

Hi and welcome to our e-newsletter - we hope you find it full of useful and interesting information. All you need to do is click on the links below for more information:

### **Sainsbury's is seeking local charity partners - look out for the leaflet in your local Sainsbury's and please nominate us!**

The closing date for nominations is Tuesday, 26 May 2009 - click [here](#) for more information

### **GBSS SUPPORTERS' WORKSHOP – We'll come to you**

At a recent Committee Meeting, we discussed ways in which we can help you to help GBSS. We've had meetings for supporters before in London and in Haywards Heath but realise these are hard for members to travel to, arrange child-care, etc, so we would like to come to you. This would be an exciting opportunity for you to:

- Talk about raising awareness
- Talk about fundraising
- Meet & help other local supporters
- Get more involved
- Meet GBSS committee members
- Learn more about GBS and GBSS
- Team up with like-minded people and arrange a fundraising/awareness raising event

You lead - we want to hear your ideas, opinions on what you can do to help and how we can help you.

If you would like to be part of this new and exciting project, please send an email to us at [info@gbss.org.uk](mailto:info@gbss.org.uk) with GBSS SUPPORTERS' WORKSHOP in the subject, and provide us with **your full name, your town, county, postcode and a contact number**. We will collate replies and get back to you by the end of June 2009. Our plan is for the first of these events to be in the most popular area, and then we'll take it from there!

### **Giving to Charity through a Self-Assessment (SA) Tax Return**

People who complete a Self-Assessment tax return can nominate a charity to receive all or part of any tax repayment due to them. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **On-line Survey - Raising Awareness in an Informative Way, and Not a Scary Way**

We are currently reviewing our literature – we want to get the message of GBS awareness to everyone but clearly don't want to scare pregnant mums (and we hear we do sometimes from health professionals, though rarely from the mums who contact us direct). Please help us improve our materials so we give information in an informative, helpful, reassuring and not scary way. After all, the message is a good one – if pregnant women are aware of GBS, they make an informed decision about what action (if any) to taken about preventing GBS infection in their baby. Click [here](#) for a short questionnaire to give your views.

### **EasyFundraising**

EasyFundraising provides a free service where you can raise funds for Group B Strep Support when you shop online. Choose from over 600 of the UK's best-known retailers including many popular names such as Amazon, Next, Argos, John Lewis and HMV.

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds for GBSS this way and, as many retailers give discounts for buying online, you can even **save money!** Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/gbs](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/gbs) and start reaping the rewards - not only by raising funds for us but by getting great deals for you too.

You can raise funds for another cause of course – if you do, please use our referral link [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/referral/16296](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/referral/16296) to register on the site for your cause, then we will receive a small percentage for referring you, without affecting the funds your cause receives.

## Not necessarily money - your time too

(Written by Susan Gregory - supporter of GBSS)

I suspect all of us are affected by the credit crunch - I've just been made redundant and find myself unable to support my favourite charity financially like I did before. However, I have more time than I used to and so am giving that instead. It's amazing what sort of things I can do from my home - having fundraising activities like a coffee morning, selling things on eBay etc or spending time doing things which match my skill set - proof reading the magazine, helping to put together a handbook and so on.

As I only live around an hour away from Haywards Heath, I can sometimes go over to help in the office when they need an extra pair of hands. Fortunately, they don't need me to answer the phones, but it's surprising how much filing piles up, sending out information, data input, helping to place stories into newspapers etc. So, if you can't give money, why not give some of your time?

Please call the charity on 01444 416176 and chat with them about how you can help GBSS.

## Experience of Legal Action Register - Would you help us help families considering legal action relating to GBS infection?

From time to time, families approach the charity who are considering whether to take legal proceedings for damages arising from their baby's GBS infection and/or subsequent treatment. The decision to sue or not to sue is complex - the stress of conducting proceedings is considerable and, in cases where there is no clear evidence of negligence on the part of the medical teams, the legal case may fail. This can be particularly hard to take on top of the stresses of bereavement or caring for a child with long-term health problems because of GBS.

Over the coming months, we'd like to produce a short guidance note on choosing a solicitor and considering bringing a claim since we recognise this may be the right route for some families affected by GBS. If you are or have actively considered suing in respect of either a baby's death or long term disability as a result of GBS infection, then please click [here](#) for more details.

## Facebook

We've started a Facebook group called Group B Strep Support (Charity) – it's early days and we're still learning about Facebook, but we'd love you to join us!

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.*

If you would like any leaflets or posters to help raise awareness of GBS, please let us know and we'll happily send them to you.

## Group B Strep Support

Preventing life-threatening group B Strep infection in newborn babies

Tel: 01444 416176  
Fax: 0870 803 0024

Email: [info@gbss.org.uk](mailto:info@gbss.org.uk)  
Web: [www.gbss.org.uk](http://www.gbss.org.uk)