



Caroline Dinenage

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



We've kicked off 2015 with fantastic news here in the Gosport constituency – unemployment has reached its lowest point in 7 years with just 769 people looking for work in December and apprenticeship numbers rose to 2300 in 2013/14, the highest in Hampshire. NATS announced that it will be launching its first ever apprenticeship scheme at the CEMAST college at Daedalus, joining the impressive hub of companies already training their apprentices there.

Building relationships between jobseekers and employers, the 4th annual Gosport Business & Employment Fair was a huge success with 300 visitors in the first hour alone! With over 300 jobs and training opportunities on offer on the day it was fantastic to witness people actually getting jobs on the spot.

We also heard the good news that the Solent region will receive a further £27.1 million from the 2nd Local Growth Fund, bringing the total to £151.9 million. This funding will support improvements to transport links between Fareham & Gosport including Newgate Lane, Peel Common Roundabout, links to the M27 and the early stages of the Stubbington Bypass.

Meanwhile, in light of falling oil prices, I stood up in Parliament to ask the Government to encourage transport providers to pass any savings on to their passengers. It is only fair that commuters on buses, trains and ferries feel the benefit too.

The closure of banks in Lee-on-the-Solent and Stubbington has come as a blow to local residents. I met with the bosses at RBS to talk about NatWest's decision to pull out of Stubbington and what is being done to support customers.

I arranged a meeting with Defence Minister, Anna Soubry to discuss the future of HMS Sultan and emphasised the importance of this site to our area. I was delighted when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne announced that the Warrant Officers' Mess in Sultan will be refurbished using a share of the £1 million received from the fines levied on banks for manipulating the LIBOR rates. It is fitting that the money paid by those who displayed the very worst values will be used to benefit those who demonstrate the very best.

I paid a visit to the Men's Shed in their new home at St Vincent College, this fabulous group of chaps provide comradeship and a cuppa for gentlemen of a certain age - a chance to practice practical skills and learn new ones. I also dropped into the opening of 'The Yoga Being' - another of the great new businesses to have opened in Royal Clarence Yard recently.

Visiting local schools is one of the best parts of my job and I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen of Year 6 at Siskin School about the values of democracy with a House of Commons style debate.



With Loud & Proud at the Business & Employment Fair



With the Men's Shed



With pupils at Siskin School

I caught up with Hampshire Fire and Rescue's new Chief Officer to discuss the changing roles of our local fire service. I also joined other Hampshire MPs for a meeting with our Police & Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes to discuss his progress in tackling crime across the county.

Home-Start are a local charity who do an amazing job of supporting parents with young children through difficult times. I popped in to meet the fantastic staff & volunteers and was saddened to hear how they are struggling to make ends meet. If you are an individual/company looking for a local charity to support with fundraising or time, please keep them in mind.

Health was high up on the agenda this month, particularly with the news that QA hospital has been failing to meet important targets. I have been part of a panel of local MPs who are working with local healthcare bosses to try and solve these problems over recent months. In the meantime there are a number of other options before resorting to A&E – including the 111 service and local walk-in treatment centres such as the minor injuries unit at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I spoke up for the relatives of victims of contaminated blood during a Parliamentary debate, highlighting the need for an end to be brought to this tragic episode. I also met with representatives from Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and was concerned to hear that the take up of cervical screening in Gosport is much lower than the national average. That's why I'm backing the charity's awareness raising campaign locally.

Back in Gosport, I had a briefing from the Portsmouth Arthritis and Muscular Skeletal Society which is supporting the 'Love Your Bones' event in Gosport on 11th March, contact valerie.robins@porthosp.nhs.uk for details.



With the Portsmouth ARMA Society

I hosted an event in my office where I qualified as a 'Dementia Friend' thanks to training from The Alzheimer's Society. I will be hosting another 'Dementia Friends' event at the Gosport Discovery Centre on 6th March from 1:30pm-3:30pm. I would like to see us becoming a Dementia Friendly Town so please do come along!

I was also happy to take up an invitation from Asda to meet with some of their staff & customers to discuss the local & national issues that matter to them.

This month also marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau; I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment in the House of Commons.

Finally, I have launched an online petition for English Votes for English Laws; if you agree with me that when an issue only affects England, only English MPs should be allowed to vote on it, please sign my petition: bit.ly/1CKfwnN.



With customers and staff at Asda

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 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