
Alan Campbell MP

Community News Christmas 2021



Good afternoon

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

In this newsletter 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 campbellal@parliament.uk

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](#).

Please note, all the events in this edition took place before the threat of Omicron became apparent and on each occasion masks were worn throughout the event and removed briefly if a photo was being taken. Please stay safe over the festive season.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

Booster Jabs in our area



Over the past year we have shown that vaccination is the key to beating COVID-19, and that it works.

This week, UK's four Chief Medical Officers raised the COVID-19 Alert level to 4, its second highest level, because of the evidence that Omicron is doubling here in the UK every two to three days.

We know from bitter experience how the pandemic can develop. No one should be in any doubt: there is a major wave of Omicron coming, and it is now clear that two doses of vaccine are simply not enough to give the level of protection we all need. The good news is that our scientists are confident that with a third dose – a booster dose – we can all bring our level of protection back up.

If you have not yet had a vaccine at all, then please get yourself at least some protection with a jab as quickly as possible. If you have already had your booster, encourage your friends and family to do the same. If you are eligible, you can also get your flu jab at the same time. You can book online for your vaccine at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Remembrance Sunday



This November, I attended a number of remembrance events across the constituency.

It is important more than ever that people come together to honour those who fought and died in the two world wars and other more recent conflicts. This year was particularly poignant being the first since the pandemic and also to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion. The RBL have worked tirelessly on behalf of servicemen and women, veteran's and their families. My thanks for everything they have done and continue to do in Tynemouth Constituency.

North Shields Christmas Market



In what has become a Christmas tradition, I recently went along to the opening of the Victorian Christmas Market in North Shields Town Centre.

For me the Christmas market heralds the beginning of the festive period and I was glad to see it back. Pictured here with Chair of North Tyneside Council, Monkseaton South Cllr Davey Drummond.

North Tyneside
Disability
Forum Christmas
event



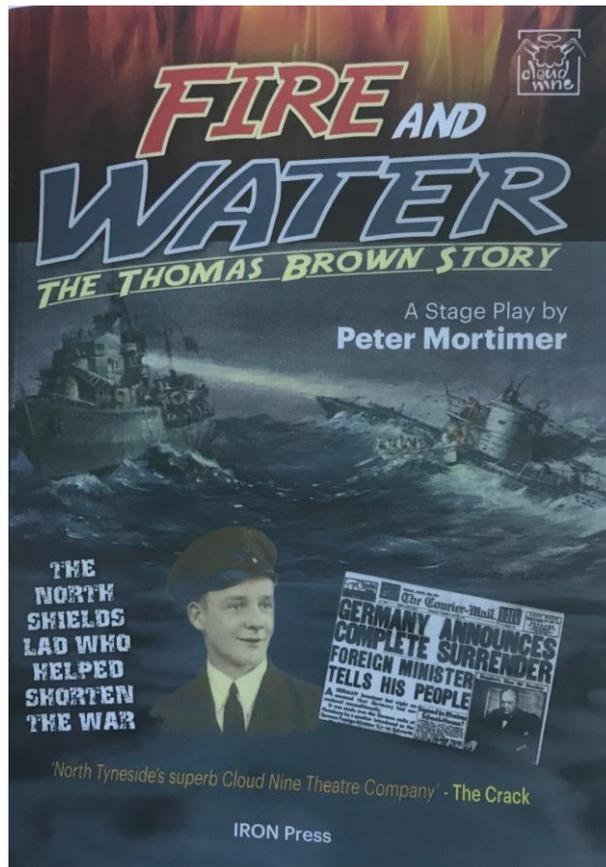
I recently joined the elected Mayor Norma Redfearn at North Tyneside Disability Forum's Christmas event. NTDF aims to ensure disabled people are able to participate on equal terms in society as able decision makers and they do a fantastic job in our community. Thank you to everyone involved.

If you need support, or would like to get involved in supporting the work of NTDF you can find out more on their website at

http://ntdf.co.uk/site/?fbclid=IwAR0RFohecB2kamV-iUrCxSXAEN8tcZUcf9Ni97dV9nCA3_aboFH-I32CoPs

Thomas Brown -

A local hero



I went along to a new play by local playwright Peter Mortimer at the Exchange in North Shields.

The play is based on the story of a fifteen year old from North Shields, whose heroic actions in salvaging vital Enigma code documents from a sinking German U-Boat, helped shorten World War 11 by several months.

Brown's deeds earned him the George Cross but tragically, along with his four year old sister Maureen, he died in a house fire before he could receive the award. Many of the Brown family still live in North Shields and The Exchange has its own dedicated Thomas Brown room. The true story has not previously been told on stage.

Whitley Bay

Food Bank



The Bay Food Bank are once again doing their excellent reverse advent calendar. The idea is that you add one item per day to a box and get it to them as early as possible before Christmas so they can make sure the recipient gets it in time for Christmas.

It's not too late to get involved – you can donate at:

- Sainsbury's (Whitley Bay/Monkseaton)
 - Morrisons (Whitley Bay)
 - Morrisons (Tynemouth)
 - Asda (Benton)

To find out more visit: <https://www.thebayfoodbank.org.uk/>

Small Business

Saturday



The past two years have been undeniably tough for many small businesses and this grassroots, non-commercial campaign, highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

The day itself takes place on the first Saturday in December each year, but the campaign aims to have a lasting impact on small businesses.

You can help to support them by shopping local, safely following Covid guidance, or online:

<https://buylocalnorthtyneside.co.uk/>

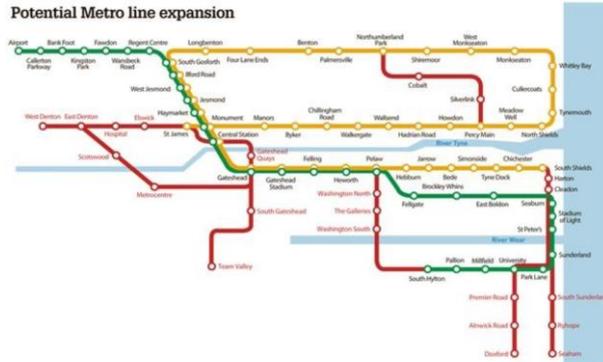
Concerns over Metro funding



I have written to the Transport Secretary to raise concerns regarding the withdrawal of the Government's Covid-19 support for the Tyne and Wear Metro, and the possible reduction of ongoing capital and revenue support for Metro that was previously committed to.

The Tyne and Wear Metro is vital to the economy of our region. Metro has recovered more strongly from the pandemic than all public transport operators in the UK, with passenger numbers now reaching just above 80%. To withdraw and reduce funding to it now will undo years of investment. I am calling on the Government to honour its commitment and make sure Metro received the funding it needs.

Cobalt Link misses out



Also on transport matters, I'm disappointed that the proposed new Cobalt Rail Link through Cobalt Business Park and the Silverlink missed out on the Government's Levelling Up fund.

I was proud to be lead sponsor of the proposed rail link which could of been a big boost to our local economy, joining up key employment sites with the Metro system. This once again shows that the Government may talk about levelling up but it is another empty promise.

70 Years of Collingwood Primary School



It was an honour to be invited along to Collingwood Primary School to celebrate 70 years since the junior school opened.

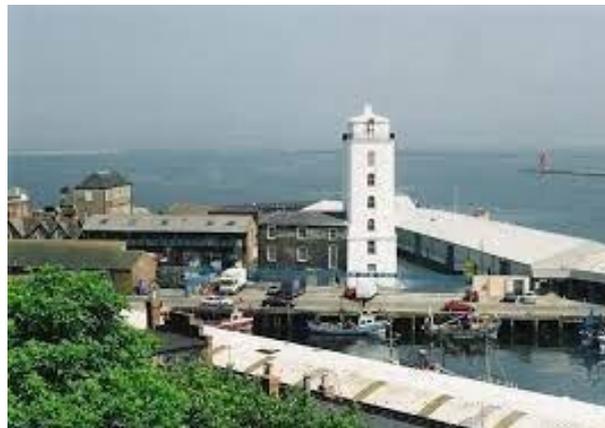
I officially opened the school extension 20 years ago in the same week and it was lovely to go back and meet pupils and staff and see how the school is thriving.

Meeting at
Northumbria
University



I had an informative meeting with Prof Wathey, the Vice-Chancellor of Northumbria University at their Newcastle campus. We discussed a number of issues facing the higher education sector - not least funding - and I promised to raise these issues with Ministers

Fisheries Meeting



I had an informative briefing from the National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations recently. There is real and growing concern about the issues facing the fishing industry in light of Brexit.

Whilst the fishing industry welcomes the Government's £24m investment in the Fisheries Innovation Fund and new Fisheries Science Partnerships (FSPs), the task now is to ensure the remaining £76m of the Government's promised £100m UK Seafood Fund is spent effectively to support the productivity and long-term sustainability of the industry from grass-roots up.

Meeting with Police Federation



I joined regional MP's Nick Brown and Catherine McKinnell at a meeting with Inspector Jim Gray from Northumbria Police Federation.

We discussed a number of issues facing police officers and staff in Northumbria and nationally. It was good to see the great efforts being made by the Police Federation on behalf of their members locally.

Fundraising for Jayden



I have recently been contacted by a local student Jayden, who is fundraising to volunteer in Ensenada in Mexico for 10 days in summer of 2022 with the charity M10.

During the trip he will be undertaking a range of activities including building durable houses, visiting orphanages, going to rubbish dumps to visit children and engaging with young people in rehabilitation centres.

More information about the charity can be found here.

<https://www.m10.org.uk>

You can support Jayden in his efforts by donating here

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jayden-keeley-3?utm_term=k5AJP2Ryw

Shop Kind
this
Christmas



Building on the excellent work of the shopworkers union Usdaw, I'm supporting the British Retail Consortium's new campaign on retail crime.

One of the biggest issues for retail employees and their families is the growing scale of retail crime. While the vast majority of customers treat retail workers with respect, the RBC's 2021 Crime Survey found that the number of daily incidents of violence and abuse increased to 455 in 2019-20, with often terrible consequences for staff, their families and communities.

The cost of crime to the retail industry has reached £2.5 billion, money which retailers could otherwise have invested in better facilities, higher wages, and an improved offer for customers.

As we approach the busy festive period, I would like to thank shopworkers for all they do – they have been on the frontline throughout the pandemic – and call upon shoppers to treat them with the respect they deserve.

Home Energy

Checklist



With the rising cost of energy, I am urging people to seek advice and support as soon as they can.

I know people will be worried about their energy bills. Advice from Energy UK is that first and foremost, if people are worried to contact their energy supplier as soon as they can. In March 2020, the energy industry agreed emergency measures with the Government to protect the domestic energy supply of those most in need during the disruption caused by COVID-19.

These measures can be found at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873960/Supplier_Agreement_19.3.2020.pdf

In August 2021, 17 suppliers signed up to additional, fresh commitments which will see them improve the quality and availability of support they offer to customers in need this winter – whether that be from financial difficulties, mental or physical health issues, or other events.

These commitments are <https://www.energy-uk.org.uk/publication.html?task=file.download&id=7962>

Citizen's Advice have a good set of resources outlining where you can seek grants if you are really struggling with energy bills this winter. You can access the full list at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/>

National Postal Workers Day



On National Postal Workers Day I paid tribute to the work of postal workers in our community and across the UK.

This last year has been an incredibly challenging year for postal workers owing to the impact of Covid-19, changes to working practices and a huge increase in parcels traffic. Despite all of this, postal workers have kept the country connected.

Whether it be assisting vulnerable people in rural communities, raising money and spirits by dressing as superheroes, or simply ensuring vital communications reach their destination – postal workers are one of the most trusted groups of workers in any community.

A big thank you to all the postal workers in Tynemouth constituency.

Crohn's and
Colitis
Awareness
Week 2021



1 in 133 children and adults are living with Crohn's and Colitis in Tynemouth Constituency. They are painful, debilitating and widely misunderstood conditions. There is no known cure. They can affect almost every part of the body and every aspect of life: from digestion and joints to energy levels, mental health, and the ability to work.

General public awareness of Crohn's and Colitis (also known as Inflammatory Bowel Disease -IBD) is low. You can't see that a person is ill by just looking at them. Many children and adults find it hard to talk about their Crohn's and Colitis, mental health or living with a stoma. Almost half said they felt that governments don't understand their needs while more than three quarters said the same about the general public.

I am calling on our local NHS Trust to maintain and improve IBD services and ensure that people with Crohn's and Colitis needing treatment and surgery aren't forgotten.

National Grid
Apprenticeship
programme
open

National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, keeping the lights on and gas flowing so people can go about their daily lives.

They are currently in the process of hiring for their apprenticeship programme and are looking for new generation of talent which will shape the future of energy in the UK.

National Grid was the first UK apprenticeship provider to be rated outstanding for three consecutive years by Ofsted Applications for the apprenticeship scheme are now open and will be closing on Sunday 27th February.

You can get more information or apply here

https://careers.nationalgrid.com/new-talent/apprentices?utm_source=Social&utm_medium=Twitter+MP&utm_campaign=Recruitment

Premier League

Advice Issued



Following the introduction of the Government's "Autumn and Winter Plan B", the Premier League has confirmed requirements for all fans attending Premier League matches.

From Wednesday 15 December, all those aged 18 and over attending Premier League matches must complete a COVID status self-declaration via their club's website ahead of matchday.

Supporters must be prepared to show their NHS COVID pass or proof of a negative NHS COVID test on arrival at the stadium.

Checks will take place at all Premier League grounds. Fans risk being denied entry if they are unable to show their NHS COVID Pass or proof of a negative NHS COVID test result from within the previous 48 hours, ideally as close to matchday as possible.

For more information visit <https://www.premierleague.com/news/2415949>

Community News

Advice Edition

Last month I sent out an edition of my community news aimed at older people, collating useful sources of advice for the winter.

If you missed it, you can access it at <https://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/107/2021/11/Community-News-Winter-Special.pdf>
