

Media Release

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For immediate release

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

JIM fixed it for Bryan Alderson, operations manager of Tyne and Wear Education Business Link Organisation, TWEBLO, when he went aboard the QE 2 on its recent 40th anniversary visit to the Tyne.

Bryan was accompanying a party of Sandhill View, Sunderland, schoolchildren who were visiting the ship as winners of a flag design competition funded by One NorthEast and the Port of Tyne. It as hosted from the yardarm as the QE2 entered the Tyne. The flag depicted the North East's tourist attractions.

The tour was organised by Cunard and Education Business Connections, an organisation which provides work-related learning project for school children and which has managed projects to expose students to the leisure and tourism industries.

Bryan, who was there representing TWEBLO, which has worked closely with EBC on a number of tourism industry projects, was amazed, as he toured the famous ocean-going liner, to bump into a familiar figure.

He recalls: "I saw this long-haired character from the back and I thought, 'Is it...no it can't be'."

But when the individual turned round, Bryan saw that it was indeed Sir Jimmy Savile, OBE, famous DJ and TV personality, complete with trademark cigar, on the QE 2's final round Britain trip before it sails off to Dubai to become a floating hotel.

"He was very friendly," says Bryan "and he agreed to pose for a photograph. I was surprised to see he was allowed to smoke, but apparently the new legislation doesn't apply to ships.



"I and the students had a marvellous time. Apart from the unexpected treat of bumping into Sir Jimmy, the crew couldn't do enough for us and Captain Ian McNaught and other crew members signed the students' flag, which really made their day.

"They also provided a birthday cake for those young people from across Tyne and Wear who had the same birth date as the QE2, who had been invited to have a tour around the ship."

Education Business Connections was formed eight years ago to support closer working between schools and businesses in Sunderland. It's success means that now the team delivers innovative educational programmes to children across Tyne and Wear.

Programmes are funded from a variety of sources, including from the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Tyne & Wear Education Business Links Organisation (TWEBLO), but EBC's ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders (for more details go to www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk).

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Media:

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