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Steve Goodwin from Heswall is planning to swim the 17.4km length of Lake Windermere this September in support of Help for Heroes.

Steve told *Heswall Magazine*: "I grew up in Pensby and have lived on Irby Road, Heswall, for the past 14 years. I attended Caldaly Grammar School until 1985 when I joined the Royal Navy. I left the Navy in 1994 having reached the rank of Petty Officer and served on board HMS Cardiff throughout the first Gulf War in 1991.

"I've been swimming competitively since the age of seven and played water polo for the Royal Navy. I took quite a long break from the pool (twenty years to be exact) when I left the Navy and took up open water swimming four years ago. I have completed numerous events around the country and swam the full 5.25 mile length of Lake Coniston last year.

"I was inspired by some of my training colleagues within the Mersey Tri triathlon club to take on the challenge of swimming the full 11 mile (17.4km) length of Lake Windermere on September 2nd this year. My ultimate swim goal is to swim the English Channel – maybe in 2020 or 2021? At the age of 50, I still feel well and strong enough to give something back to charity through my passion for outdoor swimming.

"Help for Heroes is a charity close to the heart of my family, my wife Sharon having served 17 years in the Royal Navy. It provides huge support for serving members and also veterans of the Armed Forces who have suffered mental or physical distress during their military service. These people have been prepared to make the initial commitment to serve their country without question or regard for their potential wellbeing and deserve all the help and support that can be given to them. I am proud to associate my name with this charity and I am hoping to raise over £500 for this worthy cause. I am currently 32% of the way to my target!"

**If you would like to sponsor Steve visit his fundraising page:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steve-goodwin11**



Heswall Probus 50th Anniversary

The idea of forming a Probus Club in Heswall came from a Rotarian, Bill Hill, whose relative in the south was a member of a local Probus and it did indeed come to pass; so successfully indeed that a 'Wait List' was drawn up from which Gayton Probus was formed, limited to 80 members.

In the late 1980s we met at the Devon Doorway, run by Mrs Barnes. Payment was in cash, to a collector at each table who passed the money on to the Treasurer, who happened to be Ian Rutter who streamlined it to payment by cheque. A move was made to The Grange (still with Mrs Barnes) and numbers increased to 100, at which time, Ian Rutter became Chairman (1991/92) and started our Wednesday morning meeting at the Alexandra Hall. From there we moved to the United Reformed Church under the Chairmanship of Brian Eastwood, where we still remain for Wednesday Morning Coffee, Bridge and Social Chat.

Probus is for retired men whom having led an active working life are looking for something they can join with like-minded people to give them an added interest in retirement.

Probus is derived from two words 'Professional' and 'Business', albeit anyone who has had a job with a measure of responsibility can join from professional to blue collar and self-employed.

The first Probus Club was formed by a Rotarian in 1965 in Welwyn Garden City and Heswall Probus was founded a few years later in November 1968. From an initial membership of 33 it has since grown to our present membership of just under 100. However, with an ageing membership, we are always on the lookout for new members.

We meet once a month for lunch at Thornton Hall Hotel, which is then followed by an interesting talk by a speaker. One of our talks arranged for this year is by Professor John Eldridge on the construction of the Royal Research Ship Sir David Attenborough at Cammell Laird in Birkenhead.

In addition, we meet informally every Wednesday morning at the URC in Heswall for morning coffee between 10 – 11am where we put the world to rights. This is then followed by bridge for those who like to play cards.