

On the 4th October three gentlemen from the Trooper Potts Memorial Trust, Brig. Tony Verey, Capt. Andrew French and Richard Bennett, enthralled us by telling the story of the disastrous Dardanelles campaign and especially the battle of Gallipoli (1915); how the Berkshire Yeomanry [then Troop] came about; and how Trooper Potts, the only Reading man to do so, came to win the Victoria Cross. Through reading letters written by Potts' companions to their families describing conditions in the battle; by describing how Trooper Potts, under constant fire for over 48 hours, rescued a fellow soldier by pulling him on an old spade as a substitute stretcher; and by showing old photographs of the battle where 50% of the troops were injured or killed, members of the Society were given a glimpse of the horrors of life in that campaign. We were also shown various visual aids, including a genuine Victoria Cross and a spade such as Potts would have used. We were also told about the educational role of the Memorial Trust and how the Trooper Potts Memorial on the Forbury came about in 2015, the Gallipoli centenary. This proved to be a fascinating evening, even for those with little interest in military history and the members of the Memorial Trust were warmly thanked for their efforts.