

Group B Strep Support eNewsletter 14 20 April 2010

Hello and welcome to our latest e-newsletter.

The Election 2010: The forthcoming election could be a great opportunity to help raise awareness with your local prospective parliamentary candidates. For some ideas, please visit our new webpage at http://www.gbss.org.uk/content.php?sub_id=81§ion_id=4 .

Fundraising events coming up:

Virgin London Marathon – Sunday, 25 April 2010. One brave runner, Jenny van der Graaf, is running the London Marathon this coming Saturday. If you're planning to watch this event, please look out for her in her bright yellow GBSS running vest! You can sponsor her at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/fundraiser/jennyvandergraaf>.

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 Runs 10 July-10 October 2010, 24 runs at venues all around the country. After the great response on our 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>. So far, GBSS supporters have signed up to 9 of the events so far - if you haven't yet, please do! It's 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!

We have a huge pile of flyers advertising the Big Fun Run for GBSS, if you think you might be able to distribute any please get in touch with how many you would like and I will get them in the post.

Adidas Women's 5k Challenge 5 September 2010 in Hyde Park. This great women-only fun run is a very special day with the party atmosphere and many famous athletes and celebrities taking part for their charities. Last year we had four runners take part on behalf of GBSS and we would love to have some representatives this year. The entry fee is £15 but £5 of this will be returned to the charity you choose to run for. Each runner will receive a finisher's medal, t-shirt and goody bag. If you would like to take part you can register at www.womenschallenge.co.uk or you can contact mrothwell@gbss.org.uk and I can send you the entry form.

Can your organisation help our fundraising? Lots of organisations give only to charities supported by a member of their staff. If your organisation might give to us, please let us know. If you can tell us who to write to in your organisation and send them an email saying you support GBSS, then we'll do the rest. Please contact Lorna at fundraising@gbss.org.uk if you can help.

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). We won't use your story or quote you without your permission.

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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.

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.

Social media:

Facebook – Unfortunately, for reasons we can't fathom, GBSS's facebook page was deleted a little over a month ago. Our new page is now up and running – 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 by making your search engine <http://www.everyclick.com/groupbstrepsupport>
Make a donation and support our work at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/donate>