

Hello and welcome to our latest e-newsletter - we hope you find it interesting. Click on the links for more info:

**Christmas eCards and Gifts** – It's probably too late now to send a card or gift to arrive by post in time for Christmas. But, you can send cards and gifts electronically [http://www.gbss.org.uk/in\\_your\\_name.php](http://www.gbss.org.uk/in_your_name.php). For those last minute eCards, there's a choice: our eCards are free (though donations are welcome) at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop> or there's a wider range at <http://www.everyclick.com/christmas> (minimum spend of £5 for up to 100 cards) and amazing animated cards at <http://www.tripletruth.co.uk/> (£1+ VAT each, with 50% of the cost going to your selected charity - there's a minimum payment for 10 cards, though you don't have to use them all at once). For the person who has everything, you could give a donation to GBSS in their name: see [http://www.gbss.org.uk/in\\_your\\_name.php](http://www.gbss.org.uk/in_your_name.php). Or you could pay for them to become a member of the charity for a year for just £15. For more information about joining please contact us at [www.gbss.org.uk](http://www.gbss.org.uk).

**Spa Day** – Need some pampering? The Treatment House Spa at Newby Hall in Ripon is holding a fundraising week for GBSS starting on the 25th January 2010. They will be donating 50% of all treatment costs that week to GBSS. The Spa is set in the tranquil surroundings of Newby Hall in Ripon, a perfect place to relax and be pampered. The Treatment House offers a huge variety of treatments including massage, facials, teeth whitening, tanning, semi permanent make- up and eyelash extensions. To see all the treatments on offer visit <http://www.thetreatmenthouse.co.uk/home-leeds-yorkshire-health-and-beauty-treatments.html>.

**BBC My Story** - Supporter Paul Moore has had his story published on the BBC website. Read it at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mystory/stories/survival/167523/>. Paul says, "Without strep B support I think I'd have fallen apart, someone on the end of the phone who understood me was so reassuring. The more people that say they like and rate the story, the further it goes and the more chance it has of getting on TV and the message will spread even more, so please get reading and liking (I feel like a contestant on the X factor asking for votes, but don't worry I won't sing!!). Thanks."

**Raise funds for free** - Search the web, shop online, trade on eBay - get started right now. Make <http://www.everyclick.com/groupbstrepsupport> your homepage and start raising funds for us now!

**Would your organisation help us with fundraising?** We're looking at new ways of generating funds for our vital work, including organisations large and small which donate to us. Lots of organisations only give to charities which a member of staff supports. If you are involved with an organisation which you think might donate to us, please do get in touch with us. We will do all the necessary leg-work – all you need to do is tell us who to write to and send an email to that person saying you support our cause. Please do get in touch at [fundraising@gbss.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@gbss.org.uk) if you might be able to help.

**Do you have a story to tell?** Would you be able to tell your GBS story in 100-200 words and send it, and a photo, to us at GBSS? We'd like to include some stories in a variety of places – on our website, in our printed newsletter and in funding applications. And would you be able to say how GBSS has been able to help you (if we have, of course)? This can be a powerful way of raising awareness of group B Strep and supporting our work. If you would like to help, please email Jane Plumb at [jplumb@gbss.org.uk](mailto:jplumb@gbss.org.uk) – and we promise we won't use your story/quote without your express permission

**Twitter & Facebook** - You can now become a fan of GBSS on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Group-B-Strep-Support/98947320307>. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GBSSupport>. Each of these where we'll keep you up to date with what's happening at the charity, published articles and fundraising news. It's early days and we're still learning about Twitter and facebook, but we'd love you to join (and help us)!

**GBSS Raffle 2009** – A huge thank you to everyone who supported our raffle this year. We sold almost 11,000 tickets raising just under £5,500. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to those who didn't. And many congratulations to our top 5 sellers of tickets, who sold an amazing 1,082 tickets between them. They are Dean & Sarah Aldwinckle, Emma Brands, Yvonne McNally, David Fuller and Sarah Tyce – brilliant!

That's all for now – we'll be in touch again in a few weeks time. With best wishes from all of us here for a very merry Christmas and a fantastic 2010,

**The GBSS Team**

If you'd prefer not to receive e-mails such as this from us, please let us know by replying to this email with REMOVE in the subject heading.

If you would like leaflets or posters to help raise awareness of GBS, please download them from <http://www.gbss.org.uk/downloads> or let us know and we'll send you some.

**Group B Strep Support**

preventing life-threatening group B Strep infection in newborn babies

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