

# Look who came

Christmas came early for some poorly youngsters when a few famous faces dropped by...

**W**e think of Christmas as a time for doing a good turn and putting a smile on someone's face. But at London's world-famous

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), celebrities have been dropping in all year to give some of the young patients a boost. So which

stars gave up time in their busy schedules? The hospital – which treats 150,000 children every year – opens up its photo album to *Woman's Own*.



## Sue Cleaver and James Christison



James loved meeting Corrie's Sue at the show

James Christison, who was born with long segment tracheal stenosis, meaning he has a narrow windpipe, enjoyed being a VIP when he was flown to the premiere of *Pirates: The Ultimate Adventure* in Majorca. 'He was a bit star-struck,' says mum Karen, 44, from Dundee. 'Sue Cleaver was exceptional with the kids. He thinks he's a bit of a celebrity now!'

James was just 10 days old when he was rushed to hospital with breathing difficulties. He was transferred to GOSH when it became apparent he would need surgery. In January 2005 he had a tracheal stent fitted, which dramatically improved his breathing – and he won't need further surgery. 'James is such a different person now,' says Karen. 'He's a survivor and leads a normal life, thanks to the hospital!'

**THE BEST PRESENT YOU CAN GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS**

The Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity must raise £50 million each year to help rebuild and refurbish the hospital, buy vital equipment and fund cutting-edge research to help very sick children and their families. This year, the charity has launched its new Christmas gift catalogue. The proceeds from every gift sold will directly benefit the children at GOSH. See the full range at [www.gosh.org/shop](http://www.gosh.org/shop) or call 0844 888 3747.



## Jodie Prenger and Paige Godden

Paige Godden was over the moon when she met Jodie Prenger, the winner of BBC1's *I'd Do Anything*. The 10-year-old from Kent had just undergone surgery to lengthen the ulna bone in her left arm and needed some cheering up. 'Jodie had a good chat with her,' says mum Amanda, 35. 'She was so lovely and cheerful. It was such a nice surprise.'

Four months on from her operation, Paige has nearly regained the feeling in her arm, but there will always be a 5cm difference between both arms. 'It could have been much worse,' says Amanda. 'I'll be eternally grateful to the hospital!'



Jodie and Paige talked about football

## Claire Sweeney and Harry Crowther

Harry Crowther is one of only 16 people in the world with atypical progeria syndrome, which causes his body to age too fast. He made a new friend during the *Pirates* show in Spain. 'Harry loved meeting Claire Sweeney and they're Facebook friends now,' says mum Sharron, 41, from Mirfield in West Yorkshire.

After being diagnosed at seven, doctors asked Harry, now 11, and his family to raise awareness of the disease. 'There are trials going on,' adds Sharron. 'We're keeping our fingers crossed that Harry will be eligible. GOSH has been great to us during the year.'



Claire with Harry at the *Pirates* show in Majorca

# to visit!

## James Corden and Ravi Salaria



Dad-to-be James showed off his paternal side with baby Ravi

Comedian James Corden is expecting his first child with partner Julia Carey next spring, and he got in some practice when he cradled three-month-old Ravi Salaria in June. Ravi suffered kidney failure in the womb and needed six months of treatment at Great Ormond Street before finally being allowed home to Ickenham in Uxbridge.

His mum Hayley, 18, says, 'James was really nice. He told me he was ready to be a father so I'm delighted that his girlfriend is pregnant. Ravi will need a kidney transplant one day, but at the moment he's doing really well.'

## Vernon Kay and Ryan Gooday



Ryan Gooday, 14, took on *All Star Family Fortunes* presenter Vernon Kay – a patron of the hospital and father to Phoebe, six, and Amber, one – in June in the RBC Race for the Kids event in Battersea Park. Ryan was running in memory of his big brother Sean who was born with a heart defect and died at the hospital when he was four months old.

'Ryan never met his older brother, but we have told him all about Sean,' says mum Janet Butcher, 43, from Upminster, Essex. 'Ryan loved having his picture taken with Vernon and he ran the last mile with *Blue Peter's* Andy Akinwolere. Ryan beat him and was the first boy to finish the race, but they really encouraged each other on the way.'

Janet, who has recently taken part in the Bupa Great South Run and will compete in the 2011 London Marathon for the hospital, adds, 'It's great being able to give back. My daughter Danielle, 17, is going to university next year and wants to be a paediatric nurse. She dreams of working for GOSH.'

Ryan compares medals with fellow runner Vernon

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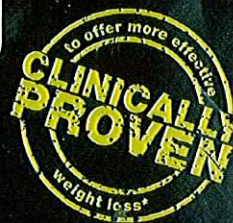
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\* Journal of Diabetes 1 (2009) 207-217