



Caroline Dinenage

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



*With mentors, pupils and Jacqueline Gold CBE at Enterprising Women
Photo Credit to Matthew Hibbard ©*

February got off to a flying start with an 'Enterprising Women' event I organised at Bridgemary School. A cohort of multitalented local business & career women mentored schoolgirls from Bridgemary & Brune Park as they designed their own innovative business plans. Entrepreneur Jacqueline Gold CBE, came along to encourage the girls to fully explore exciting business career opportunities.

I hosted an important meeting between National Grid and local Residents' Associations regarding the proposals for an electricity interconnector on the Stubbington side of Daedalus. National Grid brought a team of eight technical specialists to answer our questions as fully as possible. A Q&A document in response to the concerns we raised can be found [here](#).



Hosting a meeting between National Grid and local Residents' Associations

In light of worrying news that Barclays in Stubbington would be closing its doors in May, I requested an urgent meeting with bank bosses. Barclays said that footfall has dropped significantly in recent years with 68% of customers using one of the three other branches within a five mile radius, but I expressed my extreme concerns about the implications for vulnerable residents.

Barclays will hold 'Tea and Teach' sessions to help these customers get the most out of online banking at 2pm on 2nd March & 11th March at Barclays Stubbington with subsequent sessions depending on take-up. Anyone interested should register at the branch in advance. Barclays customers will also be able to access additional services at the Post Office in Stubbington McColls, which is being refurbished in March to create a more modern and convenient retail experience.

The Gosport Boat Jumble, organised by Gosport Marine Scene, was a great success. Yacht enthusiasts accessed over 90 stalls selling items from paint & sails to small boats & motors. Gosport Marine Scene also launched an exciting opportunity for 14-17 year olds to represent Gosport in this summer's ASTO small ships race. Full sail training is provided and no previous experience is required. Full details are [here](#).



At the Gosport Marine Scene Boat Jumble

I kick started Gosport Marine Scene back in 2012 to promote our area as a world class marine and sailing destination. Since then, under the leadership of an extremely able group of volunteers, the organisation has flourished - doing great work to promote Gosport's thriving and diverse nautical sector.

In good news and in keeping with the maritime theme, Gosport & Fareham Inshore Rescue Service was awarded £23,000 under the Inland and Inshore Rescue Boat Grant Fund. This Government fund supports the tireless work of teams such as GAFIRS in providing search and rescue during emergencies and extreme weather.

Another wonderful voluntary group is to be found at [Gosport and Fareham Basics Bank](#). They always need donations of food and household goods but particularly require carrier bags at the moment, especially bags-for-life, if you can help.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary completed the first cycle of the newly developed PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessments this month. Hampshire Constabulary have been rated 'good' in all three categories. The results reflect the hard work of our Police and I am confident that if Michael Lane, the Prospective Conservative Police & Crime Commissioner Candidate is elected in May, he will build upon this strong record.

I visited Gosport War Memorial Hospital to see the [Same Day Access Service](#) in action, which 5,000 patients have used since it was launched seven weeks ago. This pilot scheme enables patients registered with four local practices to access same-day telephone triage and face-to-face appointments. It was encouraging to see GP practices working together to tackle frustrating waiting times, whilst improving care quality. I hope more surgeries join this pilot and make it more sustainable for the future.

In Parliament, I attended a Reception to celebrate the Prince's Trust's 40th anniversary. I heard all about the important work of this charity in getting young people into employment, education and training from Carol Vorderman, a fantastic champion for the Trust's educational vision given her unquestionable expertise in Maths!



With Carol Vorderman at the Prince's Trust 40th Anniversary Celebration



Showing my support for the Clean for the Queen campaign

I also attended a reception promoting the Clean for the Queen campaign, which is planning Britain's largest litter pick to honour the Queen's 90th birthday. For information about the local events organised by Solent Litter Action, click [here](#) or drop me an e-mail.

It was World Cancer Day on 4 February and I wore my unity band to show support for Cancer Research UK, Breast Cancer Care, Anthony Nolan and the Movember Foundation and their drive to beat cancer and support all those affected.

Back in Gosport, it was lovely to visit the Riley Enterprise, which hosts community events and delivers client services as part of their mission to foster community giveback and social enterprise. I also met with Robin Young, editor of the Gosport Globe, a great online paper for keeping up to date with all local goings-on. You can subscribe for the free, weekly, digital paper [here](#).

Representatives from [Hampshire Addiction Recovery Centre](#) (ARC) told me more about the work they do locally to support those living with drug and alcohol addictions. My drop-in surgery at the Gosport Discovery Centre was very well attended and I really enjoyed discussing a variety of local and national issues with constituents.

I spoke at the Gosport Conservative Association's thriving Luncheon Club. This group meets monthly to enjoy good food, friendly company and a bit of politics! Please contact Lesley on 02392 588400 or email office@goscons.plus.com if you're interested in joining.

Finally, this month the Prime Minister announced the date for the referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union: 23 June 2016. Like many British people, I am still genuinely undecided about how to vote but I am proud that this Government delivered on its manifesto promise to hold a public referendum. It is right that that this important choice ultimately belongs to the British people.

Best wishes

Caroline



Meeting representatives from Hampshire Addiction Recovery 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!

Constituency Office: 023 9252 2121

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA