

SAILORS WITH WINGS



1915 - and naval aviation's first VC's

Maperton Church

on

Saturday 8th August 2015 at 6.00 pm

An illustrated lecture from

Graham Mottram, MA (Cantab), C.Eng, MIM

Past Director of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton

One hundred years ago, Lieutenant Rex **Warneford** and Squadron Commander Richard **Bell-Davies** became the first naval aviators to receive the Victoria Cross

In June 1915, Warneford brought down a Zeppelin over Ostend – becoming the first pilot to achieve this. Later in the same year, Bell-Davies landed his single-seat fighter behind enemy lines in Bulgaria and rescued a colleague who had been shot down.

In this - **the 2015 Nicholson Lecture** – Mr. Mottram will trace their service careers and describe the dramatic actions that earned these men their place in history and the highest award for gallantry

In aid of **Maperton Church** and **The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity**

Tickets £12.50 per head

Book on-line at www.maperton.com/events-projects/forthcoming-events/ or via James Scott, Dykes Cottage, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8EJ, tel. 01963.33826

(Cheques should be made out to James Scott and endorsed on the back "The Nicholson Lecture")

Wine can be purchased from 5.30 p.m. and cloakroom facilities will be available.

Generously sponsored by **The King's Arms** at Charlton Horethorne and by **Setfords, Solicitors** at Wincanton

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THE NICHOLSON LECTURE

The Nicholson Lecture is delivered annually in memory of Brigadier Claude Nicholson by a serving or retired member of our armed forces: the proceeds are divided equally between St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Maperton and the speaker's regimental, corps or Service charity.

Claude Nicholson

Brigadier Claude Nicholson, late 16/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, was one of the brightest soldiering prospects of his generation and a keen horseman, immensely popular locally, who spent many happy days at Maperton House before he was despatched to command the garrison at Calais in 1940: after an heroic battle against overwhelming odds, the port fell and Nicholson was captured. He died in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany in 1943: the memorial to him in the church was erected before the back-dated award of a C.B. had been gazetted.

For more information on The Nicholson Lecture and Maperton Church, visit
www.maperton.com/

St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Maperton

There has been a church on this site since about 960 A.D: the present structure, partly 14th century, is Grade 2 Listed. Between 2012 and 2015, the interior of the church was redecorated & refurbished; the whole building was re-roofed & the stained-glass was restored: it remains the centre of the community, used for lectures and concerts as well as regular worship - BUT it emerged in the course of the latest work that further high-level stonework repairs are urgently required at the top of the tower. The church is still on English Heritage's "At Risk" register. Even with the benefit of some grants, our resources are sorely depleted: in a parish of under 125 inhabitants, this church can only survive with outside help: **your help!**



The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity improves the lives of all who serve – past and present – and their families. We focus on those who wear uniform today – in ships, squadrons, submarines and Commandos – and do all we can to boost morale, improve facilities and ease the pressure that life in the Service can bring. We are a grant-making charity and provide valuable funds for naval and military charities that work with families and veterans, especially those experiencing difficulty with child support, ill-health, old age or hard times. As the principal charity of the Royal Navy we strive to improve the quality of life for the entire Naval family.

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This beautiful and elegant Edwardian building with its imposing façade was renovated and restored in 2009 and now offers ten contemporary bedrooms and a modern restaurant and bar serving a menu of locally sourced seasonal food accompanied by an extensive wine list: **it is the ideal place for dinner after the lecture!**

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The King's Arms, Charlton Horethorne, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4NL.
Tel: 01963 220 281 or e-mail: admin@thekingsarms.co.uk