

Streetbank community lenders go national

Community lending website, Streetbank, launched nationwide in April after its successful trial in west London.

The website, co-founded by head-hunter Sam Stephens and IT consultant Ryan Davies, aims to build community and alleviate poverty through members sharing and giving away items and skills with their neighbours.

On joining the site and entering their postcode, users can see the items and skills of Streetbankers living within a 1,000-yard radius.

According to the founders, Streetbank is practical, economical and, at its heart, about reconnecting community and making society less independent.

'I think community can achieve the end of poverty. Nothing less than that,' said Stephens. 'I genuinely believe that – we can have access to the things we need and tackle loneliness if we're willing to cooperate with each other. If we act independently, we only have what we own and what our bank balance allows. When we cooperate the sky's the limit!'

So far west London Streetbank members have lent each other lawnmowers, *Lonely Planet Guides* and batman costumes; they've given away microwaves, rabbit hutches, pianos, hedge-trimmers and freshly baked bread and helped each other to move house, apply for jobs and learn French.

Mum of three Marianne cycled from Brussels to London for charity. Through Streetbank, she was lent a bike, a bike-carrier and learnt to repair a puncture.

Streetbank member Karen Alexander writes: 'I love the idea of Streetbank. There've been times when I could've used an extra pair of hands to bring a new piece of furniture into the house, and would be happy to do the same for my neighbours. Problem is – they don't know that! We seem to feel more awkward about asking for help from people we don't know. Hopefully this will allow us all to be there for each other!'

Rosie Gamble

streetbank.com

IN BRIEF...

THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR MICHAEL HARPER

A Thanksgiving Service is to be held for influential church leader Father Michael Harper, who passed away peacefully on January 6th.

Michael Harper had four decades in leadership in the charismatic renewal worldwide, followed by 15 years of ministry in the Orthodox Church.

He founded *Renewal* magazine in the 1960s, which later merged with *Christianity*.

The service will be held at St George's Orthodox Cathedral, by Regents Park, (at the junction of Albany St and Redhill St) London, NW1 4BG at midday, August 21st 2010.

For further information contact 01223 362933 or 07851 429482.

New prayer and Bible study app launched

A new iPhone app offering daily prayers and Bible studies will be launched by the Methodist Church, pending approval from Apple.

The free app offers will also have the latest news, topical podcasts and tweets from the Church, which it is believed will be the first major denomination to offer such a service.

The Word in Time Bible study features a different author each week, every week of the year, with a short reflection on the day's passage

and questions to consider.

Toby Scott, director of communications and campaigns, said, 'In today's society our lives are busier, fuller and more distracted than ever before. We hope this app will offer Christians from all backgrounds a little spiritual oasis in the midst of their busy lives. There's a lot more we want to do with this, but already this is something that people will find useful and inspiring.'

The app, which will be available to download from



the App Store, works with the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, and is under development for other SmartPhone platforms such as Android and Blackberry.

CALL TO PRAYER IN LONDON

Thousands of Christians are expected to attend a national day of prayer scheduled for 13th June 2010.

Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) London will be held at West Ham Stadium.

Confirmed artists include Graham Kendrick, Noel Robinson, Godfrey Birtel, the All Souls Orchestra and former *X Factor* finalist Beverly Trotman.

Tickets are available from gdoplondon.com or the booking line: 020 8853 9529.