

# Alan Campbell MP

## Community News

March 2025



Welcome to the latest edition of my Community News.

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

## Visit to Northumbria Health and Care Academy



I recently toured the new Health and Care Academy, a ground-breaking institution designed to provide the highest quality education and training for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. I joined the Chief Executive of Northumbria NHS Healthcare Trust, Dr Birju Bartoli.

The state-of-the-art facility based in the grounds of NSEC - England's first purpose-built specialist emergency care hospital, offers unparalleled access to real-world clinical environments and specialist knowledge.

I would also like to congratulate Northumbria Healthcare Trust after recent data showed it is one of the best performing trusts in the country. The Health and Care Academy is a good example of our local Trust leading the way.

## **Whitley Bay High School visit Parliament**



It was lovely to host students from Whitley Bay High on what has become an annual visit to parliament.

The group toured the Palace of Westminster before watching a debate in the chamber. I hope they had an enjoyable day and got an insight into how parliament works.

## **Let Girls Play at John Spence**



It was great to go along to John Spence as they took part in Let Girls Play - the Biggest Ever Football Session taking place in schools all across England.

In 2022, The FA set an ambitious target for 75% of schools to deliver equal access to football in PE lessons.

As we look forward to this summer's Women's EURO 2025, this is a great opportunity to empower girls in schools across the country to play football no matter their age, role, ability, race, religion or ethnicity.

John Spence welcomed schools from across Tyne and Wear who are part of the Wanderers Association and it was great to see so many taking part.

I know New York Primary School and King Edward Primary also held events which I hope they enjoyed despite the rain. Thanks to Adam Pilkington for his work organising the day.

### **Question Time at Marden High School**



It was Question Time at Marden High School and I faced some tough questions from Year 9.

The event is part of a module surrounding social inequality and the role of government in our society. This year there were some extremely thoughtful and tough questions and I'd like to thank everyone involved especially Ms Lees for organising the event.

### **Port of Tyne**



I enjoyed a recent visit to Port of Tyne to meet Mark Stoner the Chief Financial Officer and have a look at the cruise and ferry operation. Port of Tyne plays an important role in our visitor economy and their plans to attract more cruises into the port will have a big impact on our local economy.

We also toured the north side of the site and Mark shared the exciting plans they have for the future expansion of the site which could bring high quality, green jobs to our area.

### **Tynemouth one of the UK's best places to live**



Congratulations to Tynemouth on once again being judged one of the best places to live in the country by the Sunday Times who said:

"One of the sweetest of seaside spots, this coastal village — is constantly evolving and confidently comfortable with itself. Its elegant streets are home to buzzy bars and there's buckets of community spirit."

The news coincided with English Tourism Week which is an annual celebration of the tourism industry in England, showcasing its importance to local communities and economies. The event highlights the social, cultural, and economic impact of the visitor economy.

As Norma Redfearn retires on 1<sup>st</sup> May this is timely reminder that her lasting legacy will be the regeneration of our wonderful coastline.





### **Operation Early Bird**

Last week saw the start of Operation Early Bird, which is a gradual start to the spring and summer “Coastwatch” where Council, Police and Nexus teams patrol the coast and Metro. “Early Bird” teams will be out when good weather and bigger visitor numbers are expected.

Community Policing Teams on the coast are based out of North Shields and Whitley Bay. Last year we started to see more resources go into community policing which is already having an impact.

I’m also pleased that the Government’s flagship Crime and Policing Bill which represents the biggest package of measures on crime and policing for decades, will introduce Respect Orders to tackle the worst ASB offenders, and stamp out issues such as public drinking and drug use to ensure that our communities are free from harm and nuisance.

### **Potholes Funding**



I welcome the government announcement of £1.6 billion of investment to tackle the scourge of potholes as figures from the RAC show an average of 6 potholes a mile on English roads. With the cost of fixing pothole damage to cars an average of £600, not only will fixing potholes make our roads safer, it will also save local residents money.

### **Whitley Bay Metro Canopy**



I went along to see the new canopy at Whitley Bay Metro Station after its official unveiling earlier in the month.

The historic canopy at Whitley Bay Metro station has been restored to its former glory following the completion of a two-year major project.

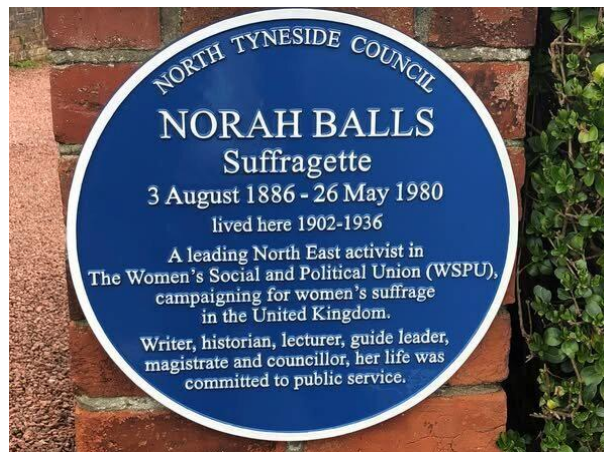
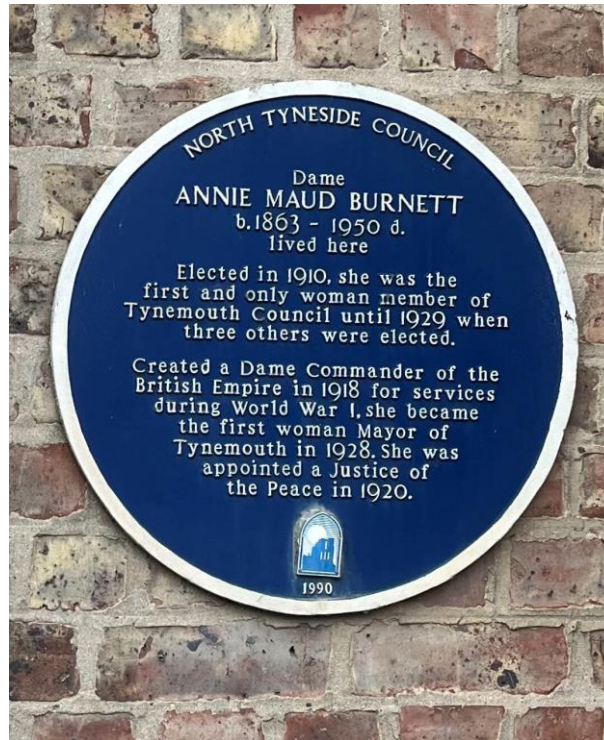
The multi-million-pound investment is excellent for Whitley Bay as a key gateway into North Tyneside and our award-winning coastline.

### **PHD Research on Whitley Bay**

I was asked to be interviewed for PHD research about the past, present and future of Whitley Bay and hopes for the future. I am always happy to show off our wonderful coastline and I enjoyed our discussion about changes in Whitley Bay and along the Coast over the past few years.

### **International Women's Day**





This year, the theme for International Women's Day was 'Accelerate Action'.

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum.

Focusing on the need to Accelerate Action emphasises the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

### **Meeting with Age UK**



I visited Age UK in North Shields to meet with the Chief Executive Dawn McNally.

We discussed the Broadcast 2040+ campaign which is a coalition campaigning to protect the long-term future of broadcast services including free-to-air TV and DAB AM/FM radio.

The campaign believes these services are a lifeline to older people and those struggling with the cost of living. The licenses to run these services expire in the next ten years and they want the Government to guarantee a future beyond the 2030's.

The Government is currently consulting on its Digital Inclusion Strategy and you can have your say until 9<sup>th</sup> April at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/digital-inclusion-action-plan/digital-inclusion-action-plan>

## **Tynemouth Together with Refugees**



I met again with Tynemouth Together with Refugees to discuss some specific concerns of the group around asylum seekers right to work and about the shortage occupation list.

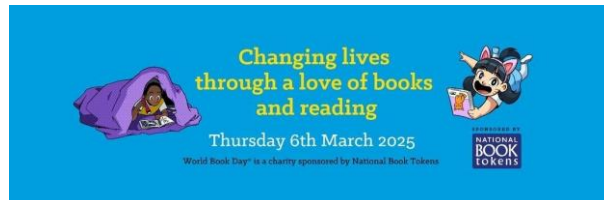
## **National Covid Day of Reflection**

I marked National Day of Reflection for the COVID-19 pandemic.

2025 marks five years since the pandemic began and we continue to honour and remember those affected.

It was an opportunity to come together to remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

## **World Book Day**



It was amazing to see how many local schools and students took part in World Book Day which this year celebrated its 20-year anniversary.

Traditionally celebrated on 23rd April, this date was selected to honour the deaths of William Shakespeare and Miguel De Cervantes, who were all connected to that date by birth or death.

The UK, however, celebrates World Book Day UK on the first Thursday in March so that it can be celebrated in school term time and allows them and their parents to enter into the spirit of the day.

## **Meeting with Dame Norma Redfearn**



I held my last working meeting with Dame Norma Redfearn as she prepares to step down on 1<sup>st</sup> May after 13 years of leading our borough.

Dame Norma has been an inspiration to many over the years and has shown the leadership required to take the tough decisions necessary to continue to make North Tyneside such a great place to live, work and visit. Her legacy will undoubtedly be the regeneration of our wonderful coast but she has also made an excellent start on the regeneration of North Shields.

I want to put on record my thanks to Norma for a life lived serving the people of the borough.

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