



Caroline Dinenage

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



*Judging the fancy dress competition
at the Gosport Marine Festival*

A busy June with a nautical flavour starting with the Gosport Marine Festival 2015 which gave well over 1000 people a chance to try out some water sports for free – young & old, disabled & able bodied were able to take to the water in a range of activities from kayaking to dinghy sailing, all expertly organised by Gosport Marine Scene, local organisations, companies and a massive team of volunteers. The day was a tremendous success off the water too with an art exhibition, food festival and entertainment all day in the Timespace where I had the pleasure of judging the Little Shipmates Fancy Dress Competition!

Continuing on the marine theme, I dropped in on the QinetiQ Schools Powerboat Challenge which takes place each year at the company's ocean basin facility at Haslar. I was impressed as ever by the talent of the pupils from across our region (including Bay House & Brune Park) racing remote-control boats they had designed and made. I was also delighted to speak to Becky Thomas, QinetiQ's Outstanding Graduate of the Year who organised last year's competition. She is an inspiration to young girls thinking about studying STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths).



*At the QinetiQ Powerboat Challenge
with Becky Thomas and Cdr Steve Prest*

With more to come as the first America's Cup events take place off our coastline from 23rd - 26th July, we will have a spectacular view of AC45 (45 foot flying catamarans) racing in the Solent.

From sea to air, it was great to join local business Britten Norman to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their Defender aircraft at Daedalus airfield. They are the only British plane manufacturer and we are proud to have them operating here at the Lee-on-the-Solent Enterprise Zone.



*At the Sultan Summer Show with Patricia
Homer from the Gosport & Lee Lions*

Our area is rightly proud of its strong links to the Armed Forces, so I was delighted to celebrate both Reserve Forces Day and Armed Forces Day. I took the opportunity to meet with over 200 service men and women, many from our area, on Armed Forces Day as they gathered to take part in the London Pride parade.

Continuing the forces theme – the HMS Sultan Summer Show is always one of the highlights of my year and with chariot battles, military vehicles on show and an appearance from our fabulous local Tigers Children's Motorcycle Team there was something for the whole family. The proceeds of the show go to local charities making this fun-filled day all the more worthwhile.

This month we marked Adult Learners Week and I paid a visit to the 'Out There' project at the Nimrod Community Centre. I'm really proud of this scheme which offers adult learners in Gosport a friendly, informal environment in which to boost their skills. This was followed by the great news from the Office of National Statistics which revealed that unemployment numbers have fallen to their lowest point since January 2008.

I had a number of my regular catch up meetings with various important local decision makers this month. First up was Chief Inspector Pegler of Gosport and Fareham Police. We were able to discuss some of the concerns that constituents had raised with me, including 'Operation Cycle Safe' which is looking at bike crime and cycling offences. We also talked about the planned changes to local policing. Next year the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (15 police officers and 15 police community support officers) will be co-locating into the Gosport Borough Council offices, where it's hoped there will be better opportunity for a manned reception and walk-in capability than the current police station offers. It is likely that 80 Response and Patrol Officers will also be based in Gosport.



With Jo Smith at the Out There Project



Highlighting the importance of carers

I had productive meetings with both Cllr Edgar, responsible for education at Hampshire County Council and Matt Atkinson, Principal of St Vincent College, who updated me on recent progress and future plans for education locally.

I also spoke to Dr David Chilvers, Richard Samuel and Dr Donal Collins from Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group which is responsible for much of the healthcare provision in our area. They have exciting plans for transforming the way we provide same-day GP appointments and other community healthcare services across our area, which when it launches later this autumn will put us at the forefront of innovation in this country.

Across Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head, there are 9,860 people who care for a partner, relative or friend. These individuals make an invaluable contribution to society which is why we must give them the support they need. I was delighted to back the Carers Week initiative which calls for local services to reach out to those providing care.

I was also pleased to see local lady, Carole White from Gosport Borough Council in Westminster for the NEA Heat Heroes Awards. She was receiving a special award recognising her tireless efforts to ensure that everyone in Gosport has access to funding to help with their energy bills.

Finally, local people will be pleased to hear that Hampshire County Council will be making a decision on the planning applications for improvements to Newgate Lane South and the construction of the Stubbington Bypass on the 9th July. Keep an eye on my Facebook page and website for information as it comes.

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!

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