



Caroline Dinenage

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



Opening the London Stock Exchange on International Women's Day



Visiting Gosport Oil Fuel Depot with Adrian Jackson, CEO



Great British Spring Clean with Conservative County Council candidates

March has been a momentous month. In parliament we saw the Prime Minister formally trigger Article 50, beginning the process of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, giving effect to the democratic decision of the British people. The Prime Minister has clearly outlined her priorities for the negotiations, which you can read, [here](#).

Also in Parliament this month, I welcomed the Chancellor's Spring Budget. I was pleased to see the Government backing businesses, promoting skills and helping working families. Looking forward, don't forget county council elections take place on 4 May. For more info about local Conservative candidates, click [here](#).

In my role as Minister for Women and Equalities, I was invited to mark International Women's Day this month, by opening the London Stock Exchange, to promote gender equality at the highest levels of business. I also joined other female MPs for a photo, celebrating the fact that for the first time ever the number of women that have ever been MPs exceeds the total number of men that currently sit in the House. I'm really proud that on Gosport Council 40% of local councillors are women.

As part of National Apprenticeship Week I was invited to don my hard-hat and travel 6 storeys below the streets of London to meet some fantastic engineering apprentices helping deliver the £14bn Crossrail infrastructure project.

Year 11 students from Bay House School were treading the boards in London this month - I was lucky enough to meet the Gosport based cast, director and writer, Zella Compton when I watched the brilliant play 'How to be a Girl!' at Utopia theatre in Croydon.

This month we received the long awaited news that Gosport Oil and Fuel Depot is to undergo a multimillion pound upgrade. This will enable it to adequately support the two Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers which will be based in Portsmouth Harbour, with the first scheduled to arrive this year. I visited the site to meet the teams involved and learn more about the redevelopment project.

Another long campaign has been the struggle for rail-improvements in our area, I welcomed the Government's announcement that First MTR South Western Trains Limited has been awarded the South Western franchise, taking over from Stagecoach. The new franchise will oversee a £1.2bn investment programme, which offers a real opportunity to improve services for passengers from Fareham and Portsmouth Harbour.

Back in the constituency, it was great to join in with the folk sprucing up different parts of our area as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

I also encountered 2 human sized bananas at Gosport Discovery Centre, where Gosport Fairtrade Action was celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight. It was great to learn about their important work to promote fair and ethically sourced products.

The Young Engineers Challenge at HMS Sultan was a real highlight. It was great to see talented young people from University Technical Colleges across the country taking on the challenge of designing, building and racing amphibious vehicles.

Safer Gosport Community Day was a great opportunity for local people to learn about work being done locally to keep us safe. Along with all the blue light services I was pleased to catch up with the Police and Crime Commissioner and organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch, Motiv8 and Gosport Street Pastors.

At Elson Library, I officially launched Rev Sean Blackman's ambitious project 365, which will see him read one book a day for a year. He hopes to inspire children across the constituency to discover the lifelong joys of reading, and I wish him the very best of luck!

I was thrilled also to open the FirstLight Trust's new café at 68 Gosport High Street. This fabulous organisation supports veterans with the practical and emotional challenges associated with adjusting to civilian life. I would encourage everyone to drop by for a cuppa to support their important work.

I welcomed pupils from Gomer Junior School to parliament, who put me through my paces with many thoughtful questions. I also met with the education team at Hampshire County Council to discuss recent developments and raise a number of constituent cases. I popped in to Baycroft School, to discuss their priorities for the school and visited the outstanding Haven nursery in Bridgemary. It was fantastic to see first-hand the fabulous care and early education their hardworking staff provide.

I also met with the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb, to discuss the implications of the National Funding Formula in the Gosport constituency. I know that this is a matter of concern for many of my constituents. Gosport's schools have made really encouraging progress in recent years and it's vital that they continue to receive the support they need to thrive.

Along with other Hampshire MPs, I attended a meeting in parliament with representative from Southern Health. This was ahead of the publication of their strategic plan for mental health and learning disability services, which is now available [here](#).

I was lucky enough to be invited to spend a morning on board a Royal Navy submarine. Gosport has such strong links with the 'Silent Service' and is home to not only the Submarine Museum but so many former submariners – it was interesting to experience a taste of their lives under the waves.

The month, however, was also marked by great sadness. I was horrified by last week's terrorist attack in Westminster and desperately sad for those tragically murdered and injured, including PC Keith Palmer, as well as their families and friends. I would like to pay tribute to our police, security forces, and emergency services, which acted swiftly and with unimaginable bravery.

Best wishes

Caroline



With the local Fairtrade Action celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight



At Safer Gosport Community Day with the 'blood bike'



Visiting a Royal Navy submarine with the Minister for Defence Personnel

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!

Constituency Office: 023 9252 2121

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA