



# Caroline Dinenage

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



*Getting reassurance in PMQs of the Government's commitment to Defence*

This month in Prime Minister's Questions I called on David Cameron to confirm his commitment to protecting the defence sector. I was pleased to hear him set out how Gosport and the wider Portsmouth area will benefit from new defence contracts.

Earlier in the month, I spoke in a debate on the same issue, emphasising the need to meet the Government's target of spending 2% of our GDP on defence. Not only is this crucial to protecting our defence industry, Armed Forces and the communities that support them it also has broader implications for Britain's security in an increasingly unstable world.

I also stood up to pay tribute to the Falkland Veterans Foundation and our many local veterans of this conflict during an Urgent Statement, in which the Defence Secretary re-affirmed this country's commitment to defending the Falkland Islands.

Regular readers will know that I have launched a campaign to make our area 'Dementia Friendly' and this month I hosted an event at the Discovery Centre to bring local people together to move this forward.

The long-awaited refurbishment of Gosport Post Office is finally complete and I was delighted to cut the ribbon to officially reopen it. Gosport High Street also played host to Safer Community Day, bringing together the emergency services and voluntary groups who make our area a safer and better place to live.

To mark Community Clear Up Day, I led one of the clean-up teams that were giving our area a spring clean. Picking up other people's rubbish costs English taxpayers in excess of £800 million every year, it's important to draw public attention to this entirely avoidable use of our hard earned resources.

The fantastic Daring Club at the RNA, for adults with learning difficulties, celebrated their third birthday and I popped in to join the party – it's still the most fun you can have on a cold Monday lunchtime! I also attended a coffee morning at Cessac House, speaking to residents about local and national issues. I always enjoy hearing from local people and held street stalls in Gosport and Stubbington – there will be more coming up in the next few weeks so I shall hope to see you out and about soon!

It was great to see Martin Corrick from the Gosport Men's Shed back in Westminster again as he picked up a Public Health Excellence Award recognising his group's contribution to improving mental health and wellbeing amongst older men in Gosport.

Great progress continues to be made at Daedalus: this month the newly resurfaced runway has been opened, the Civil Aviation Authority licence will be granted in early April and the Marine Coastguard Agency has received the keys to its new training facility. The new Business Innovation Centre has also been completed, with three companies ready to move in and many more keen to follow.



*With GAFIRs volunteers at our Safety Community Day*



*At the RNA Daring Club 3rd birthday celebrations*

Britten-Norman are one of Daedalus' success stories – they are the UK's only small aircraft manufacturer and I visited them during National Apprenticeship Week to meet their young apprentices and welcome the great news that they are looking to take on eight more new apprentices in September. I continue to be so proud of the Gosport Constituency for having one of the highest apprenticeship figures in the UK, 9490 since 2010 – and it's especially good news for our economy that 49% of these are in the engineering and manufacturing technology sector.



With Britten-Norman Apprentices

Of course, the success of the Enterprise Zone also depends on improvements to our transport infrastructure and having raised the issue of journey times to London during Department for Transport Questions this month, I met the rail minister, Claire Perry to emphasise the importance of speeding up our local services. I was pleased to learn that South West Trains are set to make improvements, introducing 30 new trains and refurbishing 108 carriages to increase peak time capacity by 30% by 2018. There will also be major upgrades at Waterloo to accommodate this.



Celebrating International Women's Day

We celebrated International Women's Day in Gosport with an occupation of Millennium Bridge – it was great to see local women come together to celebrate. In Parliament, I took part in a photo call with female MPs past and present – I was surprised to discover that there have only ever been 370 women elected to the UK Parliament in the UK and I was the 310<sup>th</sup>!

This month I also joined the MP for Portsmouth North and Conservative Parliamentary Candidates for Fareham and Portsmouth South to discuss our plans and aspirations for the whole Portsmouth Harbour area that we would like to take forward if we are all successful at the forthcoming General Election. We are all determined to work together to give this region a strong, united voice.

Brune Park School held a fantastic STEM workshop for its pupils with activities including Lego innovation robotics and BAE crazy cargo to inspire young people to continue with their science and maths subjects. They may even be tempted to go on to study at the CEMAST skills centre at Daedalus which is earning a tremendous reputation; I was very proud to hear from the Association of Colleges about how impressed they were with the facilities.

My final act in Parliament was to hand in my petition for English Votes for English Laws which has hundreds of local signatories. Many thanks to all those who took the time to sign it and stand up against the unfairness of a system that allows Scottish MPs to cast votes on issues like schools and healthcare, that only affect us here in England.

Finally, this weekend I cease to be the Member of Parliament for Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington and Hill Head, as Parliament is dissolved for the General Election. Those who have followed these newsletters since they started in 2010 will be fully aware how proud I have been to represent this amazing area and our wonderful people over the last 5 years. I want to express my most heartfelt thanks for all the kindness, generosity, good humour and support that you have shown me, including the slapped wrists at the occasional errors in spelling, grammar etc. in my newsletters! I didn't get everything right, but I have always tried my hardest and with the best of intentions.

I will be standing as the Conservative Candidate for this Election and I sincerely hope that you might continue to support me so that I can keep working hard and giving our area the strong voice it deserves!

Best wishes

*Caroline*



With Portsmouth Harbour's Conservative Candidates

## GET IN TOUCH!

If you would like to help out during our General Election campaign delivering leaflets, knocking on doors or helping out with office admin, we would love to hear from you. Please use the details on the right to get in touch. You can also use contact me if you have any concerns about local or national issues.

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