

Taking a shortcut



Rawdon couple Jan and Andy Pratt started Shortcuts Property Search following their own experiences of buying abroad. Jan says, "We

had the luxury of time when we were looking to find a home in Mallorca but we quickly realised just how much work was needed to find the right location and the most ideal property to suit our needs and just how invaluable inside knowledge would be. "We felt other British buyers would ideally need a shortcut to find their dream homes - so the concept was born, Shortcuts was created and we've subsequently gone from strength to strength."

Originally operating across the beautiful island of Mallorca - celebrities including Catherine Zeta Jones, Michael Douglas, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Bond-star Pierce Brosnan own homes there - today Jan and Andy have launched Shortcuts on Spain's Costa Brava, Costa de la Luz and the Algarve and are looking to expand into other areas later this year. Jan says, "The overseas property market is booming - last year alone house prices rose in Spain and the Balearics by 21% making it one of the top performing locations worldwide."

Today 1.5 million Britons own homes overseas, a number which is forecast to increase - one recent report said that by 2020 there would be an extra 2.3 million Brits with homes outside the UK. Jan says, "The growth of frequent, low cost flights from airports such as Leeds/Bradford is opening up the market - we work with some Yorkshire people who are buying abroad in order to commute - working in the UK yet taking long weekends overseas each week.

Jan and Andy themselves split their time between a home in Mallorca's capital city of Palma and a base in Rawdon, visiting the UK to meet with clients, "Whether people want to buy a holiday home, for retirement or simply as a sound investment, we provide independent advice and guidance throughout the process.

"From taking a property brief we research the market, shortlist appropriate properties and present a portfolio from which clients can choose what they want to see; we collect them from the airport, accompany them on viewings and provide guidance using our market and location knowledge to ensure it's the right place for them.

"Basically Shortcuts is a simpler way of buying abroad and because the registration fee is fully refundable on purchase of a property, buyers pay no more than had they done all the work themselves. As one client



recently said, 'Why would anyone buy a property abroad without using Shortcuts?'

Jan and Andy provide a free initial consultation; they can be contacted on 0034 971 227 655, e-mail: info@shortcutspropertysearch.com www.shortcutspropertysearch.com