

Hello and welcome to our latest e-newsletter.

Little Chef Charity Day for GBSS: We are absolutely delighted that Little Chef is raising awareness about preventing group B Strep infections in newborn babies this week. And, on Sunday, 13th June 2010, they will be giving GBSS 10p from every drink sold! FANTASTIC!

Please do pop along to your local Little Chef on Sunday and have a cup of tea or coffee. Or how about suggesting to your friends to all meet up there for a cuppa and To celebrate Fathers Day breakfasts are buy one get one free Between 10th and 27th June. You can find out where your nearest Little Chef is at www.little-chef.co.uk/findalittlechef.

If you can't get to a Little Chef, then how about holding a coffee morning or afternoon tea on Sunday, and make a donation to GBSS for every drink served?

And do you know a famous or influential person who might be willing to support this? How about inviting him or her along? Sadly, our local MP wasn't able to accept our offer of tea at our local Little Chef, but it was good to invite him ... and to remind him about GBS (not that actually we think he needs reminding, but no harm done anyway).

If you are going to a Little Chef and/or organising an event, please let your local media know – contact us for a press release, which you can amend with details of why the cause is important to you. You can send this both before you go and afterwards (perhaps with a snap too?).

And, just so we and Little Chef can see how successful this is, why not post something on our facebook pages so say that you've been to Little Chef to support GBSS? Our facebook page is at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Group-B-Strep-Support-GBSS/102734363097680> and Little Chef's is at <http://www.facebook.com/littlechefcouk>.

Fundraising events coming up:

St. Albans Half Marathon on 13 June 2010. Jackie Scott is running the St Albans' Half Marathon this Sunday in memory of her nephew Samuel. You can support Jackie by logging onto: <http://www.justgiving.com/forsamuel>.

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 from GBS infection. Charlene will be raising awareness of group B Strep in the community and raising funds for GBSS. The walk starts at 11.00 am on 13 June 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.

Beer Bellies on Tour Part Two 20-25th June 2010. George Currie and eight of his friends will be cycling 285 miles in 5 days through some of the remotest parts of the Scottish Highlands to raise money for GBSS and awareness of GBS. Read more about the event and sponsor George and his friends at <http://www.justgiving.com/BBoB> .

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, let us know how many 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 rake 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.** Several supporters already have and (on the second try for each) have been told their comments will be forwarded to the decision makers. If there's enough support, who knows? It may just happen. It certainly won't if we don't try!

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. The wristbands will be available from our shop very shortly, and the ribbons should be available by the end of this month.

GBSS Newsletter 2010- We are aiming to have our next newsletter ready to send out to all our members and people for 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.

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>.

Group B Strep Support eNewsletter 16

11 June 2010

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.

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>