



# Caroline Dinenage

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



*Welcoming some fabulous local apprentices to Parliament*



*First stop of my Small Business Saturday tour—Queen's Parade News*



*At the launch of Kathy's Café in Stubbington*

December got off to an exciting start when I spent a morning out with the area police Rapid Response Unit which is based in Gosport. We discussed local policing and crime issues including work by the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, supported by our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, to tackle drug crime. This opportunity to experience first-hand what our brave police officers encounter on a daily basis gives me an excellent background to my regular meetings with our local Chief Inspector, Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner – Michael Lane.

Michael has recently published his [Police and Crime Plan for 2016-2020](#). It emphasises the importance of public safety, visible policing, victim support and tackling the root causes of offending.

As regular readers will know, I have set up a taskforce to plot the best way forward for the future of Fort Blockhouse and HMS Sultan. Following my meeting last month with the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Fallon MP, we held our second meeting this month and representatives from the MOD and DIO were present to answer our questions.

The outcome of the meeting made it clear that the plans, while firm, are still in the early stages. I was pleased that the MOD are willing to engage with local stakeholders to plot the best way forward for the sites and I will continue to push for reconsideration of plans to entirely dispose of training facilities at HMS Sultan.

In Parliament, I was delighted to welcome Gosport apprentices and their employers to a reception I hosted with the Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills, Rob Halfon MP. I organised the event to thank apprentices who contributed to my local [Get In Go Far](#) campaign which highlighted some of the amazing opportunities on offer.

The group, which included trainee mechanical engineers, automotive journalists, tax collectors and child carers, to name only a few, enjoyed refreshments in historic surroundings and then toured the Houses of Parliament. I was delighted that the Minister remarked on the vast range of apprenticeships on offer in Gosport and the great promotion of apprenticeships at our local Sixth-Form Colleges, something he feels could be replicated across the country.

Also in Parliament this month, MPs had the chance to vote on the Government's plans for Brexit. In line with the 64% majority of Gosport constituency voters who want to leave the EU, I voted in support of the Government amendment, which calls for Article 50 to be triggered by 31 March 2017.

I also travelled to Hampshire County Council's Winchester offices to meet with Children's officers. We discussed a range of issues regarding local school and educational attainment, early years provision and child well-being.



Back in the constituency, I had a great time celebrating Small Business Saturday on 3 December. I visited a number of great local small businesses including: Queens Parade News; Just LED; the new T7 Unisex Hair Salon at St Vincent College and Kathy's fantastic new cafe on the Gosport Road in Stubbington.

As a former small-business owner myself, I know the importance of ensuring local entrepreneurs and SMEs have the support and guidance they need to see their business thrive. This is also essential for boosting growth in the economy – small businesses provide more than half of the country's jobs!

I visited The Display Centre in Segensworth to meet Gosport resident, Jack Jennings, who is the first local ambassador for the Young Professionals Programme run by Youth Employment UK. The scheme is designed to give those aged 18-24 support with their professional development, you can find out more [here](#).



*At The Display Centre with Jack Jennings, Hampshire's first ever YEUK Young Professional*

The Care Quality Commission published a review of the way NHS trusts investigate deaths of patients in England. We urgently need systemic action at a national level to address grossly unacceptable failures, like those which occurred at Southern Health, and I welcome the Secretary of State's commitment to deliver the CQC's recommendations in full. I will continue to hold Southern Health to account until we see real change.



*With Stubbington councillors Wood and Mandry at the Christmas light switch-on*

I caught up with the fantastic Reverend Sean Blackman who's reading 100 books in 100 days in a campaign to boost reading amongst primary-school aged children. Given the project's success, he is considering extending it to a 365 day-long project, also targeted at adults. Keep up to date with his project, [here](#).

In Stubbington, I attended the Christmas Lights Switch-on. In addition to enjoying the festivities, I was pleased to be put to work judging the fancy-dress competition.

Continuing on the Christmas theme, I announced Nevaeh-Rose MacLennan, aged 5 from Rowner Infant School, the winner of my fourth annual Christmas Card Design competition at Gosport Discovery Centre. Incredibly, I received over 200 beautiful entries this year, so it was a really tough decision.

Great Western Railway have offered me two complimentary tickets for any journey to donate to a local charity, community organisation or school for a charitable or voluntary purpose or perhaps to include in a raffle or auction. I want my constituents to decide who should get the tickets, so I have launched a poll on my

[facebook page](#) to nominate or vote.

Looking forward to the New Year, as ever, I'm hoping to attend the GAFIRS New Years Day charity swim in Stokes Bay. I'm not sure I'll be brave enough to join those taking to the water, but I will certainly be cheering them on!! You can find out more about this [here](#).

As we reach the end of an eventful year in politics, I would like to thank all of you who keep up-to-date with my goings-on in the Gosport Constituency by reading my newsletter every month. A very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to you all!

Best wishes

*Caroline*



*With the winner of my annual Christmas Card competition—the very talented Nevaeh-Rose*

## 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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