

Meeting Harold Evans

You may remember the Work Chapter of How to Save An Hour Every Day where I talk about my meeting with Harold Evans in New York (pages 119 - 121). Here's how I managed to extend the meeting and get more than I could ever have dreamed from it.*

Before the meeting I did a bit of research and discovered that Harold Evans was a huge admirer of Durham Cathedral. At that time I was working for County Durham Community Foundation so I knew this was going to be a brilliant opportunity to do something extra special.

I spoke to the Bishop of Durham (as you do!) who was a Vice President of the Community Foundation. I told him I was going to meet Harold Evans in New York and how I hoped to get him excited about supporting County Durham by giving him a gift he would never forget. To do this I needed a piece of stone from the Cathedral itself.

The Bishop explained that the timing was perfect as there was a lot of restoration work ongoing and that he'd 'see what he could do'.

Knowing that there was a lot of lengthy bureaucracy involved in these type of issues, the Brilliant Bishop took the matter into his own hands. During a quiet moment when the builders were at lunch away he liberated a small stone from the Cathedral - hiding it in his cassock as he left.

After he gave this stone to me, I had it mounted with a hand drawn illustration of the Cathedral. For a fan of Durham Cathedral I thought this would be the perfect gift.

So fast forward a few weeks. Just as I was leaving the (short) meeting with Harold Evans I presented him with the mounted picture. With a bold, 'Before I go I'd like to give you this.'

His reaction was amazing. 'I love Durham Cathedral!'

He then proceeded to rip one of his awards from his office wall and replace it with the picture I had just given him. Taking a second to admire it he then turned and said, 'Ok Michael, let's have a proper chat'.

We then talked for the remaining time and I got more than I could have ever imagined from it.

****This story is a reference to part of 'How To Save An Hour Every Day' by Michael Heppell. If you haven't read the book and have no idea what this story was referring to then you can order a [copy here](#)***