



Caroline Dinenage

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



At Shore Leave Haslar — a gardening therapy group for veterans

This Remembrance Day, as Britain united to commemorate our fallen heroes, our area's strong connections to the Armed Forces made local ceremonies particularly poignant. In addition to our traditional wreath laying event at the Gosport War Memorial, I joined children from Rowner Infant and Junior Schools and Steady Steps Preschool for a truly heart-warming tribute. The same day, Gosport resident, Royal Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew Gibbs, won the Prime Minister's prestigious Point of Light award for raising nearly £400,000 for Help for Heroes.

In the Strategic Defence and Security Review the Prime Minister committed to investing over £178bn in military equipment over the next decade. This will uphold Portsmouth Harbour's status as the heart of the British Navy and provide job security for local service personnel and our defence industry. In the current geopolitical climate, such spending commitments are vital to keep Britain safe.

The Spending Review, also this month, signalled an optimistic financial outlook. Improved forecasts enabled the Chancellor to announce that he will channel over £2m from the LIBOR bankers fines to upgrade the D-Day museum in Southsea and move the Royal Marines Museum to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard so more people can see its collections. Gosport groups and charities like Shore Leave Haslar, which I visited this month, have also benefitted from this fund in the past.

Shore Leave Haslar is a wonderful therapeutic gardening group for veterans in the memorial garden of our former hospital. It's just one example of the fantastic community organisations who do so much to support local people. This month I also visited the Y Services Youth Project, a group for young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people. I met with Angela from the Gosport Advisory and Information Network (GAIN) which offers people advice and IT training in advance of the Universal Credit changes to benefits, and some of the wonderful groups that operate out of Gosport Voluntary Action. Among these was Jean from the Gosport Befriending Service, which offers a visiting service to older people suffering from loneliness or social isolation. Jean is looking for volunteers who can offer at least an hour of their time each week to this scheme. To find out more, please telephone 02392 604681.

I hosted a Disability Confident Event at St Vincent College to encourage local businesses to employ disabled people. Our speakers highlighted how removing barriers to people with disabilities in the workplace empowers them to realise their aspirations and enables employers to tap into a multi-talented workforce.

I also took Cllr Woodward from Hampshire County Council and Dervla McKay from First Buses to Elson Road discuss constituents' complaints about problems resulting from traffic issues.



Meeting Angela Gill from the Gosport Advisory and Information Network



Speakers at the Disability Confident Event, St Vincent College

I went on a tour of the Daedalus Innovation Centre, which has smashed its year one target and is already over 80% full with fledgling and growing businesses.

On the subject of Daedalus, the National Grid this month announced proposals for a major new project linking the UK's electricity network to France, with the UK connection potentially to be located on the Fareham side of Daedalus. Tickets for an explanatory Community Action Team meeting for residents on 10 December can be obtained by emailing cats@fareham.gov.uk or telephoning 01329 236100. Further details about additional briefing events across the area can be found [here](#).

In other business news, Huhtakamki, the Rowner-based packaging manufacturer and one of our largest local employers, has announced exciting expansion plans, which will secure the long-term future of their business and employment in Gosport.

Back in Westminster, I delivered a petition to the Prime Minister with my friends from Gosport Men's Shed, who are seeking a new premises to house their expanding membership. Later in the month I was petitioned myself by Gosport and Fareham Friends of the Earth about the threat to bees posed by harmful neonicotinoid pesticides. At a surgery appointment I met with Breathe Easy Gosport to discuss healthcare provision for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Portsmouth Hospitals are currently looking for people willing to take part in respiratory research - please telephone 02392 286000 (Extension 4108) if you are interested.



Meeting the Harbour Cancer Support Team

I visited Harbour Cancer Support Centre, which offers valuable support to anyone affected by cancer across the region. They are currently collecting Ink & Toner cartridges, Mobile Phones, Stamps, Milk Bottle Tops and Foreign Coins. If you can donate any of these items then drop them off to Gosport Bus Station or Unit 26, Fareham Shopping Centre. I also met with the Care Quality Commission to clarify worrying reports of under-performance by some of Gosport's residential care providers. I urge anyone with concerns about local care providers to "share your experience" [here](#) or telephone 0300 616161.

Crofton School's Year 11 Certificate Evening was a fantastic opportunity to congratulate and wish good luck to the most recent group of school leavers. To celebrate Parliament Week, I played the role of Speaker in a lively student debate, complete with Parliament-style vote, at Bay House 6th Form.

As Christmas approaches lots of local events have been fomenting festive spirit. I attended Brockhurst Junior School's merry Christmas Fayre and my kids and I threw ourselves into the panto experience at HMS Sultan's Jack & the Beanstalk... Oh Yes We Did!! Looking forward to next month we have an action-packed line up of seasonal celebrations: both Stubbington and Lee-on-the-Solent's Christmas Lights switch-ons; Lee's Christmas Market; the Stoke Road Children's Christmas Trail; St Mary's Annual Christmas Tree Festival; and Carols in the High Street to name a few. Check out my Facebook page over the coming weeks for full details.

Finally, don't forget Small Business Saturday on 5 December. It's a fantastic opportunity to support the independent retailers of Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head by sourcing Christmas presents locally and shopping small!!



With the Mayor & Mayoress at Brockhurst Junior School's Christmas Fayre

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 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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