

Caroline Dinenage

June 2013
Issue 30

Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

As we tentatively welcome the first real signs of summer, I've been keeping busy in Westminster & Gosport with meetings, events, debates & fêtes!

This month The Prime Minister asked me to become a Small Business Ambassador. The role includes promoting small businesses across the south as part of the Conservative pledge to support enterprise. It's great news that a record number of new businesses started last year & as I've run a small business for over 20 years I'm keen to use my experience to help companies in our area prosper.

More good news in the Gosport constituency where unemployment rates have dropped again, 13% between May 2012 & May 2013. I believe passionately in our area & the skills of our local workforce & will never be shy in selling Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington & Hill Head as fantastic places to do business.

Against a backdrop of economic recovery, I was pleased to hold a Parliamentary debate highlighting the vital role of innovation in economic growth. As some of our most innovative local employers, I took the chance to mention the work of Huhtamaki & QinetiQ.

I visited QinetiQ for their annual School Power Boat Challenge where students from across the region had the chance to race boats that they had designed & built at QinetiQ's world class Ocean Basin facility at Haslar. I was delighted that teams from Crofton School came 5th & 6th in the competition, I hope we have some aspiring engineers on our hands!

And, on the subject of inspiring the next generation, my kids & I headed down to the first ever Gosport Youth Afloat event at Clarence Marina. The brainchild of wonderful Abby Thompson & Gosport Marine Scene, assisted by Gosport Sea Cadets, this was a chance for anyone to try their hand at a spot of dinghy sailing, kayaking or yachting.

Water sports are a great way to get young people active, up in Westminster I met with Sport Leaders UK to discuss ways in which we can get kids enthusiastic about sport and healthy living. I'm delighted that 13 primary schools in Gosport have already signed up to the new Energy Club programme which provides after school sporting activities.

Doing my best to keep fit this month, I took part in the Parliamentary Tug of War in aid of Macmillan Cancer Charity. Sadly, although the lady MPs team wasn't on winning form it was in a great cause— I guess there's always next year!



With fellow Ambassadors at No 10



Gosport Youth Afloat



With the Tug of War

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

Continuing with a health theme, I joined the British Heart Foundation campaign against childhood obesity. Incredibly just an hour of physical activity per day can rapidly reduce the risk of obesity & heart disease in young people. Back in Gosport I ended a highly energetic month by attending a Health & Wellbeing Day at Thorngate Hall to meet some of the organisations who do so much to promote healthy bodies & minds locally.

I enjoyed getting my hands dirty in Titchfield Haven, helping Gosport & Fareham Friends of the Earth generate a wildflower meadow as part of their 'Bee-Cause' Campaign to support our bee population. I also made some slightly larger furry friends when I met with Guide Dogs UK in Westminster to

hear about their campaign to keep blind and partially sighted people safe on our roads.

Animal welfare continues to be an issue close to my heart and this month I attended a meeting in Westminster to discuss the great work of the RSPCA's Inspectorate & Prosecutions Department.

This month was also a time of great sadness as we lost my dear friend Cdr Eddie Grenfell. Eddie was the hero of the Arctic Convoy medal campaign, his tenacious & determined nature drove our campaign to success earlier this year, he really was one in a million, a hero in every sense of the words, a true gentleman.



With the heroic Eddie Grenfell

Many of you will be aware of the sad story of missing Gosport sailor, Timmy MacColl. This month in Foreign & Commonwealth Office Questions I sought assurance that the Government would put pressure on the Dubai police to remain focussed on the case. Over a year since Timmy disappeared, it's vital every lead is followed.

I was delighted to celebrate the restoration of HMS Alliance in a question to the Department of Culture Media & Sport. The Submarine Museum has done an extraordinary job in raising funds for the project which will be completed in Spring 2014. I also took part in a Parliamentary Debate to celebrate Armed Forces Day, taking the opportunity to commend our area's strong military ties and the fantastic work of both the Forces and their supporting organisations.

I was lucky enough to get invited to open a number of summer fayres this month. At St. Thomas' Church Elson, Karen the lovely new vicar, was subjected to a few wet sponges on the "Soak the Priest" stall - rather her than me! And at Peel Common Nursery & Infant School's fête my children thoroughly enjoyed all the games, particularly the human fruit machine!

Finally, later this week, MPs will be voting on James Wharton's Private Members Bill to legislate for a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. I have long been a vocal campaigner for voters to have a real say in the future of our relationship with Europe & I'd urge people to visit www.LetBritainDecide.com to pledge their support for the campaign.

Best wishes

Caroline



At Titchfield Haven's new Bee World



At St Thomas' Church fête

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: 02392 522 121

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address:

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA