

# Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

February kicked off with my regular catch-up meeting with local Police – my first with new Gosport & Fareham District Commander Darren O’Callaghan & Area Police Superintendent Richard John. It was good to hear that violent crime & serious acquisitive crime is down again across Gosport & indeed the rest of Hampshire, where burglary is also at the lowest rate for 30 years, a testament to the hard work and commitment of our Police.

Always keen to discover more about the historic treasures we have in Gosport, I was delighted to visit the Maritime Workshop Open Day and learn more about the Steam Pinnacle 199. As a tender to larger ships & later as an Admiral’s barge the Pinnacle played an important role in two world wars. The boat is being lovingly restored to its former glory by local volunteers.

Voluntary organisations & community groups make such a positive difference in our area, this month I attended a special meeting of the Lee-on-the-Solent & Stubbington Royal Navy Association, to present the branch's first Honorary Presidency. I also opened the Great Big Advice Day at Ferneham Hall; a one-stop-shop offering advice and support to disabled people, the elderly & unemployed.

I was delighted to show my support for young carers by attending the ‘Be Bothered’ campaign launch. Young carers are so often unsung heroes, devoting countless hours to looking after their loved ones, it’s important that local authorities and schools work together to give them the support they need.

My visits to schools are always great fun and this month I was lucky enough to be invited to spend a morning discussing ‘democracy’ with children at Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School. Year Six all became MPs and debated lowering the voting age to 16 - I was very impressed with their persuasive arguments both pro & con. You’ll be pleased to hear that many of them are keen to do the job for real one day, so our future is in safe hands!



*At the Maritime Workshop Open Day*



*At the 'Be Bothered' campaign launch*



*At Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School*

For the latest news visit [www.caroline4gosport.co.uk](http://www.caroline4gosport.co.uk)



*Opening KitchenWorX on Stoke Road*

Up in Westminster, I attended a seminar on 'reshoring' (the growing trend of business being brought back to the UK from overseas) by the Parliamentary Manufacturing Group. The event discussed ways to explore the massive potential of UK manufacturing and the key role it can play in strengthening our economy. And with growth in mind I was delighted to open KitchenWorX, the latest new business to hit Stoke Road. This is great news for the local area and proves that entrepreneurial spirit is alive and kicking in Gosport. I also spoke at a seminar at the Institute for Chartered Accountants (ICAEW) about local growth and the key role that the new Local Enterprise Partnerships, such as our Solent LEP, can play in support.

In response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee report into football governance, I attended a meeting of the Supporters' Direct group and reiterated my backing for effective reforms of the way the 'beautiful game' is run, I wasn't surprised to see many Pompey supporters there, given how hard they are working to secure the Club's future.

I took a trip down memory lane this month as I was invited back to my old university in Swansea to see the exciting plans for their £240m new business & engineering campus, which will be run in partnership with companies including Rolls Royce & BAE, ensuring that students are fully equipped with all the skills employers need to face the global economic marketplace of the future.

Continuing my efforts to raise the awareness of low levels of adult literacy and numeracy, I applied for a debate on this important issue in Backbench time in the House of Commons - I'll find out if my bid has been successful in the coming weeks - fingers crossed!

Finally, regular readers will know that I've long campaigned for our heroic Arctic Convoy veterans of WW2 to be honoured with a specific medal. Following the Prime Minister's announcement of the Arctic Star medal in December, I'm thrilled that swift progress has been made and production of the new medal has started. Veterans and their widows will receive the medal in the next few weeks followed by next of kin - to apply contact [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info) or 08457 800 900 (local rate).



*At the ICAEW*



*The Arctic Star*

Best wishes

*Caroline*

## GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. It is also possible to come up to Parliament to have an official tour. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben for my constituents. Just please contact my office to book at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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