

Alan Campbell MP

Community News October 2021



Good afternoon

Welcome to the latest edition of my Community News. I hope you are keeping well and staying safe.

In this edition you will find information on some of the recent meetings and events I have attended online and in person as well as details of the work of local and national organisations I am supportive of.

As ever, I have included some links to various organisations that may be of help to people. Please be assured that all links have been tested and are safe to click through to. I do hope you find it informative and useful.

If you need to get in touch please call 0191 2571927 or email

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You can also find useful information on my website at

www.alancampbellmp.co.uk or on Facebook at;

https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijiCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhiLm

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access these [here](#).

With all best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

Poppy Appeal Launch



This year's Poppy Appeal Launch was marked on Saturday with an event in Whitley Bay.

Local people have been at the heart of the Poppy Appeal in local communities for over 100 years, last year, for the first time in the history of the Poppy Appeal, they were unable to carry out face-to-face collections in England and Wales due to COVID restrictions.

But I am delighted to say that this year, as we celebrate the Centenary of the Royal British Legion, collectors will be back out in communities raising vital funds for the 2021 Poppy Appeal.

The impact of the cancelled collections last year has had a huge impact on the charity, which, despite overwhelming support from the public, resulted in a shortfall in income of over £20m. It's therefore vital that we make this year's Appeal a success. Please join in making every poppy count.

As well as wearing your Poppy with pride, the Royal British Legion have a range of different activities for you to get involved with to show your support this year. Find out more here.

North Tyneside will once again commemorate those who lost their lives in war with a series of Remembrance events across the borough.

The council is holding services on Thursday 11 November and on Remembrance Day, Sunday 14 November. Find out more at:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/news/29185/remembrance-services-north-tyneside>

Veterans' Recognition Scheme



I have welcomed the Government's new veteran's ID card scheme, whereby all service leavers will receive a new ID card to mark their time in the armed forces and which will help them access specialist support and services.

The cards allow veterans to easily verify their service to the NHS, their local authority, and charities, helping them to access support and services where needed.

The Veterans' Recognition Scheme has a two-phase roll-out and phase one, where Service leavers receive a recognition card as part of the discharge process, is complete. The launch of phase two, for existing veterans, has been delayed and there have, therefore, been no ID cards issued as part of this phase. I have recently asked a parliamentary question and will lobby Ministers to ensure the roll out of Phase 2 begins as soon as possible.

Covid in North Tyneside



The number of cases in North Tyneside has remained steady in recent months, thanks to the efforts of the public and with high vaccination take-up in the borough. However, in the few weeks, there has been a sharp increase – from around 350 cases per 100,000 of the population to 500 per 100,000.

In response, North Tyneside Director of Public Health is asking the public to do all they can to minimise the spread.

Residents should take a PCR test and self-isolate if they experience symptoms, including a continuous cough, high temperature and loss of taste and/or smell. There are two test sites in North Tyneside – at The Parks Sports Centre, North Shields, and Coronation Street car park, Wallsend.

Two mobile test units are also available at weekends in the borough. Tests can be booked online at www.gov.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

All residents without symptoms are encouraged to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests, which can be accessed from over 40 pharmacies and through the post. Find out more at www.northtyneside.gov.uk

For vaccine information, please visit www.nhs.uk

UK Parliament Week



UK Parliament Week is an annual event taking place from 1-7 November, that engages people from across the UK with their UK Parliament, explores what it means to them and empowers them to get involved.

This year the focus is how small actions can lead to big changes, encouraging participants to get informed, take action and make an impact on issues they care about.

A number of local schools and community organisations have signed up but individuals can also get involved.

You can book a free online guided tour of the Palace of Westminster including the Commons Chamber, Lords Chamber and Central Lobby every Tuesday and Wednesday until January (excluding Christmas Recess). See the link below for further details.

https://ukparliament.seetickets.com/timeslot/guided-online-tour-of-the-palace-of-westminster?outputStyle=Default&pageIndex=1&pageSize=30?utm_campaign=1021-mar-ve-onlineguidedtours&utm_medium=email&utm_source=yourukparliamentb2c&mc_cid=e28d97026a&mc_eid=1922299381

Battle of Britain



I was honoured to attend a service to mark Battle of Britain Day at the Cenotaph in Whitley Bay.

I laid a wreath at the annual service held at the Cenotaph on the Links in Whitley Bay. The service, organised by the British Legion is an important reminder of the air men who gave their lives to protect Britain in World War 2. Having not taken place last year due to the pandemic, this year's service was especially poignant.

Climate Pilgrims



It was a privilege to welcome climate pilgrims from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy and Germany on their way to Glasgow to the COP26 at Whitley Bay Baptist Church last week. Having set

off in August, they had walked over 1300k by the time they reached Whitley Bay.

As I said at the reception, climate change is one of the most important issues of our time and the upcoming climate conference must be the time for significant action.

Visit to Sage



I recently visited the Sage HQ to meet UKI Managing Director, Paul Struthers and to learn more about how their products and innovations are supporting small businesses and how they are helping the region more widely.

I was interested to hear about their new Sustainability & Society Strategy – ‘Knocking Down Barriers’ where they have made some exciting commitments to support the communities we operate in across the North East and around the globe.

Sage’s goal is to tackle societal and economic inequality as well as support a new generation of diverse and sustainable businesses. To find out more visit:

<https://www.sage.com/en-gb/company/sustainability-and-society/>

Old Low Light Exhibition



It was great to visit the ‘That’s Women’s Work’ exhibition at the Old Low Light recently.

I was very pleased to meet Sheila Hirsch, one of few female trawler skippers & to hear her remarkable story.

It’s good to see the Old Low Light back up and running and the exhibition runs until 31st December.

<https://oldlowlight.co.uk/whats-on/>

Seafit at the Fish Quay



I went along to support the SeaFit Programme at North Shields Fish Quay where the Fisherman's Mission was organising a range of free mental and physical health checks as well as organising access to wellbeing services for fishermen and their families.



Running in conjunction with the Seafit event, an emergency services event was held in nearby Clifford's Fort including Northumbria Police Engagement Team, TVLB (Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade) and Tynemouth RNLI. Newcastle United Foundation were also there to highlight the support that they give to young people across our community particularly where they have mental health concerns.

Well done to everyone involved.

World Alzheimer's Month



To mark World Alzheimer's Month, I recently joined Alzheimer's Research UK at an event in Parliament to show my support for dementia research. The aim of the event was to highlight the importance of the government's manifesto promise to double funding for dementia research, known as the Dementia Moonshot.

In the UK nearly 1 million people are living with dementia, and it is one of the leading causes of death. We all know someone affected by dementia. It has a devastating impact on individuals and their loved ones.

It is vital that we increase investment in dementia research to help make the progress needed to end the fear, harm and heartbreak caused by dementia.

Not only does dementia cause harm and heartbreak to millions of families, but it is also placing huge strain on our health and social care system. The economic cost to the UK of caring for people with dementia is estimated to grow from £24bn in 2014 to £59bn by 2050.

National Curry Awards



It was great to go along to see Whitley Bay restaurant Shampan pick up their award at the UK Curry Awards at the House of Lords this week.

It was a well deserved victory and I know local people are very proud.

North Tyneside

Disability Forum

AGM



I spoke virtually at the recent NTDF AGM.

NTDF to a fantastic job in our local community. They are currently looking for good quality Bric a Brac and Christmas items and have asked for any donations to be dropped off at their shop on Park View, between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday;

For help, or to offer your help, contact NTDF at info@ntdf.co.uk or find out more at www.ntdf.co.uk [facebook.com/NTDFORUM](https://www.facebook.com/NTDFORUM)

Donations can be made via <https://justgiving.com/ntdf>

Launch of new Scout Group



I have welcomed the news that the Scouts are launching ‘Squirrels’, a brand new Scout group for 4 and 5 year olds.

Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on the life chances of many young people – particularly in areas of deprivation. The intention behind Squirrels is help ensure children all across the country have access to the same opportunities, no matter what their postcode.

To find out more visit

www.scouts.org.uk/squirrels

Kinship Care Week



During Kinship Care Week I was pleased to support the Kinship Care Campaign for better support for thousands of kinship families.

Kinship carers go above and beyond to support their families, raising children who might otherwise be in care. Kinship families can face many challenges and often find the system doesn't support them properly.

A huge thanks to all the grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends who have stepped in to raise children who can't live at home. Kinship carers do an amazing job and we must make sure they and their children are supported.

Cold Weather Payments Scheme



The scheme runs from 1st November – 31st March each year.

You may get Cold Weather Payments if you're getting:

- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Support for Mortgage Interest

If eligible you'll get a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below over 7 consecutive days.

You will be entitled to £25 payment for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

After each period of very cold weather in your area, you should get a payment within 14 working days. It's paid into the same bank or building society account as your benefit payments.

More information can be found at www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment

Pension Credit Call out



I'm reminding local residents not to miss out on benefits they are entitled too.

I am always keen to see that people get the help they need when they need it so I was disappointed to read then that more than 2,000 local people aged 66 or over are missing out to benefits they are entitled to.

In our country today 2 million people aged 66 or over are living in poverty. Pension Credit is designed to lift them out of poverty, but 4 in 10 do not receive it.

It's estimated that 2,248 older people in our area are missing out, and they're missing out on a massive £4,898,000 every year.

Anyone who thinks they are missing out can ring the Independent Age helpline on 0800 319 6789. Or they can contact Pension Credit claim line directly on 0800 99 1234.

Issues flagged with the Pensions Service



A number of residents have raised an issue with me recently around the Pensions Service.

I understand that claimants reaching state pension age this year have applied for their pensions in advance – as required to do. They are either receiving no communication at all from the Pension's service or a standard acknowledgement of their claim.

Once they then reach their birthday any applicable benefit payments ceased but no pension payments are being received and they are left without payment or any correspondence explaining a breakdown of their pension entitlement or explanation of the delay in payment.

When they attempt to contact the DWP they either can't get a response or cannot receive a satisfactory explanation of the delay or details of when they can expect to be paid and at what rate.

My office have been contacting the service and we have ensured a number of local people have received what they are owed. If you have an issue please do not hesitate to contact my office who will be happy to help.

Final claims for the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme

The SSP Rebate Scheme closed on 30 September and employers eligible have until 31 December to submit any final claims, or to amend claims they have already submitted.

As a reminder, if a customer is an employer with fewer than 250 employees and if they've paid Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) to employees for sickness absence or self-isolation that was coronavirus-related on or

before 30 September, they could be eligible for support. Tax agents can make claims on behalf of their clients. The repayment can cover up to two weeks of the applicable rate of SSP.

Labour Party Conference





Thanks to constituents who got in touch to ask that I take the opportunity at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton to visit stands about issues close to their heart.

I visited stands on issues from Alzheimer's, World Wild Life and the Fur trade, to Guide Dogs, Dementia and Cancer Research.

Thanks to players of the National Lottery



I have thanked National Lottery players for their role in raising much-needed funding for local charities and community groups.

Local groups have received £139,700 of National Lottery funding since July, supporting them as they seek to overcome social and economic challenges caused by the pandemic and build back stronger.

These groups are inspirational in the great work and support they provide to local people and their community through what have been some extremely tough times.

The funding is being distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players. National Lottery players raise £36 million each week for good causes throughout the UK.

Information about how to apply for funding can be found at The National Lottery Community Fund's website: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk



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