

Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

It's been a poignant month for Gosport, as we commemorated the 30th anniversary of the start of the Falklands War and earlier this month I hosted a reception in Parliament with the Falkland Veterans Assoc. in honour of those who served.

I also had the privilege of attending the Parliamentary Welcome Home for Operation Ellamy. As well as celebrating their safe return from the Libyan campaign, I called on the Secretary of State for Defence to uphold the welfare of troops serving in Afghanistan in the run up to the 2014 withdrawal.

I'm committed to the well-being of those in other services too. I met with the Chair of the Hampshire Police Federation, John Apter, for a constructive discussion on police reforms and visited the South Central Ambulance Centre. I was particularly impressed by their Community First Responders, local volunteers who often provide immediate care before an ambulance arrives.

Another vital local resource is the Parkinson's support group at Stubbington. My visit there, and to meet the super residents and staff at Peel House Nursing Home, reaffirmed the importance of securing reliable, quality care.

This month I was also delighted to welcome Gosport & Fareham Connect self-advocates to Parliament. With the support of wonderful volunteers these adults with learning difficulties are empowered to live life to the full.

The Gosport & Fareham Inshore Lifeboat Service is another vital part of our voluntary sector, providing a life-saving rescue service in Portsmouth Harbour and the Solent. I joined this fantastic charity, staffed entirely by volunteers, to celebrate the launch of their new lifeboat.

In fact, we've had many reasons to celebrate in Gosport this month. The local Scouts organised an incredibly impressive St George's Day Parade, while our teams continued to put the sport in GoSport, with Gosport Borough FC getting into the play-offs. Let's hope they mirror Gosport & Fareham Rugby Club's sterling league promotion success! Bay House School also upped Olympic fever, by smashing the world record for the Largest Human Olympic Rings. I lent my support, and my body to this great prelude to the Olympic celebrations as a very small part of the blue ring!!



With Falklands veteran Simon Weston



Welcoming the Gosport self-advocates to Parliament



At the Scouts' St George's Day Parade

For the latest news visit www.caroline4gosport.co.uk



With the landlord of the Village Home

Alverstoke residents got a bit of a surprise when they popped into their local this month, as I tried my hand behind the bar at the Village Home. While my pint pulling wasn't up to much, it was a fantastic opportunity to chat to locals and meet the landlord and staff.

It's just one of many ways in which I support local enterprises. I've also worked to get businesses exporting this month, by co-hosting an export seminar for local companies. The Chamber of Commerce and Solent LEP were on hand to support UKTI as we explored the benefits of exporting with over 40 local companies.

In addition to this, I hosted a fascinating meeting in Parliament as Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Manufacturing Group. We focused on the image problems facing UK manufacturing, with Dragons' Den star Deborah Meaden and pottery manufacturer Emma Bridgewater on hand to share their insights.

A constructive meeting with the LEP and DCLG representatives confirmed how much progress one of our own key business hubs has made. Yet peninsula jobs at Daedalus aren't the only solution to congestion issues - that's why the BRT is so important. I was delighted to be at its launch this month, and amazed that the journey to Fareham Station took just 9 minutes – a trip that often takes over 30 minutes by car!

I'm also happy to report progress in two campaigns close to my heart. In a major boost for the Arctic Convoy veterans, the Prime Minister announced the terms of the independent review into their medal claim. It'll report by summer, and hopefully grant the veterans the medal they so deserve. I also secured a commitment from the PM during PMQs to look into the case of British toddler Katrice Lee, who went missing in Germany over 30 years ago.

Now just 2 quick plugs to finish. I'm on the hunt for an apprentice to join my Gosport office. It's open to local, politically-minded people, so if you know anyone who fits the bill, urge them to apply at www.parliamentaryacademy.com/apply in time for today's deadline.

And finally, in 3 I'll be sky diving in aid of the MS Society – I hope you'll agree that tackling this terrible illness is well worth jumping out of a plane for! If you'd like to support my efforts please go to <http://www.justgiving.com/Caroline-Dinenage>

Best wishes,

Caroline



With a new Eclipse bus at the launch of the Bus Rapid Transit

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. It is also possible to come up to Parliament to have an official tour. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben for my constituents. Just please contact my office to book at least two months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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