

UPDATE

2024

NOT JUST FOR BIBLE EXPERTS

We have long felt that one of the most significant results of the work we do is the skills that are gained by those we train and employ to work for our Unlock Local Partnerships; skills that they take with them and use in whatever shape their future ministry takes. Almost all go on to leadership roles in churches, both formal and informal.

Unlock Local workers are employed part time for just 2-3 years in a local area, in partnership with churches who want to get better at:

UNLOCKING

real life stories of urban people

REVEALING

Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

RELEASING

life changing skills and confidence

New Unlock workers will learn how to do all that Unlocking, Revealing and Releasing themselves and with others.

You might think that such work would require someone with a theological education, or a mature Christian who knows all about Faith and the Bible. But you would be wrong about that; and our latest work in Rotherham demonstrates this.

When we appointed Cameron in 2022 he was only 19 years old, and he was a relatively new Christian having come to faith in a zoom Bible study group during the Covid Lockdowns during 2020.

Now, being a new Christian doesn't mean you're daft. Cameron is an intelligent, capable and committed young man with innate gifts in facilitation and engaging compassionately with all kinds of people. He is not however, an academic, intellectual type; and when he started his Unlock work he would not have won any prizes for Bible knowledge!

In Unlock Rotherham Cameron has brought together small groups of local people to explore a range of their own experiences and topics of shared interest in relation to stories in the Bible. He has been supported in this by both Unlock staff and members of a local congregation. And together all have grown and learned; discovered how to share personal stories, how to explore the stories in the Bible and what they might mean for living faithfully, and how to take care of one another as we do so. Cameron's presence, in his Unlock role, has acted as a focus and facilitator for both personal and congregational growth. And of course, Cameron has grown too. We will all be watching to see where his future ministry takes him.

At the end of his time with us Cameron said this:



I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the team at Unlock for allowing me to have an amazing year working with Unlock, I have learned and grown so much as an individual but most importantly in my faith.

I heard stories and saw emotions that were unlocked through the events that I held, and connected with people better through our stories.

I have gained skills and knowledge but mainly memories that will be with me forever.

So, if you think that you'd like some Unlock work in your local area, and you think that you maybe don't have anyone with the skills and gifts to manage the work, then think again – you almost certainly do! You can find out more about our Unlock Local partnerships here [UNLOCK Urban - Local Partnerships \(unlock-urban.org.uk\)](http://UNLOCK Urban - Local Partnerships (unlock-urban.org.uk)) Please contact the Unlock Office if you'd like to explore this further.

WANTED!

NEW **UNLOCK**

NATIONAL

COUNCIL

MEMBERS

We need a few new volunteer Council members to oversee and help shape our work as it develops. Council meets on three Saturdays a year, often in Rotherham, (including one 24 hour residential event, usually at Cliff College, Derbyshire). Travel expenses provided.

We need council members who:

- Have a concern for, and an understanding of, the specific nature of Christian ministry and mission in urban areas in the UK.
- Are willing to engage with open and creative approaches.
- Are willing to reflect and learn as they work together.
- Have some understanding of the way that small charities work.

For more information about the Unlock National Council Unlock please contact The Unlock National Office.

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK

THE UNLOCK LEARNING CYCLE

UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE
Start with the group telling stories from their real life experience.

LEADING TO MORE EXPERIENCE
What we learn now is learnt for life and changes us. We also learn to keep reflecting!

RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE
Change happens as a result of linking real life experience with the Bible. This change often leads to action among others.

REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST
The real life stories are connected to and compared with similar situations in the Bible.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHURCH TO SUPPORT UNLOCK, EITHER THROUGH THE LONDON WALK, OR AS PART OF THEIR MISSIONARY GIVING, YOU CAN FIND UNLOCK PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES ON THE UNLOCK WEBSITE, NEXT TO THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEXT UNLOCK WALK.

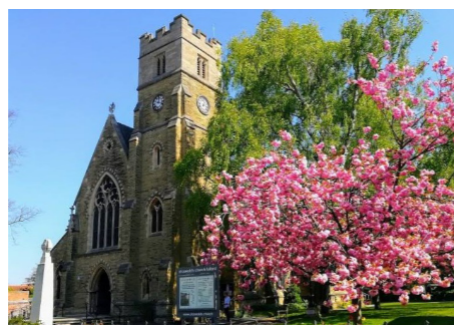
WANTED! NEW PLACES FOR **UNLOCK** TO WORK

At Unlock we are working to rebuild our local partnership work after the pandemic years. To do this, we are looking for **new local partners**; churches, or local groups; who would like to grow their ability to:

UNLOCKING
real life stories of urban people
REVEALING
Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
RELEASING
life changing skills and confidence

Unlock Local Partnerships provide; practical support, resources, skills and training, in appropriate, effective and creative Bible engagement approaches for urban communities. They do this through the appointment training and management of part time paid local workers.

For details of how Unlock local partnership projects work please contact the Unlock office (details below) or visit **The Local Partnership** page of our website.



St Oswald's Church Fulford is not really the kind of church I would think of when I first think of an 'Unlock Church' but like many fellowships we are a mixed bunch of very down to earth people and our home-groups are run by various church members.

I have been involved with Unlock for more than 30 years both as a Worker and as a Trustee so a lot of my style is instinctively Unlock. It has been a real pleasure to introduce each church I have worked with to Unlock materials. Each group has found it empowering to realise that everyone has something to contribute from their

own experience to help unlock the bible for themselves and for others.

Unlock's basic approach has remained the same over the years but the content has developed in exciting ways to make sure the material is always relevant to the world in which we live. Complex issues are explored in a simple and straightforward way that is accessible to all, especially oral learners.

Most recently St Oswald's have used the 'Unlocking Feelings' resource - 6 reflections and activities exploring emotions. The feedback from the groups that used it was that "the studies on emotions were easy to engage with and we all agreed it would be good to use more materials from Unlock Urban in the future". And, "as an outward looking fellowship wanting to get involved with our local community Unlock material really seems to scratch right where we are itching!".

Rev Canon Sue Sheriff, Vicar of St Oswald's Fulford and Trustee of Unlock

SCRATCHING WHERE WE ARE ITCHING!

TRAINING

Unlock provides training in "Working with the bible in a Non-book culture", for those preparing for, or engaged in, urban mission. If you would like to know more about this, please request our training brochure from the National Office.

AN **UNLOCK** REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY ON THE THEME OF LOSS AND LAMENT



Things you will need

Disposable plastic decorators dust sheet to protect the floor/tables.

A length of white cloth (old bed sheet will do).

Masking tape (plenty).

Fabric paint in various shades of blue/green (watery colours).

Large paintbrushes.

Jars of clean water.

Instructions

Lay the dust sheet on the floor or a row of large tables.

Use the masking tape to write or draw things that people are sad to have lost during the pandemic (or whatever other time of loss you are considering). Press the tape down firmly.

Use the paint, to paint over the masking tape image or words with varied wavy stripes of blue paint. Allow the paint to dry.

Once the paint is dry, remove the masking tape so that the picture or words show up in white.

Continue adding more words and pictures until the sheet is full or no one has anything else they want to add.



Bible links

Psalms 137: 1-6

Genesis 50:10

2 Samuel 1:17

Search for passages on lament and weeping.

You can find more Unlock activities and resources here **UNLOCK Urban - Resources** (unlock-urban.org.uk)

DONATIONS

Any donations, however small, towards the work of Unlock are extremely welcome. It costs £3,000 to fund Unlock's contribution to a local project for a year. Please contact the office for our bank details if you would like to give regularly by standing order or online banking.

**2023 walk income
has reached**

£20,000

(August 2023)

**Great effort!
Thank you everyone!**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE
SOMEONE FROM UNLOCK TO
COME AND TALK AT YOUR
CHURCH, OR SPEAK AT A
CHURCH EVENT THEN PLEASE
CONTACT US AND WE WILL
SEE WHAT WE CAN ARRANGE.

You can now collect your walk
sponsorship or make a donation
online via [giveasyoulive](https://giveasyoulive.com).
donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/unlock

LONDON WALK

A TRIBUTE TO THE ELIZABETH LINE

BY JENNY BLAKE

Our 40th walk was linear rather than circular, so that everyone had a chance to travel on the newly opened Crossrail link between Thamesmead and Abbey Wood. About 450 walkers took part and it was lovely for people to be able to sit outside for refreshments at the Unlock base at Emmanuel Baptist Church, with horses in the field opposite. East Plumstead Baptist Church have done well to come top of the "league table" this year, as they not only had enough people to act as one of the checkpoint churches, but were also able to have their usual group of walkers as well, raising a lot more interest in what Unlock is all about. We do, however, appreciate each and every contribution whether through sponsorship or personal donations, whether it be large or small. Some walkers are 40 years older than when they started and are still either walking, have passed the baton on to younger people, or are making



that extra effort. Answers are on our website as usual or can be obtained from the office if required.

Give as you Live.Donate has continued to be an excellent way of raising sponsorship particularly remotely through our on-line giving platform, and some walkers have set up their own fundraising page enabling us to allocate their supporters giving to their church total, as well as recognising who they are supporting. Full details are on our website including details of how to set up a fundraising



considerable ongoing donations to continue to support the work in this way, which is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Stephanie Wilson of Bedford who won the adult quiz prize, and we were also able to award a junior prize this year to Bryony McAllister of Petersfield. They were amongst several others who participated in the quiz, including many who do it for interest without sending it in to the office. A couple of questions involved a bit of a detour at one end of the route so full marks to those who made

page. We are, of course, still happy to receive cheques at the office and the accompanying letters always make interesting reading.

On a personal note, I will be sorry not to be at next year's walk to meet you all, as I will have retired by then after 12 years as administrator, and a walker for some years before that, but my thoughts will be with you all, and I've no doubt you will be pleased to meet my successor on the day.

So here is the much anticipated "league table" of walkers who have been identified as sending in their sponsorship as a church group, with our grateful thanks once again to each and every one of you:

East Plumstead Baptist
up 9 places from last year

St Mary's Church, Hadlow, Kent
dropped back by one place

Ashurst Drive Baptist Church, Ilford
up 1 place from last year

Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford
up 1 place from last year

St Peter ad Vincula, Wisborough Green
up 4 places from last year

Park Street Baptist
dropped back by 3 places

Hutton & Shenfield Union Church
new entry

St Luke's, Bricket Wood
dropped back by 6 places

St Paul's Church, Marylebone
up 3 places from last year

High Cross Church, Camberley
up 3 places from last year

St Mary Magdalen, Sheet
up 3 places from last year

The Avenue Methodist Church, High Wycombe
up 11 places from last year

Dagnall Street Baptist
up 3 places from last year

St John's, Moulsham, Chelmsford
up 3 places from last year

St James the Great, Clapton
new entry

St Matthew's Church, High Brooms, Tunbridge Wells
dropped back by 10 places

Treeton Baptist Church, Rotherham
up 5 places from last year

St Paul's URC, Croydon
up 1 place from last year

East Croydon United Reformed Church
new entry

THE 41st UNLOCK LONDON WALK, 27 APRIL 2024

'Our journey continues - please walk with us'

We really hope you will walk with us on Saturday April 27th 2024 - after our easterly journey to Thamesmead last year, can you work out where we're going next year from these way-markers?

We're planning for you to wander by Westfield shopping centre; Wormholt Park; Westbourne Park Road; the Westway; White City and 101 Wood Lane - the BBC Television Centre), Wormwood Scrubs (prison and parkland), and a section of the Grand Union waterway.

The 2024 Unlock Walk is visiting West London! Specifically the London boroughs of Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham. The area we will explore in the 41st Unlock Walk is a bit further west of where we walked in 2001 and 2005 and south of where we visited in 2012. And going by these dates you'll see an Unlock Walk visit to west London is long overdue!

One area that does overlap with past walks is around Latimer Road and Ladbroke Grove, and Notting Hill Methodist Church will be one of our checkpoint churches. It is twenty three years

since they hosted walkers on our 2001 'Barriers and Bridges' walk. As the nearest place of worship to Grenfell Tower, they are involved, alongside others, in the community's response to the tragic fire that occurred in June 2017. Our walk will take place nearly seven years after the disaster, but the sadness and sense of injustice is still felt deeply.

Notting Hill Methodist and the other churches on the walk are looking forward to Welcoming and introducing you to their vibrant communities - share fellowship with them and hear about how they are sharing in the work of God's love in their multicultural neighbourhoods. And in between the checkpoint churches, weave your way under the elevated Westway motorway and

railway lines, exploring streets you may not normally walk along and discover the home of the Notting Hill Carnival, varied buildings, bustling markets and beautiful parks.

We are looking forward to another special Unlock Walk and we hope you make a date in your diary - Saturday 27th April 2024 - to wander and wonder with us and raise funds to continue Unlock's work.



SIMPLE MATHS

A rising inflation rate means that our costs escalate. Unless our income also increases we will be able to do less of our charitable work.

One off donations are always very welcome but **regular donations** allow us to plan our work on the basis of income and are worth **their weight in gold!**

If you know of any other people who would like to be put on the walk mailing list please encourage them to contact the Unlock office.

If you would be willing to receive your newsletter by email in future to save Unlock postage then please send an Email to: **office@unlock-urban.org.uk**

Do you have what we are looking for?

A small team of volunteers plans the Unlock London Walk each year; they recruit the local churches, create the map and photos and collate all of the travel and tourist information that goes with it.

They need some new people to join them to help to make the next Unlock London Walks some of the best yet.

If you live within easy reach of London, care about supporting Unlock's work and have an interest in urban walking - better still if you are already an Unlock Walker and want to help to create the magic that is the Unlock London walk for the future, please contact the Unlock National Office.

Tel: 01709 380318
Email: office@unlock-urban.org.uk
unlock-urban.org.uk

UNLOCK
15 Station Road
Rotherham
S60 1HN



FINANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

We ended 2022 (our last completed financial period) with a moderate deficit of just over £2,450. This was despite an excellent response to our funding appeal (raising just over £20K) and a return to a physical walk on the streets of London, which generated income of £21,100. Total income (£55,022) was up on the previous year by 15.7%

but our expenditure (£57,502) was also increased by 18.4%. Our legally required designated-reserve fund lost over £4K in value due to changes in the financial markets.

This year, the 2023 London Walk was held in April and attracted over 450 walkers who enjoyed the 7.5-mile route. Walk income (to date

of writing) is approaching £20k. Why not join us next year, Saturday April 27th 2024, for a great day out, a unique opportunity to visit a variety of churches and also support the work of Unlock? Bring your friends too!

We continue to seek to establish new local partnerships with churches and explore new ways to work with other organisations. It is not proving easy! Several churches continue to use our free online resources but many are still in survival mode after the pandemic and are not yet ready to embark on new projects. Most churches are feeling the effects of the financial crisis, often with reduced numbers after Covid and are, of necessity, reducing (or ceasing) their financial support for organisations like Unlock. As always, we limit our expenditure as much as possible but costs continue to rise rapidly with no signs of slowing down. Our current budget suggests that we will end 2023 with a significant deficit of several thousand pounds. The exact level of this will depend on the generosity of our supporters.

Thank you for your generosity, which provides the lifeline that keeps us working. We are very grateful for your ongoing support and hope that you will continue to support our work and tell others about Unlock.

Thank you!

David Tyers (Treasurer)

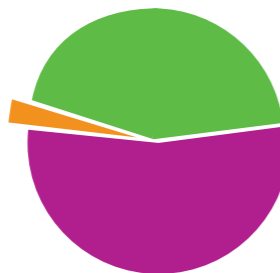
EXPENDITURE 2022

Governance Costs	£3,440	6%
Fundraising	£4,576	8%
Charitable Activities	£45,158	79%
Loss in value of investment	£4,328	7%
	£57,502	TOTAL



INCOME 2022

London Walk	£21,101	38%
Donations	£32,358	59%
Investments (interest)	£1,567	3%
	£55,022	TOTAL



UNLOCK SEEKS A VOLUNTARY TREASURER

A note from our current treasurer

I've been Unlock Treasurer since 2011 and reluctantly, due to health issues and other commitments, feel that it is time for a change. It is an enjoyable way to support Unlock's ministry, mainly from the comfort of your own home, and isn't particularly onerous. The nitty-gritty parts (book-keeping, bill paying, payroll, gift-aid etc.) are all done by Unlock office staff. My main role is to have oversight of the financial position based on the financial reports that the

office sends each month. Each council meeting (three times per year) requires a Treasurer's report plus a brief report for the annual newsletter. The official annual accounts are produced by a paid accountant/independent examiner and checked by the Treasurer before approval by the Trustees. The Treasurer also supports the office staff and chief officer to produce the budget for approval by council.

Most communication is by email and so it is not necessary to live near Rotherham. Attendance at council meetings is important but

travel expenses are reimbursed. There is no need to be a financial expert, although some knowledge of small charity and business finance is useful. There is a monthly monitoring exchange of e-mails.

The job description is available from the office on request and the current treasurer is very happy to discuss the role if you think this may be a role for you.

Contact the Unlock Office to express an interest or for more information.

ACHIEVEMENTS

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

CARDIFF

Sharon Jenkins continues her work through HOPE Cardiff.

TREETON, ROTHERHAM

Cameron Carr completes his work.

Bible Women are in North Wearside and Newcastle.

PARTNERSHIP WORK

CO attends:

- Church Urban Fund Together Network conference at Swanwick
- Blackpool Deanery Chapter meeting
- NECN conference

CO meets with:

- Chair of Urban Theology Union
- Chair of Urban Expression
- Director of Truth be Told
- Director of Saltley St Peter's Trust

TRAINING PROVIDED

CO runs Unlock Training:

- Queen's College, Birmingham

PUBLICATIONS

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED AND 2023 LONDON WALK LETTER MAILED

Resources published on the Unlock website include:

- Labyrinth walk workshop

EVENTS

The 40th Unlock London Walk entitled Thamesmead and the Elizabeth Line takes place in Abbey Wood. A lovely sunny spring day, for about 450 walkers. Cameron Carr (Rotherham worker) assisted by Anne Musson (from St Lawrence Church, Heanor) journey with walkers through a labyrinth with 7 stations for activities, reflection and stamping a Travel Card on the way.



Unlock Office Staff retreat takes place visiting Crich Tramway Museum. A good team building day riding vintage trams and a woodland walk including a rock labyrinth.

Unlock National Gathering held at Cliff College on the theme of Unlocking Imagination, Vision and Courage. Over a period of 24 hours staff, workers and Council together with Unlock local teams, friends and partners get together for a time of inspiration & training, to share local news and developments and for prayer and worship.

THE WALK RAISES £19,000 TOWARDS THE WORK OF UNLOCK

THE NEXT LONDON WALK IS ON 27 APRIL 2024

UNLOCK NATIONAL COUNCIL MEET 3 TIMES

giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock

GIVE AS YOU LIVE

Would you like to support Unlock every time you shop online at no cost to you and no cost to us? With Give as You Live, thousands of major brands including Tesco, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock. The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online. Give as You Live is easy to set-up and use. Simply visit **GIVE AS YOU LIVE** at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock for full details. Try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

Would you consider leaving a gift to Unlock in your will. This doesn't have to be complicated and it's possible to make many types of different gifts. Full details are available on our website at unlock-urban.org.uk/support_legacy.php or if you would like to talk with someone about leaving Unlock a donation in your will please contact the Unlock National Office.

LEGACY GIVING

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 25p 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 giftaid.

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

Giftaid will NOT cost you anything!

All it means is that we can apply to the Inland Revenue for an extra 25p 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 £2.50 in tax!

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

In reviewing the content of this newsletter, which is principally a report of what we have been doing in 2023, what struck me was how much we 'wanted'.

We want new places with new local partners where we can work together in learning how to apply Unlock's principles. Where any person's life story, any person's or community's grief, or shame or troubles, can be felt, seen and heard by a local body of Christ. A group of Christians who listen, see and feel, in encounters that are somehow like those described in the deeply moving encounters that the gospels record.

We want partners who enable us to reach out and into churches that we just have the resources to get to so as to offer training, free resources on the website... and maybe in time, a local Unlock worker on the ground in a particularly needful locality. We should note that we do have two new National partners this year, Urban Expression and Church Urban Fund. They are very different from us and from each other, but all of us are about how to create, support and resource local churches and local work in financially deprived and 'edge' places... in effective mission; mission which changes lives and the circumstances around our lives; mission which is both 'spiritual' and practical.

We want greater fruitfulness for our London walk both in terms of the income it generates and the impact it has on walkers and the local churches that they visit as they move around a part of London.

And **we want to renew our governance**; to relive David our treasurer of a responsibility he needs to relinquish; and replace Kath and others in previous years who have had to resign as trustees. We are not without committed and able trustees, but we need more, and we need one to be our treasurer.

Years and years now of austerity, and frankly, decline of the Christian community in terms of numbers and, I guess, giving power, means that life for many church-related organisations is very difficult. Unlock, small and lean as it is, has done pretty well with your prayerful and financial support. But we are struggling to redevelop our work post-covid.

So, please pray with and for us and the 'wanted list' above. Of course we need money, but we need even more significant shifts than that – we need new and deep friendships, connections and partnerships; new opportunities to share good news; we need a release of the abundance of the kingdom of heaven. Please pray with us, as part of Unlock, for these things.

Andrew Dorton



UNLOCK

15 Station Road
Rotherham S60 1HN

Tel: 01709 380318

Email: office@unlock-urban.org.uk
unlock-urban.org.uk

CHAIR

Andrew Dorton

CHIEF OFFICER

Dawn Lonsdale

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Nguemo Takon

I.T. AND FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Quinton

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Andrew Dorton (Chair), David Tyers (Treasurer)
Nicholas Carter (Secretary), Canon Sue Sheriff,
Sarah Watkins-Idle, Tim Watkins-Idle,
Rev Claire Cullingworth
Rev Phil Medley (to March 2023), Fiona Parker
Rev Kath Rogers (to July 2023), Ruth Weston

TRUSTEES

Nicholas Carter (Chair)
Andrew Dorton
Canon Sue Sheriff

BANK

Co-operative Bank, Salford M5 2QP

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 between four and eight paid staff including a network of workers placed in inner city locations across the UK. The charity is overseen by its National Council which meets three times each year. The legal document of the charity is its trust deed, dated 25th May 1972.

Registered charity no. 313454



find us on Facebook

design by able-design.co.uk

Please cut out and return to us at: Unlock, 15 Station Road, Rotherham S60 1HN

UNLOCK SUPPORTERS REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

Tel.

Email

Please add me to the Unlock mailing list

I would prefer to be contacted by:

☐

Email (this saves Unlock money)

☐

Post (we are happy to do this if it is your preferred form of communication)

I enclose a donation to Unlock's work in deprived urban communities in the UK.

£

(Cheques made payable to 'Unlock' please.)

Signature

☐

I would like my donation to be gift aided

Please access information on the Unlock website if you are able to.

If you need printed information please tick the relevant boxes below:

☐

Unlock training

☐

The Unlock London Walk

☐

Praying for Unlock

☐

Unlock resources

☐

Legacy giving

Unlock Data Protection Statement

This information is kept on our Unlock database which is only used by Unlock. It will not be disclosed to any other person or organisation.

By inserting your details above you signify that you have understood this and agree to it. Please see our website unlock-urban.org.uk to read our full Privacy Notice.