africa to help train Zambian soldiers for a peacekeeping mission. We now report on 6 other deployments of 4 LANC'S to countries in Europe, America and Africa. This is their story.

- More than 150 4 LANC'S soldiers were deployed to Slovenia to work alongside the US and Slovenian armies in one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. Operating high up on mountain sides in sub-zero temperatures they learnt the intricacies of surviving and fighting in such difficult terrain. After the exercise the soldiers experienced the local culture and enjoyed a warm welcome from local people. 4 LANC'S offers great opportunities for challenging deployments and travel to interesting places.

- Part of the battalion was deployed to the Baltic state of Lithuania. It joined a NATO exercise to show support for this country which faces a real threat from an increasingly confident and aggressive Russia. The UK plays a leading role in deterring such aggression and 4 LANC'S acted as a mobile enemy to test the capabilities of the defenders and look for weaknesses to be remedied. Facing armoured forces was

daunting but 4 LANC'S gained a reputation for being a wily and tenacious enemy. The battalion is a light infantry unit which is only lightly armed. Success depends upon effective tactics which are developed and practised in exercises like this.

- Jungle warfare involves unique challenges – and is thought to be the hardest environment in which to fight. 30 soldiers from 4 LANC'S and regular troops from 2 LANC'S deployed to hot and tropical Belize where they lived and trained for more than a month. They had to construct their own shelters and live amongst the trees and practice fighting against an often unseen enemy. Our soldiers had to cope with every manner of insect and reptile life. After 5 weeks of such training the soldiers of 4 LANC'S are able to deploy anywhere in the world that they are needed.



Jungle training in Belize.



Fighting an unseen enemy.

- Elements of 4 LANCS have deployed to Kenya twice this year. The aim was to provide command and control functions – crucial to warfare – and test other units pitched against them. The army is very competitive – for obvious reasons – and a small group of our soldiers – known as Kingsmen – came close to defeating a renowned battalion of the Parachute Regiment. They only failed due to running out of blank ammunition – itself a lesson learnt. Kenya is an inspiring place which provides an excellent training ground for the British Army.

- 2 LANCS has become an Specialised Infantry battalion.

In plain language this means that small teams of their soldiers deploy to partner nations to develop their security and capacity. This role is revolutionary and builds on the many years that the UK has provided Partnership Working. It depends upon cultural awareness and the soldiers of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment have become adept at performing this role. A number of 4 LANCS reservists joined their colleagues from 2 LANCS in Nigeria to train Nigerian soldiers in lifesaving and other skills to help them confront Boko Haram fighters in the north of Nigeria who aim to destabilise the country.

- More than 150 soldiers of 4 LANCS deployed to central Italy for the battalions annual 2-week deployment exercise. The soldiers worked alongside our NATO allies from the Italian Army. 4 LANCS carried out core infantry training in the Roman heartland. Historic areas which had once seen Roman Legions practising their skills reverberated to the sound of modern weaponry. After all the hard work, our soldiers had a welcome opportunity to experience Rome including the Coliseum and Vatican which left everyone much impressed.

4 LANCS is much needed but offers a great deal for male and female recruits who want a challenge and the prospect of doing something exciting and worthwhile to complement their day job. The battalion is seeking many skills and potential officers so call them now if that appeals to you.

Andrew E. Harris gratefully acknowledges the help provided by Major Andy Holsgrove in the preparation of this article. Our previous articles about the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment can be seen under Published Articles/Other Military Topics at www.andrewharris.co.uk



Major Andy Holsgrove with Nigerian soldiers.