

# Alan Campbell MP

## Community News

January 2025



Welcome to the latest edition of my Community News.

May I wish you and your family all the best for the year ahead.

In this edition of my Community News, you will find details of recent events I have attended as well as details of the work of local and national organisations I am supportive of.

You can also find useful information on my website at [www.alancampbellmp.co.uk](http://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk) or on Facebook at;

[https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt\\_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI\\_cGhOnsm\\_TvNnVuiYMhiLm](https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhiLm)

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access these on my website at [News Guardian Articles - Alan Campbell MP for Tynemouth](#)

Best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

## **Launch of North Shields 800**



I was proud to speak at the launch of the North Shields 800 - a year long celebration of the 800th Anniversary of North Shields.

Just over a year ago our Mayor Norma Redfearn asked me to chair a group to plan the celebrations. We brought together people and groups from across our local community, each one representing part of the wider community of North Shields.

My thanks to the group and everyone involved.

Many of the celebrations will be new, some existing events will be badged and some previous events like the blessing of the fleet will return. It will be a celebration of our history, the story of who we currently are but also showcase the future potential of our area.

It coincides with the regeneration of our town which is underway and which will demonstrate the ambition we have for our area.

I look forward to a year of celebration and look forward to joining in the events throughout 2025 as we aim to showcase the pride in our community.

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## **North Shields 800 Website goes live**



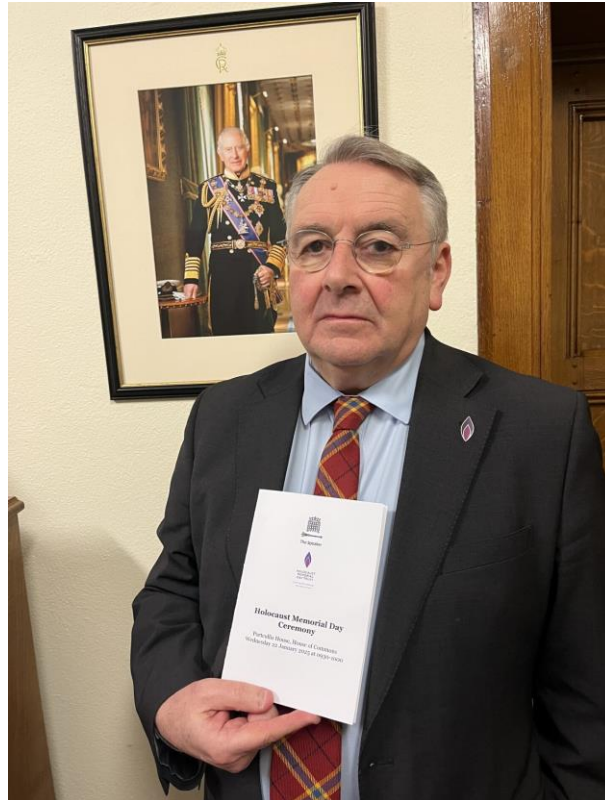
The new website for the North Shields 800 is now live. It features dozens of exciting events and projects, history resources and information about the town's 800th anniversary celebrations during 2025.

Plans are in progress for community events, art installations, exhibitions, music performances, publications, podcasts, photography and film. There will be a spectacular regatta and a blessing of the fishing fleet, a parade along the Fish Quay, exhibitions, street art murals and heritage projects.

<https://www.northshields800.com/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/northshields800>

**Holocaust Memorial Day**



On Monday 27th January the world marked Holocaust Memorial Day, 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

I attended a moving event in Parliament where we commemorated the Holocaust - the deliberate murder of 6 million Jews. It is marked in thousands of communities across the country, with the UK Ceremony as the focal point, and the national moment to Light the Darkness.

As the Holocaust moves out of living memory is it more important than ever that we stand together against hatred, intolerance and prejudice all around the world.

### **North East Economy Roundtable**



I attended an event hosted by Sage and Progressive Britain in North Tyneside to celebrate the contribution of small businesses to the UK and North East economy and discuss solutions to the barriers holding them back.

The event was attended by business representatives, North East Mayor Kim McGuinness and Emma Foody MP.

We discussed the challenges facing businesses in 2025. The strengths and weaknesses of the North East as a place to do business and the growth support options available for small businesses in the North East.

### **Monkhouse Primary receives British Council Award**



It was a pleasure to attend the British Council International School Award ceremony in Parliament recently to see local Headteacher Laura Baggett accept an award on behalf of Monkhouse Primary School.

Monkhouse Primary School in Cullercoats has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

It is so important in today's world that our young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in a global culture.

Congratulations to Ms Baggett and everyone at Monkhouse on this well deserved achievement.

### **Meeting with Interim Chief Executive**



I met with the interim Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council, Jackie Laughton recently. Jackie has been appointed on an interim basis following the retirement from local government of Paul Hanson whom I would like to thank for his outstanding commitment and service to North Tyneside Council over the last 19 years.

First on the agenda with my meeting with Jackie was to congratulate North Tyneside Council on their recent outstanding Ofsted report for children's services. Achieving the highest possible rating of 'outstanding' in all areas for the first time means we are one of only five in the country to receive such an accolade.

We also discussed other local issues including local schools and antisocial behaviour as well as the ongoing regeneration of North Shields and the Fish Quay.

### **Visit to Northumbria University**



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

I met with Prof Andy Long, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive at Northumbria University to discuss the challenges of local education provision and how these challenges are impacting local young people's aspirations.

We discussed the importance of local universities like Northumbria doing everything they can to make sure that local people are able to access higher education should they wish to do so.

I was also pleased to congratulate them on being awarded Modern University of the Year 2025 by the Times and the Sunday Times.

### **Meeting with the Local Chief Crown Prosecutor**



It was good to take the opportunity to meet with the Head of the Crown Prosecution Service North East, Gale Gilchrist in Newcastle recently.

I got an update on how the CPS are working with the police on how to improve the handling of rape and domestic abuse cases and working across the criminal justice system to tackle delays, including through digital transformation.

I was pleased to hear that their new Victim Transformation Programme seeks to improve communication and support for victims throughout the process.

I also heard about their work to prosecute hate crimes and public order offences and their ambition to build confidence amongst the diverse communities they serve.

### **u3a (University of the 3rd Age)**



I met with u3a last year following the launch of their report, 'Learn to Live: A blueprint for better health and wellbeing'.

The report shines a light on the u3a non-formal learning model and the benefits for promoting and maintaining happy, healthy lives.

I recently had a follow up meeting with Jean Cubbin, Regional Trustee of u3a to discuss their progress setting up an All-Party Parliamentary Group and have offered to provide any support I can.

### **Show Racism the Red Card**





Show Racism the Red Card, the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity, was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.

I recently met with their Chief Executive Ged Grebby at their local office to discuss their exciting plans for the year ahead.

This year, their Schools Competition is encouraging young people from schools and other educational settings to produce creative work with an original anti-racism theme.

Schools can register online at:

<https://www.theredcard.org/training-and-workshops/school-competitions/>

### **Police Funding Settlement**



The Police and Crime Commissioner Susan Dungworth held a meeting with MPs to discuss the Police Funding Settlement for 2025.

The Government has set out the provisional police funding for 2025/26 as Â£17.4 billion, an increase of up to Â£986.9 million when compared to the 2024-25 police funding settlement.

This settlement represents a real terms increase in force funding of 3.5%, and a cash increase of 6.0%. The additional funding confirmed through this settlement will cover the costs of the police officer pay awards and fund the recruitment and redeployment of more neighbourhood police and PCSOs.

Last Friday, the government announced an additional Â£100m funding for policing nationwide.

This funding represents a significant step in strengthening neighbourhood policing and ensuring that forces have the necessary resources to deliver safer streets and stronger communities

### **Ukraine Visa Extension Scheme**



February 24th 2025 will mark the 3 year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Readers may recall that at the time my office was heavily involved in helping local people and Ukrainians seeking assistance in applying for the Ukraine UK Settlement Scheme. Those first 3 years visas will be expiring soon and I am pleased that the Government has now announced the Ukrainian Visa Extension Scheme which will offer a further 18 months stay.

My office recently attended a briefing on the scheme which opens on 4th February. If anyone needs any advice or would like further details on the scheme, please donâ€™t hesitate to contact my office who will be happy to help.

### **Potholes Funding**



Pothole damage cost drivers almost Â£500 million just last year and after years of underinvestment there are 100 times more potholes on our roads than craters on the moon.

Iâ€™m pleased the Government has announced a plan to fix seven million extra potholes each year and is investing Â£1.6 billion this year.

### **Out and about**

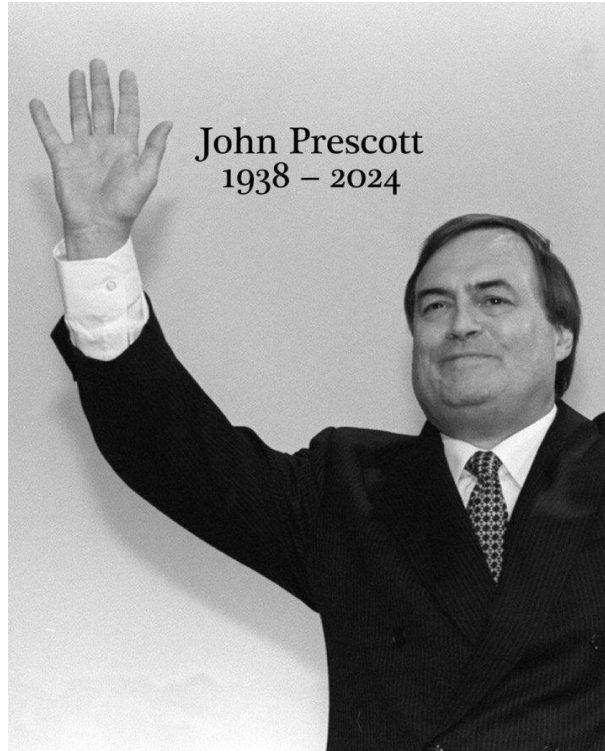


Iâ€™ve been out and about delivering my contact card across the constituency. It gives details of how to get in touch and has a link to a survey where local residents can tell me their priorities. Look out for it coming through your door.

You can complete the survey on my website at:

<https://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk/homepage/community-survey/>

## **Funeral of John Prescott**



It was an honour to attend the funeral of John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007 at Hull Minister.

Local people will perhaps recall that John was the Minister who agreed the survey to find the lost fishing boat Gaul to seek answers and bring closure for local families. A friend to Tynemouth and a great man.

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