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Alison Cork: It's Groundhog Day as buyers burrow down



Just because the housing slump was easy to spot, doesn't make it any easier to bear, says property expert Alison Cork from ITV's *Homes & Property* and *Don't Move, Improve!*

We all get a sense of satisfaction when we get it right, but I can honestly say I take no pleasure in having been the arbiter of bad news all those months ago, when I predicted the property market was going to fall by up to 40% over the following two years.

And if I'm totally honest, I can't even take credit for that bit of information, as it was my better half - an avid analyst of market places and the economy - who told me two years ago that the British economy was heading for a serious fallout.

He was also the one who went on to detail - with scary accuracy - the position with the banks, cost of living and property market that now confronts us.

In fact, I have to admit that I fought him on almost every point for some months, refusing to believe it could be that sinister - "Dame Doom" was his nickname in our house, a fact I've come to feel somewhat embarrassed about.

I only really adopted his line of thinking when it became much clearer that things were actually going wrong. I guess I'm a bit of a fairweather friend.

What's really incredible though, is that in some quarters, people are still sticking their heads in the sand.

I liken it to seeing a homeless person in the street: two or three steps ago that person probably had a job, a house and an infrastructure, and then a series of unforeseen events made it all come tumbling down like a house of cards.

And I guess that's the way I feel about the situation now.

by Alison Cork, 29 June 2008

Alison Cork is the founder of online lifestyle magazine [Homes & Bargains](#) and home improvement directory [Problem Solved](#)

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