

INTERMEDIATE UNIT 9

1 Work in pairs and discuss.

- 1 Do you like visiting old buildings and houses?
- 2 What is the most interesting place you have visited?

2 Read the brochure about a house and answer the questions.

- 1 In which century was the house built?
- 2 Are all the features of the house old?

3 Read the brochure again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The house has a modern atmosphere.
- 2 The garden has a large area of grass.
- 3 The Great Hall is part of the original building.
- 4 The fireplace in the Great Hall is often used.
- 5 The ceiling of the Master Bedroom is colourful.
- 6 There are paintings of the family on the walls of the bedroom.
- 7 In the past the kitchens were closed to visitors.
- 8 The kitchens were built in the 1920s.

BLOXENBURY HOUSE

*Built in the late 17th century, Bloxenbury House still holds the atmosphere of days gone by. But it has also managed to change with the times and adapt **through the ages**.*

THE GARDEN

The design of the garden is very different to when the house was first built. The garden design and **layout** we can see today was created in 1912 and is filled with similar flowers and trees to when the gardens were created by the owner at that time. The idea was to have a garden with a large lawn and flowers beds, and to give a feeling of open space.

THE GREAT HALL

This is the original part of the house which was started in about 1605. Here you can see the magnificent fireplace and a portrait of the first owner above it, as well as others around the room. The fire is **rarely** lit these days because of safety reasons. Instead there is a modern heating system to heat the Hall and house. The furniture in this room is not original but it gives an idea of how the Hall looked over 400 years ago.

THE MASTER BEDROOM

Look up when you first enter this room and you will see one of the finest ceilings from the 18th century. Back then it was painted in bright colours but today it is preserved in plain white. The furniture, including the bed, is original, as are the **curtains** and bedcovers, which date from the same time as the ceiling. The portraits on the walls date from the late 19th century and are of family members of that time.

THE KITCHENS

Many visitors to the house find these the most fascinating rooms as they are usually **hidden** from public view. But this year the kitchens are open to the public and are **laid out** as if the cooks are preparing a dinner in about 1920. All the equipment on display was used in that period and gives visitors a real feel for how the kitchens looked back then.

4 Match the words and phrases in bold in the text with their meanings 1–6.

- 1 almost never
- 2 the plan of how something is arranged
- 3 different times in history
- 4 displayed
- 5 not visible
- 6 material that hangs across a window

5 Work in pairs and discuss.

- 1 Are there any old houses or buildings near where you live?
- 2 Do you think it's important to open old houses and buildings to the public? Why/Why not?

6  9.1 Listen to a guide giving a guided tour at Bloxenbury House and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the guide's name?
- 2 Which room do they visit first on the tour?
- 3 What is special about the size of the Great Hall?
- 4 What can you see on the ceiling?
- 5 Who gave the table to the owners of the house?
- 6 When did they give the table to the owners?
- 7 What is the floor of the hall made of?
- 8 Where did the wood come from?

7A The words in the box are from the recording. Match the words in the box with their meanings 1–6.

wooden figures	furniture	gift
frame	planks	ships

- 1 long flat pieces of wood
- 2 statues made of wood
- 3 present
- 4 big boats
- 5 chairs, tables, sofas, etc.
- 6 the wood or metal around a picture

B Listen and check.

8 Work in pairs or small groups and discuss.

- 1 Is it important to study history? Why/Why not?
- 2 Do you think it is important to save old buildings?
- 3 Is there a building in your town you think is important to keep? Why?