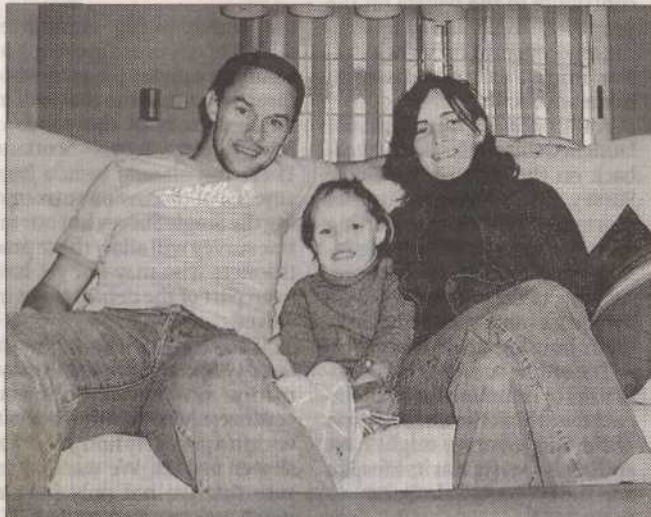


PRESS CUTTINGS

Spain and Property**Scotsman****27 January 2007****Happy in Spain after flat tripled in value over 5 years**

Duncan Smith with his wife, Natalia, and their daughter, Ana

DUNCAN Smith of Edinburgh and his Spanish wife, Natalia, bought a three-bedroom flat in the Valencia region of Spain five years ago for €76,000 (£50,000) and recently sold it for €220,000.

To most people, Duncan Smith had a dream lifestyle – a job with Ralph Lauren in Bond Street, London, and a beautiful Spanish girlfriend.

However, after two years in his job, Duncan felt something was missing and decided to up sticks for a new life in Valencia as a landscape gardener – with surprisingly successful results.

Duncan said: “I met Natalia at a party in Edinburgh in 1995, and when I moved down to London, Natalia made the move with me. We both held well-paid jobs in

the retail sector, but grew weary of city life. When we first moved here we stayed with Natalia’s family in Torrente, Valencia, before we rented a place of our own.

“After two years we decided we needed to buy a flat that would be big enough for the arrival of our daughter, Ana.

“I searched on the internet and found the website for estate agents ‘Spain and Property’. I got in touch with the owner, Conor Wilde, and we met to talk about what I was looking for.

“We took his advice and bought a new-build 90 square-metre sixth floor three-bedroom flat in Torrente – one of the biggest towns in Valencia – for €76,000.

“When we went to sell it five

years later we were amazed to find it had almost tripled in value.”

The couple, who are expecting their second child, have now moved into a large four-bedroom chalet with swimming pool in the nearby town of Montserrat, which cost €280,000.

“We would never have been able to afford a house like this had we not invested our money so wisely in the apartment and a lot of that is thanks to Conor and his excellent advice and in-depth knowledge of the local market.”

MORE INFO

Full range of homes available:
www.spainandproperty.com