

Hello and welcome to our e-newsletter - we hope you find it interesting. Click on the links for more info:

**Time is running out 1: Optimist.** This week GBSS has been invited to participate in the Charity of the Year Competition on [www.optimistworld.com](http://www.optimistworld.com) which if we are successful could bring in a very welcome cash donation. To ensure that we move on into the second round of the competition, please go to the site, register (takes only one minute) here <http://optimistworld.com/RegistrationHome.aspx> and vote for us **before Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm** here <http://optimistworld.com/Charities.aspx>

[Please forward this email to all your friends and families and anyone who you think could spare a minute to vote for us – we need your and your friends' votes and, if you have time, some nice comments too would be fab.](#)

**Time is running out 2: Win a car.** GBSS is taking part in the very first Small Charity Car Draw and we are asking our supporters (and your friends and families) to buy tickets online at <http://www.everyclick.com/groupbstrepsupport>. You'll have to be quick as tickets are available to buy only until **4th September 2009**. The draw itself is on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

The Small Charity Car Draw gives small charities like us the chance to sell tickets to raise their local profile and raise all important funds. Tickets are just £2 each, and you can win a Fiat 500 car. The eco-friendly, efficient Fiat 500 was kindly donated by Zurich. It's the car that got Jeremy Clarkson raving, "... you come away from an experience behind the wheel absolutely loving it. It's cheeky and non-threatening without being pathetic. It's practical without being boring." **For your chance to win a new car and raise money for GBSS go to <http://www.everyclick.com/groupbstrepsupport>** and click on the car

### **On-line Survey - Raising Awareness in an Informative non-scary way.**

We want to tell people about GBS but don't want to scare pregnant mums (and we hear sometimes from health professionals that our materials are unnecessarily scary, though we're rarely told that by the families who contact us directly). We are currently updating our printed materials – please help us improve them so we give information in a helpful, supportive, reassuring and not scary way. The message is a good one – pregnant women who are aware of GBS can make an informed decision about what action (if any) to take about preventing GBS infection in their baby. Visit

[http://www.gbss.org.uk/survey.php?section\\_id=11&section=surveys#survey\\_10](http://www.gbss.org.uk/survey.php?section_id=11&section=surveys#survey_10) for a short questionnaire to give your views.

**CleverSquirrel** – We have joined CleverSquirrel to gain increased publicity and new donations for our cause. With CleverSquirrel, you don't give any new money as the idea is they convert hidden charges in many financial services products into charitable donations. Millions are hidden and CleverSquirrel unearths it under the regulation of the Financial Services Authority. It would be fab if Group B Strep Support could receive a share. It's all above board and the best bit; you don't have to find any new money to donate to Group B Strep Support, because it's already in the system!

**In 2008, 5,000 UK charities were wound up.** Times are tough, so please do this now at

<http://www.cleversquirrel.com/index.php?referrer=1371>

**Cayden's Autumn Ball** - Adrian and Caroline Grove have organised a Dinner Dance & Auction in memory of their son, Cayden, who died in April 2008 aged 22 days from late onset GBS infection. Adrian and Caroline want to raise money for GBSS to help stop other parents from going through such an awful experience. **The Ball is on Friday, 25 September 2009 at Ufford Park, Woodbridge, Suffolk.** The evening starts with a welcome drink on arrival, a three course dinner including half a bottle of wine per person, followed by the charity auction including celebrity and sporting memorabilia, signed artwork and various other items, then live music from The Ed Zackary Band. There is also an online auction running alongside the event. Adrian and Caroline have worked hard to make this an event not to be missed. For information & tickets, visit <http://www.caydensautumnball.co.uk/index.html>.

**Fundraiser for GBSS** – Fundraiser Katie Lewis writes, “As having a first hand experience of GBS and the heart ache, sadness and loneliness it can bring, I want to give something back to those who helped me. I also want get the awareness of GBS out there. I have set up a walk from Sainsbury's in Hazel Grove to High Lane Primary School, Stockport. There will be a family fun day, including a raffle with a chance to win some wonderful prizes, an auction (including a signed poster of Eoghan Quinn) and an appearance from a surprise celebrity. The entrance fee for the walk will be £5 per adult, £1 per child or £8 family ticket. Raffle tickets are £1.” For more information, please call Katie on 07791292709 – check out her webpage at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/fundraiser/katielewis>

**Twitter & Facebook** - You can now become a fan of GBSS on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Group-B-Strep-Support/98947320307>. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GBSSupport>. Each of these where we'll keep you up to date with what's happening at the charity, published articles and fundraising news. It's early days and we're still learning about Twitter and facebook, but we'd love you to join (and help us)!

**Gifts** - Instead of receiving gifts for a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please consider giving to charity. You can do this online at [http://www.gbss.org.uk/in\\_your\\_name.php](http://www.gbss.org.uk/in_your_name.php). Alternatively, we have two gift envelopes available, which you can view at [http://www.gbss.org.uk/filepool/Gift\\_Envelopes.pdf](http://www.gbss.org.uk/filepool/Gift_Envelopes.pdf) - contact us on 01444 416176 or [info@gbss.org.uk](mailto:info@gbss.org.uk) to order supplies.

**Join us!** Did you know that you could become a member of GBSS? Joining the charity and committing to us financially would help us enormously with our planning for the future. Membership of the charity entitles you to receive our twice-yearly newsletter, GBSS News, regular updates on our activities and invitations to any events the charity is organising. Annual membership rates are £15 individual/family membership, £9 student/unwaged (evidence may be required) and £24 overseas. Join online at [http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop.php?section\\_id=8&section=online\\_shop](http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop.php?section_id=8&section=online_shop), phone us during office hours (weekdays 9.30 am to 3.00 pm) with your credit/debit card details, or we'll happily send you a membership form to complete and return by post. By becoming a member you can help us move forward, step by step, to achieve the goal of us all - families being free from the trauma of babies suffering GBS infections. We look forward to welcoming you!

**Free e-cards!** Don't forget you can send as many of our e-cards as you like: check out <http://www.gbss.org.uk/sendcard/index.php>. And if you have any pictures you would like us to consider for new e-cards, please send them to us at [info@gbss.org.uk](mailto:info@gbss.org.uk) and we'd be delighted to extend the collection!

That's all for now – we'll be in touch again in a few weeks time.

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.

If you would like 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

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