

Unlock

Unlock 
news
2006/7

Chair's Annual Report 2006

Perhaps I should be ashamed to say it, but this year was the first time I'd been to Unlock's Annual London walk. All my adult years have been spent in Hull; all my EUTP/Unlock years at the practioner end of the thing. As Chair of the National Council however, it was important that I experienced the walk for myself rather than just appreciating its success, particularly in fundraising terms, from afar. And what a wonderful experience it was.



Kay Huggins from St Andrew's Baptist Church, Cambridge

I said I went to the walk because I didn't go on it. I spent – as intended – the whole day accosting people in the 'main' check-point church, hammering them with questions about why they came and how they organised their group and what they learned and so on. I had a really excellent day meeting people who cared about the city of London, were fascinated by it and who, in many cases, had used the walk for years to layer up and broaden and fill their knowledge and understanding of the place. I also met people who put their heart and soul into organising a group from their church or area to come and have great day out, but also to make money for us. I

met people who loved to walk and people with connections going way back and not a few young people who were also pretty enthusiastic about what they were doing.

The man whose idea the walk was, Basil Cracknell, died this year. There will be other tributes to Basil in other walks of his life, but this is a great one. And my hat's off to those who have faithfully carried the idea in practice for 25 years since. If you have never been, or did but haven't for a while, please consider having a great day out, learning about Unlock – something we are trying to encourage as a feature of the walk – and raising money for us. If you are a regular, and many of you reading this will be, please redouble your effort at the fundraising end of the operation. The walk is our only secure source of income. It remains virtually impossible to raise money from secular trusts and church ones are too small and often localised for a 'national' if small organisation.

The other thing I want to talk about is our Field Worker developments (previously referred to as 'Corner Shops' - but with no bricks and mortar!). Glasgow is going extremely well, with more staff and more funding committed by a partner organisation. Our congratulations to Anne and to Martin and the rest of the Glasgow support team. And our envy too!! We've



been organised to get going in Hull for some months, we have the support group, the vision for Unlock in Hull, the ideas, we even have a years' money, but can't find the right person. Please pray with us. Sheffield now has a well organised support group and plans are advancing, but funding still has to be secured. There are also possibilities emerging in Liverpool.

Progress is generally, we have to admit, frustratingly slow and we really do want to see more development much more quickly over the coming year. So, once again, please pray for us. Read this report, its info is a good deal more digestible than my writing here, and please continue to support us in whatever way you can.

Andrew Dorton.



10/9/06



Unlock

Registered charity no. 313454

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e-mail: office@unlock-urban.org.uk
www.unlock-urban.org.uk

Unlock, is a charity established to equip Christians in inner city and outer housing estates to be more effective as they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own areas.

Unlock employs six paid staff including a network of workers placed in inner city locations across the UK. The charity is overseen by its National Council that meets three times each year. The legal document of the charity is its trust deed, dated 25th March 1972.

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CHIEF OFFICER

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I.T. AND FINANCE ASSISTANT

Lois Fenton-Smith

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Canon John Hunter

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BANKERS

Co-operative Bank, Salford
M5 2QP



Unlock Workers

Resourcing Urban Discipleship, and enabling local leadership in urban areas.

**We have two New
Unlock Workers in 2006,
both in Glasgow.**

Paul Ede: (29) is currently completing a degree a Theology at the International Christian College in Glasgow. He lived for 4 years in Dumbiedykes, Edinburgh with a team reaching out to the community. He has worked in conferencing, tour-guiding and tour co-ordination, on North Sea-safety standby vessels, and as a church administrator. He became a Christian aged 18 at Community Church Edinburgh (www.cce.uk.net) and has spent time on mission in Italy with the Navigators and at the Manchester 2000 city-wide outreach organised by the Message Trust. He is inspired by break-dancing, community organising, the Italian renaissance, anyone who breaks free of an alcohol addiction, U2, and his new wife Esther, seen with him in the photo.



Graham McGeoch: Was born in Aberdeen and brought up in Glasgow. He has just returned to the UK after living for 4½ years in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He is married to a Brazilian woman, Telma (with Graham in the photo – we are not sure who the guy in the middle is!!).

Unlock inspires Him –

***‘because it makes the
“option for the poor”
in the British context.
It chooses to trust our
urban oppressed and
learn from them!’***

New Unlock Worker appointed for Hull!

Fiona Smith was appointed as the new Unlock Hull worker, and Co-ordinator of the Unlock Hull Team, on Friday November 10th. We hope that Fiona will start work before Christmas and wish her well in her new role.

**See our website for more information at
www.unlock-urban.org.uk**

Why Walk?



The Unlock Walk seems to be many things to different people – a chance to see a little known part of London, an opportunity to share with struggling inner-city churches, a fun day out together for parishioners, a chance to practice orienteering!

For Unlock the over-riding aim is to raise money; walkers collect sponsorship or donate directly to Unlock. Thank you all of you who take part! It raises over half our income!

This year in memory of it's originator Basil Cracknell, we are re-visiting the original 1984 route in Docklands. It can't be an exact replica as the landscape has changed so much, with dockyards replaced with gleaming offices. A whole new community has evolved, with new and different churches serving them. The Unlock Walk has evolved too, with nearer a thousand walkers and a firm base of home-counties churches supporting it. However many individuals who come in a group do not know much about what they are walking

for, and Unlock's active work at present is in cities much further north. The walk is vital to Unlock's finances, but takes up precious resources.

Lots of thought goes into making each walk interesting and rewarding for walkers. The planning process starts literally within an hour of the previous walk finishing as we review how it went! Later we decide an approximate route – the walk has now been to most areas once, so we seek areas we haven't visited recently and include green spaces and places of interest.

Then we look for the churches, representing a broad spectrum of God's people and spread out along the walk route. Most of the host churches have not had past contact with Unlock, but are willing to participate, learn about Unlock and to share with other Christians they would not easily meet otherwise. They report tremendous encouragement from the walkers, and often find it helps raise their profile in the local community.

Walkers can be encouraged too, and may find ideas to take back to their own

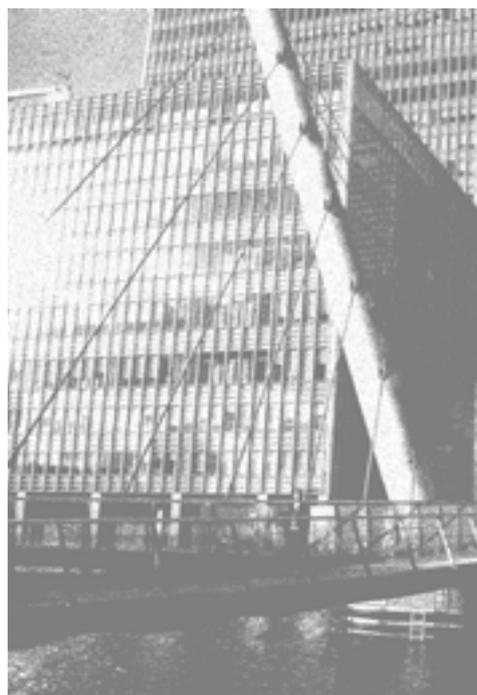
churches. Rather than 'struggling' some inner-city host churches may be flourishing. Isn't that good! Although we like the churches as varied as possible, we like all to have accessible toilets!

Finally, once we've found willing church volunteers, the detail of the walk is finalised. The map is drawn – no easy task – and the route is checked by different people, including one valiant couple, with the wife



pushing her wheelchair-using husband round the length of the route. Finally information notes and the quiz questions are written.

All this is undertaken by a small group of people, some of whom have done it for many years and others are rather new to the task. There's room for more volunteers – if you can help in any aspect, please contact council members Tim and Sarah Watkins-Idle via the Unlock office. Please pray for those involved in organising the walk and for wisdom for the Unlock Council as we consider the future direction of the walk.



**The 2007 Annual
Unlock London Walk
will take place on
Saturday April 21st
in Bermondsey,
The Isle of Dogs and
Docklands**

**'Come and see what
God is doing in the
inner city' ...**

Contact the National Office for details of the next Unlock Sponsored Walk



An Unlock Worker Remembers ...

Brenda Graves retired as an Unlock Worker in December 2005. She worked in Sheffield for 7 years alongside Maureen Hudson. Brenda chatted recently with the Chief Officer about those times ...

What I learned ...

Brenda says that the most important thing she learned as an Unlock Worker was that she could write bible studies. She developed her skills over time, with some training and the creative support of other Unlock staff, and discovered that she could do it! She says it was exciting to see people using materials that she had written. She shared what she had learned and encouraged others to believe that, if she could learn to do it, they could too. She reminisces about when the film, *The Full Monty* was made; a correspondent in the *Baptist Times* slated it, based on the final scene, condemning the low moral culture of Sheffield. Brenda wrote to them in no uncertain terms about the real desperation and hardships that Sheffield people experienced when the steelworks closed and that people should not be condemned for trying to make something of their lives. Brenda was involved, at the time, in the production of the 'Go For It' Unlock pack based on the film, now available free on our website.

Health Warning?

Some people are concerned about Unlock resources based on films such as *Billy Elliot* and *The Full Monty* because of the strong language in the films. The clips used in Unlock resources do not, themselves, contain any strong language.

The effects of the material on others ...

Brenda tells how she has seen people touched by Unlock approaches and resources. She ran an Unlock taster session for inner city ministers, at a *Jesus in the City* conference. They used material based on a scene from *The Full Monty* where Lompur, who had just been prevented from committing suicide, declares that he has no mates. Brenda asked those in the room who their 'mates' were and one professional man broke down in tears, saying, 'I have no mates!' It was a painful moment but the beginning of a process

of healing for him, as well as a challenging moment which has stayed in the mind of an Unlock worker! Unlock material engages people's real life experiences and emotions which are powerful triggers for personal growth and learning.

What's different about it?

Brenda feels that all kinds of everyday people can learn to use Unlock approaches to the bible, to help others to explore their faith and to learn and grow. It's not rocket science! The pack 'Unlock More than You Think', available free on the website, outlines the basic principles of the Unlock approach. Unlock's approach believes in the learner, honours what the learner has to bring to the process. Traditional approaches to education focus on the teacher but Unlock's approach puts the emphasis on the learner's contribution and lets them speak first. At Unlock we don't 'tell people lots of stuff', but enable them to discover what they already know, and the potential they have within themselves.

Testing our responses ...

On one occasion Brenda was asked to challenge a Church, who were running a community café. She arranged for a friend of hers to turn up in the middle of a workshop she was running for the church, to see how they would respond. Her friend was disguised as someone who lives on the streets. The first thing they did was try to give her all the relevant bits of paper! Kindly meant, but not that helpful really. They all laughed about it once the 'trick' was revealed but lessons had been learned. Café customers were later surprised to discover that they didn't need to know anything about the bible, or even be able to use one, to join in with an informal Unlock Bible study.

A very scary Deanery Synod ...

Brenda is a Baptist, so a Deanery Synod is a strange creature to her from the outset.

One cold dark winter night she found herself filling in for a co-worker, who had gone down with flu, and going to a strange church in an area she didn't know. She felt very intimidated by the unfamiliar environment. But in no time at all she had the Deanery Synod acting out sections of the script from the *Full Monty* (not including the final scene she assures me!). Sounds much more fun than the average Deanery Synod meeting!

Qualifications for an Unlock worker?

Brenda had a background in administration and community work, when she started as an Unlock Worker, she had also been on a 3 year 'Faith into Action' course which had inspired her, and confirmed her sense that she wanted to be doing something for God's people 'out there, where people are at', rather than within church structures. She developed most of her Unlock skills 'on the job', but she brought with her all the right instincts for Unlock work.

Not on your own ...

From her experience Brenda affirms the value of working in Unlock as part of a local team, and the need for each Unlock worker to have an effective local support group to bounce ideas around with and keep them earthed and prayed for.

Is the church 'missing the mark'?

Brenda's motivation for her Unlock work was that she felt, at some level, that the Church was missing the mark, it was catering for the church community, but not the wider communities within which it was set, particularly in the working class, deprived, city and estate environments that Unlock is most concerned with. Brenda felt Unlock would give her an opportunity to encourage and enable Churches with ways of reaching those who are often left out in the cold by the way that churchy things are done.

Unlock Diary 2005/2006

With a special focus on Unlock Glasgow, which has been our primary development location in 2005/6

September 2005 began with The 'Big Saturday' - an event for churches all around Glasgow, to which over 3000 people came. It was organised by four different presbyteries of the Church of Scotland, the aim being to share with each other the stories and good news of how much is already happening in our churches and communities. I very much enjoyed the lively atmosphere all day at my Unlock Stall, and had the chance to talk with many people from a lot of different churches. One of these enquiries led to Unlock's "Experience the Bible" being used by a group for homeless people - and later in the year they also used "Go for it" based on The Full Monty at a weekend away which was organised for them.

26 September 05

Estate Churches network Conference Birmingham. Networking and Promotion

8 October 05

Unlock National Festival. Sheffield
Cohesion and identity

The group which meets in Bridgeton is very much a church group. The one which met in Ruchill, centred round a Christian Tea-Room which aims to reach out into the community. This group, unexpectedly, was almost all men.

1 November 05

Chief Officer (CO) meets with Sheffield Worker. Sheffield. Support & Training

Our next big all-day event was "Unlocking Faith" in November, to which 45 people came from 15 different churches. Aiming to give people a flavour of Unlock we had six different workshops to choose from - followed by a chance to talk over a delicious lunch, provided by the Unlock Reference Group when the caterer let us down at the last minute - home-made soup, bread, cheeses, salad and home-baking. Then we gathered in a huge circle, sharing feedback from the workshops, and asking the leaders of each group to tell us what seemed most important from their meetings through the year in Drumchapel, Milton, Ruchill and Bridgeton - what had caught people's imagination about Unlock.

8 November 05

CO attends conference on Community Change and Mission Shaped Church. Sheffield. Networking & Training

The Drumchapel group are young mums with little church connection, who enjoy the chance to talk while their toddlers are in the creche. At their request they began to explore themes of faith, using the Bible, videos, music, Unlock resources and Alternativity material.

2 December 05

CO promotes Walk at youth event. Derby
Fundraising & promotion

14 January 06

1st meeting of Unlock Sheffield support group. Sheffield. Developing local partnerships

The Milton group meets in a Methodist sheltered housing complex, and has gradually grown in numbers from 5 or 6 to about 15 or 16. I have been writing new material for them each week - and I am constantly inspired by all the life experiences they share as we explore Bible passages together. I think it is of huge importance that our older folk should feel their experience and wisdom is valued in today's world where the emphasis is so often on youth. Two or three people come in from the community around to take part in this group, because they enjoy it, and recently we were joined by a young woman who shared with us as an alcoholic, now off both alcohol and drugs after many years, because she has asked Jesus' help. She is constantly encouraging us all by the freshness of her faith, and the new eyes with which she reads the Bible.

14 January 06

Unlock national Council meet. Sheffield
Management

17 January 06

CO meets with leader of Sheffield Ashram, John Vincent. Sheffield
Developing local partnerships

The stories which are shared at these groups are often very colourful - frequently very moving. One person when asked if she watched TV soaps replied - "I don't need to watch soaps - I live in soap-land - it all happens here!" It is the hard reality of so many people's lives in these difficult areas which can spark such deep faith and so much humour.

27 February 06

New (temporary) office assistant appointed, Melizsa. Sheffield
Office management

In March I was back at the Conference for churches from priority areas all over Scotland - and I was able to speak briefly about Unlock. There was also a time when people could come and talk to me, and have the opportunity to look at all our resources.

13 March 06

Unlock workshop, Hull
Developing local partnerships

Another different group has recently asked me to help with a weekly Bible study, also in Drumchapel - and we are following the stories of Isaac, Rebecca, Esau, Jacob and soon Joseph - it really is a gripping and in many ways very modern tale of human relationships and failings.... Last week we read Genesis chapter 26, and one woman became so engrossed in the story she started looking ahead to chapter 27, saying "I can't wait for next week - oh look! What a fox that Rebecca is!"

29 April 06

24th Unlock London Walk

Lewisham & North Greenwich

Fundraising, promotion, education

29 April 06

Interactive Walk Workshop, Charlton

Theological reflection for walkers

15 May 06

Sheffield Support group meet. Sheffield

Developing local partnerships

It is immensely encouraging to me as we read the Bible and see how like ourselves the characters in the pages are - how God used them despite their failings. It is a privilege to be welcomed into the groups I go to, and become part of people's lives as they share about the things they struggle with on a daily basis in often very difficult circumstances. Through it all there is the tremendous sense of God's healing and ever-amazing love.

18 May 06

CO leads training on Learning in Non Book Culture. Mirfield

Promotion & education

13 June 06

CO attends ECUM event. Leicester
Networking

In June I was asked to do two workshops about Unlock at a conference of Church of Scotland deacons from all parts of the country - a wonderful group whom I greatly enjoyed meeting!

27 June 06

CO meets with Urban Ministers in Liverpool. Liverpool

Developing local partnerships

Also in June I spent time preparing for a Glasgow Unlock walk on July 1st. It was not on anything like the scale of the London Walk, but a very successful day none-the-less, which linked four Maryhill churches together along a route following the canal towpath and River Kelvin Walkway. You can read more about it under a separate heading if you are interested.

30 July 06

CO attends day conference on 'Faithful Cities' report. Leicester

Networking

11 July 06

CO attends Anglican Adult Educators conference. Chester

Networking and Promotion

This September two new Unlock team members will be joining me to start work here in Glasgow. In preparation I am following up all the earlier enquiries I have had and I've also written to Church of Scotland Guilds, resulting in a number of dates for us to come and tell them about our work. Altogether it is a very exciting prospect that we will soon be an expanding team - I wonder what developments I'll be writing about next year!

Anne Craig, Unlock Glasgow worker.

Unlock Finance Page

Onwards and upwards



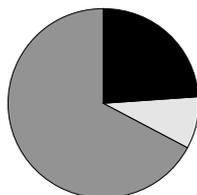
Currently at a crucial stage in its development of the "corner shop" workers strategy, Unlock council decided to invest savings made on staff costs 2 years ago in a bid to move the work forward. This resulted in a £10,000 shortfall in the year, which it was hoped would be met by some significant donations but these have unfortunately been difficult to obtain.

The reversal in trend back to a two-thirds majority spent on direct charitable work reflects a full year's expenditure with regularized office staffing and also of Anne Craig as Glasgow "corner shop" worker. This investment has proved very worthwhile and beneficial but has taken its toll on our reserves to the extent that we cannot continue to sustain this level of deficit.

EXPENDITURE 2005

Total = £49,696

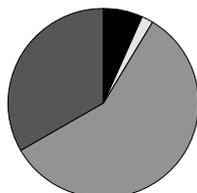
Management & Admin	£11,837	24%
Fundraising	£4,414	9%
Direct Charitable Work	£33,445	67%



INCOME 2005

Total = £39,322

Investments	£2,712	7%
Sundry	£13	2%
Sponsored Walk	£23,415	59%
Donations	£13,182	34%



Fund raising expenditure was able to be held at previous years percentage levels despite walk map preparation again being contracted out due to reduced office staffing. It was very encouraging to see walk income up by 7% and it is hoped that trend can be sustained next year. Why not consider a day out in London taking part in the sponsored walk on April 21st.

We really do need your help if we are to continue to provide the facilities we are able to offer. You could help by making a donation in response to the excellent resources available free on the website. Indeed almost £1,500 has been spent on improving the website this year with a view to better promoting Unlock. Do visit www.unlock-urban.org.uk and prayerfully consider what your response could be in assisting in our mission.

Thank you for your support.

Jenny Blake
Treasurer

Unlock will only be here, to provide resources for urban disciples, and to enable local urban leadership, as long as you keep on supporting our work financially!

Your support has brought us this far, and exciting things are beginning to develop; now we need you to keep us going!

Unlock needs:

- **Money** – we can't do anything much without it! - Donations of any shape or size!
- **Promotion** – do please tell other people about who we are and what we are doing, so that they use our resources and/or support us too!
- **Prayer** – please pray for our work
- **Walkers** – come and do our Annual London Walk in 2007 (Docklands, April 21st) – and raise some funds for us, either through sponsorship or by sending us a donation.
- **Churches** – we are looking for Churches who are willing to make a regular commitment to support our work over the next few years. If you want us to come and make a presentation at your church please contact the National Office.

giftaid it but what is giftaid?

Simply, for those of you who have not yet heard of 'Gift aid', it is a system that enables charities to claim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue for every £1 donated to them by a UK taxpayer.

9 in every 10 donations received by Unlock are NOT made under gift-aid.

If you pay tax then please consider whether you can tick the gift-aid box on the registration form when you make your donation.

Gift aid will not cost YOU anything!

All it means is that we can apply to the Inland Revenue for an extra 28p for every £1 that you give towards our work.

To qualify for Gift aid, you must pay enough tax to cover the amount that will be claimed back by the charity/charities that you give to – so if you give £10 you must have paid £2.80 in tax!

Glasgow Walk

organised by Unlock Glasgow

July 1st was a beautifully sunny day - perfect for a walk along the canal banks! The canal runs like an artery through the middle of Maryhill, and though it is not the focus and industrial heart of the community any more, it has been cleared and the locks restored as part of a millenium project.

We planned our walk together with four churches in the Maryhill area, which are joined by the canal and the Kelvin river. Two of the churches, Gairbraid and Ruchill, sit right next to the canal towpath at different points; Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Church is beside the river, and Maryhill Parish Church is very near to both waterways.

So we were able to choose a route which formed a circle along the canal towpath and then the riverbank walkway, joining all four churches. We had three different options - the walk could be one, two or three hours long, so people could choose according to how energetic they felt, and all ages could (and did!) take part, from pre-school to pensioners, some well into their eighties.

From the canal you get a totally different view of the Maryhill community - well known in Glasgow as an area which faces deprivation and multiple problems of unemployment, addiction, violence - but also an area with a feeling of community, where people are warmhearted with a great sense of humour.

From the canal you can see some of the many new houses which are being built, and along the riverbank you pass old streets which have been totally demolished, in a continuing planning drive which is creating much heartache as neighbours are scattered, and that feeling of community lost.

As well as the industrial sites and piles of rubbish, it is also surprisingly beautiful, and even unexpectedly rural along the way, too - we saw swans with their cygnets, cormorants, fishermen and even a heron - as well as lots of wild flowers.

All the walkers were given a pack containing a map and directions, but also an Unlock Bible study with questions to discuss as they walked, if they wanted to, and a sheet with situations and people to pray for along the route. For children there were sheets with pictures of things to look out for, so they wouldn't get bored as they walked.

Over 70 people signed in at our church - and others also joined in part-way along the route. Gairbraid Church laid on mid-morning tea and coffee, with an interesting exhibition of old photographs of the area. Ruchill Church provided a free barbecue lunch, with bouncy castle, "beat the goalie" and other children's games for the kids. The next stop was Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Church where they served cold drinks or a refreshing cup of tea - and where we were all able to meet their "pins and needles" group, who make heart-shaped cushions for women suffering from breast cancer, as part of a project in conjunction with local nurses at a neighbouring hospital.

The walk ended at Maryhill Church where there was tea and home baking, as well as the chance to see an exhibition created by the many different groups who use the church, giving people an idea of all the interesting things that go on there.

Altogether the day was a great success, and there has been a lot of positive feedback - as well as a number of requests that we should consider making this an annual event.

Anne Craig
Unlock Glasgow Co-ordinator



**Give regularly to Unlock
without spending a penny!**

You can support Unlock by using the internet search engine **Everyclick**. Make everyclick your home page, and register with them as an Unlock supporter, and then every time you search, through everyclick, a small donation goes to Unlock.

To find out more go to

www.everyclick.com

Unlock

Traditional Rural Craft Raises Funds for Unlock's Urban Work

This traditional Derbyshire Well Dressing raised over £40 for Unlock's work at a Derbyshire Festival. It was designed and made by Emma Gregory of West Hallam in Derbyshire. It is made with flowers and leaves pressed into a damp clay base.



New resources, mostly single workshops, rather than longer packs, will be available on the website soon, hopefully by Christmas, so do keep checking to see what's new.

Some of you requested an outline of the walk workshop; that too should appear on the website soon, but in the meantime draft copies are available from the national office on request.

When you request materials from the office we do appreciate a donation to cover the costs of copying and postage.

Many friends of Unlock will have had contact with Carol Wroe at the Unlock Office. Carol has been off work ill for the last year and the latest news we have is that, not only is she no better but also she is really no nearer to knowing what the problem is either; so do please pray for Carol as she continues to struggle with ill health.

Unlock Supporters Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Please register me as an Unlock:

Partner Friend Prayer Partner

I'd like to make a donation towards Unlock's work and enclose

£ _____

Signature _____

(Cheques made payable to 'Unlock' please.)

I would like my donation to be gift aided

Please send me information on the next Unlock Sponsored Walk I am interested in: -

A list of Unlock resources

Doing the walk

Being a Church Walk Leader

Sponsoring a walker

Promoting Unlock's work



Please cut out and return to us at: Unlock, 336A City Road, Sheffield, S2 1GA

1
Unlocking real life stories of urban people
Unlock's methods begin with a group of people sharing their real life experiences. **Unlock's** materials suggest different things that will help this to happen - for example, a few questions, a game or a video clip

2
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

These real life stories are compared with similar situations in the Bible. **Unlock** materials provide Bible passages on individual pages, that can be photocopied for use with a group

3
Releasing life changing skills and confidence

Change happens as a result of linking real life experiences with the Bible
'We learn it now and we learn it for life.'
The individuals and groups involved change, and there is often action among those around them

4
...LEADING TO MORE EXPERIENCES TO BE UNLOCKED