

Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

The sun may not be shining but it certainly felt like summer this month in Gosport. Rowner Carnival got the holiday spirit started, with a huge parade of colourful and creative costumes. There was also plenty to keep everyone entertained when I joined Grange Infant School at their Summer Fete. The month was brought to a close by Gosport's very first Sustainability Fayre, an excellent advertisement for local produce, such as the delicious Gosport Honey! I'm happy to report on some other brilliant achievements in Gosport this month. Our constituency's very own Nicholas Wood was the deserving recipient of the History Teacher of the Year award for his sterling work at Brune Park Community College. I was able to congratulate him on his inspiring teaching at a reception thrown in honour of the winners in Parliament. St Mary's Catholic School has also put our local schools on the map this month. I joined them for the launch of *Perseus and the Gorgon's Head*, a thrilling new book written by the pupils – and available in good bookshops now!



With the young authors of St Mary's Catholic School

I was also impressed by the great success of the fly-in organised by the Lee Flying Association at the Daedalus Airfield. People flew their planes from all over the country to the event, demonstrating what a relevant and viable airfield we have right here on our doorstep.



At the Daedalus fly-in

The potential of Gosport's fantastic assets was brought home to me at the launch of the Marine Skills Centre, which will offer courses from September. We all gathered in Gosport Marina to celebrate this joint venture between St Vincent's and Mabway Academy as a crucial step towards reinforcing this area's reputation as a centre for maritime excellence.



Launching the Marine Skills Centre

We also have a noble heritage of pioneering scientific work – as I learnt on my visit to the Institute of Naval Medicine. I was fascinated by the world-renowned research performed there, ensuring our Armed Forces are at their operational best, as well as conducting medical discharges for the whole of the Naval Service.



Visiting the Institute of Naval Medicine

For the latest news visit www.caroline4gosport.co.uk



Biking in aid of Help for Heroes

As regular readers know, I'm always campaigning in support of the Navy in Parliament. I spoke up this month to welcome the Government's commitment to a 1% increase in equipment spending. This decision reflects an increasing recognition in Government of the huge value of the Navy, and I'll continue to campaign to ensure it is fully provided for.

The Coastguard at Lee-on-the-Solent also provide a key local role. I urged the Transport Minister in the House of Commons to commit to its future there, following the announcement of proposed changes to the Coastguard Coordination Centres. An important debate was also

held this month in Parliament on dangerous dogs – I stressed my constituents' growing concern about the use of these animals as weapons in violent crime.

Another campaign very close to my heart is that of the Arctic Convoy veterans. These incredible servicemen sacrificed so much in WWII to keep supply lines with Russia open. I've recently been interviewed by the BBC on my ongoing fight to ensure these brave men get the recognition that they deserve before it is too late.

Closer to home, I was proud to take part in a huge motorcycle rally in aid of the Help for Heroes charity. I joined 100s of bikers on their ride between Stoke Bay and Alton to raise money to support some of the bravest people in our society.

With such a packed month, there was just enough time for me to squeeze in a visit to the Olympic Park. I hope that my campaign to bring the Olympic Torch to Gosport will ensure that we're a part of next year's exciting events.

I also had the privilege of being profiled by the BBC this month – you can read the article online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14156085>.

Finally, a quick mention for another of our constituency's great ventures: Gosport Older Persons Forum. They're always able to offer help, advice or just companionship to those hoping to 'grow old disgracefully' and encourage people to contact them on gospportopforum@hotmail.co.uk or at Gosport Older Persons Forum c/o Gosport Voluntary Action, Martin Snape House, 96 Pavilion Way, Gosport, PO12 1FG.

Best wishes,

Caroline



Touring the Olympic Park

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 two months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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