

OUR BIG FAT GREEK HOUSE SALE:

Stavros Flatley are dancing their way to a new country house

A whole series of ITV1's Britain's Got Talent has come and gone since last year's finalists Stavros Flatley had their moment of fame. But in the 16 months since the father-and-son duo unleashed their comic Greek-Irish parody dance, bookings for their routine have not stopped rolling in.

And now former electrical contractor Demetrios Demetriou, 42, and his son Lagi, 14, are proving how life-changing a TV talent show can be. Thanks to the money they are making - reportedly £500,000 since their debut - Demi can afford to sell his smart, five-bedroom house in Winchmore Hill, North London, and upgrade to a larger home.

Demi and his wife Karen, 40, bought their Twenties detached house, where they live with Lagi and his sister Elle, 13, in mid-2007, paying £1.15million a few months before the market peaked. Now they are asking £1.425million for the house, and have the luxury of being able to wait for the right offer.

'When we bought I honestly didn't see us moving from here for a long time,' says Demi. 'We had to stretch ourselves financially to afford it, so I thought this was it - we had arrived.'

'But you can never predict what is going to happen. We entered BGT for a laugh and didn't really care if we were rejected, but we struck a chord with the audience and they loved us and we still get that reaction whenever we perform today.'

'We have only one routine, though, and I assumed people would quickly tire of us. So at first I didn't spend the money we earned - I just put it all into a bank account for the children's future.'

'I am only just starting to let myself believe we can carry on, and so we are spending some of it now to move to a larger house in the country.'

Fans of BGT will never forget the way judges Simon Cowell, Piers Morgan and Amanda Holden fell into hysterics watching Demi and Lagi dash round the stage in their ridiculous wigs and letting their bellies hang out as they performed an Irish jig

'Behind the scenes in the auditions we watched other children practising with their parents shouting at them if they put a foot wrong, but with me and Dad it was always a joke. We kept expecting to be sent home.' Stavros Flatley went on to

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that was 'also a little bit Greek'.

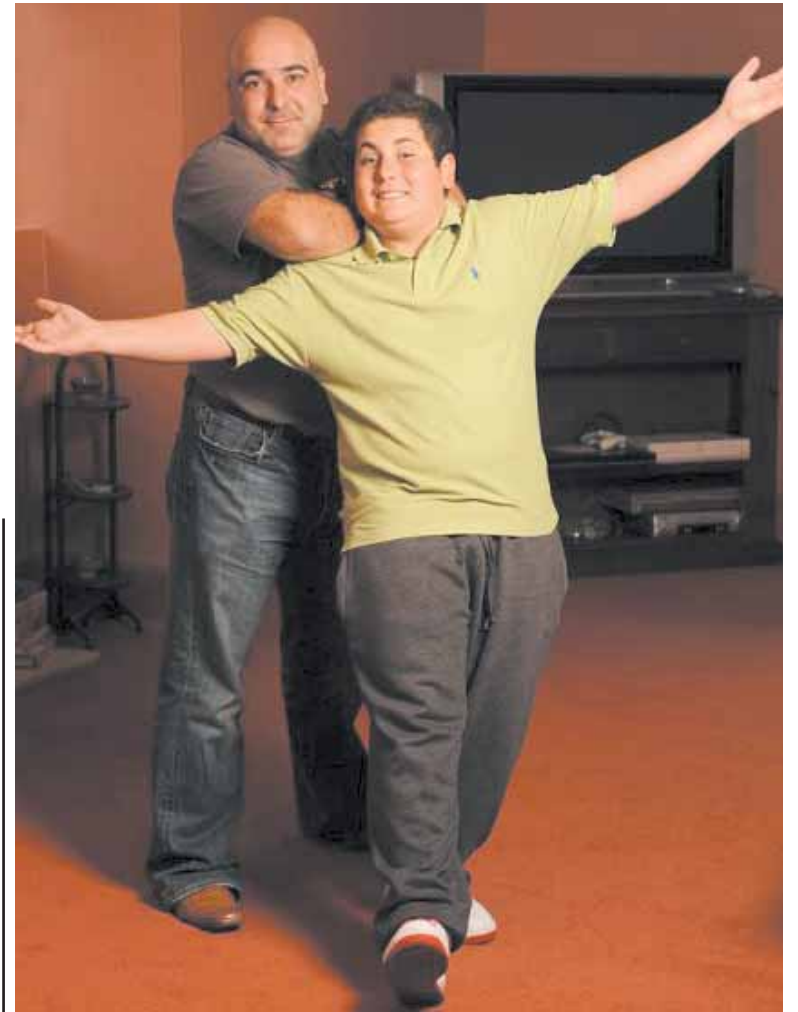
A few months later the pair finished fourth in the May 2009 final watched by more than 18 million people. Since then they have performed at more than 300 events around the UK and in China, Australia and Europe. They have also hosted an MTV show and released a book, *How To Be A Little Bit Greek*.

One of the secrets to their enduring appeal must be the refreshing, self-deprecating humour found in father and son. Lagi particularly impresses - for one so young, there is no sign of any teenage sullenness and he comes across as relaxed and confident in front of the cameras.

'I think a big reason for our success is Dad never put me under any pressure,' says Lagi.

dance at Glastonbury, for the England cricket team and at the Lawn Tennis Association, charging between £2,500 and £3,500 a night. With most bookings corporate functions and weddings, this year Demi plans to launch his own brand of Christmas parties for business groups.

It's a long way from the electrical business Demi was running with his brother until last year. Born in London and raised in the north of the city in Oakwood, at the age of 22 he tried opening a Greek restaurant (where he first had the idea of dancing an Irish jig for entertainment evenings), but closed it eight years ago. He let the building to tenants and bought his stake in electrical business LAGI Contractors.



On a roll: Demi and Lagi's fun act is paying for a bigger family home

Three years ago the business was doing well enough to allow Demi and Karen to move into their current home from a smaller three-bedroom house nearby.

'We wanted a larger space for the family,' says Karen, who works as a secretary for LAGI Contractors.

'We took one look at this property and loved the large rooms, but we didn't do anything to it because we'd spent all our cash buying it. We thought about updating the kitchen, but when the recession began we weren't sure how well the business would fare.'

The house has a 37ft lounge, a large second living room, a kitchen/ diner and a sizeable office. Upstairs a galleried landing has four large double bedrooms

leading off, and outside the garden is 140ft long.

Demi and Karen have their sights on finding a property in Broxbourne in Hertfordshire with land and stables where they can keep the two ponies they have bought for Elle, whose passion is horse-riding.

Broxbourne is closer to Karen's family and she has seen a £1.5million house there with 15 acres and 20 stables, which she could rent to other horse owners if they buy it.

'We want to renovate our next home and make it exactly how we want,' says Demi.

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Iris Mortemore, at selling agents Mortemore Mackay, says the only thing standing in the way of Demi and Karen's dreams is the fact that local appetite for more expensive homes appears to have slowed.

Prices of three and four-bedroom properties valued between £700,000 and £850,000 have recovered to peak levels and demand for those is high, but most owners of homes worth more than £1million are under no compulsion to move and, like Demi, are reluctant to lower their prices.

'Sales are sluggish,' says Mortemore. 'In the top bracket we are back to the situation where wealthy sellers are waiting for the market to improve. That means we have plenty of stock that is only moving slowly.'

Article from MailOnline



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