



# Caroline Dinenage

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



*Helping HMS Sultan present cheques to outstanding local charities*

It's been a hectic October, jam-packed with community events and lots of activity, in both the Gosport Constituency and Westminster, on important local issues.

I was deeply concerned when the Care Quality Commission rated Queen Alexandra hospital's A&E department as 'requiring improvement' back in June. That's why I met with the new interim chief executive of QA, Tim Powell, this month. Recent well-reported incidents of ambulances queueing outside A&E for hours show that more must be done, particularly as we move into the high-pressure winter period. Therefore, I followed up my meeting with a letter to Tim & will continue to monitor the situation. You can see me talking about this issue, [here](#).

A big part of the solution to this problem at QA is improving primary care in the community. This means faster access to GP services, so less people need take their healthcare issues to hospital in the first-place. In Gosport, the innovative [Better Local Care \(BLC\) vanguard](#) aims to do just this.

I was pleased to welcome the local GPs who head the BLC pilot and Gosport Same Day Access Service to Parliament. I took them to meet the Health Minister to discuss obstacles they are facing in moving the service forward.

Continuing on the health theme, I attended Westminster Flu Day, to promote the importance of getting this season's flu vaccine. 53% of at-risk people and 27% of people over the age of 65 in Gosport were not vaccinated last year. I would encourage anyone in at risk groups to take advantage of the flu vaccine, which is free for many groups including people like me who suffer with asthma.

Also in Parliament, I attended a Getting Ready for Winter event with British Gas to learn about how constituents can take advantage of free help and support with energy bills. Find out more, [here](#).

In my role as Minister for Women & Equalities, I was honoured to be invited to open the London Stock Exchange and deliver a speech to senior employers in the financial sector about gender diversity, which is crucial for business success and the future of our economy.

In Gosport one of my favourite events of the year is HMS Sultan's annual Charity Cheque Presentation. I was delighted to once again be invited to help Captain Towell and his team award cheques to some of our outstanding local charities.

The success of Royal Clarence Yard's Heritage Open Days, prompted me to speak to bosses at Berkley Homes about how they can further support the regeneration and development of this local jewel. I visited the site this month to meet some of the great new businesses that have arrived there.



*Opening the London Stock Exchange!*



*Trying to smile for the camera while getting my flu jab!*

Julie and her team welcomed me to Arty's, a fantastic pizza restaurant that has relocated from Fareham Road . I was so impressed I decided to celebrate my birthday there this month! Next door, the Wendy House has just opened. As a cafe geared towards customers with children, I can see this being a great hit with local parents.

I visited the Victualler Harbourside Bar and Restaurant, another stylish and impressive new venue, which holds its launch party on Saturday, 5 November. I also popped to the re-opening of the Seahorse pub in Gomer. It is under the new management of the superstar sisters from the nearby Fighting Cocks, Sybille & Abby, and has a sumptuous looking seafood menu.

With such exciting venues opening up locally there's no longer any need to travel out of the peninsula for great food and of course, world class views!

I met up with some of our trailblazing headteachers to hear their latest plans for improving education provision in our area. We discussed how Bay House will shortly be forming a Multi Academy Trust with Brune Park. I was also delighted to welcome pupils from Meoncross in Stubbington and Bay House Sixth Form up to the Parliament Education Centre.



*Being grilled by Bay House Sixth-Formers in the Parliament Education Centre*



*Helping out at British Heart Foundation on the High Street*

As part of Gosport Borough Council's activities for Older Person's Month, I attended Gosport Conservative Association's Older Person's Coffee Morning. With opportunities to socialise and chat with likeminded local people and nearly 100 new members this year alone, if you'd like to get involved in GCA's vibrant social calendar, do give Lesley a ring, on 02392 588400.

I was pleased to welcome former UKIP Councillors Patrick Bergin and Chris Wood the Conservative party this month. I look forward to working with them both.

I visited the British Heart Foundation shop on Gosport High Street and met the volunteers and staff who work there and help raise much needed funds for their vital, lifesaving work. I was also pleased to attend Hornet Sailing Club's Biannual Reception. This great local club offers social sailing opportunities for members of the local Armed Forces community.

Southern Domestic Abuse Service is making a bid for £25,000 to help build a refuge. To vote for this fantastic organisation, please click [here](#).

Local litter clearers have recently acquired a community beach clean box for our area. These volunteers do such invaluable work to maintain our beautiful coastline. If you're interested in getting involved, contact Cliff [here](#).

Looking forward to next month, I am excited to be hosting an Enterprise Fair on Friday 18 November at the Jervis Gallery, St Vincent College. The event is aimed at local residents and armed forces families who own their own businesses or are interested in setting one up. Our fantastic line up of keynote speakers includes Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE. The event commences at 1:30pm. To reserve a place, please RSVP by e-mail to [lucy.burton@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.burton@parliament.uk).



**Date:** Friday 18th November  
**Time:** 1:30pm  
**Location:** Jervis Gallery, St Vincent College, Mill Lane, Gosport PO12 4QA  
**RSVP:** by 11th November to [lucy.burton@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.burton@parliament.uk)

- FREE business support exhibition for residents and the local armed forces community that run a business or are thinking of starting a business
- Keynote speeches from X-Forces, Solent LEP, British Marine and Caroline Dinenage MP
- Top tips from successful local entrepreneurs including Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE
- Networking session with funding agencies and business support organisations

To see the full range of activities taking place across Gosport in celebration of Global Enterprise Week, visit: [www.investingosport.co.uk/start-a-business/enterprising-gosport](http://www.investingosport.co.uk/start-a-business/enterprising-gosport)



*RSVP to reserve a place !*

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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