



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

**Newsletter
October 2025**

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

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Haydock Band makes history!



And more, including:



Welcoming the Ashes to
Downing Street



Listening to families about
the SEND system

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Dear Residents,

Welcome to my October 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.

The Ashes come to Downing Street!

As a lifelong Rugby League fan, it is a huge honour to be Chair of the [All Party Parliamentary Group](#), and we're doing all we can to promote the sport which means so much to many of us in St Helens North at the highest levels.

Already this year we have celebrated Sir Billy Boston becoming the first [Rugby League knight](#) in the King's Birthday Honours in recognition of his outstanding impact and legacy, and this week I was delighted to receive permission for England and Australia representatives to meet the Sports Minister in Downing Street.

It's not every day that Rugby League – or any sport – has the chance to be showcased at Downing Street, but this is an historic rivalry and it deserves an historic moment. It is such a boost for the sport to have the Kangaroos back in England, so it was great that their senior representatives could also share in this little piece of history.

The day had started with Sir Lindsay Hoyle relishing the prospect of the series at the start of Prime Minister's Questions, and continued with our latest APPG meeting – which featured a first appearance in Parliament for the Ashes trophy, before it was transferred to Downing Street.

As a lifelong Rugby League fan, it was an honour and a privilege to have then been invited to [attend the first Ashes Test](#) in my role as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group, and to help host the Minister for Sport Stephanie Peacock – where I got the chance to discuss with her the great work and importance of our local clubs such as Newton Storm and Blackbrook Royals – alongside the Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle.



October in Parliament

Nearly 6,000 households who are private renting in St Helens North will now see the most significant increase to their rights in a generation after the Renters Rights Bill achieved Royal Assent.

I know from the many conversations I've had with people from across our area the fear that has been created by archaic and unfair laws for renters – today change begins. This is a significant moment for private renters across St Helens North, The balance has been tipped unfairly against renters for far too long, with many people's futures left in the hands of rogue landlords and insecure contracts. This government is rebalancing that relationship and delivering the strongest rights for private renters in a generation. Watch [my video explaining the detail here](#).

Alongside this we had important votes on the **Sentencing Bill** and the **Victims and Courts Bill**. When the Labour government came into power, we inherited a prison system that was on its knees. Years of Tory neglect had left prisons overcrowded, crumbling, and dangerously close to running out of space. The changes brought by these Bills will help to address the pressures on the system while ensuring the most serious criminals are locked up. One element I know will be important to people in St Helens North is the new measures to tackle tool theft. It is about time that we clamped down on those that ruin lives and destroy businesses in St Helens North.

[Labour launched its Best Start in Life campaign](#), highlighting our work to invest in early years support for families and children. We are already seeing the benefits of some of this work here in St Helens north with free breakfast clubs at three local schools, expanded childcare, and Family Hubs. [There is much more to do, and a lot more to come.](#)

The **Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill** was passed at third reading. There has been a lot of misinformation spread about this deal but the fact is the treaty is in the best interests of our national security and has been welcomed by all our allies including the United States.

The **Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill** is also progressing through parliament. It will increase the production of homegrown Sustainable Aviation Fuel, positioning the UK as a world leading destination for this new market and make flying greener for users.



Making sure no child is left behind

Following the first informative and touching SEND forum I organised in September for local families and SEND organisations, I have continued to gather more views and experiences from parents, schools and local organisations throughout October before I present our priorities to Ministers.

I hosted [a second SEND forum this month](#) in the daytime to make sure as many people as possible could share their views, it was once again interesting, helpful, and emotional. It was another opportunity to ensure I could feed this back to the government to make sure the much-needed reforms benefit children and families in St Helens North and across the country.

Alongside the event, I have had the pleasure of meeting both Headteachers and SENCOs from schools across St Helens North, including Billinge Chapel End, Lyme Community Primary school, Rainford Brook Lodge, Rainford High, and Carmel College.

It has been fantastic to hear their perspectives on what isn't working and what they want to see the government change for SEND children. I would like to thank every school I have visited for having me and taking the time to share the experiences of SEND within their schools.

With the information I have gathered, I am putting together a report which I will send to Ministers. This will be reflective of all those I have heard from through the many meetings, visits, events, emails and questionnaires in St Helens North.

I am grateful to everybody that has taken their time to share their views in any way they could. If you have been unable to attend either of the SEND events but would like to share your views, please don't hesitate to email me at: david.baines.mp@parliament.uk



Tackling homelessness in St Helens North

This month, on World Homelessness Day, the Government announced it is [investing £461,000 in St Helens as part of an £84 million nationwide boost to help prevent homelessness and tackle rough sleeping this winter.](#)

Homelessness has no place in our society, and it is a moral stain on our country that rough sleeping has more than doubled since 2010. I know from speaking with people in St Helens North that tackling this problem is an absolute priority – I am pleased this government is taking decisive action.

This new funding builds on the many steps the government have already taken to tackle homelessness as part of the Plan for Change, with, £1 billion investment this year to end homelessness and rough sleeping, £950 million to increase the supply of good temporary accommodation. This is alongside the alongside the £39 billion investment to deliver the biggest increase in social and affordable housing in a generation.

These vital steps will bring vital support for those who need it most across the St Helens Borough.

Haydock Band makes history!

Haydock Band made history when they triumphed at the Fife Charities Brass Band Contest!

The contest, which has been running for 78 years, had never been won by a non-Scottish band until now. As readers will know I am incredibly proud of The Haydock Band! I know what brass bands mean to our communities. They're an important part of our heritage but they're also very much a part of our here and now, and Haydock Band's ongoing success including its historic win at the Fife Charities' contest recently shows that its future is bright.

And as a Yicker, I am also particularly humbled and honoured to be asked to become a Vice President of the Band. It was great to attend one of their recent practice sessions at Grange Valley. They really are fantastic, and I'm looking forward to doing all I can to support them and championing this fantastic and vibrant part of our local culture.



Championing Glass and St Helens in Parliament

I was delighted to [welcome the UK Glass and Glazing Collective](#) and major industry figures to Parliament to highlight the glass sector's £7 billion contribution to Britain's economy and our communities.

For over 200 years the town of St Helens has led the way in glass, and in many ways the success of the industry has been intertwined with the success of the community. My grandparents worked at Pilks and I know the importance of the industry to who we are and the place we call home.

I was delighted to be [joined at the event by St Helens representatives](#) including Glass Futures, my colleague Marie Rimmer MP, St Helens Borough Council Leader Anthony Burns, and The World Of Glass Chair Alan Whittaker and patron Mark Holford.

We were also delighted to be joined by the Minister for Industry Chris McDonald MP so he could hear first-hand about the support we need to grow and thrive.

As the government develops its Industrial Strategy, we must make sure we recognise and support the industries that underpin our economy and our communities, and in these dangerous times, we also need to support those who play such a vital role in our national security, whether it's in energy or defence.

The UK Glass & Glazing Collective, which unites British Glass, Glass Futures, the Glass & Glazing Federation (GGF), and the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London, presented compelling evidence of the sector's economic significance. The industry generates approximately £7 billion in annual turnover, including £1.7 billion from container glass, £274 million from flat glass manufacturers, £394 million from glass wool and fibre, and £4.7 billion from the wider glass and glazing industry.

I'm proud to champion our local industry and our communities, and I'll do all I can to help to create the jobs and investment we need.

We should be proud of our history, but we should also be excited for the future and the opportunities we have.



In St Helens North

I had a [fantastic time visiting YMCA St Helens](#) to hear about all the outstanding work they're doing to support children and young people in the borough. I think most of us are aware of the great offer they have as a hostel but it's so much more. The Youth Hub based at the Beacon on College Street is a brilliant resource for so many, and the Nursery is also doing a fantastic job.

It was great [to attend the site of the new Newton-le-Willows Police Station](#). This investment in a new, modern base - alongside investment in staffing and more police in our local area - is being delivered by a Labour PCC in cooperation with a Labour Council, Labour councillors, and me as your Labour MP, and it will strengthen local policing and serve the community.

I recently [visited the Vimto Headquarters in Newton-le-Willows](#) to meet with CEO Andrew Milne. It's a historic company and a global brand, and we're lucky to have it here in our local area along with the jobs it provides.

I also had the pleasure of visiting [BOC on Washway Lane](#) to hear about their work as a major local employer, and the vital role they play in supporting industry both locally and nationally. They are just one of many multinational companies based in our borough. I'll be doing all I can to support them.

It was [good to visit Fairfield Hospital](#) where staff and management are working day in day out to provide high-quality care for patients across St Helens North and beyond. The majority of patients treated at the hospital are NHS, and the role this helps play in tackling waiting lists and delivering care and treatment shouldn't be taken for granted.

And finally, some great news for the Carr Mill area. Planning approval has been [granted for a brand new mixed-use development](#) with a new Aldi store, a new care home, two food and drink units, and a small parade of commercial units. The development will bring jobs and opportunities to the area, hugely improve the look and feel, while boosting connectivity and growth too via the new train station which will complement these plans.



Westminster Update

I attended the Roadpeace Parliamentary Reception for the [launch of The Road Peace Guide for MPs](#). I have been supporting Haydock resident Sue Rimaitis, whose mother Marie Cunningham was killed by a driver with poor eyesight. Sue is fighting for changes to legislation including the introduction of mandatory reporting of eye test results to the DVLA, and it was great to catch up with her to discuss next steps and also to thank her for her campaigning.

Sue's tireless advocacy through the "Sight Safe" campaign is a testament to her determination to prevent other families from experiencing the same devastating loss. I have the utmost admiration for her and her family who continue this fight.

I met with [WASPI campaigners in Parliament](#) and I know it is an important issue for lots of people in St Helens North. I will continue to do what I can to raise those concerns and try to find a positive outcome.

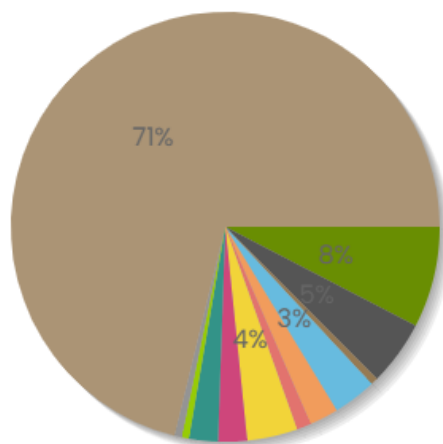
I was delighted to attend a Parliamentary drop in event with Dementia Support where we learned about the game-changing work of their Sage House model in West Sussex. It was also fantastic to attend a [packed event by the British Dyslexia Association](#) to hear Schools Minister Georgia Gould speak and to discuss what more needs to be done to make sure no child is left behind. I recently supported their [unique voice petition to raise awareness of dyslexia](#), and will continue to do all I can to raise awareness and improve support.

I also met with Speech and Language UK and read their brilliant policy paper setting out some concrete ways we can transform SEND and better support the two million children with speech and language challenges in the UK. I caught up with George from the organisation at the launch of their new [Pre-Phonics Boost programme](#), and I encourage schools and anyone with an interest in this to take a look.

Finally, it was an [honour to hear Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada](#), address our UK Parliament. The UK has stood shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine since the illegal Russian invasion began nearly four years ago. We will continue to do so.



Casework Update



- Housing and planning
- Asylum, immigration and nationality
- Health services and medicine
- Local Government
- Bulk correspondence
- Crime, civil law, justice and rights
- Education
- Transport
- Social services and social care
- Social Security and pensions
- Agriculture, animals, food and rural affairs
- Parliament, government and politics

This month my team has successfully handled over 300 cases covering everything from NHS and SEND support to tax issues and beyond. Here are some highlights:

Housing help

We successfully helped a constituent secure succession rights to their tenancy – meaning they can inherit it from a family member who had passed away.

Tax support

We're pleased to have helped a constituent cut through the delays with HMRC and get their administrative tax issue sorted out.

Assisting with NHS appointments

After a frustrating wait, we were able to help a constituent finally get the NHS appointment they needed.

Tree care

We stepped in to help a resident ensure that the council acted on a dying tree in their area to prevent any damage to the public.

Torus Assistance

We successfully challenged an incorrect banding decision with Torus on behalf of a constituent, getting them the correct banding for their housing application.

If you think I can help with an issue, please do get in touch. Find out more about the types of issue I can assist with here: <https://davidbaines.co.uk/support>.

RIP Gerald Anders

Finally for this newsletter, I am extremely sad to share the news that Gerald Anders has passed away at the age of 103. Gerald was a local veteran who served in Europe and North Africa during World War Two. I had the honour of meeting him earlier this year at the VE Day 80 celebrations at St Helens town hall, and he was a true gentleman.

My deepest condolences go to his family and all who knew him. We will remember.



As ever I encourage you to get in touch at david.baines.mp@parliament.uk 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

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