



Caroline Dinenage

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



Opening Alverstoke Post Office

A busy October saw my campaign to highlight the huge gap in basic literacy and numeracy skills within Britain's adult population gather pace, when I held a landmark debate in the Chamber of the House of Commons on the issue. As a result, I have been asked to set up a Parliamentary Group for Maths & Numeracy, in order to increase awareness of the importance of these basic skills.

I also raised the issue of illiteracy among prisoners during questions to the Department of Justice. I was pleased that the Minister expressed his commitment to boosting participation in education schemes in prisons. Meanwhile, we had the good news that under this Government, crime in Hampshire is down 22%. Police reforms have been key to this but we must also strive to reduce reoffending rates, so supporting skills development must be a priority.



At the hockey MiniFest

Back in Alverstoke village we celebrated the opening of a refurbished Post Office and I was on hand to cut the ribbon! The transformation is unbelievable and I'm sure customers will be pleased with the extended Saturday opening hours.

As regular readers will know, I'm a keen advocate of getting young people into sport which is why I was delighted to watch the regional MiniFest tournament hosted by Gosport Borough Hockey Club.

Health issues were high up on my agenda this month. During a meeting with Ursula Ward and Alan Cole from the Portsmouth Hospitals Trust I discussed local health matters. I also visited Stubbington Medical Practice, which is suffering from a chronic shortage of space, and pledged to try to help the Practice Partners work towards a solution to their problems.



At the NCS Graduation Ceremony

I received an update from the Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group during a meeting in Westminster. I also wrote to Fareham and Gosport CCG regarding regional policies on IVF treatment. I was concerned to hear that women in our area are unable to access IVF treatment in line with NICE guidelines which are followed in other parts of the country. Meanwhile, I was proud to see volunteers from the Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent branch of the National Childbirth Trust recognised at an awards ceremony in Westminster.

I also attended Gosport's National Citizen Service graduation ceremony. The scheme is a great opportunity for young people aged 16/17 to build their confidence, team work and employability skills. I jumped at the opportunity to introduce Cabinet Office officials to Scott Sivier, from the Gosport School Sport Partnership, to discuss ways to make the programme even better.

HMS Sultan's annual Summer Show raised a spectacular £24,000 for local charities and I was honoured to help present the cheques to 28 organisations. It is great to see HMS Sultan taking such an active role in supporting the work of our fantastic charities. Meanwhile, Localgiving.com has launched its 'Grow Your Tenner' campaign, a match funding initiative to support grassroots charities in the UK. For more information visit: www.localgiving.com/gyt.

My Parliamentary duties took me overseas to Croatia where I presented a report on Improving the Survivability of NATO Ground Forces as part of my work with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.



Presenting the cheque at HMS Sultan

Back in the UK, many of my constituents have expressed their concerns about the pilot badger culls and during a Westminster Hall debate, I spoke in support of badger vaccines — a far more preferable option for combating Bovine TB.

I was thrilled to open Gosport Junior School's brand new nature trail which has been developed in collaboration with local gardening company, Revival. A beautiful wooden sculpture was unveiled to commemorate the occasion. I also encountered some of Gosport's craftsmen at an event in Westminster launching the National Coppice Federation which will promote British craft companies abroad.



Opening Gosport Junior School's Nature Trail

With business in mind, I paid visits to three local beneficiaries of the Bridging the Gap Fund which I helped start, in partnership with The News. The grant has helped Kev Jones & Son, Fluid Profiling, and Blitz Photography grow their businesses and create more jobs.

Meanwhile the Office of National Statistics released figures this month showing that unemployment in our area is now at its lowest point since before May 2010. At 2.6%, Gosport's unemployment figure is lower than the national average, however, there is still more to be done. In December, we will celebrate Small Business Saturday and I hope that local people will support independent retailers in our area.

As part of my role as Chair of a Parliamentary Group for Local Growth, I was proud to launch a report on how Local Enterprise Partnerships can support growth. Our own Solent LEP has been instrumental in the progress at the Daedalus Enterprise Zone. This month, I made a successful deputation to Fareham Borough Council to support their bid for £8 million Government funding for a new hangar, resurfacing the runway and constructing a new business innovation centre at Daedalus.

I'm proud of what the Government is doing to support people who want to work hard and get on in life. You can find out for yourself how changes over the last 3 years have affected you by visiting: www.forhardworkingpeople.com.



At Fluid Profiling

Best wishes

Caroline (P.S. Please forward on my newsletter to friends and neighbours!)

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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