

Forward Together

Latest news from David Baines MP

Your Member of Parliament for St Helens North

April 2026 Edition

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Hillsborough Law Now



Our future in safe hands at Grange Valley



Local election latest

International Workers' Memorial Day

**Remember the dead.
Fight for the living.**

And more...

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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.

International Workers' Memorial Day

April 28th marked International Workers' Memorial Day, when we remember all those who have lost their lives at work and commit ourselves to doing all we can to protect and improve workers' rights.

It was an honour to speak at the annual event in Vera Page Park alongside Councillor Anthony Burns, Marie Rimmer MP and others. A display of 124 hard hats each represented a life lost at work last year - 14 fewer than the year before, but still 124 too many.

We shouldn't take any rights for granted. None have been handed to us. They've been fought for collectively by working class people, and delivered when we elect governments that act in our interests.

Since being elected, this government has delivered the biggest upgrade to workers' rights in a generation, including:

- Day one rights at work.
- Ban on exploitative zero-hours contracts.
- Stronger sick pay protections.
- Action on workplace harassment.
- Crackdown on fire and rehire.
- A genuine Living Wage ambition, with a consultation currently open on minimum wage rates [here](#)

Thank you to the St Helens Workers' Memorial Charity for organising the event - find out more about them [here](#) - and to all those who attended, and also to the Haydock Band for coming and providing the music.



Hillsborough Law Now

April marked the 37th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, when 97 innocent men, women and children were unlawfully killed at a football match.

In Parliament, I attended a special service in the Chapel to hold a minute's silence and help to read aloud and remember the names of the 97.

I also attended Anfield for a special exhibition about the state and media cover-ups and lies which have dogged so many avoidable tragedies, from Hillsborough to Grenfell, nuclear test veterans and Aberfan.

I went along to say hello and thank you to some of the organisers including Margaret Aspinall, Charlotte Hennessy, Steve Kelly and Sue Roberts, alongside my Labour MP colleagues Paula Barker MP and Anneliese Midgley MP

Time and again survivors and the families of victims have had to fight for the truth and for justice.

It is so important that we deliver the Hillsborough Law in full, and I will continue to work with the families, fellow MPs and Ministers to ensure this happens as soon as possible. .



Employment Rights Act

This month a lot of measures in Labour's Employment Rights Act come into force. It's the biggest upgrade in rights at work for decades. Among the measures, the Bereaved Partner's Paternity Leave Regulations will also take effect as part of wider reforms to family leave rights.

These regulations introduce a new, day one right for employees to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid leave in situations where their partner dies within a year of birth or adoption.

When the worst happens, it is right that people are supported. I hope this new measure will provide bereaved parents with clearer protections, dignity, and space to grieve. This is real change for working people—strengthening rights, improving protections, and ensuring fairness is built into every workplace



In St Helens North

Congratulations to Chapel End Primary School on the launch of their new pre-school provision! [It was an honour to cut the ribbon and officially open this fantastic new facility](#) that will help to give even more children in the local area the best possible start in life. [It was also a privilege to be invited to visit Grange Valley Primary School in Haydock](#) to meet the school council and hear about their amazing work, to have a look around the school, and to learn about their focus on play through the OPAL programme. Thank you to Mrs Mavers, Mrs Kruze and all the staff for everything they do.

[It was great to visit Gary Murphy and the team at Heptron in Rainford.](#) They're developing eco-friendly flywheel energy storage technology - exactly the kind of innovation we need to be encouraging if we're going to protect the UK's energy security and it is great to see it happening right here.

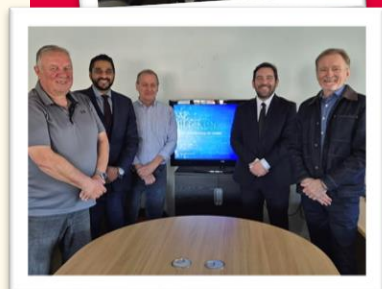
[It was the latest Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board meeting this month, which I followed with a visit to the beautiful Willow & Ram on the High Street.](#) It was good to talk with Alex about her business and some of the challenges faced by small hospitality venues particularly around VAT. I'm always keen to understand what more government can do to help and I'll be raising these issues with ministers.

[It is always great to catch up with the amazing team from St Helens Borough Mobile Pantry when I go watching Saints.](#) They're at every game, and LFC women matches too. Bring a can - every donation helps - or text FANS4FOOD5 to 70470 to donate £5.

[Huge congratulations to our very own Andy Reid MBE who completed the London Marathon this month in 12 and a half hours, quicker than his expected time of 13 hours!](#) Andy is an inspiration to all of us and I know everyone from across St Helens North will be proud of his efforts.

[Thanks to Labour's investment in school-based nurseries, St James in Haydock will be opening a new provision from this September!](#) The school are now advertising for expressions of interest from local families.

Finally, it was an honour to attend the unveiling of the new memorial to women who contributed to the war effort, and to mark the centenary of the St Helens Cenotaph. Thank you to all those who played a part in making this happen.



In Westminster

It was great to meet [Kate from LEGO UK to discuss their work supporting play initiatives](#) and in particular the work of The LEGO Foundation and what more we can do to campaign for statutory continuous provision throughout Key Stage One. We also discussed what we can do to capitalise on Labour's free breakfast clubs to give every child the best possible start to every school day. Learning through play is so important.



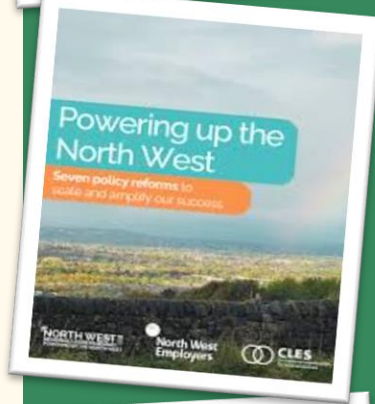
On St George's Day, it was my honour to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of people at Haydock Reading Rooms. The team recently completed the West Highland Way raising thousands of pounds for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and in support of 21-year-old Ryan Lawrenson. Their determination, generosity, and community spirit are a testament to everything that makes Haydock and England great.



This month saw Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, where I was able to meet with [Rob from Newton-le-Willows to hear about his experience](#). Rob and the MS Society shared their views on what changes the government should be looking to introduce around welfare to make it fairer for everyone. In Parliament I raised Rob's case with Ministers, asking for assurance that we would [create a system that is not just effective and efficient but fair and humane too](#)



I was delighted to be able to welcome Council Leader Anthony Burns and the North West Regional Leaders Board to Westminster for a discussion on adult social care. The Board brings together Council Leaders from across the North West to discuss key challenges and opportunities for the sector and to develop new ways of working together.

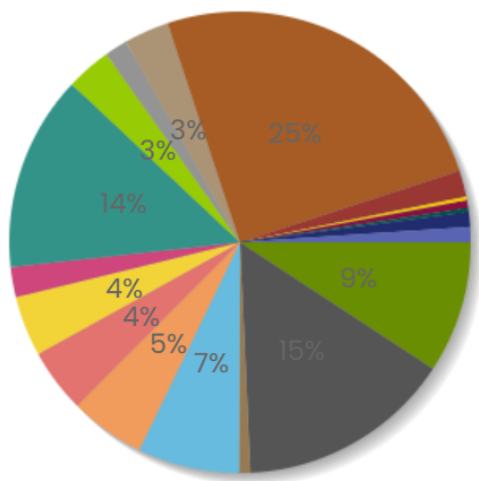


I've had the pleasure of meeting Abi Ekoku through my work with [the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rugby League](#). He is outstanding - hugely experienced, passionate about the game and its communities, optimistic about our future and forward thinking. He will be a massive asset for Saints as we go forward.



I'm delighted that the Labour Government is investing to modernise colleges with St Helens College set to receive over £1.3 million. This funding will help improve the learning environment for students and staff.

Casework update



- Health services and medicine
- Communities and families
- Crime, civil law, justice and rights
- Social Security and pensions
- Business, industry and consumers
- Bulk correspondence
- Culture, charities, media and sport
- Economy and finance
- Child Maintenance
- Parliament, government and politics
- Agriculture, animals, food and rural affairs
- Energy, utilities and environment
- Education
- International affairs
- Housing and planning
- Asylum, immigration and nationality
- Transport
- Party issues
- Local Government

This month we have dealt with almost 400 cases on issues ranging from the Social Media Ban, to SEND issues, to pension concerns, to council tax issues and beyond. Some examples include:

Immigration Support

Helped a constituent receive a response from the Home Office in relation to the status of their partners visa application. Ensuring that they received a response and an update to their application.

DWP Help

Assisted a constituent in receiving a reply from the DWP in relation to their query regarding their pension ensuring that the correct monies due to them were paid.

Assistance with the DVLA

Acquired an update, and a follow up, from the DVLA in relation to the long delays a constituent was facing in receiving a driver's license when it was due for renewal.

Landlord Support

Aided a constituent in making a landlord aware of issues in their property and ensuring that the issues were looked into and the relevant actions were undertaken to resolve them.

Vote Labour this Thursday



This Thursday May 7th, people across St Helens Borough will go to the ballot box and decide who will run essential council services for the next 4 years. Since the last election, our Labour council has delivered so much, from major investment in our town centres and schools to protecting vital frontline services and supporting families through the cost of living.

But there is much more to do, and **Labour's plans for the future will see investment in SEND and education, free school uniforms, free town centre parking, more affordable housing and much more.** See the manifesto [here](#).

There is a very real threat that Reform win control of the council. If you don't want to wake up on Friday with Nigel Farage in charge of our local services, vote Labour.

I want to wish all of our dedicated and hard-working candidates the very best of luck ahead of these vital elections.

Best wishes to everyone in St Helens North,

David



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