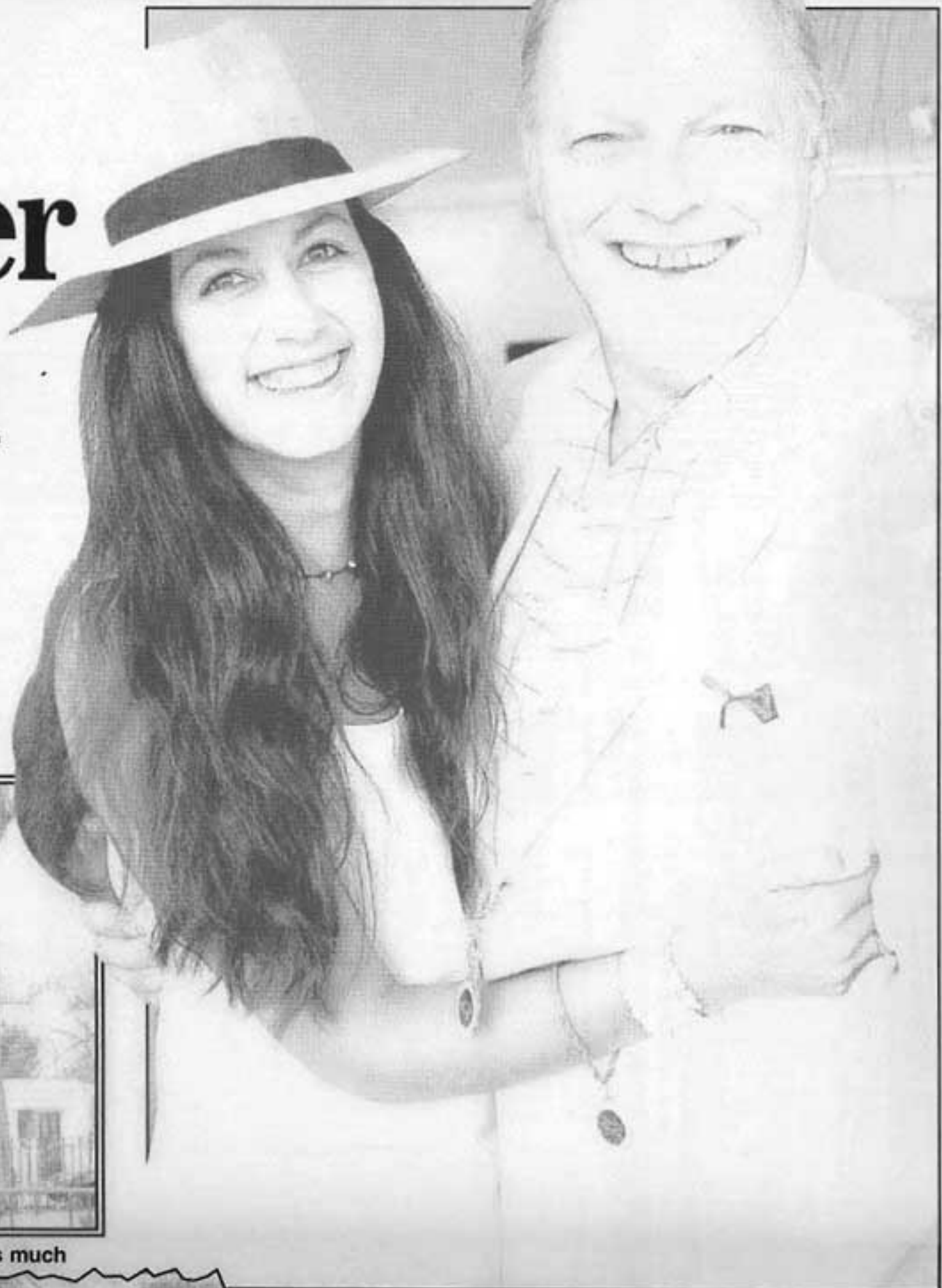


Generous Gilmour's homeless village project appeals for more

cash

Floyd star needs another £50m worth of bricks for his wall



The mansion: Bought for £300,000, Gilmour sold it for more than ten times as much

By **Bill Moulard**

IT is more than a year since David Gilmour gave the £3.6million he made selling his mansion to a charity for the homeless.

The rock star's dream was to use the donation to build an 'urban village' providing 400 homes for down-and-outs and low-income workers in the capital.

In the words of one of his band Pink Floyd's best-known songs, however, Gilmour's generous donation has turned out to be just Another Brick In The Wall of the ambitious development.

For the charity behind the scheme said yesterday it wanted another £50million to get the scheme off the ground.

'We need to find ourselves a lot more money,' said a spokesman for Crisis. 'We need some interest from property developers, from corporate business, from Downing Street, to make it happen.'

The charity, which is still trying



The rock star: Gilmour (second left) with Pink Floyd in the 70s

to finalise a site for the project, has asked 58-year-old Gilmour to whip up support from others in the music industry to help turn his dream into reality.

The guitarist, who is said to be worth £75million after 35 years in Pink Floyd, said: 'I want my donation to kick-start the project to build the urban village so it can happen quickly.'

'I hope it means Crisis will be able to achieve the total needed

earlier and that it will inspire others to give the project the backing it needs.

'I hope to encourage others to back it in whatever way they can.'

Gilmour, a father of eight, decided to sell the stuccoed canal-side mansion in Maida Vale, West London, to Earl Spencer last year because he and his wife Polly Samson spent so little time there.

He made a huge profit on the sale, having paid around £300,000

The philanthropist: Gilmour with his wife Polly Samson

for the property some 20 years before. Discussing his decision to give the cash away, he said at the time: 'I don't need the money and I just thought it would be a good thing to do.'

'That house has made a fat profit and I've scarcely used it for the last six or seven years. You can't live seriously in more than one house. Everything else is just a holiday home.'

Gilmour, who owns a farmhouse in West Sussex, another property in Greece and has a share in a Mediterranean yacht, said he decided to give the money to Crisis 'because of a general feeling of unease at my good fortune and many other people's lack of it'.

He added: 'I know the effects of homelessness can be so damaging and debilitating to individuals. Health, job prospects and even life expectancy itself are all severely affected.'

'The crises and traumas in some people's lives are severe and I believe they need support and understanding. Homelessness can

happen to anyone and once people are robbed of the stability and self-esteem they've had, it can be a struggle to regain those things and live an independent life again.'

Crisis - which estimates that more than 400,000 Britons either live rough on the streets or in hostels, B&Bs or squats - is modelling its urban village project on a scheme in New York.

It hopes to house 200 formerly homeless people in self-contained apartments with another 200 flats available for key workers such as nurses, teachers and hospital porters who cannot afford London house prices.

The charity's chief executive Shaks Ghosh said: 'David Gilmour's generosity has provided a real launch pad for this project and we are immensely grateful for the belief he's shown.'

'We're now looking for others to get involved in creating this community whether their input is to find us a site or run a franchised business.'

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