



**David  
Baines MP**  
Member of Parliament for  
St Helens North

Newsletter  
**May 2025**

Representing Billinge and Seneley Green, Blackbrook, Haydock, Moss Bank,  
Newton-le-Willows, Parr, Rainford and Windle



**INSIDE:**

**Celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day**



Junction Inn celebration



"Two weeks isn't enough!"

**And more...**



Dear Residents,

Welcome to my May newsletter which you can now encourage your friends and family to subscribe to [via this sign-up form on my website](#).

I hope you find it interesting and please do feel free to contact me anytime using the details on the back page if you need my support.

## 80th anniversary of VE Day

The 80th anniversary of VE Day was a significant opportunity to say 'thank you' once again to the greatest generation. I had the great pleasure of attending various local events to commemorate the occasion.

The [event at St Helens Town Hall featured a Parade of Standards from the Corp of Drums](#), performances from the outstanding Outwood Academy Haydock, and in attendance was 103-year old St Helens resident Gerald Anders. Gerald is a Second World War veteran who served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany and is the man featuring on the cover this month! It was a true honour to meet him. Thank you also to Newton and Earlestown Community Group and all those involved in organising [the VE Day commemoration event in Earlestown](#). I had the tough gig of judging the classic car competition and presenting the trophies!

We can be proud of our work locally to support veterans and our Forces but there is always more to do. [Labour has announced VALOUR, a £50m scheme](#) to help ensure that every veteran, regardless of where they live, can access the right support, with a new network of VALOUR-recognised support centres and Regional Field Officers working to connect local, regional and national services.

This builds on other steps the government has taken since last July including a new Armed Forces Commissioner to support servicemen and women; a new Charter for families in military homes to ensure higher move-in standards, more reliable repairs, renovation, and a named housing officer for every family; priority access to social housing for veterans; enhanced career support; and tax breaks for employers hiring veterans. There's now no better time to recommit ourselves to doing all we can to support our Armed Forces and all those who have served.





# Huge Boost for Local Industry and Services

May has been a hugely significant month for industry and services in St Helens which I believe will lead to economic growth, better jobs and more prospects for people in St Helens North. The completion of the [£60m Parkside Link Road is a major step forward for our aim to attract significant new investment to Newton-le-Willows](#), the borough and wider region, and deliver the new jobs, skills and training we desperately need. I am delighted to see it open and also to see the stats about the project's contribution to delivering the council's key priorities.

There was exciting news for the whole borough as our plans for a new life sciences and advanced manufacturing employment campus take another step forward through Project Halo. Alongside Glass Futures and Sinah Medical Glass already on site, [Project Halo would be another massive step forward for our local area](#), bringing jobs, training and investment.

It was great to see the [Prime Minister recognise this in his visit to Glass Futures this month](#). Keir told the staff there that "for you to be continuing with Glass Futures, very apt name, working here is fantastic and I can see how proud you are of what you do, each of you contributing with your different skills to what is happening here". I couldn't agree more and there is lots more to come. It was also great to meet with [Andrew Wilde at local business Gentex in Haydock](#). It's a thriving company with a strong local workforce specialising in the production of head and face protection products for industry and defence. As well as seeing the production in operation we also spoke of the benefits of trade with the EU.

On top of this, the Labour government has announced [a major £102 million investment to upgrade over 1,000 GP surgeries across the country](#) - and I'm delighted to say that Patterdale Lodge Medical Centre in Newton-le-Willows here in St Helens North and also Longton Medical Centre in Rainhill will be among those benefiting.

And finally, I can't tell you how much of [an honour it was to cut the ribbon](#) and officially open the relocated marquee at The Junction in Rainford. I wish them, and all our brilliant pubs the best for the Summer period and beyond. They are so important to our communities.



# Our Campaign to close fatal DVLA loophole

Myself and Patrick Hurley, the MP for Southport, have joined forces with St Helens North resident Susan Rimaitas to demand urgent changes to the law around mandatory reporting of medical conditions to the DVLA, following tragic deaths which have taken place.

With [the support of dozens parliamentary colleagues](#), we have written to Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander MP calling for medical professionals to be legally required to report patients with visual impairments that make them unsafe to drive.

Mrs Rimaitas's 79-year-old mother, Marie Cunningham, and her 85-year-old friend Grace Foulds were fatally struck by 67-year-old Glyn Jones while crossing a road in Southport, in 2021. Jones had been [advised on nine separate occasions by medical professionals](#) that his visual impairment made him unsafe to drive, yet he elected not to self-report this to the DVLA as required.

The case prompted HM Senior Coroner for Lancashire, Dr James Adeley, to issue a "prevention of future deaths notice" to the Transport Secretary following an inquest at Preston Coroner's Court.

Under current legislation, there is no mandatory legal requirement for optometrists to advise the DVLA of a driver's visual impairment unless it is considered to be in the public interest. Crucially, there is also no facility to share such information with police or add it to driver databases used to identify disqualified drivers.

We are working closely with Mrs Rimaitas to build support for a legislative change. Our letter to government calls for:

- Mandatory reporting by medical professionals when patients have visual impairments making them unsafe to drive
- Creation of systems allowing safety-critical medical information to be added to police driver databases
- Strengthened procedures to identify and remove unfit drivers from UK roads

We have [requested a meeting with the Transport Secretary](#) on behalf of the campaign group to discuss implementation of these life-saving changes and offer their support in delivering the legislative reforms needed to make Britain's roads safer.

I will keep residents informed of the campaign and the outcome.

## Local Consultation on Pathways to Work Green Paper

I would like to thank staff at St Helens JobcentrePlus for meeting with me to discuss the valuable work they do, what's working in the welfare system and what's not, what more we can do to support people, and wider issues raised in the government's Green Paper 'Pathways to Work'.

It is clear from all the conversations I have had so far with charities, claimants the DWP and others that the system isn't currently working as well as it should. What we need to do is make sure it helps everyone who needs it, and that's what I'll be looking for in any proposals that come forward.



I want to hear from as many people as possible about the proposals for welfare reform. I've already met with local third sector support organisations and I have heard directly from many residents – thank you to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch. If you are likely to be affected the changes, please do share your thoughts by [completing this short form on my website](#).

## Update on Assisted Dying

I would like to thank all those constituents who have contacted me to share their views about assisted dying, particularly those with personal experience either through their own health issues or those of a loved one, or from working in end of life care. I truly appreciate the messages and information I have received and in the months since the first vote on this issue I have continued to consider it carefully.

It came back to parliament in May and the final debates and votes are expected in the coming weeks. I remain opposed to the Bill. I cannot ignore the serious concerns I have heard and continue to hear from palliative care specialists, hospice workers, doctors and nurses, and disability rights campaigners.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists opposes the Bill for a number of reasons including the fact it allows those with the physical side effects of a mental disorder to qualify for an assisted death. There have also been significant concerns raised by the Association for Palliative Medicine and also the Coalition of Frontline Care for People Nearing the End of Life – which includes The Gold Standards Framework Charity, National Care Forum, British Geriatric Society, Care England and the Community Hospital Association.

I am listening to all sides of the debate and will continue to do so, but I cannot ignore the overwhelming evidence that this Bill would put vulnerable people in danger, and in my view our real urgent priority regarding the end of life should be improving palliative. [Read more here](#).

# Parliamentary Update

In May I joined the Dad Shift campaign in fighting for better paternity leave. I hung babygrows in Victoria Park, Windle, where I used to take my own boys, to highlight the fact that the UK has the worst paternity leave in Europe – just two weeks at less than half the minimum wage. The Dad Shift is gathering stories from dads [who've struggled with their mental health](#). Two weeks isn't enough!

I had the [pleasure of speaking in the House of Commons to congratulate Andy Reid](#) of the Standing Tall Foundation, who is one of the most inspirational people I have ever met. I'm proud to know him, thankful for his service, and delighted to be able to pay tribute to him in Parliament.

It was also a huge honour and privilege this month to host The Care Workers' Charity for the official launch of their Care Worker Wellbeing Report. With over 2,000 care workers' voices represented, their report is a vital call to action for urgent investment in our social care workforce. I took the opportunity to thank all care workers for everything they do. You can read [the findings of the survey in their report here](#).

I was proud to co-sponsor [an event with Lord Watts with Kidney Research UK](#) in Parliament. The moment that truly stood out was moving speech from 15-year-old Charlie, who shared his powerful journey through misdiagnosis, dialysis, transplant, and hope for the future – with Wes Streeting there to hear every word. Wes said it was by far the most inspiring and incredibly moving speech he'd heard in a very long time and I could not agree more!

As Chair of the Rugby League APPG, I had the honour of being invited to this week's event about the future of London Broncos RL at the stunning Australian High Commission. I was also delighted to speak to the BBC about the scandal that in its 130 year history not a single rugby league player or official [has ever been knighted and why this needs to change](#).

I was delighted to see the UK [agree a new and improved trade deal](#) with the EU in addition to recent deals struck with the US and India. Labour's new agreement with the EU delivers some real solutions to the problems businesses have told me about in St Helens North such as removing pointless red tape for food exports which will add nearly £9 billion to our economy. You can [read the main points of the deal here](#).



UK-EU Deal	
For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Asda</li><li>✓ Morrisons</li><li>✓ M&amp;S</li><li>✓ Octopus Energy</li><li>✓ Salmon Scotland</li><li>✓ BAE Systems</li><li>✓ Vodafone</li><li>✓ Dairy UK</li><li>✓ British Retail Consortium</li><li>✓ Ryanair</li><li>✓ Guide Dogs Campaigns</li><li>✓ Federation of Small Businesses</li><li>✓ Confederation of British Industry</li><li>✓ UK Hospitality</li><li>✓ The Food and Drink Federation</li><li>✓ British Poultry Council</li><li>✓ Babcock International Group</li><li>✓ British Meat Processors Association</li><li>✓ British Chamber of Commerce</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Kemi Badenoch</li><li>✗ Nigel Farage</li><li>✗ John Swinney</li></ul>



# Helping people in St Helens North



**In May my office has dealt with over 350 individual cases relating to a wide variety of issues ranging from Assisted Dying, Immigration to Universal Credit, Child Maintenance, and Anti-Social Behaviour. Here are some examples:**

## Supporting Our Veterans

We helped an elderly, disabled veteran who was struggling by connecting him with local support networks and special charities. Our veterans deserve all the support they need!

## Healthcare Advocacy

When a resident was given only a vague timeframe for important pain-relief surgery, we stepped in to secure a specific appointment date. No one should have to wait in uncertainty when they're in pain.

## Road Safety & Maintenance

After residents raised concerns about dangerous potholes on local roads, we escalated the issue to Highways England. The repairs are prioritized and will be completed soon!

## Care Home Billing Error

We successfully resolved an incorrect charge applied to a resident's father in care. The substantial debt was cancelled and properly reassigned - saving the family significant financial stress.

## Special Educational Needs

We helped arrange a SEND assessment for a child whose educational needs weren't being met, ensuring they get the support they deserve in school.

**Please don't hesitate to contact me via [david.baines.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.baines.mp@parliament.uk) if you think me and my team can be of assistance on an issue.**

## In St Helens North

In May I held my latest advice surgery at Crownway in Earlestown, and I had the pleasure of returning [to Carmel College to meet with Politics students](#) and participate in a Q&A session. As a former student from 1995-1997, I have wonderful memories of my time there, and it was great to come back and share insights about my career journey with current students. The staff and students provided such a warm welcome, and I was impressed by the thoughtful and engaging questions.

I attended the [latest meeting of St Helens Town Deal Board](#) and it was brilliant to hear updates on projects including the restoration of the historic Cannington Shaw site and the latest on the major regeneration of St Helens town centre.

What an honour to meet [Lisa, Nick and Gary from TheraFit](#). They are already doing amazing work in our community to support young people and their families and I am so excited and inspired to hear about their plans to do even more.

It was my pleasure to meet members of the [North West Veterans Corps of Drums](#) at their weekly practice session. They are absolutely superb and perform at events all across the region. If you get the chance to see them, do!

It was great to attend a wonderful Stakeholder event in the Town Hall after Annual Council, meeting so many fantastic people working day in day out to make our borough the great place it is. [Representatives from a wide range of community groups](#), the faith and voluntary sectors, sporting heroes from rugby, football and boxing, our Armed Forces, local businesses and more all pledged to #lovesthelens.

I attended the VE Day celebrations in Earlestown, and visited local business Gentex as mentioned earlier. There are so many great businesses on our doorstep! I am also absolutely made up for [everyone associated with St Helens Town AFC](#), officially crowned Champions of Cheshire League 2. I have written to the team and all the staff to congratulate them on a brilliant season.

Finally, I would just let to thank all at Merseyside Police and our emergency services for the way they dealt with the incident following the Liverpool FC victory parade. I was at the parade with my family and I am thinking of all those who were injured, especially the children, and I am hoping they make full and quick recoveries. You can [read more here](#).





Finally this month, it was an honour, as always, to [attend the Annual Meeting of St Helens Borough Council](#). I would like to congratulate Councillor Jeanette Banks and her husband Dave on a wonderful year as Mayor and Consort, and I send my warmest congratulations to our new Mayor Councillor Seve Gomez-Aspron MBE and our new Deputy Mayor Councillor Bisi Osundeko. I know they will do a terrific job for our whole borough.

As ever I encourage you to get in touch if you need my support or if you have a question, and please do tell me your priorities too. Remember you can follow what I am doing as your Member of Parliament [via the dedicated news page on my website](#) and on social media – search David Baines MP on Facebook, Instagram, Threads and Bluesky.

Best wishes,

David

**DAVID BAINES MP**  
**Labour Member of Parliament for St Helens North**

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