

READING

Living in a stately home

- 1 Look at the pictures and read the introduction. What is the house called? Who lives there? Who visits it? Where do you think the money comes from to run it?
- 2 You are going to read about the house and its owner. What do you want to know?

Write some questions on the board.
Where ...? How old ...? Who ...? When ...?
How many ...? How much ...? Which ...?
- 3 Read the article quickly. Which of your questions are answered?
- 4 Read the article again. Answer the questions.

- 1 How long has the Cavendish family lived in Chatsworth?
- 2 Why does the Duke feel lucky?
- 3 What do these numbers refer to?

300	35,000	500	£500m	£5m	600,000
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- 4 How long has the house been open to the public?
- 5 How does the estate raise money?
- 6 Why was the house built so big?
- 7 Which members of the royal family have visited the house?

Language work

Underline the correct tense.

- 1 The 12th Duke *lived / has lived* in Chatsworth since 2006.
- 2 His father *died / has died* in 2004.
- 3 The Cavendish family *owned / has owned* the house for over 450 years.
- 4 In 2010 around 600,000 people *visited / have visited* the house.
- 5 William and Mary *didn't visit / haven't visited* in 1686.
- 6 William Cavendish *was / has been* Prime Minister for a year.

What do you think?

- Are there houses like Chatsworth in your country? Who owns them? Are they open to the public?
- Is there an aristocracy in your country? Which schools do they go to? Which professions do they often have? What kind of pastimes do they like?
- Is it fair that so much wealth can be inherited?

Living History



Chatsworth House has been home to the same family since 1549. In that time the house has welcomed kings and queens, prime ministers and politicians, and more recently bands and film crews.

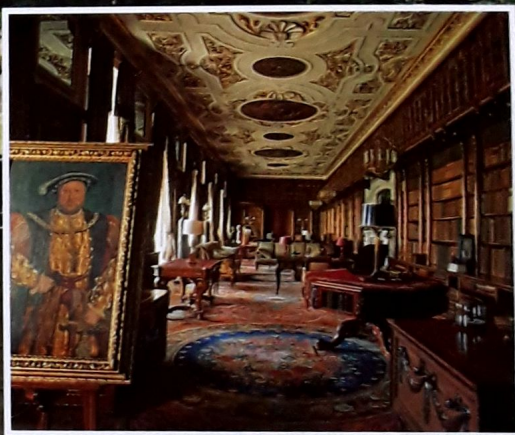
The 12th Duke of Devonshire, Peregrine Cavendish, and his wife Amanda have lived at Chatsworth since 2006.



The Duke inherited the house on the death of his father in 2004. He says:

‘My family has lived here for over 450 years. The estate has been passed down the Cavendish family for 15 generations, and I now have the pleasure and responsibility to look after it for the next generation.’

Visitors often see him walking through the house and garden when it is open to the public. He says, ‘Chatsworth is a magical place, and I feel lucky to be able to share it with all of our visitors.’



The most beautiful house in England

Chatsworth is situated in the hills of Derbyshire, in the Midlands. Many people say it is the most beautiful house in England. It has nearly 300 rooms (with 17 staircases and 26 baths) and is set in 35,000 acres of land. It needs 500 staff to run. The art collection includes paintings by Raphael, van Dyck, and Rembrandt. The whole estate is worth about £500 million.

It costs approximately £5m a year to run Chatsworth, so the house has been open to the paying public since 1949, and in 2010 there were around 600,000 visitors. There are often art exhibitions, flower shows, horse trials, and sometimes concerts in the grounds.

The house also earns money from the film industry. It is a favourite location for period films. Chatsworth was used as Mr Darcy's house in the 2005 film of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and Keira Knightley also starred in *The Duchess* here in 2008.

£5m a year to run

A house fit for a king!

Most English country houses were built during the 17th and 18th centuries by the aristocracy. The Duke likes to explain the historical background to Chatsworth. 'Visitors arrive, see this huge building in this vast parkland, and wonder why it is so big. The reason is that my ancestors built a house fit for a king. It was designed to impress, and to persuade royalty to visit.'

In 1686 the first Duke built a magnificent suite for a royal visit from King William and Queen Mary.

Unfortunately they didn't come. However, much later Edward VII was a frequent visitor between 1901 and 1910. George V and Queen Mary visited in 1913.

Many of the Cavendish family were politicians. One, William Cavendish, was Prime Minister from 1756–1757. Today, families like the Cavendish's no longer have the same political influence, but their estates are still huge.

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

A family history

1 What do you know about the lives of your grandparents? Talk about them in small groups.

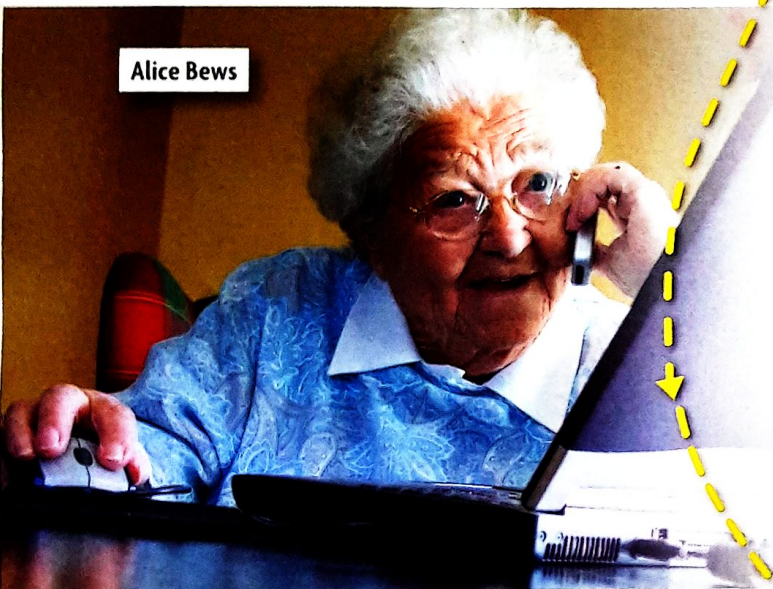
2 **T 7.10** Listen to David Taylor Bews (33). He comes from England, but now lives in Perth, Australia. He has started to research his family history. Answer the questions.

- 1 How long has David lived in Perth?
- 2 Who are the two 'Alices' in his life?
- 3 Where does his grandmother live?
- 4 Where were her brothers and sisters born?
- 5 What did her parents do for a living?
- 6 What happened in the 9th century?
- 7 Why do so many people in the family have blonde hair?
- 8 Why did the family leave the Orkney Islands?

The Bews family



Alice Bews



3 **T 7.11** Listen to David talking to his grandmother on 'Skype' about his family history. Answer the questions.

- 1 '... she married when she was just 17.' Who is *she*?
- 2 'I can't remember *him* at all.' Who is *him*?
- 3 'She had *two jobs* and a *big family*.' - What were her *two jobs*? How *big* was the family?
- 4 '*They* got work in the shipyards.' Who are *they*?
- 5 '*It* wasn't unusual in those days.' What wasn't unusual?
- 6 '*They* live all over the world.' Who are *they*? Where do *they* live?
- 7 '*He* helps me keep in touch with you all.' Who is *he*?
- 8 '*It's all* really wonderful, isn't it?' What is *it all*?

4 In your groups tell the story of David's family in chronological order. Use the maps to help.

David's ancestors came over to Scotland from ...

What do you think?

- Is David's family history typical of many families?
- How far back can you go in your family history?
- You can explore your family history online. Has anyone in your family ever done that?

▶▶ WRITING A biography p111

Alice

David Bews

Russell

