

Caroline Dinenage

May 2011
Issue 6

Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

It's been another busy month, both in Gosport and in Westminster, and one which also included a trip to the Falkland Islands as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme.

The scheme exists to give Parliamentarians a better understanding of the Armed Forces by allowing us to experience life at the 'sharp end' - my short time in the Falklands saw me undertaking an overnight camp and live firing exercise with the Infantry and a battlefield tour, as well as living with the junior ratings onboard HMS York, each day presented physical and mental challenges and has helped me to better understand what life is like on deployment as well as perpetuate Gosport's special connection with the region (as home to Falklands Veterans Association). I was also able to quiz Diplomats, Assembly members and Military Personnel on some of the key concerns regarding the Islands.

I've also recently hosted a reception in Westminster as part of my role as the Chair of the Parliamentary Group for the Royal Navy. Around 70 personnel, representing every aspect of the Navy and the Royal Marines - from Surface Fleet to Submariners, Royal Fleet Auxiliary to Navy Medics and Reservists to Fleet Air Arm as well as ranks from Able Seaman to Commodore, were welcomed at the Houses of Parliament to share their experiences with the many Parliamentarians in attendance.

Back in the constituency, this month I officially opened the Phoenix Ale House in Little Woodham - Gosport's very own 17th Century Village. May Day was celebrated in period dress and was enjoyed by all the families who attended, including my own. If you're looking for a place to take the kids to experience living history in the most authentic setting then Little Woodham is recommended!

As a keen netball player and as part of my role as England ambassador for the sport, I invited England netball stars Sasha Corbin and Karen Atkinson to our very own Bridgemary Community School to conduct a very special training session. The students were able to pick up some first class tips and quiz the stars about their careers.



Caroline in action



Caroline Welcomes Women in Business to Westminster



Caroline in costume at Little Woodham

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Caroline at Gosport College

One of my favourite tasks as an MP is my tour of the schools across the constituency, this month I met children and teachers at Rowner Infants and Junior Schools, while students from Crofton School joined me in Westminster for a tour and Q&A session. I also spent a great morning at Gosport College experiencing first hand some of the superb skills training they deliver there – I tried my hand at bricklaying and certainly learned that there is more to it than meets the eye!

Continuing with the education theme, I am working hard to make our democracy more accessible to young people and raised a question to the

Minister of State for Education about the future of citizenship teaching, citing the good work of Fareport

Training in helping to engage post 16 students. It is so important to give young people the tools to understand their role in society - I will be campaigning for this requirement to remain an integral part of the national curriculum.

Back in Westminster, I had the chance in PMQs to question the Prime Minister on immigration and the revelation that Labour misled the public on the scale of the problem. I also raised the plight of small businesses in a Westminster Hall debate on the Manufacturing Sector. As the owner of a small firm, I know of the problems caused by clients who fail to pay on time. I have now raised this growing issue with the Minister for Business and asked him to help small firms get the money they are owed. My recent appointment to the Marine Sector Advisory Group, an advisory council to UK Trade and Investment, will also help to ensure I am able to best represent and promote Gosport's diverse maritime economy.

I recently hosted an event for an issue that is particularly close to my heart.; As a business person myself, I know the challenges women face trying to juggle their busy lives with the demands of starting a new business. Despite this, women have some fantastic and entrepreneurial ideas and so, when I was asked to help set up the 'accelerating change network' in a launch event at Westminster, I jumped at the chance.

Finally, I was particularly pleased by the announcement that the Olympic Torch will be travelling through Hampshire on its way to London. I am now campaigning for the route to include our area and have met with Olympic officials to show all that we have to offer. I'm also urging all the local schools in the area to register with the Olympics' 'Get Set' Scheme, which will give thousands of school children the opportunity to get free tickets.

Best wishes,

Caroline



Caroline puts the case for Gosport at Olympic Torch Event

GET IN TOUCH

I receive a huge amount of emails, calls and letters every week but my team in Westminster and Gosport help me respond to as fully and as quickly as I can. I spend most Thursdays and every Friday working in the constituency and have a weekly surgery. Feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is.

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