



David Baines MP

Member of Parliament for
St Helens North

Newsletter March 2026

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

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

New SEND-inclusive library opens in St Helens North



And more, including:



New nursery places for St James in Haydock



Mining memorial unveiled



Haydock Reading Room charity effort



Dear Residents,

Welcome to my March 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.

New nursery places in St Helens North

I'm delighted to say that [St James' Church of England Primary School will benefit from new investment to expand nursery places](#) as part of Labour's Best Start programme.

This Labour government is determined to give children the best start in life and I'm fighting to get that investment for St Helens North.

By opening more school-based nurseries, Labour is backing our schools and we are delivering:

- Accessible & affordable childcare
- Better life chances for children
- Better work choices for parents

This is all part of Labour's mission to break down barriers to opportunity and ensure every child, regardless of background, has access to the support they need to thrive from the very beginning of their education.

Haydock Library reopens as SEND dedicated library!

Haydock Library has officially reopened and is the first SEND-dedicated library in the borough!

[It was an absolute pleasure to visit and to say hello](#) and thank you to St Helens Borough Council staff and the amazing library team and Arts Council England, as well as representatives from Buzz Hub and Listen4Change, the St Helens Parent Carer Forum.

There's everything you'd expect from a library – thousands of books, as well as IT equipment. But there's lots more too, including a sensory room.

It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 until 5 – get down if you can and check it out.



New monument to our community's mining heritage

Thank you to Seneley Green Parish Council for inviting me to help [unveil the new monument to our community's mining heritage](#), remembering those from Garswood and Downall Green who lost their lives working in local collieries.

It was an honour to attend alongside Deputy Mayor of the Borough Bisi Osundeko and Councillor Sue Murphy.

As always it was a pleasure to catch up with Stephen Owen, and Paul Hewitt, Jim Housley and all from the North West Miners' Heritage Association who do great work protecting and promoting our heritage, including in local schools. Garswood Primary and Rectory Primary have contributed to time capsules contained within the monument.



Special thanks and well done to Jason Shawcross who has worked for four years to make this happen, and to Sue Murphy for everything she has done in our community over so many years.

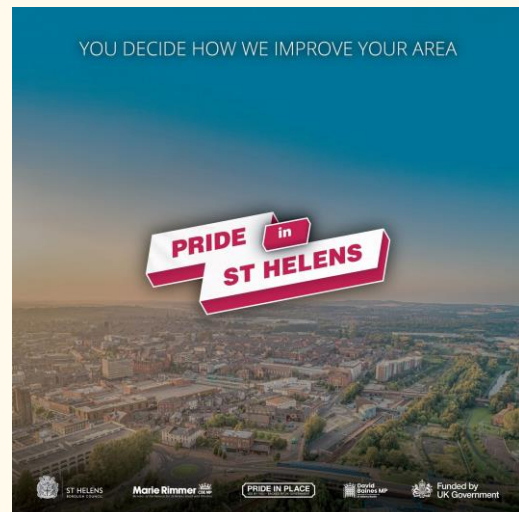
Pride in our communities

[After years of being overlooked and underfunded, several neighbourhoods in our borough have been chosen for significant Government investment – and it is local residents who will decide how the money is spent.](#)

Through the Pride in Place Programme, £20 million of long-term funding will be invested across the Borough.

This is mostly in the St Helens South and Whiston constituency of my colleague Marie Rimmer MP but the Parr Stocks area is in St Helens North so we'll be working together to help communities make the most of this opportunity.

This is significant funding that can make a real, practical difference. It could support local jobs and opportunities, improve community facilities and youth services, enhance public spaces, make our streets safer, cleaner and more welcoming, and strengthen the local organisations that bring people together.



In St Helens North

This month was International Women's Day and it was the perfect occasion to [unveil this beautiful memorial bench in Seneley Green](#) to Maralynn Taylor and Ruth Skinner who devoted decades to Girl Guiding in the community. They helped thousands of girls over the years, and their efforts will be remembered for generations to come.

Thank you so much to the amazing Nicole Fagan and the incredible young cast [for inviting me to watch rehearsals at Outwood Academy Haydock for their performance of Matilda](#). It was a privilege to watch them practice and they are absolutely fantastic.

Thank you to Jack, Tony and Julie Duffy and Ashleigh Kirk from Admiral Taverns for inviting me to the [Simms Road in Garswood to see the outstanding job they've done refurbishing the pub](#).

[It was fantastic to visit Aroma Coffee and Bakery on Market Street in Earlestown](#). I'd encourage anyone in the local area to go and check them out!

[It was an honour to catch up with Alan Clark and the team at Haydock Reading & Debating society who set off to Scotland to walk the West Highland Way, a six day walk from Fort William to Milngavie](#). They're supporting Ryan Lawrenson who has been diagnosed with osteosarcoma. Ryan has had to leave his employment, so money raised will help him and some will also be donated to Clatterbridge where he is receiving treatment.

[I've been out campaigning with the local Labour team including in Parr where we've been knocking on doors and listening to residents ahead of a crucial set of elections in May](#). It was fantastic to be joined by my colleague Charlotte Nichols MP, MP for Warrington North.

You'll be seeing a lot of candidates in the coming weeks from all sorts of parties, but it's only Labour who are active all year round. We'll be out more than usual in the run-up to 7th May, because these elections are really important.

If you don't want Nigel Farage running essential local services in St Helens borough, then vote Labour in May.



More in St Helens North

[I had the pleasure of visiting the site of the transformational Parkside regeneration project in Newton-le-Willows.](#) This development presents a significant opportunity not only for Newton-le-Willows and the St Helens Borough but the whole of the north west region. It is fantastic to see works getting underway on this huge opportunity for local economic growth that will bring new investment and jobs to the area.

[It was lovely to meet the volunteers from Newton in Bloom on the High Street to hear about their fantastic work for the community and their plans to do even more.](#) They're good people doing good things.

The new General Enquiry Office has now opened to the public at the brand-new Newton-le-Willows Police Station! Neighbourhood policing is so important and this purpose-built, modern facility is exactly what our police need to serve the community in the way we expect.

[It was fantastic to see the new St Helens Transport Interchange reach a major milestone as the Northern concourse steelwork has now been completed.](#) Coming alongside the rollout of the region's new publicly-owned fleet of busses later this year, this interchange will be transformative for passengers.

[It was an honour to be at the laying of the foundation stone at Earlestown Town Hall as construction continues on its regeneration.](#) Earlestown Town Hall is one of the great landmarks of our area - a building that holds generations of memories for local families and stands at the heart of our community's story.

I wrote a column in St Helens Star about the proposed SEND reforms and the consultation now taking place. Every child deserves the best education and families shouldn't have to fight for the right support. Remember you can have your say [here](#).

I'll be hosting another forum for SEND-families soon - look out for details on my social media.



Thursday March 5, 2020 St Helens Star | 71
OPINION

Families and schools deserve more SEND funding & support

David Baines 
St Helens North MP

All that said, as a former teacher, I know the need for additional support. I was a SENCO for 10 years and know the challenges that can arise. It is a huge responsibility to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. I will continue to work with the government to ensure that the right support is in place for every child.

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It is a term used to describe children and young people who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each child has their own unique needs. It is important that schools and families work together to provide the right support for every child.

SEND funding is the money that schools receive to provide additional support for children with SEND. This funding is used to pay for extra staff, resources, and other support services. It is important that schools receive enough funding to provide the right support for every child.

SEND support is the help and assistance that children with SEND receive. This can include extra staff, resources, and other support services. It is important that children with SEND receive the right support to help them learn and reach their full potential.

SEND families are the families of children with SEND. They play a vital role in their child's education and well-being. It is important that schools and families work together to provide the right support for every child.

SEND schools are schools that provide additional support for children with SEND. These schools have extra staff and resources to help children with SEND learn and reach their full potential.

SEND children are children who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each child has their own unique needs.

SEND young people are young people who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each young person has their own unique needs.

SEND adults are adults who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each adult has their own unique needs.

SEND older people are older people who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each older person has their own unique needs.

SEND children and young people are children and young people who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each child and young person has their own unique needs.

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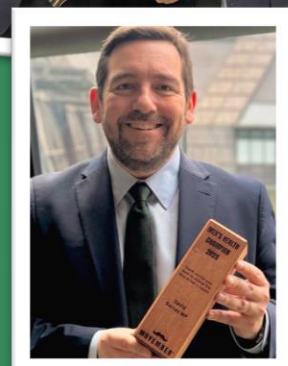
SEND children, young people, adults, and older people are children, young people, adults, and older people who have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. There are many different types of SEND, and each child, young person, adult, and older person has their own unique needs.

In Westminster

Nearly one million young people are currently not in employment, education or training – a figure that rose by 250,000 between 2021 and 2024. This demands action, and Labour is delivering: building on last year's £1.5 billion youth unemployment package, we are now investing an extra £1 billion in the Youth Guarantee to deliver 200,000 jobs and apprenticeships, including for young people in St Helens North. Watch [the Minister respond to my question here](#).



I was delighted to [hear that NHS Waiting lists down 374,000 in 18 months](#), fastest ambulance responses in five years, and best A&E times in four - Labour is rebuilding the NHS and we're not taking our foot off the gas.



I [spoke in the Commons about why I'm proud](#) we didn't blindly follow Trump into a Middle East war with no plan and why I will always act in the British national interest and the interests of British nationals in the region.

I was [proud to attend the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal](#), meeting ambassador Alison Steadman OBE to raise awareness of their vital end-of-life care work - and to pay tribute to everyone at Willowbrook Hospice in St Helens.



For World Book Day, I met the organisers in Parliament and was able to pass on my thanks to every teacher, parent, and school in St Helens North nurturing a love of reading, [especially the brilliant St Helens Book Stop](#).



I was honoured to receive [Movember's Men's Health Champion award](#) – and proud that this Labour government has just published England's first ever Men's Health Strategy.

There are thousands of carers in St Helens and I know that for many the financial impact is a huge worry. At Work and Pensions Select Committee we heard from expert witnesses about [the situation which you can watch back here](#). I also questioned the Children's Commissioner on what we know about child poverty's impact on different groups – including children with SEND – as part of the joint Select Committee investigation into the government's Child Poverty Strategy



I was delighted to meet the brilliant actress Diane Morgan in Parliament to discuss the campaign to ban trophy hunting imports - a cause well worth fighting for.

In Westminster

I was delighted to host the Rugby Football League at Parliament this week and to be elected Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rugby League at our Annual General Meeting. It's a privilege to lead the APPG at such an important moment for the sport, and I'm grateful to colleagues across the House for their support.

Our AGM provided a timely opportunity to discuss the game's Strategic Review, led by Nigel Wood, which will shape the future direction of rugby league at every level. There is real momentum behind efforts to grow the sport, strengthen its governance and ensure it gets the recognition it deserves – and I look forward to using the APPG as a platform to champion that work.

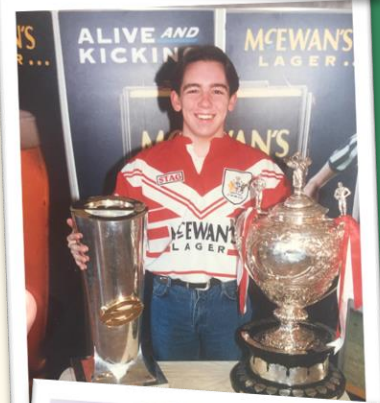
I'd also like to wish [the Super League a happy 30th birthday](#) – which brings back fantastic memories of the 1996 season for the Saints!

Lots of families in St Helens North have Irish heritage – my own included – and I'm proud to serve as a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly. It's a body that does vital, often unsung work in strengthening the ties between our nations and keeping the lines of communication open between elected representatives.

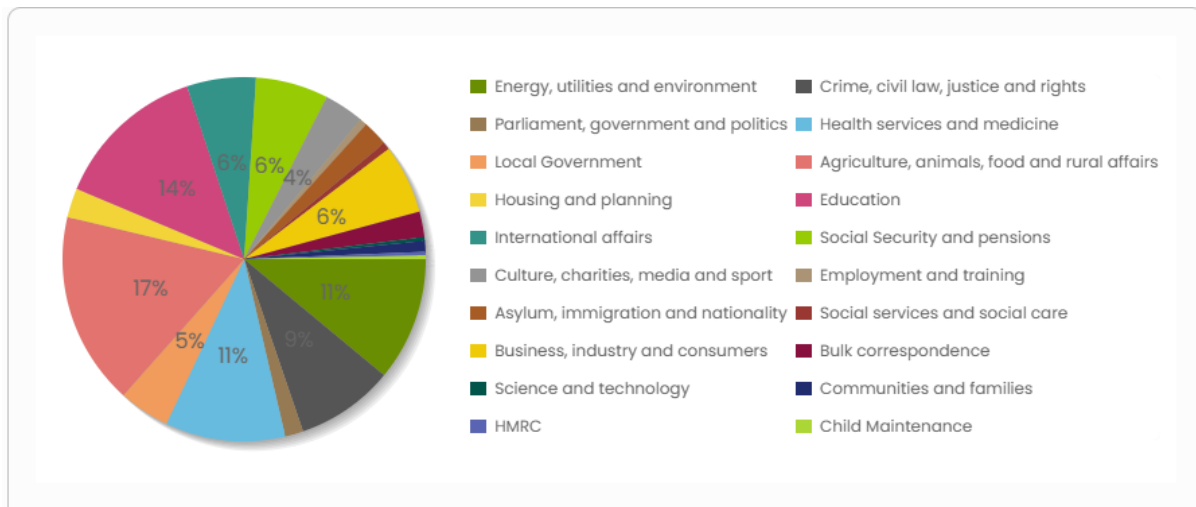
I [recently had the privilege of visiting Londonderry-Derry with the Assembly](#), meeting colleagues from across the UK and Ireland in a city that stands as one of the most powerful symbols of what peace can achieve. Its transformation is remarkable – vibrant, welcoming, and forward-looking – but it also serves as a reminder of how hard-won that peace was, and how carefully it must be protected.

At a time when the political landscape across these islands faces new pressures, that message feels more important than ever.

On my visit to Northern Ireland I had the honour of meeting and working with Lord Alf Dubs who has worked for decades on the peace process and has also championed the rights of migrants and refugees. He's an incredible man.



Casework update



This month we have dealt with 400 cases ranging from Plan 2 Student Loans, to Animal Welfare, to Fuel Duty, to SEND support, to the war in Iran. Some Examples include:

Taxi License Help

Supported a constituent in securing an explanation as to the reasons for the delay in their license renewal and assist them in undertaking the steps to ensure that their license is renewed and returned to them promptly

DVLA Medical License Renewal

Helped a constituent gain clarification from the DVLA that their license renewal would be processed as soon as possible and assisted them in conveying their medical information to the DVLA to ensure that they had received it.

Disability Living Allowance Support

Assisted a family in corresponding with the DWP to ensure what they were paid what they were entitled to and ensure that the relevant and needed support could be provided to them.

Potholes Repair

Helped raise the issue of several roads to the council on behalf of several constituents, ensuring that the council reviewed the roads in question and undertook works where appropriate.

Save Billinge Medical Practice

[I recently attended the packed public meeting at St Aidan's Church in Billinge regarding the future of Billinge Medical Practice.](#) It is important to remember that the practice is not closing, so patients shouldn't panic and should continue to attend appointments as usual - but it's clearly a worrying situation.



Myself and Josh Simons MP are in contact with all the relevant parties including the ICB, the practice, and councillors including Sue Murphy who is doing a lot of work on this, and we have written to the Health Minister to ask for their support. I will share updates as and when I have them and will continue to do all I can to help get the positive outcome patients and the practice deserve.

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

David

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