

Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

After a busy summer recess in the constituency – when we heard the great news that Daedalus will become an Enterprise Zone – it was back to Westminster for the start of the Parliamentary term.

September kicked off with some important Bills before the House. In the Police Reform and Social Responsibility debate, I expressed my full support for the introduction of directly elected Police Commissioners. It's time to restore public confidence in our Police by ensuring that they prioritise what matters to people they are there to serve.

I also stressed the necessity of promoting apprenticeships during a debate on opportunities for the young. On-the-job training delivers huge benefits for both employers and the young people taking their first step onto the career ladder.

There were also a number of vital meetings in Parliament. As we face an ever-growing crisis in the Euro-zone, I know that many of my constituents are concerned about the encroaching role of the EU in domestic politics. Along with almost hundred other Conservative MPs, I discussed what can be done to pull back on integration and reassert our sovereignty.

With Hampshire recording the highest number of dementia sufferers in the country, I was also glad to be able to attend a hugely informative meeting with leading medical experts and carers. Early diagnosis and the right medication are crucial to managing this illness, and I'm pushing to make sure this is available to the people of Gosport. Then there was just time to try my hand at archery with the UK archery team in Parliament before we broke up for Conference Recess.



Speaking in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility debate



Discussing dementia with a carer at the Parliamentary event



Trying my hand at archery in the House of Commons!

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



The girls gaining an education in India thanks to UK aid

In the break, I had the great privilege of travelling to India with a number of my Parliamentary colleagues. As well as holding constructive meetings with Indian MPs, Ministers and business leaders, we visited the charities supported by the UK Government. Many of my constituents will know that I have frequently questioned the legitimacy of giving aid to an increasingly wealthy country like India, and supported the cuts to it over the coming years. The project we visited, which provides education for the children who survive by 'rag-picking' on the waste tips of Mumbai, brought home to me the dire poverty that many of India's citizens endure. While we must always review aid in the light of India's growing wealth, this project demonstrated that targeted, grassroots action by this Government is having a much needed impact on the lives of impoverished children.

What is essential is that aid enables people to help themselves. That's the ethos behind the fantastic charity, Tools for Self-Reliance. For over 30 years it's helped thousands of African people improve their lives by taking old, disused tools and restoring them for use in Africa. If you're interested in donating old tools to this brilliant, Gosport-founded charity, visit www.tfsr.org or contact David Bloodworth on 02380869697.

It's part of an amazing amount of charity work in our constituency. This week, I opened the Tickled Pink day at Asda in Fareham to help raise money for Breast Cancer Care, and met a number of inspirational survivors who demonstrated the importance of fundraising and raising awareness.

Finally, as regular readers of my newsletter will know, I am dedicated to campaigning for our Armed Forces. As a member of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, I visited the Commando Training Centre for the Royal Marines at Lympstone to get a sense of the work they do. I also met with Defence Minister Gerald Howarth to discuss insights into our international security strategy.

At a time when our Forces are facing difficult cuts, it's more important than ever to understand and highlight the value of our military resources. After a successful campaign to save the academy at HMS Sultan, I was delighted to hear its training has been rated 'outstanding'. It confirmed what we've known all along – their work is second-to-none and must be protected from further cuts.

Best wishes,

Caroline



At Asda's Tickled Pink fundraising day

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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