



# Caroline Dinenage

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



Welcome to a new Parliamentary term and my new look newsletter!

I found myself back in Westminster a little sooner than expected last month when Parliament was recalled to discuss events in Syria. Although no fan of military action myself, I still thought it was important to voice our horror at the illegal use of chemical weapons on innocent civilians. I was proud that the PM gave MPs the chance to vote on Britain's involvement & that he listened to our views - a move that was subsequently emulated by President Obama in the US.

This month, news from the Office of National Statistics showed unemployment is down again across the UK. In the Gosport area, it's at its lowest point since July 2010. While there is still more to do, these figures highlight the great work being done by local organisations such as the Wheatsheaf Trust. This month, I met them to discuss the problems they face in helping the long-term unemployed into jobs.

During a debate on manufacturing in Westminster, I urged the Government to do even more to cut red tape and back British businesses. I'm asking SMEs to tell me about all those niggly bits of government legislation which prevent them from functioning efficiently. If you have any thoughts of your own, please do get in touch.

To discuss this, I invited local Federation of Small Business & Chamber of Commerce leaders to Westminster. I also took the opportunity to speak to around 60 local business people at Fareham Business Breakfast Club. I was able to pass on some of their concerns when I held a meeting with the British Bankers' Association, who are working to free up the finance that businesses need to grow. You can access their advice on what to do if your business is denied funding [here](#).

At the Southampton Boat Show, Dean & Reddyhoff, the owners of Haslar Marina, hosted an event for our Gosport Marine Scene group to promote Gosport as a key maritime player. It was great to see so many of our local businesses at the Show.

I took the opportunity at Prime Ministers Questions to invite David Cameron to our area to see some of our marine and sailing companies in action. This month our very own Clipper Ventures fleet left Gosport for the start of the 40,000 mile Round the World Race which will generate £40M for the UK economy. Let's hope the PM takes me up on my offer and pays us a visit soon!

We've also heard the fantastic news that that Bay House School will receive £2.5M from the Education Funding Agency for its new sports hall. The bid had initially been refused but, after a well choreographed nagging campaign by school staff, parents, local residents and my Parliamentary team, this awesome facility can now be built.



*Meeting with representatives from the Wheatsheaf Trust*



*At the Dean & Reddyhoff stand*



*With Ian Potter, Bay House Head*

The fab Gosport School Sports Partnership is still hard at work — this month it will launch a scheme in collaboration with MEND to promote healthy lifestyles to 5-7 year olds. From October 16th, parents and children will be able to attend 10 free sessions at Bridgemary School. For more information, click [here](#).

It's not every day you get the chance to try out a brand new sport, so I seized the opportunity to have a go at Wheelchair Laser Tag during an event organised by local entrepreneur, Gary Byrne, in collaboration with GADSAD. The charity does wonderful work providing activities for disabled people in our local area so it was great to be able to support their fundraising efforts.



At the GADSAD Wheelchair Laser Tag Event

Continuing to do my bit for charity, I joined the fight against breast cancer by

'wearing it pink' to support Breast Cancer Campaign's hugely successful initiative which will run on Friday 25th October. I also made a pledge to make the Gosport peninsula a dementia-friendly area by supporting the Dementia Friends campaign spearheaded by Alzheimer's Society UK.

In our region, the events at the War Memorial Hospital during the 1980s and 90s have left a legacy of considerable anguish among hospital staff and patient's families. Since before I was elected, I've pushed for greater transparency to be brought to the case so I was pleased that the Baker Report into deaths was finally released in August. I attended a useful meeting with concerned families and Health Minister, Norman Lamb, to decide what the appropriate course of action should be. If you, or anyone you know, was affected by these events and would like to express their view, please get in touch with me.

On a more positive note, I was honoured to cut the ribbon for a new Move On house for ex-service personnel in Gosport. It is one of many homes that Alabaré Christian Care & Support have funded across the UK and will help veterans to get back on their feet once they have completed their duties. One servicewoman firmly on her feet is Cdr Sarah West, the first female commander of a major naval warship, HMS Portland, who took time out from her busy schedule to address the Parliamentary Group for the Royal Navy, which I chair, about the process of preparing a ship and its company for deployment.

Locally, I was pleased to see the impressive new Learning Resources and Student Support Centre when I visited St Vincent College for my regular catch-up meeting. And that isn't the only new education facility on the peninsula. Work has started on the CEMAST education centre at the Daedalus Enterprise Zone, Lee on the Solent, with the first engineering students due to be starting next September. I got a sneak preview of the work on the site when I met with aviation companies there to discuss the next stage in our plans to build an aviation, aerospace & marine business park.

Finally, regeneration is also well underway at Gosport High Street where our Town Team of local businesses & residents is working hard; take a look at the new town centre website [here](#).

Best wishes

*Caroline*

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



Opening the Alabaré Move On home

## 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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