

Grid, International Power, Barclays, HBOS and Lloyds TSB. The couple's maxi-Isa with the Share Centre is worth £12,900 and is invested in House of Fraser and United Utilities.

They have four unit trust savings plans: Old Mutual European Select, Schroders US Smaller Companies, Invesco Perpetual Pacific Accumu-

Pacific Growth.

A Templeton Emerging Markets investment trust with Franklin Templeton is worth £12,076 and another, with Scottish Life, is worth £6,500.

Phillip is also treasurer of an investment club, the Warwick House Investment Club. He puts in £20 a month and has a current shareholding worth £3,100.

Over to you

Would you like a financial makeover? E-mail moneymot@thetimes.co.uk or write to Money, *The Times*, Times House, 1 Pennington Street, London E98 1TB, marking your envelope Money MoT. Please include current finances, your short and long-term goals and a daytime telephone number. You must be prepared to disclose your income and be willing to be photographed.

"Their portfolio, with the exception of Tomkins, has performed well, but I think that Phillip should diversify so his retirement plans would not be compromised were the power sector to take a tumble.

"They should boost cash savings by using endowment proceeds or selling some equities when conditions are favourable. Restructuring investments to deliver capital growth should generate an extra £10,000 a year.

"They should trim back exposure to Asia-Pacific and emerging markets, which are too risky at their time of life. The Scottish Widows funds are poor performers — Gartmore European Selected Opportunities would be a good alternative.

"Exposure to corporate bonds and commercial property would also make sense. Funds to consider include Rensburg UK Select Growth, Jupiter Income, New Star Higher Income, Artemis Strategic Bond, JPM US, SWIP Property Trust and Midas Balanced Income. Using a fund supermarket, such as Cofunds or Funds Network, will simplify administration."

MORTGAGES

Andrew Montlake,
partner, Cobalt Capital

"Phillip and Glenys should leave things as they are. The Clydesdale offset rate of 4.99 per cent is not bad and the benefits of switching are

negligible. It would make sense to pay down the mortgage further when the endowment matures.

"If they rent out their next UK property, there may be a tax benefit in having a small mortgage to offset the interest against the rental income. But I get the feeling that they would be more comfortable knowing that all their debts have been paid off."

FOREIGN CURRENCY,

Neil Redcliffe,
managing director,
Currencies Direct

"One of the couple's main concerns should be whether to transfer a lump sum from the sale of their house. If they do, they will need to plan ahead to save money.

"I suggest that they set up a Spanish bank account, ready to use once they arrive.

"After they move, they will need to find a cost-effective way to transfer their UK pensions. A 'regular transfer service' would do this without incurring fees of up to £324 a year. It could also be used for transferring money to cover property maintenance costs while they are not living there."

LINKS

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