



# Caroline Dinenage

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



Visiting Alverstoke Junior School

May has been an action packed month, with some fabulous weather and fantastic events taking place across the Constituency - especially for the Royal Wedding!

Lots of local schools were celebrating the marriage of Prince Harry & Meghan, I popped to Brockhurst Primary where a Royal Picnic was in full flow and Alverstoke Juniors to see the party preparations.

It has also been a month of positive news from the government, the Ivory Bill took a step closer to coming into force. It's very distressing to hear how elephant numbers have depleted and we must do all we can to protect them, and all our wildlife, for the future.

Theresa May launched a [review into the Mental Health Act](#) and these findings have now been published and will be used to help ensure that the Mental Health Act benefits all those affected by mental illness.

The Defence Secretary announced a [£2.5 billion investment](#) in our [Royal Navy](#) nuclear submarines, a sign of unwavering commitment to keeping the UK safe and secure.

Nationally 12,000 apprenticeships are provided by the UK's Aerospace, Defence, Security and Space industries, I caught up with some of our local employers, including QinetiQ at an event organised by ADS. I also met with Boeing for an update on their work with Vector at the Fleetlands site in Gosport.

I met with our [Royal British Legion](#) regional area reps, we talked about their plans to set up a dedicated veterans outreach group in Gosport - watch this space!

It was lovely to meet up with my Christmas Card Competition Winner, Katelyn Armitage and her family when they came for a tour of the Houses of Parliament! You can see Katelyn's winning design [here](#).

Alverstoke Juniors also visited Parliament for a tour and a session with the Parliament Education team and we caught up for a Q&A session!

Back in Gosport, I caught up with the Principal of St Vincent College to discuss his future plans for the site. I also met with three home educators to learn about home-schooling across the Gosport constituency.

I met with Angela Gill to hear more about [Dying Matters](#) Awareness Week, which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement. I attended one of their events at Northcott House care home and launched the new Surgery Signposters scheme at the site.



Meeting our Royal British Legion Area Reps



Launching Northcott House's Surgery Signposters



This month I asked local businesses to become Social Mobility employers by committing to the [Social Mobility Pledge](#). This is 3 things any employer can do to help create a level playing field for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It would be great to see local businesses leading the way!

The [Marine Advertising Agency](#) Press Lunch was a great opportunity, as ever, for local businesses to network with national yachting and sailing journalists and promote Gosport as a world-class marine and sailing hub.

I also popped along to Hill Head Sailing Club open day which had a number of free, on the water, taster sessions as part of the [PushTheBoatOut](#) campaign.



Hill Head Sailing Club's Open Day



Testing out the bottle deposit-return machine

Great news this month, funding for Gosport Sea Cadets new home at Hornet was confirmed. There had been some concerns about whether the deal would fall through, so I met with Defence Minister, Tobias Ellwood MP, to clear up the confusion and secure Defence Estates commitment to fund the move.

I was really pleased to join the Marine Conservation Society in Parliament to see the Norwegian bottle deposit-return machine. This could make recycling much easier and help stem the plastic tide choking our marine habitats.

Another step forward for the environment was the UK's Clean Air Strategy which gives new powers for local government, new clean air legislation and more. Saving lives and the planet!

I met with South Central Ambulance Service and the Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss some of my concerns regarding ambulance response times in our area and their plans to address them.

I was delighted to join the brilliant Gosportarians Dog Show at Walpole Park. I met lots of my furry constituents - all raising money for local good causes.

Last week was Dementia Action Week and I visited Southampton University to see the amazing work that they are doing towards cure and care for Dementia. It only takes an hour to become a [Dementia Friends](#) and learn the small things you can do to make a big difference! I hosted 'Dementia Friends' training events, with help from the [Alzheimer's Society](#), in Parliament for MPs and their staff, as well as in my office for local residents.



The Gosportarians Dog Show

In local news, the next stage of the [Bus Rapid Transit](#), a 1km extension south to Rowner Road, went to public exhibition this month. Once complete, First Hampshire and Dorset will invest £3 million in a new fleet of seventeen high specification, low-emission buses to provide a fast and frequent service on the busway, as well as a new Eclipse Extra service to the Enterprise Zone.

A worrying proposal for [200 homes on Newgate Lane](#) is out for public consultation by Fareham Land LP. If these plans move forward, I'm concerned that this development could close the strategic gap between Gosport and Fareham and put further pressure on our already stretched infrastructure. I have therefore expressed my objections to the plans and local residents may wish to do the same.

Looking ahead, my free Scam Smart event takes place in June! An estimated 3.25 million victims of scams in this country lose around £9.7bn per year to increasingly devious fraudsters. So I'm holding a Scam Smart event to help local people get wise to the tricks and protect themselves. It's at Thorngate Halls, Gosport from 1.30-4pm, Friday 8 June. Book your place for this free event via [natasha.hook@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.hook@parliament.uk) or call 02392 583127.

Best wishes

*Caroline*

## 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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