

Hello and welcome to our latest e-newsletter.

New Government 2010: Please contact your newly elected (or re-elected) Member of Parliament to ask them what they can do help prevent group B Strep infections in newborn babies. For some ideas (including how to find out who your MP is and a draft letter), please visit <http://www.gbss.org.uk/MP>.

Awareness Campaign 2010? We'd like to undertake an awareness campaign for maternity units around the country – if health professionals working in maternity and neonatal services have our information materials to give to families in their care, then awareness of group B Strep infections in babies would be increased hugely! **Please help!** Print, packaging and post all cost money, but it's *so* important to do this. If every person receiving this eNewsletter gave £5, we'll have enough to do this! Please give as generously as you can at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/donate> and put **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN** when asked for additional information. THANK YOU!

Fundraising events coming up:

Run/Walk on Saturday, 5 June 2010 at Thornbridge Hall, Derbyshire. This is your last chance to sign up for this fun event. It's a day mixing fundraising and family fun – a fun run/walk of 4k or 10k, suitable for 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 us by email (reply to this) or phone 01444 416176.

Sponsored Walk in Derry on 13 June 2010. Charlene Grimes is organising a sponsored walk of the two bridges in Derry, Northern Ireland in memory of her niece who passed away on 13 June 2009 aged three weeks old from GBS infection. Charlene is hoping to raise awareness of group B Strep in the community and raise funds for GBSS. The walk start at 11.00 am on 13 June starting and she would welcome anyone who would like to join them. If you are interested, let us know and we'll put you in touch with Charlene.

24 Big Fun Runs - 10 July - 10 October 2010 around the country <http://www.bigfunrun.com>

We're an official charity for these events – each 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, entrance fees are adults £8, ages 5-8 or >65 £5 and under 5s free – we receive none of this (it covers the cost of staging the events), so please let us set up a fundraising webpage for you. GBSS supporters have signed up to 10 of the events so far - if you haven't yet, please do! It would be fantastic to have a supporter at each event - if you live in Stirling, Aberdeen, Perth, Sunderland, Liverpool, Sheffield, Manchester, Cardiff, Leicester, or Cheltenham, please sign up and join in the fun! It's a brilliant way of raising money for GBSS and awareness of GBS for the whole family. 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 would like some to distribute, please let us know how many you would like and we'll get them to you. And if you'd like to show your support by wearing a GBSS t-shirt, you can order these online at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop>.

Adidas Women's 5k Challenge on 5 September 2010 in Hyde Park, London. 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 given to the charity you choose to run for. Each runner will receive a finisher's medal, t-shirt and goody bag. To take part, please register at www.womenschallenge.co.uk or contact us for an 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 email us at fundraising@gbss.org.uk if you can help.

If you would rather not take part in an event but would still like to support GBSS fundraising efforts take a look at our fundraisers web pages and sponsor someone today go to:

<http://www.gbss.org.uk/fundraising>.

Awareness Raising:

Do you watch Coronation Street? Kevin's baby, Jake, died in 2000 from group B Strep infection. In the current shows, Molly is pregnant with Kevin's baby – we think Kevin should make Molly aware of the devastating effects of group B Strep and tell her about GBS testing. This would raise HUGE awareness of GBS nationally, but it's all down to the scriptwriters. **Please email Coronation Street at corrie@itv.com and ask them to include this in the storyline!** If there's enough support, who knows? It may just happen.

GBSS Awareness Materials - After a great response to our request for views on our facebook page, we have ordered some GBSS wristbands and some GBSS ribbons, both of which should be available to buy from our shop by the end of June.

GBSS Newsletter 2010- We are aiming to have our next newsletter ready to send out to all our members and people featured around the end of the summer. If you would like to become a member of GBSS and receive this publication, please contact Celia at csykes@gbss.org.uk.

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 at jplumb@gbss.org.uk (subject: Story to Tell). 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.

Conferences coming up:

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 – Please join us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Group-B-Strep-Support-GBSS/102734363097680>.

Twitter – Or follow 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.