

The 2016 Nicholson Lecture

at

Maperton Church, near Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8EJ

on

Saturday 6th August 2016 at 6.00 pm

“OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAVALRY” – THE ELUSIVE DREAM OF THE WESTERN FRONT?



An illustrated lecture by

Allan Mallinson

Late 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)

in aid of

ABF - The Soldiers' Charity

and

Maperton Church

Generously sponsored by

The King's Arms at Charlton Horethorne and by  **Setfords**
SOLICITORS

Tickets £15 per head

from James Scott, Dykes Cottage, Maperton, Wincanton, BA9 8EJ or on-line via

www.maperton.com

Wine & soft drinks can be purchased at the church from 5.30 pm.

“Charge at Harbonnières, 1918”: British cavalry capture a train, - by courtesy of the Royal Dragoon Guards

The 2016 Nicholson Lecture

Before Third Ypres (“Passchendaele”), beginning 31st July 1917, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig told his army commanders that “*opportunities for the employment of cavalry in masses are likely to offer*”. In the three and a half months of battle, however, even the infantry stuck fast in the mud.

In this, the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme, Allan Mallinson, former soldier, author of the Matthew Hervey series of cavalry novels, and *The Times*’ historian of the First World War, will explore what the British army thought about cavalry before 1914, and how it modified its views – or otherwise – as the war went on.

WHAT IS 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

Claude Nicholson, late 16/5th The Queen’s Royal Lancers, was one of the brightest soldiering prospects of his generation and a keen horseman, very 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



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 even with the benefit of some grants, our resources are naturally sorely depleted:



in a parish of under 90 inhabitants, this church can only survive with outside help: [your help!](#)



ABF The Soldiers’ Charity
For Soldiers - For Life’

We are the National Charity of the British Army. We give a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families, in times of need. We make grants to individuals through their Regiments and Corps and support a wide range of specialist charities that sustain the British Army ‘family’, both at home and around the world. We take pride in being responsive, making a difference at a critical point in peoples’ lives. We have been doing this since 1944, working with veterans of every conflict, and we will do so for the ‘long haul’ - supporting all future generations of our soldiers and their dependants. Last year, we gave support to more than 5,000 individuals and made grants to 72 other organisations which deliver support on our collective behalf.

ABF – The Soldiers’ Charity is a registered charity no. 11466420



Cheques & donations should be made out to James Scott and endorsed on the back “The Nicholson Lecture”