

The house party's over: With her wild times behind her, heiress Davinia Taylor is selling her £6million London home

By [Eve McGowan](#)



Selling-up: Davinia, who is eight months pregnant, is selling her London home in St John's Wood

When 100 roll heiress Davinia Taylor first set eyes on her bright white Victorian villa in St John's Wood in North London it was love at first sight.

Fast forward five years and the former Hollyoaks actress's affection for the seven-bedroom house has not waned, but sadly her marriage to football agent David Gardner, who is best friends with David Beckham, has been less enduring.

The pair divorced last year, with Gardner citing Davinia's 'unreasonable behaviour', and Davinia, who battled alcoholism and depression before being diagnosed with bipolar disorder, lost custody of their three-year-old son Grey.

She now has to sell the property as part of the divorce settlement and she is so desperate to move on that she has slashed half-a-million pounds off the asking price to £5.95 million.

‘Someone will come along and take advantage of that situation – I know I would. We’re selling for pretty much the same amount as we bought it for in 2005,’ says the 33-year-old whose father, Alan Murphy, made his £200 million fortune making toilet paper.

Davinia, who gained notoriety as a key player in the Primrose Hill party set that includes Kate Moss, Jude Law and Sadie Frost, admits leaving the house behind will be bitter-sweet because it holds so many memories, fondest of which is the time she put up Kate Moss and her daughter Lila Grace for six months in the basement.

‘Kate had just split up with Pete Doherty and was in between houses so it was a bit of a refuge for her.

‘There were 20 paparazzi standing outside the front door every day.

‘Luckily, you can get in and out of the house through the garage so she would slip out that way.

‘It was one of my happiest times here with Kate’s daughter Lila running in and out of the garden.’

Now eight months pregnant by a man she isn’t naming, Davinia could never have envisaged this turnaround in her fortunes when she and Gardner bought the house after selling their former home, Supernova Heights, in nearby Primrose Hill for £3.25 million to the comedian David Walliams.

‘I thought we’d be here for a long time. But I believe everything happens for a reason and I’m not the sort of person to be haunted by resentment – I’m looking forward to a new chapter,’ says Davinia who plans to buy an apartment by the River Thames once she has sold.



Bargain: Davinia has knocked half a million pounds off the asking price of her home

For now she has moved back in with her mother, Wendy. Mum's place is a splendid Tudor manor house in Cheshire with a beautiful tithe barn in the grounds which Davinia and her mother – who divorced from Alan when Davinia was 20 – have completely restored.

'The plan was for me to live in the barn but then I found out I was pregnant and I'm not sure there's enough room so I might have to chuck Mum out of the manor,' says Davinia.

Davinia has a passion for interior design and could immediately see the potential in the house she is now selling, although her ex-husband needed more persuading to see past its rather shambolic appearance.

'Poor David likes everything to be just so,' says Davinia.

The house needed rewiring and completely redecorating. Davinia added baroque wallpaper and hung opulent dark silk curtains. But after failing to find a buyer since the house went on the market last summer, she has more recently redecorated in a more neutral style.

‘My taste reflects the fact that I’m much more of a night-time person – this was definitely a party house for me – but that sort of style perhaps doesn’t show the house off to its full potential,’ she says.



Taylor-made: After failing to find a buyer since the house went on the market last summer, Davinia has redecorated in a more neutral style, this is what her sitting room looked like before

Traces of Davinia’s old decor remain though – including the dramatic chandeliers. A huge custom-made one still hangs in the kitchen.

There is also a stunning master bedroom suite with a hall-of-mirrors-style dressing room and a free-standing Victorian bath tub. In the living room there’s a wall of bookcases full of vintage books, sourced by Davinia, which will be included in the sale.

‘I’ve not actually read any of them, I just love the bindings,’ she says.

Tellingly, the bookcases shield a hidden door that leads down to a catering-size walk-in fridge which Davinia reveals ‘was always crammed full of booze’ for the regular dinner parties she loved to host.

But whatever the troubles of her personal life, Davinia’s surroundings have always been beautiful.

She grew up in a converted farmhouse in the picturesque village of Roby Mill outside Wigan. After leaving Hollyoaks, where she played party girl Jude Cunningham for two years, she moved to London and rented in the Peninsula Heights development overlooking the river in Vauxhall, South London, before buying her first home – Supernova Heights – for a reported

£2.5 million from former Oasis guitarist Noel Gallagher and his then wife Meg Mathews. Davinia was then just 22.

The house holds so many memories, fondest of which is the time Davinia put up Kate Moss and her daughter Lila Grace for six months

‘I partied there with Noel and Meg and when they said they were moving to the country I nearly bit their hands off,’ says Davinia, whose ex-boyfriends include footballer Ryan Giggs.

Davinia is also selling a five-bedroom ‘uber-modern’ beach-front house with infinity pool in Los Menteros outside Marbella in Spain for £11.9 million.

‘It’s breathtaking, I designed it myself. It’s next door to our family home out there – Antonio Banderas is a neighbour.

‘It was going to be our family home in the sun but it’s a bit indulgent to have another house there now I’m on my own. I’m just tying up everything since the divorce,’ says Davinia, who now runs a hair and beauty salon also offering Botox and fillers called Taylor Made in London’s West End.

‘We work with my mum’s plastic surgery company Mya, so you can get hair plugs or boob jobs on credit – I’m sorting mine out as soon as I’ve had the baby,’ she says.

Davinia is still coming to terms with her pregnancy, which she only found out about when she felt the baby kicking at five months while on holiday in the US.

‘It’s a magical thing but I am still in shock and feel a bit detached from it. The father and I are together – he’ll be at the birth with my mum – but we don’t live together. It was an accident and it’s not conventional but I’m really happy with how things are going.’

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