



Caroline Dinenage

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



Protecting the Protectors: showing support for Emergency Workers



Trying to be brave on flu jab day!



Taking part in Macmillan Coffee Morning

October kicked off with the Conservative Party Conference unveiling some really positive announcements, including a tenfold increase in the maximum animal cruelty prosecution and a £2billion boost for housing. You can read more about these and other announcements [here](#).

We also saw two really important Private Members' Bills pass unopposed through parliament. The Parental Bereavement Bill will give employed parents two weeks paid leave if they lose a child under the age of 18, and the Assaults on Emergency Workers Bill will create a new offence of assaulting an emergency worker. These will now be debated at Committee Stage.

In response to a public consultation, the Government announced new, tougher sentences for killer drivers. Following the tragic death of two local young women in 2013, killed by a speeding driver who had consumed a cocktail of drink & drugs, I campaigned hard for existing legislation to be reviewed – so this was welcome news.

I attended Westminster Flu Day, to promote the importance of getting this season's flu jab. I would encourage anyone in at-risk groups to take advantage of the vaccine, which is free for many people, including asthma sufferers like me. I was pleased to learn that in Hampshire, coverage of vaccines protecting against Flu, HPV, MMR, PPV and Shingles is better than the national average.

Continuing on the health theme, I marked 'Restart a Heart' day by meeting with the British Heart Foundation to discuss making first aid skills a vital part of the school curriculum. I also attended Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning – a fabulous cause that raises much needed funds for this fantastic cancer support charity.

I met with the Minister for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price, to raise the concerns of constituents affected by the contaminated blood support schemes, and was encouraged by her willingness to take these on board. I will continue to follow this important matter closely.

Back in the constituency, I hosted a drop-in surgery at Bridgemary Library, which was a great opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues. In Hill Head I met with constituents concerned about the proposed residential development of 180 new homes at Old Street. In Stubbington I met businesses at Apex on Newgate Lane whose industrial units are threatened with demolition by a planning application to expand the Lidl store.

It was really useful to meet Gosport Community Safety Partnership about their ongoing work to combat local crime. Importantly, there have been significant reductions in some of the most serious types of crime including domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and violence with injury, which is down 12%. Some aspects of crime have risen in Gosport in the last year, which is naturally worrying. You can find out more about the work of the Gosport Community Safety Partnership [here](#).

I also sat down with both Gosport Voluntary Action and Fareham Community Action. G.V.A. are currently looking for new trustees, particularly with a business background. If you have strong commercial experience and a few spare hours a month to support this amazing local community group, please get in touch with Nicky [here](#).

Earlier this year a group of construction employers from our region joined forces with Fareham College to open CTEC (or Digger School!) which offers intensive 20 week construction and groundwork apprenticeships. The scheme has been designed to meet the needs of local employers, and this month I was able to meet the first intake of apprentices.



Meeting the CTEC Apprentices

I also visited Henry Cort Community College to see how the Careers and Enterprise Company is bringing together local schools and businesses in Fareham to support young people, with a view to expanding this fantastic service into my own Constituency.

I was thrilled to officially open the new kitchen at Badger Pre-School. A previously unused corridor has been transformed into a fully functioning kitchen for the children to learn about food and hygiene.

I was very proud to welcome drama students from Bay House School to Parliament to perform the original play, 'How to be a Girl!', marking the International Day of the Girl. Despite a prestigious audience of MPs, Peers and Government Officials, the cast – impressively—showed no sign of nerves!

As regular readers will know, I have set up a taskforce to plot the best way forward for the future of Fort Blockhouse, HMP Haslar and HMS Sultan. A further meeting was held this month and representatives from the MOD, MOJ and DIO were present. I remain pleased that the MOD are willing to engage with local stakeholders and I will continue to push for reconsideration of plans to move the training facilities at HMS Sultan.

I was delighted to attend the launch of "Memories of Haslar", which is a new book about Haslar Hospital by local authors David Gary & Eric Birbeck. I also visited the launch of the

Female Abstraction Exhibition at the new contemporary art gallery, Sticks, in The Precinct on South Street. You can find out more information about their exhibitions & community art projects [here](#).

Wonderful scary fun was on offer at the children's Halloween party at Holbrook Park. The event was free, totally organised by fantastic local volunteers, including Holbrook Cllr Patrick Bergin, with yummy treats kindly donated by supermarkets.

Looking forward to next month, there are two Council by-elections in the Gosport Constituency. When Stubbington & Bridgemary North go to the ballot boxes on 9 & 30 November respectively, I will be fully supporting our excellent Conservative Candidates Pal Hayre & Richard Dickson.

Finally, on 17th November I'll be hosting an Enterprise Fair, at the Jervis Gallery, St Vincent College. The event brings together local businesses, aspiring entrepreneurs and business support organisations, and is free to attend, with a really exciting line-up of confirmed speakers, a Q&A session with successful local businesswomen and plenty of opportunities for networking. For more information or to reserve your place, please email jessica.prestidge@parliament.uk. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes

Caroline



Scary fun at Halloween on the Green

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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