



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

**Newsletter
April 2025**

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

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- Commemorating International Workers' Memorial Day
- Talking education, social media, and mobile phones at St Augustine's



And more, including:

Work launched to build new police station for Newton-le-Willows

Online: davidbaines.co.uk | On social media: @DavidBainesMP



Dear Residents,

Welcome to my April 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.

Saving our Steel Industry

On Saturday 12th April parliament was urgently recalled to decide emergency legislation to save British Steel.

I strongly support the Government's decisive action to protect our vital steel industry and was delighted to attend the emergency Saturday sitting in the Commons for the [Steel Industry \(Special Measures\) Bill](#). Not every Party would have done the same. The Tories didn't when they were in power, and Farage just a few years ago was saying the government shouldn't step in.

This emergency legislation demonstrates Labour's commitment to securing UK steelmaking for generations to come - something previous administrations failed to deliver. The steel industry remains fundamental to both our national security and economic prosperity nationally and locally here in St Helens North.

The potential closure of British Steel's blast furnaces in Scunthorpe - the UK's last remaining primary steel production facilities - would have made Britain the only G20 country unable to produce primary steel. This is simply unacceptable for a nation of our standing and industrial heritage.

Steel is essential to every industry, from energy to defence. As we deliver our Plan for Change, UK-manufactured steel will be vital for nationally important projects including airports, rail, and housing - all critical to delivering growth right here in St Helens North.

We must protect [thousands of jobs and maintain our steelmaking capabilities](#). This Government is standing up for British steel, and I fully support these necessary measures to secure our industrial future.

There's plenty more to do in order to support British industry, but the government's action shows our intention.



Celebrating International Workers' Memorial Day

April 28th every year marks International Workers' Memorial Day, when we are encouraged to remember those who have lost their lives at work and to commit ourselves to fight for the living. Events are held far and wide but few are as poignant as the one we're fortunate to have in [St Helens which is held each year at the Workers' Memorial in Vera Page Park](#).

I have attended every one of these events since the beautiful memorial was created a few years ago, yet this was my first time attending as a Member of Parliament and my first since being invited to become a patron of the St Helens Workers' Memorial charity by its inspiring trustees John Riley, Cllr Richard McCauley and Paul Pritchard. I am extremely proud to be associated with them.

I was honoured to speak at the weekend's event, and to lay a wreath commemorating those we have lost. The memorial event brought together our community with fellow councillors and Marie Rimmer MP, as well as representatives from the Northwest Miners' Heritage Association, and The Haydock Band, who provided a moving musical accompaniment to the proceedings. I thank them all for their contribution.

However, the memorial service also provided a powerful visual reminder of workplace fatalities—138 hard hats displayed to represent the 138 individuals who lost their lives at work in 2023/24. This sobering figure reminds us that there is still critical work needed to improve workplace safety across the nation and that we should never take workers' rights for granted. Worker protections and rights aren't guaranteed. They aren't God given. They are fragile achievements which have been secured through decades of struggle and advocacy and there are some who would strip our rights away given half a chance.

[Labour's Employment Rights Bill represents the most significant enhancement to workers' rights in over four decades](#), ending exploitative zero-hour contracts, strengthening protections against unfair dismissal, improving parental leave, and much more. The Bill has been voted against at every single opportunity by both the Tories and Reform, and we should all remember that when we vote. International Workers' Memorial Day serves as both a commemoration and a call to action.

As the day's powerful motto states: "Remember the dead, fight for the living".



Parliamentary Update

Fixing the NHS is one of our top priorities, so it was good news in April when it was confirmed that [waiting lists have fallen six months in a row](#).

Labour's £26billion investment in health services and new drive to offer more appointments out of hours has also directly contributed to more than three-quarters (76.1%) of patients receiving their cancer diagnosis or all-clear within 28 days from July 2024 to January 2025. I am also delighted to [see the freeze on prescription charges](#). There's still lots more to do but we're making progress.

It was a pleasure to recently welcome to Parliament my friend and colleague the St Helens Borough Council Leader Anthony Burns in his capacity as Chair of the North West Regional Leaders Board, as well as leaders from across the region. We met with Local Growth Minister Alex Norris and MPs, and the NW Leaders Board [presented their report with asks for government to help support our region](#). I'm fully on board to do all I can to help deliver for people in St Helens North and beyond.

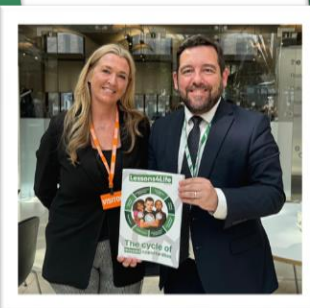
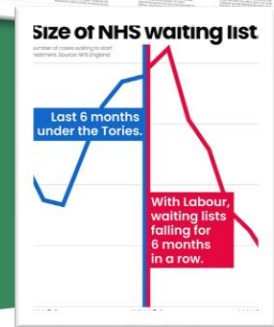
Labour is committed to doing all it can to support veterans and our Armed Forces. I was delighted to welcome news in April that we are making changes to help [improve housing for military families](#).

As Chair of the Rugby League APPG I was delighted to talk to Rugby League World magazine about the work of the group and my life supporting St Helens. You can read the interview here on the [Total RL website](#). I was also pleased to appear on the Forty20 podcast talking about my role as Chair of the Rugby League APPG, our great game and how it can help make a difference in our communities [which you can watch on YouTube](#).

It was my honour to meet with [Hayley Sherwood from 1 Decision about her Lessons4Life White Paper](#). It calls for a rebalancing of primary curriculum priorities to make space for teaching personal development effectively; and for longer term investment in personal development education, including teacher training and ongoing professional development. I support the campaign, which has been launched in response to the worrying increase in knife crime, childhood obesity and mental health.

The Football Governance Bill [delivers on our manifesto commitment to establish the independent football regulator](#). New powers mean that water executives who cover up illegal sewage spills could face up to two years in prison – the toughest ever measures in history.

It has also been confirmed that [foreign sex offenders will also be stripped of refugee protections](#) in a new asylum system overhaul. It should have always been the case, but we're making it so.



Helping people in St Helens North



We've dealt with over 350 individual cases in April relating to issues including animal welfare, social security and the war in Ukraine. Some specific examples include:

Tackling Fly-Tipping

Secured new bin sheds for communal flats after a local business owner raised concerns about fly-tipping in the local area.

Road Improvements

My team successfully advocated for a full road resurfacing in Moss Bank following complaints about persistent potholes and a comm

Education Support

Helped a home-educated student register for their GCSEs after they'd been unable to make progress with schools and the local authority

Protecting Residents

Protected an elderly care home resident from financial harm by getting their debt forgiven after payment errors were made by someone managing their finances.

Jury Service Assistance

Supported a constituent with health concerns in obtaining an exemption from Jury Service which was causing them concern and distress.

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

In St Helens North

It was brilliant to visit [St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy in Blackbrook](#). I would like to thank Headteacher Mrs Lynch, all the staff, and all the incredible pupils for their warm welcome, the tour of the school, and their fantastic questions about a range of topics including town centre regeneration, mobile phones in schools, social media, and more.

It is great to see so much regeneration work taking place and in the pipeline for Newton-le-Willows – [watch a video here to hear from myself and other members of the Neighbourhood Board about some of the work underway](#). It was also a pleasure to attend the [official launch of work](#) for the new Newton-le-Willows police station in Earlestown. This has been several years in the making and is the result of a lot of hard work by local Labour councillors.

It's also great to see that [Merseyside is set to receive additional police patrols in our busiest areas](#) as part of Labour's plan to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour. With 97 more officers on the ground this year and a significant £6.6 million funding boost specifically for Merseyside, this will strengthen our neighbourhood policing and create a more visible police presence where it's needed most.

It was great to catch up with all the amazing people at [Park Farm Community Centre](#) for the VCFSE CEO Networking lunch. They are doing wonderful things for our community.

Horseracing is a big part of our local life and I was delighted to be able to take part The Betting and Gaming Council Charity Bet for the Grand National. I made my Charity Bet at Betfred in Haydock for the [Mayor's Charity for this year, St Helens Young Carers](#). I also had a great time visiting the Newton beer festival which as always was [a fantastic event for good causes](#).

I had the pleasure of watching the return of the [Town in the Town Community Cup](#) at Ruskin. This special day brings together organisations across the borough who help support some of our most vulnerable residents. This year their focus was on suicide prevention and the [OK To Ask](#) campaign.

I was delighted to read this story celebrating the Junction pub in Rainford and the recent good news that they have got permission for their marquee. I was delighted to be able to play a part in securing this outcome, but credit goes to [Paul, his family and all the team for their hard work](#).



Local Consultation on Pathways to Work Green Paper

The government's welfare reform proposals are currently open for consultation until 30th June. I strongly encourage everyone with an interest in this to take part via [this link on the government website](#).

My starting point with this is one I think most people can agree on: we need a welfare system that works for all of us. Those who can work, should. Those who need adjustments in the workplace should get them. And importantly, those who cannot work should always be properly supported.

I believe there's lots to welcome in the plans, but some parts which I know are causing people concern – me included. I am concerned about proposals to raise the threshold for the Personal Independence Payment Daily Living payment, and I am worried too about the idea of increasing the age for young people to qualify for the Universal Credit Health element to 22.

[I have recently met with representatives from local organisations](#) including Age UK Mid Mersey, Citizens Advice St Helens, the Hope Centre, Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action and more to hear their views about the proposals, and I'm grateful to them for their time. I would like to thank St Helens Chain Lane Community Centre for hosting our meeting.

As well as listening to local organisations, I want to hear from as many people in St Helens North as possible – especially from those who would be directly affected by the plans such as those who are currently in receipt of the Personal Independence Payment and those who are looking for work. Please do share your thoughts by [completing this short form on my website](#).

Hearing from you will help shape my response to the government's plans, so please do get in touch.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Tell me your priorities

As usual, in April I've been out speaking with residents about their local and national priorities and handing out my survey. You too can continue to get in touch with me to tell me about the things that matter to you: let me know your priorities [via my survey](#) online or get in touch using the details below.

You can also 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.

In the coming weeks I am looking forward to my next advice surgery to meet more residents face to face, more meetings and plenty of community visits.

Best wishes,

David



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Member of Parliament for St Helens North

 david.baines.mp@parliament.uk

 01744 21336

 Suite 2 Westway House, 42-44 Bridge Street,
Newton-Le-Willows WA12 9QT

Online: davidbaines.co.uk | On social media: @DavidBainesMP