



Caroline Dinenage

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



At the Gosport Enterprise Fair with speakers and panellists



With Bay House Sixth Form Students



Visiting volunteers at Gosport and Fareham Basics Bank

November in Parliament included the Autumn Budget. I was pleased that the Chancellor delivered a Budget that recognised the need to combine immediate investment and support for individuals and businesses, with a long term view of our country's future. For more information about the Budget please click [here](#).

I appeared on BBC Sunday Politics to discuss the Budget and recent news, you can watch the programme [here](#).

Brexit debate also continued apace this month. A number of constituents contacted me regarding the mis-information being spread on social media about animal welfare protections and EU law. Regular readers will know that animal welfare is a subject close to my heart and it's vital that our domestic animal protection laws remain the strongest in Europe. You can read my thoughts on this [here](#).

In Parliament, I met with Justine Greening the Secretary of State for Education to discuss the National Funding Formula, explain how this would impact our local schools and request greater support and investment. I also met with Anne Milton, the Minister for Skills, alongside one of the business masterminds behind the fantastic CETC (Digger School) at Daedalus. We discussed how the model could help address the national skills shortage in the construction industry.

Back at home, I hosted the Gosport Enterprise Fair, in partnership with the Solent LEP and Gosport Borough Council. The event was a great success with over 100 attendees. I had wonderful feedback from guests about how beneficial they found the networking sessions and presentations from inspirational local business owners, including the restaurateur and 2012 MasterChef winner, Shelina Permalloo and Jo Murchie, branding consultant, formerly a director at Warner Bros.

Parliament Week takes place every November and this year I visited Bay House Sixth Form for a Q&A Session. As usual the questions were fascinating & thoughtful, ranging from religion in politics to Stormzy (the grime/hip-hop artist, for those unsure!!)

Sticking with the subject of education, I visited Brockhurst Primary School to speak to the Head and Chair of Governors about recent positive progress following the amalgamation from Infants and Juniors into a single Primary.

I popped into the Fareham and Gosport Basics Food Bank to thank the volunteers for their fantastic work. I also pledged to take part in their Reverse Advent Calendar campaign! They ask people to add a food bank item to a box on each day of Advent, then donate the contents to Basics. You can find more information about this campaign [here](#).

Continuing with the voluntary sector, I also met with CHAT, an independent not-for profit organisation, offering help and advice to local people on a number of issues. I also met Su Seymour who is Gosport's Autism Ambassador. Su has a wealth of experience working with groups and organisations on Autism. You can get in touch with CHAT and Su [here](#).

I also met with Dr Emma Egging and Allie Hack from the [JonEggingTrust](#). Emma set up the charity in memory of her husband, a Red Arrows Pilot, who tragically lost his life in an accident. The Trust works in partnership with the armed forces to encourage, inspire and boost confidence of young people. They already work with HMS Sultan and I'm keen to see them to expand their programmes into our local schools. You can find out more about their work [here](#).

Gosport Marine Scene now have a new Chairman, Peter Melson and I met with him to discuss the work of this fantastic community led group moving forward. You can find out more about them [here](#).

Mental Health is a hot topic at the moment and I met with the Community Mental Health Team, based at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, to hear more about their important work locally.



Meeting Emma and Allie from the Jon Egging Trust

I also met with the Social Services team at Kent Road Families Centre, along with Cllr Peter Edgar to hear more about their vital work with families in our area to improve the outcomes for young people.

I proudly attended our local Remembrance Day service this month, which was as beautiful and meaningful as ever, with wonderful contributions from local young cadets. On 11th November I was honoured to be invited to unveil a plaque on the RN Medical Branch Cenotaph at the former Haslar Hospital site. The plaque is dedicated to the RN Medical Branch who lost their lives on active service since the end of WW2.

I was proud to attend the Royal British Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall for the first time. I was also invited to Cambrai in France for the 100th anniversary commemorations of this seminal tank battle of WW1. These poignant events are so vital to keep alive the memory of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in our Armed Forces.



At the Cambrai 100 commemorations

Fareham's recently published Draft Local Plan includes some worrying proposals for the Gosport Constituency. Specifically HA2 – the proposed development of 475 homes adjacent to houses on the western side of Tukes Avenue and Pettycot Crescent, on the border of the Gosport Borough. You can read more about my views on, and how to object to the proposal [here](#).

I also met with business from the Apex Centre alongside representatives from Lidl and the site owner, to discuss Lidl's expansion plans which could lead to 14 small business units being demolished. I have written to both Fareham Borough Council and Lidl to express my concerns about the potential impact this development could have on the local businesses at the site.

I am really pleased to hear that HMS Sultan have received a £60,000 cash injection from the LIBOR funds. This money, topped up with another £30,000 from the base's Central Amenities Welfare Fund, will enable them to modernise the Junior Ranks Recreation area which is used by the 500 Engineering Trainees at HMS Sultan.

Looking forward to next month, Small Business Saturday takes place on 2nd December! I've been invited to visit a number of our small local traders. I'll be opening a brand new shop—Soul Food, in Gosport Precinct, and I'm hoping to do some of my own Christmas shopping in the process! You can see more information about Small Business Saturday [here](#).



Don't forget to support Small Business Saturday!

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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