



Caroline Dinenage

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



*Celebrating on election night
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Counters hard at work on election night



Working hard with local ladies at Curves

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to everyone who supported me on June the 8th. It has been an honour to represent Gosport in parliament for the last 7 years, and I was thrilled to be returned with an increased majority of 17,211. General elections are stressful for anyone with their name on the ballot paper, but I was backed by a fantastic team and met lots of wonderful people as I pounded the streets of Gosport!

The national result wasn't what we had hoped for, but the Conservative Party still got the highest number of votes since Margaret Thatcher was PM and remains the largest party in parliament by a considerable margin. With the support of the DUP, Theresa May will govern in the national interest.

Some constituents have expressed concern about the deal between the Conservative Party and the DUP, so I would like to emphasise that this is a Confidence and Supply arrangement only, which will ensure Theresa May has the support she needs on key issues, such as Brexit. You can read more about this on my website, [here](#).

The tragedy at Grenfell Tower is of course at the forefront of all of our minds, and it is difficult to comprehend what those affected have suffered and continue to go through. I am glad that a public inquiry will ensure that victims and their families get the answers they deserve, and it is right that the Government has taken decisive action to ensure that high rise buildings across the country are safe. I have written to Gosport and Fareham Borough Councils, as well as Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service, to seek assurances that everything possible has been done to prevent a similar tragedy taking place in Gosport. You can read their responses [here](#).

I was deeply saddened by the terrorist attacks in London Bridge and Finsbury Park - the loss of life we have seen in recent months is truly sickening. The Government has committed to reviewing its counter-terrorism strategy to ensure that police and security forces have the powers they need to protect our communities.

My diary has been as busy as ever with constituency engagements this month. I was put through my paces at Curves gym to raise money for Ocean Children's Ward at Southampton General, and enjoyed a boogie with some friends at 'Dance Songs and More', which is a fantastic group for adults with learning disabilities at the Rowner Scout Hut.

I had a great time giving out prizes at the Gosport Marine Scene Charity Pursuit yacht race which seemed like a very fun way to raise money for local good causes, and attended a special trade event at the Ageas Bowl, organised in conjunction with the High Commission of South Africa, Business South and Hampshire County Council, to promote local exporters.

The QinetiQ Power Boat Challenge was a real highlight of the month, and demonstrated the wealth of young engineering talent across our region. Two local schools were represented, with students from both Bay House and Brune Park taking part, and doing a fabulous job. The competition aims to inspire our STEM professionals of the future, and sees students design and build their own miniature power boats, before putting them to the test in Europe's largest indoor water tank. I was attending the competition for the 7th year in a row, and it didn't disappoint!



With the Bay House team at the QinetiQ Power Boat Challenge

I also waved-off local entertainer Glenn Ford (Aka Norman Wisdom), who marked his 40th year in showbiz by undertaking a 135 mile sponsored walk from Gosport to Deal, to raise money for a local mini-bus fund.

I joined in the celebrations at Agamemnon Housing Association's 40th birthday garden party, and popped in to the Discovery Centre for a preview of the Heritage Lottery funded exhibition, 'Four Long Years'. The project was conducted by Rowner Junior School, The Bivol Trust, Woodcote Residential Home and The Gosport Access Group and Disability Forum, and explored different aspects of Gosport's participation in World War 1. You can read more, [here](#).

I was very pleased to speak at the first ever Gosport and South Hampshire Early Years Conference, hosted by St Vincent College. The event provided a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and exchange views with a wide range of professionals, and I hope it will be the first conference of many.



With Glenn Ford at the start of his 135 mile trek

Having previously worked as the Minister for Women, Equalities and Early Years, however, the election brought about a change in my ministerial portfolio. I have now been appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, in the Department of Work & Pensions. Despite accepting this exciting challenge, being a good constituency MP and a strong voice for our area remains my utmost priority.

Transport improvements have been high on my agenda since 2010, so I was excited to hear that Hampshire County Council has joined 15 other Transport Authorities and 5 LEPs to form 'Transport for the South East'. TfSE will provide a powerful voice in promoting our region's strategic needs, and I look forward to working closely with the new partnership.

This month also saw the State Opening of Parliament, which can be traced back as far as the 16th century, so it's always a fascinating occasion.

The Queen's Speech then laid out the Government's legislative programme, signalling the beginning of the new Parliament – which promises to be rather busy! I am looking forward to the next five years, and will continue working hard to represent the best interests of Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head.



The 'Baywatch' crew at Gosport Marine Scene charity yacht race

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 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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