



Caroline Dinenage

MP for Gosport,
Lee-on-the-Solent,
Stubbington and
Hill Head



*The Gosportarians Sleigh Tour with
Santa and Malcolm the Elf!*



*With the Bridgemary, Rowner and
Woodcot Community Association.*



*Meeting Cats Protection
in Parliament.*

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of another year! It has been a jam packed 2018, and this December has been no exception.

The Prime Minister won a leadership [vote of no confidence](#), and I was one of the 200 MP's who supported her. In these uncertain times, I believe that the last thing we need is a Conservative leadership contest, which would delay Brexit. I believe party politics needs to be put aside, to put our country and constituents first, and deliver the result of the referendum.

I have welcomed the newly announced [immigration plan](#) that delivers on the mandate, giving the British people full control over our borders.

The draft Withdrawal Agreement had also been agreed by the Government and the EU. My priority has always been to uphold the result of the referendum and ensure that local jobs and prosperity are protected. I was deeply uncomfortable with the proposals around the Northern Ireland backstop, and I am glad that the Prime Minister is negotiating further. When these are returned to the House, I will give further consideration to the Withdrawal Agreement before the meaningful vote.

Although Brexit has dominated the headlines and Parliamentary business, there have been some fantastic announcements this month. I was delighted to see the [Ivory Bill](#) become an Act of Parliament, introducing the toughest ivory ban in Europe, and one of the toughest in the world.

[New legislation](#) has upgraded workers' rights, one of the biggest workplace reforms for over 20 years, ensuring we meet the challenges of the changing world of work. New [employment statistics](#) have shown that employment is at a record high, with wages rising at their fastest pace in a decade!

A £40 million personalised support package has been [launched](#) for long-term unemployed disabled people, which is coupled with an [interim fund worth](#) £250 000. Children with complex needs and disabilities have also received an [extra £350 million](#), providing specialist support and tailored facilities.

While this week it has been announced that homes in England will be provided with [separate collections for food waste, and a bottle deposit scheme](#) to be implemented by 2023, the Great British Beach Clean [announced](#) there has been a 38% decrease in beach litter since 2017. It was great to participate in a number of local beach cleans last summer and I look forward to more events next year, which help keep our beautiful beaches clean and plastic free!

Having taken part in the '209 Women' project, which marks 100 years since suffrage, it was great to see the final photos of all female MPs displayed in Portcullis House. The exhibition will be open until 14th February and you can get your free ticket [here](#).

I met with Cats Protection, discussing how to look after our feline friends and their [Purrfect Landlords Campaign](#).

The [Bridgemary, Rowner and Woodcot Community Association](#) came for a tour of Westminster and catch up. I was also pleased to hear that two other local organisations, Age Concern Gosport and Gosport Voluntary Action, will receive a share of £18,328 from [Wates Group](#), who are the construction company developing Daedalus village.

Exciting news as the Queen Alexandra Hospital was [granted £58.2 million](#) by the DHSC to develop a new emergency floor! This is a vital step towards the accident and emergency provision that local residents need and deserve. I met with Chief Executive Mark Cubbon to discuss these plans as well as other local healthcare issues.

It was great to meet Catherine and Jane from the Fareham and Gosport Dementia Action Group. The Group, part of Dementia Friendly Hampshire, aims to increase awareness across our area, so that those living with dementia feel more supported by the businesses and services they rely on. For more information please contact Jane via jane.ward@dementiafriendlyhampshire.org.uk.



Thanking the posties at the Gosport Sorting Office.

I visited the Gosport Job Centre Plus to hear from the staff about the roll out of [Universal Credit](#) which started in the last month. I was happy to hear the positive feedback from both the staff and customers, with few problems reported so far.

I also met with the Mark Perry, the Chief Executive of Gosport's largest housing association VIVID, to discuss some of the local housing issues that constituents have raised with me.

I know that many local residents have been distressed after the [tragic death of baby Stanley](#), and incredibly lenient sentencing of Miss Davis and Mr Davies. I share these concerns and therefore wrote to the Attorney General, calling on him to intervene and review the sentences given by the judge.

The festivities are well underway this Christmas season. I joined a fantastic crowd who braved the wintery weather at the Stubbington Christmas Light Switch On. I popped in to see the team at the Gosport Sorting Office to give them chocolates as a thank you for making sure that our Christmas presents are reaching families and friends. I also met Santa and Malcolm the Elf on the Gosportarians Christmas Sleigh Tour, who are working hard to raise money for wonderful local causes.



At the Gosport Job Centre Plus.

It was a difficult choice, however I was delighted to announce the winner of my [2018 Christmas Card Competition](#), Madison McLaren from Gomer Junior School, who wowed with an amazing snow globe design. All the fantastic artworks were on display at the [Gosport Discovery Centre](#).

As we enter the New Year, the annual [GAFIRS New Year's Day](#) charity swim in Stokes Bay is taking place this January. Good luck to all the brave (and slightly crazy) participants!

Coming up in February, I am organising a Cyber Safety Event for parents, providing free information and advice about online safety. You can book your ticket [here](#) for February 7th. A new [Friendship and Memory Café](#) is also launching in Gosport next year! It will be held at Lucas Court on the first Wednesday of the month from February 2019.

After a historic and eventful year, I would like to thank you all for reading my monthly newsletter and for all those who have contacted me. As ever, it has been my honour to represent you in Parliament.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Best wishes

Caroline



Some of the wonderful Christmas card designs.

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for my constituents. Please contact my office at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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