

Hello and welcome to our latest e-newsletter.

Fundraising events coming up:

Run/Walk on Saturday, 5 June 2010 at Thornbridge Hall, Derbyshire. The FSI's charity fundraising day mixes fundraising and family fun – a fun run/walk of 4k or 10k, suitable to all ages with a reasonable level of fitness. The routes take you through some of the most scenic parts of the Peak District, after which you can relax in the grounds of Thornbridge Hall. If you're interested, visit <http://www.thefsi.org/2009/11/challenge-2010/> or contact Marie at mrothwell@gbss.org.uk or 01444 416176.

Big Fun Run 10 July-10 October 2010, 24 runs at venues all around the country. After the great response on our (old) Facebook page, we've signed up as an official charity! Each event is a 5k run/walk, staged in scenic parks, so perfect for families & friends, males & females, old & young. If you're raising funds for us, the entrance fee is: adults £8, ages 5-8 or >65 £5, under 5 free. Find your venue at <http://www.bigfunrun.com>.

Thanks to all the supporters who have already signed up - if you haven't yet, please do! This is a brilliant way of raising money for GBSS and awareness of GBS and the whole family can join in. With your help, this could be our biggest joint fundraiser ever!

Conferences coming up:

LSA National Conference, 22 April 2010 in Nottingham. "From Vision to Action" is for supervisors of midwives/those with an interest in supervision. See <http://www.jmdevents.co.uk/index.htm>. We'll be there - please come over and say hello (and collect our latest information materials) if you attend.

Group B Strep Symposium, 17 June 2010 in London NW9. This conference is aimed at students, laboratory researchers, scientists, clinicians (particularly neonatologists, paediatricians, obstetricians & gynaecologists) & public health specialists. See http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733796935. We'll be there – please come over to our stand and say hello (& collect our latest information materials) if you attend.

Other fundraising:

Waitrose Community Matters – Each Waitrose store shares £1000 between 3 local charities or causes each month, advertising what each charity does and what the money will be used for. Customers are given green coins when they are paying which they place in the charity box they choose to support. At the end of the month, the green coins are counted up and the money is divided proportionally between the 3 organisations.

To become one of the charities for the month, several people need to nominate GBSS so the Waitrose team sees our name and recognises their customers feel our work is really worthwhile. **Please nominate us!** You can pick up a nomination form from the Customer Service Welcome Desk at your local branch – the info you need is:

Charity Name: Group B Strep Support

Reason the charity is being nominated: Group B Strep Support helps save babies' lives. Group B Streptococcus is the UK's most common cause of life threatening infection in newborn babies and we work to raise awareness and prevent this infection. (or whatever you would like to write)

Charity Contact Details: Lorna Cooksey 01444 416176 or fundraising@gbss.org.uk

Shop for Easter cards & Birthday cards – Charity Cards provide a great range from over 50 of the UK'S leading card publishers at fantastic prices. The website makes it easy to find the right card for the right occasion – you can see close ups and read all the wording inside. Pick your cards and they deliver them to you. And, if you choose GBSS as your charity, a percentage of the value of your order will be donated to GBSS. Please have a look - we are sure you'll agree it's a fab way to choose your cards and help raise funds. <http://www.charitycards.co.uk/charities/gbss>.

If you prefer e-cards (and/or if you're running really late), check out <http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop> - they're free though of course we'd welcome a donation!

Would your organisation help us with fundraising? We're looking at new ways of generating funds for our vital work. Lots of organisations give only to charities supported by a member of staff. If your organisation might give to us, please let us know. We'll do the leg-work – what we need from you is who to write to in your organisation and for you to send an email to that person saying you support us. Please contact Lorna at fundraising@gbss.org.uk.

Awareness raising:

Do you have a story to tell? Can you tell your GBS story in around 200 words and send it, with a photo, to us? We'd like to include some stories in a range of places – on our website, in our printed newsletter and in funding applications. And, if you can, please say how GBSS has helped you (if we have, of course). This is a powerful way both of raising awareness of group B Strep and supporting our work. If you'd like to help, please email Jane Plumb at jplumb@gbss.org.uk (subject: Story to Tell). And of course, we won't use your story or quote you without your permission.

Complete our surveys - if you haven't already, please complete our surveys at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/surveys> and help us be better informed and raise greater awareness about your views on preventing group B Strep infections in babies.

Social media:

Facebook – Unfortunately, for reasons we can't establish, GBSS's facebook page was deleted a little over a week ago. We have a brand new page – please tell us what you want to see on it. Click on the link and become a fan <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Group-B-Strep-Support-GBSS/102734363097680>.

Twitter - You can follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GBSSupport>.

That's all for now – we'll be in touch again in a few weeks time. Please do get in touch with us if you'd like to – the phones are manned weekdays between 9 am and 3 pm. With best wishes from all of us here,

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.

How you can help today:

Download our leaflets & posters from <http://www.gbss.org.uk/downloads> and distribute them
Raise money for GBSS by making your search engine <http://www.everyclick.com/groupbstrepsupport>
Make a donation and support our work at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/donate>