

Caroline Dinenage

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



Marking International Women's Day with local business women



With delegates at a 'Meet the Buyer' event at the Ageas Bowl



With Sian Forshaw from Brune Park

Spring has definitely sprung here on the South coast in March, but there wasn't much time to relax! This month our local transport infrastructure was at the top of my agenda.

Firstly, I supported the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership's bid for a £90 million investment package from central government for better links between Gosport, Fareham and the M27; including a new access road to the Gosport peninsular (Stubbington bypass), improvements to the A27 and new motorway slip-roads at J.10. I made a deputation to Hampshire County Council to ensure they gave their backing to this all important bid.

I also highlighted decades of under-investment in South Coast rail & road infrastructure when I led a Parliamentary debate on the issue. During my research I was shocked to hear of a commuter from Lymington who travels to Portsmouth via the Isle of Wight rather than tackling the M27 or local trains.

In Gosport, the issue of local bus routes is still pressing. Local Councillors Alan Scard, Graham Burgess and I met with transport bosses from Hampshire County Council to find ways in which we can mitigate the route changes implemented by First earlier this year.

To discuss regional development and ensure that Gosport is not excluded from decision making, I held a meeting with Ministers Greg Clark MP and Michael Fallon MP. It followed a welcome announcement in the Chancellor's Budget that the Daedalus Enterprise Zone will receive an extended tax break, helping to ensure that the site will generate local jobs and prosperity.

As a Small Business Ambassador, I enjoy meeting business people from across the region; and this month, I marked International Women's Day with female delegates at a conference to promote women in leadership roles. I also opened a 'Meet the Buyer' event at the Ageas Bowl which gave small businesses the opportunity to engage with buyers from big companies and the public sector.

National Apprenticeship Week took place this month and new figures revealed that apprentices in Gosport gave local business a boost of £4.6 million last year. Engaging young people with business is very important and I was delighted to welcome Sian Forshaw from Brune Park to Westminster to celebrate her success in an innovation competition.

The launch of my Parliamentary Group on Maths & Numeracy took place this month and was a huge success. Education Minister, Liz Truss MP, gave the key note address and an icon of children's TV, Johnny Ball (*Think of a Number*), pledged his support to our campaign to boost numeracy in the UK.



With Johnny Ball

Maths skills are crucial for understanding the Chancellor's Budget and with a little help from some statisticians, I was pleased to hear that in the Gosport constituency, 390 further people will be taken out of income tax altogether from April 2015 and 40,853 will experience a tax cut. In addition, local lifesavers GAFIRS will receive funding from LIBOR fines and will have VAT on fuel costs waived.

An exciting revelation was made this month when a practice WW1 battlefield was unearthed at Browdown, inspiring a nationwide hunt for forgotten sites. I also paid a visit to the Remembrance Centre at Fort Widley which really highlights the important role our area played in the war effort - it's well worth a visit!

As local readers will know, last year two young Gosport women tragically lost their lives in a car accident and the young man accused of death by dangerous driving received a nine year jail sentence last month. Echoing the concerns of many local people and the victims' families that this sentence was insufficient, I've written to the Attorney General, asking for a sentence review. I also seized the opportunity during PMQs to ask the Prime Minister for a review of the maximum sentence for dangerous driving.

This March, I marked National Brain Tumour Awareness Month by participating in the Brain Trust charity day at St Marys Church in Rowner and also supported the 'Wear a Hat Day' initiative by donning a remarkable hat which was made for me by pupils at Alverstoke Infant School.

I also attended a useful meeting with the Southern Health Trust to hear about future plans for healthcare provision in our area. Among other things we discussed Stubbington Surgery which is struggling to meet the local demand in cramped conditions. My team met with Cllr Kay Mandry and the surgery again this month to look at the options for extending the health centre.

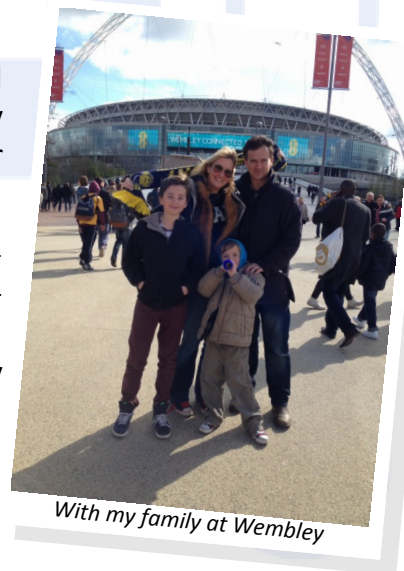
I was honoured to be invited to the Daring Club's second birthday party and took a guest along with me to join in the festivities – my dad! The club, entirely run by volunteers at the RNA, has a monthly get-together for adults with learning disabilities and their carers from across our region.

Finally, after weeks of excitement, my family joined thousands of other Gosport Borough FC fans at Wembley to watch our side take on Cambridge in the FA Trophy Final. Our boys didn't secure the title but it was a fantastic day and we were so proud of our boys for getting to Wembley. On reflection though it was a mistake to buy my youngest son a vuvuzela (apologies to everyone sitting nearby!)

Best wishes

Caroline

(P.S. If you can spare some time to help deliver my leaflets around your local area, I'd love to hear from you!)



With my family at Wembley

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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