



Caroline Dinenage

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



*At a Marvels and Meltdowns
Coffee Morning*



*With Alicia Pannell at Tammy's One
Stop Party Shop*



*Catching up with the team at Citizens
Advice Gosport*

As some readers may know, Gosport was recently chosen as a 'vanguard site' by the Department for Health, allowing local health professionals to develop new and innovative care models specially tailored to the needs of the local community. The aim is to improve out-of-hospital care, particularly in GP surgeries, in order to offer a better service and keep people out of A&E when they don't need to be there.

As part of this project, this month local GPs have launched same-day phone triage and face-to-face appointments at Gosport War Memorial Hospital for patients from Waterside, Stoke Road, Brune, and Forton Medical Centres. This aims to tackle frustrating waiting times at GP surgeries and improve the quality of care. I met with Dr Collins, who leads the Better Local Care model across South Hampshire. He informed me that any surgery can join the same-day appointment pilot, so I would encourage people to contact their Practice Manager if they think their surgery should be involved.

I also met with Paul Bennet, Chief Officer of the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, who briefed me on the Pharmacy 5 Point Forward Plan. Currently, £2bn per year is spent on GP consultations for patients with symptoms that pharmacists could treat. Promoting community pharmacy could deliver transformational change and improve convenience for patients, 96% of whom can reach a pharmacy within 20 minutes.

The generous spirit of local residents was clearly on display this month - a refreshing relief to pre-Christmas consumerism. I learned all about Marvels and Meltdowns, a valuable support group for parents of children with Autism and ADHD, when I joined one of their coffee mornings. I also visited the award winning Thalassa Nursing Home on Western Way to meet residents and staff and see the high quality care on offer.

At Tammy's One Stop Party Shop on Rowner Road I joined Alicia Pannell's Fundraising Festive Coffee Morning. Alicia was born 10 weeks premature and suffered a brain haemorrhage at just 6 months old. Her family are currently fundraising to install a lift so Alicia can sleep upstairs. You can learn more and donate on the [website](#).

I attended the About Turn Project, run by Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). This is a recovery group for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addictions, which offers participants professional and peer support to tackle the link between substance misuse and criminal behaviour. The group sessions are led by Facilitators, former service users who have received training to support people at different stages of their recovery.

I also caught up with Citizens Advice Gosport to hear the latest about their guidance and support for local people on a whole range of issues from personal finances and benefits to consumer rights and employment law. Citizens Advice are currently looking to recruit more volunteers who'd like to work from home on a new web chat system. If you think you could help please contact Valerie on 0344 477 2232.

I was delighted to hand out certificates both to the fantastic gymnasts at Goshawks and to last summer's year-11 leavers at Crofton School in Stubbington. I also visited Gomer Junior School to learn about their gSTEM scheme. This enables pupils to experience Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths activities hands-on, so they can better understand the real-world applications of these important subjects.

This month I also caught up with Anne-Marie Mountifield, the head of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for an update on growth and infrastructure plans for our area. I am very pleased that in the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced a further £12bn for the Local Growth Fund and continued core funding in support of LEPs.

The Government's efforts to reduce the national deficit while growing the country's economy is having positive effects in Gosport. Employment figures published by the Office for National Statistics showed that there are now 24% fewer claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) across the Gosport constituency than in November 2014, meaning more people are in work and enjoying the security that comes with a regular pay packet.



Catching up with Goshawks gymnasts



At the Stubbington Christmas Lights Switch-On

This month included much festive fun. My sons and I had a wonderful time at the Stubbington Christmas Lights Switch-on, the Carol Concert at St Luke's Chapel, Haslar and at the Alverstoke Christmas Tree Festival, which was truly magical as ever. My avatar even made an appearance as a fairy on top of one of the trees, which resulted in much teasing! Lee-on-the-Solent Christmas Market and light switch-on was a great success and I picked up lots of goodies at Brockhurst Junior School's Christmas Fayre. I would like to thank all those who put on these celebrations and promote such wonderful community spirit in the run-up to Christmas.

In Westminster, I met with representatives from Coca-Cola and the Department of Transport to learn about the Designated Drivers scheme. This includes a 'buy one, get one free' offer on soft drinks to help ensure people get home safely during the festive party period. You can find out which pubs in our local area are participating with Coca-Cola's dedicated [pub finder](#).

My fellow judges and I were delighted to examine the entries to my Christmas Card Competition, though it was a very tight contest with huge talent, imagination and creativity on display! I crowned Lucie Johnson-Allan, from Rowner Infant School, the winner at a very special event at the Gosport Discovery Centre. Her fantastic design has already been printed on the Christmas cards that I sent out this month. This year, in addition to 4 fantastic runners up, we had a shortlist of Commended and Highly Commended awards. You can see the full list and designs on my website, [here](#).

Looking forward to next month I am hosting a guided tour of Parliament for constituents on Monday 11 January and there are still a handful of spaces available. Do email me at caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk if you are interested. Tickets are free and will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To conclude, I would like to wish all the residents of Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you have a joyful holiday before entering 2016 refreshed and rested.

It has been an honour representing you as your Member of Parliament this year and I look forward to another exciting year in Gosport and Westminster in 2016.

Best wishes

Caroline



With the Christmas Card Competition shortlist at the Discover Centre

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 and Big Ben 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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