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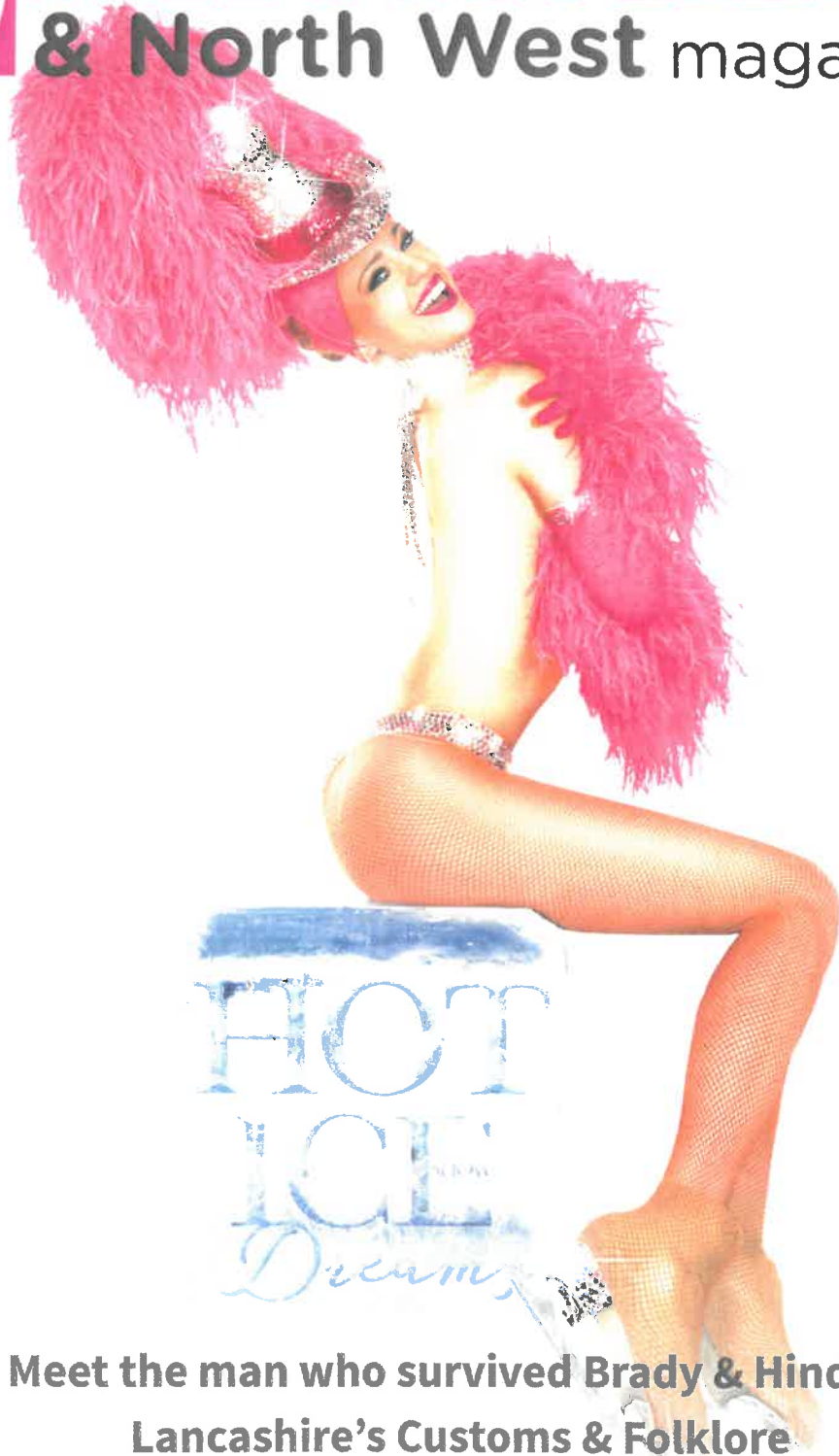
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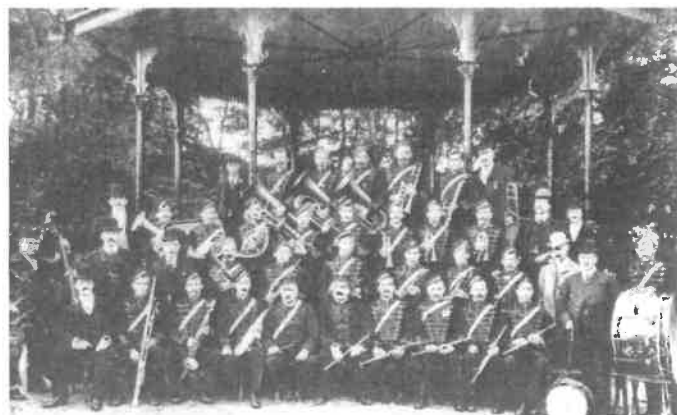


**Meet the man who survived Brady & Hindley
Lancashire's Customs & Folklore**

A chance to win Ideal Home Show tickets

An interview with Clare Teal

**The 175 year old band that never disbanded
Lancashire's Swan Hero**



The Band that Never Disbanded

Recently discovered documents prove beyond any doubt the ancestry of a local concert band.

Through AGM Minutes and Uniform/Instrument logs, a local band can trace its history back to at least 1886 if not much further. Popular belief is that the Accrington Old Band, formed in 1842, evolved over the years with numerous name changes into eventually the present day East Lancashire Concert Band. This would make the band 175 years old this year.

To celebrate this, the band is holding an exhibition of its history and memorabilia in three separate locations in and around east Lancashire and is holding an Anniversary Concert in Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre (where they have rehearsed

since 2011) on 10th June this year.

They will take the audience on a musical journey across the years starting with music that the band would have played in the 1800's right up to the present time. They will be helped by dancers from the Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and will be joined by long-time friend and daughter of their Tenor Sax player, local soprano Stephanie Johnson. Alto Sax player with the band Steve Taylor will also be flexing his vocal chords with a rendition of popular song Funiculi.

The concert starts at 7:00 pm on Sat 10th June, tickets are £5 from the Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre.

Now, follow us back to 1891 and a young composer and musician George Thornton is a member of the Accrington Primrose Reed Band, conducted by Enoch Webster. Also in the band is a young Wilmot Dewhurst. George composes a waltz and calls it "Loves Return". It has a sung verse,

Birds are singing, all the world seems gay

I feel as happy, as the flowers in May

Jack's returning, home again today

No more to wander, but at my side to stay

Very innocent lyrics by today's standards and could refer to a soldier returning from the wars or a sailor returning from a sea voyage - we'll never know.

The waltz was written out by hand and arranged to suit the musicians and instruments in the band at that time - a mix of Cornets, Clarinets (written as clarinet in those days), Bassoon, Trombone, Horns, Euphonium and Bass. Being handwritten, the waltz was never published and its arrangement of instruments couldn't have been played by any modern band from the 20's onwards. Discovered in the East Lancs Band's archives recently, the waltz is unlikely to have been played or even heard in a century.

The waltz will form the centrepiece of the Band's Anniversary Concert where a modern arrangement will be played to a live audience for the first time in living memory.

George became Band Master in 1893, and was followed in 1929 by Wilmot Dewhurst. The band by this time was

ELCB CELEBRATING

175 YEARS

1842 - 2017





**EAST LANCASHIRE
CONCERT BAND**



called the Accrington Military Band, changing again to North East Lancashire Military Band in 1931. Records show the band became the 30th County of Lancaster (Accrington) Home Guards Band during the 2nd World War, returned to North East Lancashire Military Band in 1945, changed back to Accrington Military Band in 1959, became Hyndburn Concert Band in 1973 and finally its present name East Lancashire Concert Band in the millennium year 2000.

The exhibition of band history and memorabilia will be on show in the Heritage Museum in the Arndale Centre in Accrington throughout April and May and will move to the BBC Radio Lancashire Studio space after the concert on 10th June until the end of July. It's next resting place will be the "Amazing Accrington" Exhibition at the Haworth Art Gallery in Accrington from Sat 5th April until September.

The "band that never disbanded" continue to play concerts anywhere from Morecambe to Cheshire to Burnley and even Leeds and anywhere in between, but are based in the Civic Arts Centre in Oswaldtwistle where they rehearse each Sunday Morning from 10:00 am to 12:00. They are always happy to welcome new musicians and are currently mainly looking for additional Clarinets, Trombones and the lower instruments, Bassoon, Eb Baritone Sax etc. although any instruments in the modern concert band are welcome.

