

For immediate release

The Flat Sharers bible - from the founder of www.spareroom.co.uk

The old adage, *An Englishman's home is his castle* no longer applies to the millions of city dwellers opting to rent or flat-share as a lifestyle choice, preferring the company of flatmates in a more salubrious area than they could otherwise afford. Indeed, in the current financial climate, even those who are on the property ladder are now reluctantly lowering the drawbridge to let in lodgers to help pay the mortgage.

The Essential Guide to Flatsharing by Rupert Hunt and Matt Hutchinson, founders of spareroom.co.uk, is a new book out this month that responds to the recent boom in flatsharing and gives expert advice to prospective tenants on how to find the perfect flatmates, as well as to prospective landlords on how to find the perfect tenants.

Daunted by his own experience of trawling shop windows and pages in *Loot* to find a room in an unfamiliar city, Hunt used the internet to revolutionise the flat hunt. In this book, he and Hutchinson make sure fellow hunters know how to optimise their use of the information they provide.

Commenting on their reasons for writing the book, the authors say, "*The aim of this book is to provide you with all the information you need to identify, find and live in any type of shared accommodation. Whether you need a room in a shared house, someone to replace a departing flatmate or a lodger for your spare room, all the information you need is here.*"

And Hunt and Hutchinson make a point of recommending that you shouldn't just read chapters that are relevant to you. For example, if you are thinking of becoming a lodger, also read the chapter for those thinking of taking in a lodger in order that you understand the process as a whole.

About the authors: Rupert Hunt founded London's first flatshare site, *IntoLondon.com* in 1999. *SpareRoom.co.uk* was launched in 2004, extending the service to cover the whole of the UK. Matt Hutchinson is involved in running Spareroom.co.uk and has provided opinion and comment for articles in *The Independent*, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* amongst other publications as an expert on the UK flatshare market. Matt also provides the regular Room of the Week feature for the News International's *thelondonpaper*.

The Essential Guide to Flatsharing is published by **How To Books Ltd** www.howtobooks.co.uk, and is available at \$20.00 in major bookshops and online retailers across the USA and Canada. ISBN 978-1-84528-366-7

To arrange an interview with **Matt** or **Rupert**, please contact **Katie Read**
011 44 7837 485642 katie@katiread.co.uk

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