



Caroline Dinenage

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



With a beautiful week bringing September to a close, it's hard to believe that summer is over and autumn is upon us! At the start of this academic year, Rowner Junior School joined other local schools like Gomer Juniors and Bay House in the [Gosport and Fareham Multi Academy Trust](#). I caught up with the head, staff and parents to hear about future plans for the school.

Pupils aren't the only ones making new friends, I met a new cuddly pal in the form of a therapeutic robotic seal [PARO](#). PARO showed me how technology can be used in an imaginative way in adult social care, supporting people living with dementia and helping to tackle social isolation.

I visited Juniper Court, an elegant local Extra Care apartment complex to see how they offer varying levels of care which enables residents to maintain their independence. I also visited Russell Churcher Court to celebrate their 25th anniversary and view the lovely homes in Lucas Court on the [Thorngate Trust](#) site at Melrose Gardens.

Ensuring constituents can be confident in local healthcare is really important to me so this month I met with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, to discuss the next steps following the report into historic deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Poor air quality was another local issue up for discussion this month. Fareham Borough Council launched their '[Clean Air Consultation](#)' with Measure 11 in particular causing unnecessary concern. Quite simply, people will not have to pay a road toll to leave Gosport - you can read more about my thoughts on this [here](#).

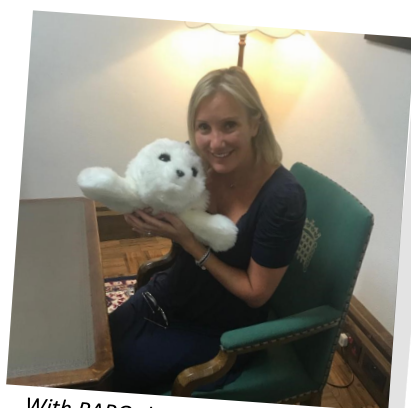
Our environment is really important, so I was pleased to kick off the [Great British Beach Clean](#) with the Marine Conservation Society and over 100 volunteers at Stokes Bay and was delighted that the Government called for [30% of the world's oceans to be protected by 2030](#).

Another positive Government announcement this month was the introduction of a new entitlement to [Parental Bereavement Leave](#), losing a child is an unimaginable trauma and I am pleased that this legal right will be offered to all parents.

The [Victims Strategy](#) was also introduced, it sets out how victim support will be aligned to the changing nature of crime and enhance services at every stage of the justice system.

Keeping with crime and policing, I caught up with the Chief Inspector for Gosport and Fareham to discuss issues in our area. I was pleased to hear that we've seen a 6% reduction in domestic burglaries, the only district in Hampshire to see a fall. I also attended the consultation into the redevelopment of [Gosport Police Station](#) to see the plans for the site and was pleased at the level of public engagement.

I met with the Gosport Discovery Centre Management Team to discuss the recent refurbishment and see the newly installed Changing Places toilet facilities for people with disabilities.



With PARO the therapeutic robotic seal



Volunteers at the Stokes Bay Great British Beach Clean



At the Gosport Police Station Consultation

My Autumn Drop-In Surgeries took place this month at libraries and pubs across the constituency, it was great to meet so many residents - the hot topic was of course Brexit and the Prime Minister recently made a statement about the ongoing negotiations, which you can read [here](#).



On the 'Feeding the Navy' guided walk

I also went along to some of our fabulous local [Heritage Open Day](#) events including the 'Feeding the Navy' guided walk of Royal Clarence Yard and the fascinating talk on Gosport's role in military aviation from its earliest beginnings. As ever the historic significance of our area, especially to the armed forces, never ceases to astound me. I also took the opportunity to discuss plans to make Fort Brockhurst more accessible to the local community with English Heritage.

However, historic events can also be distressing to recall and this month I was honoured to meet Holocaust survivor Hannah Lewis. Hannah, now in her 80s, continues to inspire as part of the [Holocaust Education Trust](#) and reminds us to learn the lessons of the past and challenge hatred and prejudice.

I hosted a further Gosport Task Force meeting this month to plot a economic future for the Borough in light of the Government land that is earmarked for disposal. The Gosport Infrastructure Investment Plan we have been working on is nearing completion. Many residents have shown concerns regarding potential housebuilding in the strategic gap between Gosport and Fareham Boroughs so I was pleased to attend two public meetings which provided information about potential proposals.



Visiting Jacksplace at Naomi House

A more positive development in our local area is the proposed investment at Haslar Marina - including more employment opportunities and a Race HQ for international yachtsman, Alex Thomson. I visited to find out more about these exciting plans.

This month I also met with the local [Partners through Pain](#) group who support those suffering chronic pain symptoms, with the regional MS Society to hear about their concerns and with Baroness Cumberledge who is leading an inquiry into the Pelvic Mesh procedure which has had such a devastating impact on the health of at least one of my Constituents.

I was delighted to visit the wonderful [Naomi House and Jacksplace](#) in Winchester. Back in the 1990s my super Mum sat on the fundraising committee that helped build this incredible local hospice and respite care facility for children and young people. It was great to see the results of all those who had worked so hard to provide it and meet the amazing team who run it and some of the incredible youngsters who benefit from it.



Sporting a pink cowboy hat for #WearItPink

In other news, I wore a fetching pink cowboy hat to promote the annual [#WearItPink](#) campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness which takes place next month!

I loved the ['Celebrating and Commemorating 100 Years' exhibition](#) of local female artists at Holy Trinity Church, the exhibition is open until 10th October. I also met up with the Stubbington Belles WI for a lively Q&A session about my role as local MP. And I welcomed the fantastic team of staff and volunteers from Gosport Citizens Advice to Parliament to thank them for their work locally and discuss the roll out of Universal Credit which reaches Gosport in November.

Looking forward, the free annual [Joint 55+ Info Fest and Winter Warmth Event](#) takes place at Thorngate Halls on October 19th from 10am-2pm and 5pm-8pm, this is a great opportunity to get information about local services as part of Older Persons Month.

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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