



Caroline Dinenage

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



Behind the wheel of an Eclipse bus



*Hearing more about the
Post Office's plans*



Speaking in the Chamber

This month got off to a good start when I received news from the Secretary of State for Defence that the MoD will restore the Home to Duty Travel allowance for service personnel travelling to work on the Gosport & Hayling Ferries. I have long campaigned for this to be reinstated and am delighted that local service personnel will no longer be forced to travel to work on our already congested roads in order to get their costs reimbursed.

Regular readers will know my opinion on our political relationship with Europe, but this month I was delighted that parts of Gosport have been added to the UK Assisted Areas Map. This means that local businesses will be able to bid for EU funding and tax breaks to create jobs, invest and grow. It was my idea to bid for this status jointly with parts of Portsmouth and I've worked closely with my colleague Penny Mordaunt MP (Portsmouth North) to secure this important funding which will offer a real boost for business in our area.

As part of our continued campaign for better bus provision across our area, local Councillors Scard and Burgess joined me for a meeting with Hampshire County Councillors and First Buses to discuss potential solutions. Since this is 'Catch the Bus Week', I also took the opportunity to get behind the wheel of one of our local Eclipse buses for a test drive – I'm pleased to announce that both bus and passengers survived intact!

Back in Westminster, I attended a Post Office briefing session to hear more about the extensive modernisation programme. Alverstoke Post Office has already benefited from the project and, after years of campaigning, I am relieved to hear that finally a proposal has been made to relocate the Gosport High Street branch to new premises nearby. Visit postofficeviews.co.uk and enter the code 24293799 to submit your comments.

I stood up for working parents during a Parliamentary debate this month by highlighting the importance of affordability in childcare. With such promising employment figures across the UK, it is essential that the Government does all it can to relieve unnecessary pressure from working parents.

I also spoke in support of the Government's commitment to protecting front-line NHS services in areas such as ours, which have been badly affected by the legacy of PFI debt, during questions to the Secretary of State for Health. I welcome the Government's commitment to managing this spending and protecting frontline NHS services.

In Gosport, the local Town Team continues to promote the interests of town centre businesses and customers. An election is currently taking place to select two new members; you can cast your vote here: svy.mk/1jchn1a. This Government is also working hard to help businesses flourish; this month firms across the Gosport peninsula received a cut of up to £2000 from their National Insurance bills, making it cheaper and easier for them to hire new employees.

I was fortunate to visit one of the world's biggest economies when I was selected to join a Parliamentary delegation to China, where we discussed opportunities for British trade and investment. I took the opportunity to mention our own Daedalus Enterprise Zone and was delighted that a member of the Chinese Embassy has shown interest in visiting our local site later on in the year.

Back at home, our own economy is doing well. GDP grew by 0.8% in the first three months of the year, showing that this Government's long-term economic plan is working. Additionally, promising employment figures were revealed for Gosport this April; between February 2013 and February 2014, the unemployment rate dropped from 3.4% to 2.4%, showing that local people are overcoming the barriers to employment.

This month was also a time to celebrate our heritage and I joined the Crofton Lions and local residents at the Stubbington Festival of St George. It was a great community event even attended by the Saint himself! Marking Britain's triumphant success in Sochi earlier this year, I was pleased to meet with members of the GB Paralympics team to celebrate their feats at the Winter Olympics. On a more poignant note, I joined the Falklands Veterans Foundation to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the start of the war during an event in Parliament.

Our area has played an important role in Britain's military history and I am passionate about getting local people engaged with our unique heritage. I called on English

Heritage to improve public access to sites such as Fort Brockhurst during a Westminster debate. We should be making the most of these amazing buildings rather than keeping them under lock and key.

The musical prowess of local young people involved with Motiv8's MUSIC project has produced a track which you can download here: bit.ly/PA8lc8 - all proceeds will go towards a memorial bench in Forton Park for the two Gosport girls who tragically lost their lives in a car incident last year.

Finally, I will be holding various stalls on Saturday mornings throughout May in Gosport, Stubbington and Lee-on-the-Solent. Please do come along for a chat.

And scarily, on May 24th, my husband and I will both be abseiling off the Spinnaker Tower in aid of the MS Society, if you would like to support this wonderful cause you can find my donations page here: bit.ly/1iMwpVj. Fingers crossed I make it down to the ground in one piece!

Best wishes

Caroline



Meeting representatives from Chinese Government



With 'Stubbington's St George'!



With the Paralympic torch

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!

Constituency Office: 02392 522 121

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA