

Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

It's been a remarkable month in Parliament, as the Queen came to give her Diamond Jubilee address. It was a great privilege to represent Gosport at this historic occasion in honour of her extraordinary 60 years on the throne.

Speaking of remarkable ladies, I was delighted to welcome 48 Gosport women to Parliament. The 'Choices and Challenges' group, mainly from the Rowner area, grilled me about life as an MP and toured Parliament to celebrate women's role in politics for International Women's Day.

While my own performance in the Westminster Sport Relief Mile was certainly no cause for celebration, I was delighted to take part to promote the charity's great work. I also supported some other important causes this month at the request of a number of inspiring constituents. I met Valerie, who campaigns for Parkinson's UK, Sian who supports MIND, and donned a hat for Brain Tumour Research on behalf of Karen and Shelia, to raise awareness of these illnesses which have personally affected these ladies or their loved ones.

I also take up the health and care concerns of my constituents directly with Ministers. In Parliamentary Questions this month I asked what the Government's doing to improve the standard of Health Care Assistants, as this impacts those in long-term care. In addition to this I held meetings with the Chief Executive of the Solent NHS Trust and representatives from the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and QA Hospital to get a full picture of healthcare concerns and developments across our area.

As well as hosting a visit of the Royal Navy Presentation Team to Parliament, I questioned the Defence Minister on the current speculation over the aircraft carriers – stressing, what many military people in Gosport know, that long-term strategy must take priority over short term savings.

Still in Parliament, I attended the most pro-enterprise Budget ever, confirming that Britain's open for business. The Budget also showed support for hardworking families, by lifting 2 million people out of tax altogether and reducing the tax burden on 24 million. I was relieved to learn that even the so called 'granny tax', which has unfortunately dominated headlines, will not affect half of pensioners at all and will make wealthier pensioners on average just one quarter of one percent worse off.



With the Gosport ladies during their visit to Parliament



After running the Westminster Sport Relief Mile



Donning a hat in support of Brain Tumour Research

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



With the School Council at Meon Cross School

It's a Budget that'll deliver real help to the hardworking people throughout my constituency, like those I met at my latest Surgery on Gosport High Street. These local surgeries, like the ones I held with students of both Bay House and St Vincent this month, are a great opportunity for my constituents to share concerns or issues.

My commitment to our local schools continues in other ways too, I visited Meon Cross School and met with the Interim Headteacher at Brune Park as part of my ongoing support for that school's attempt to overcome recent difficulties.

I'm always amazed by Gosport's brilliant community spirit, but that doesn't mean we don't face challenges. This month I helped to launch the

Community Alcohol Partnership, a partnership between police and other stakeholders to

tackle the abuse of alcohol that's harming our communities and the health of our young people.

I also visited a charity shop with a difference. The Solent Diabetes Association's shop on the High Street gives out advice to people with diabetes and their families, helping them manage the illness & stay healthy. They are desperate for more clothes, books and appliances to sell, so keep them in mind next time you are having a clear out! Helping people to make the right choices was also the mission of Gosport Fairtrade Action when I visited their stall in Gosport Town Hall.

One thing I've learnt as an MP is that even the trickiest situations can be resolved. That's also the message of Gosport's Motiv8, which I visited to learn about the incredible work they do to transform the lives of vulnerable young people.

Now they've undergone a transformation of their own, as they moved from cramped, temporary accommodation to fantastic new premises - albeit sadly without the fitted kitchen that was promised. If anyone can help in any way to get this truly amazing project the kitchen they need, please let my office know!

And finally, some great Gosport success stories to finish on, as I can report that the Gosport Devils Ice Hockey team stormed to victory in the match I attended against the Isle of Wight Tigers, retaining their unbeaten record and promotion up the League. With news just in of Gosport and Fareham Rugby Club's league promotion too, our teams really are putting the Sport into GoSport this year!!

Best wishes,

Caroline



Chatting to the Solent Diabetes Association team at their shop



Supporting Gosport Fairtrade Fortnight

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. It is also possible to come up to Parliament to have an official tour. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben for my constituents. Just please contact my office to book at least two months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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