

DAILY EXPRESS

Rapid rise of the sugar mummies

By Amy Fallon

16 April 2007

280,000 women over 45 are on prowl for younger men

YOUNG man beware!

That older woman smiling at you may have more on her mind than you think.

For there are more than 280,000 women over 45 on the prowl in Britain today looking for a younger lover.

It's also estimated that at least three per cent of them want a man at least 10 years younger to provide them with fun times, the online dating service Parship. co. uk found.

And if you think you couldn't possibly be considered because you're not a sophisticated city type driving a flashy car, don't bank on it. Country types with straw in their ears are also being targeted.

Then again, if you are not a young man but one of those older women, you could be in for happy times ahead.

Research suggests five per cent of single males between 25 and 35 are actively seeking an attractive, older woman.

And a whopping 47 per cent say age is not an issue.

The trend is motivated by pleasure and not financial security, said Parship psychiatrist and relationship expert Dr Victoria Lukats.

"Younger women have always been attracted to men who are slightly older than they are," she said.

"This can be traced back to prehistoric times when the woman would choose a partner best able to provide the best chances of survival.

"Now, older women don't need to concern themselves with such worries. Their only concern is their pleasure - and not whether their new boyfriend can pay the gas bill."

Dr Lukats added: "Sophisticated city women may be able to attract a younger man with the lure of expensive restaurants.

"But then, even the smell of food being cooked can trigger endorphins that make us think of love." Apparently, women from the Home Counties, Wiltshire and Dorset are twice more likely to date a man five to 10 years younger than they are.

Women from Glasgow and Yorkshire are the least likely.

Famous women who have partnered younger men include Joan Collins - she and Percy Gibson have a 38-year age gap, Sadie Frost, who was 38 when she dated 22-year-old Jackson Scott and

Francesca Annis, who was 50 when she met Ralph Fiennes in 1995.

He was 32, and they were together until last year.

'I needed more life'

YOUNGER men have more life in them, says Lorraine Wapshot, 47, a PA.

"They are more attractive and I don't see why we should not do it, " said Lorraine, of Orpington, Kent, who has been dating younger men since she split up with the father of her children, who was 14 years older.

"Age shouldn't come into it. Even my son is dating an older girl, so maybe it runs in the family.

"I got together with my ex when I was 20 and he was 34, and we were together for 20 years and had two kids. I got to 40, and I thought, there's got to be more to life than this, so I announced I was going to leave him, moved house and started dating a guy seven years my junior.

"Younger men like being with an older woman because they don't get any pressure. With a younger woman the clock's ticking, and they're saying, 'When are we going to get married and have kids?' " She said she had broken up with one man seven years younger than her after six years. "He wanted to get married and have children, and I'd already done that."

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