

The Probus Club of Cirencester

PROBUS members had a talk on September 15 from Peter Covey-Crump, about Charles Kingsley who was rector of the parish of Eversley, in Surrey (and best remembered today as the author of *The Water Babies*) and one of Queen Victoria's private chaplains.

Peter, who is Charles Kingsley's literary executor, was able to illustrate his talk with many original letters, documents and pictures in his custody, giving us a unique insight into Kingsley's life.

Kingsley was a complex character who rubbed shoulders with royalty but was at heart a social reformer and wrote many books highlighting the conditions of the poor in England's cities.

His depiction of children being used as chimney sweeps led to legislation outlawing the practice. He was a friend of Charles Darwin and early supporter of evolution.

He wrote a number of historical novels and one of them, *Westward Ho!*, a story about a group of Elizabethan privateers making life really awkward for the Spanish, was so successful it led to a Devon village taking the title as its name.

Probus is a meeting point for retired business and professional men. We meet each Friday in the Parish Rooms off Gosditch Street in Cirencester at 10.30am. Coffee is available from 9.45am. Pop in and see how we tick.

Full details of the Club, including details of all future speakers and talks, on probuscirencester.com