

Stepping back in time at restored property

ALDEBURGH: Home retains its 1928 charm... and furniture

By Craig Robinson

IT is a snapshot of days gone by when King George V was on the throne, Conservative Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister and Heinz Baked Beans were first made in the UK.

And now visitors to Aldeburgh can get a unique taste of what life was like in 1928 thanks to a very special house.

The historic property on Saxmundham Road has recently been returned to its former glory by a holiday lettings agency.

To celebrate the completed work, the company teamed up with the Cragg Sisters Tearoom and the Kenton Hall Estate to host a vintage tea party on Friday.

The property was originally owned by William Newson, who worked at Aldeburgh bricklayers WC Reade & Co, and his wife Rachel. Together with their daughter, Joan, they lived in the house all their lives until 2009.

It then stood empty with all of its period furnishings still in place – an original invoice from the 1920s reveals the very same furniture remains in the house, unchanged except for some fresh coats of polish.

Alex Tarry, who runs Best of Suffolk lettings agency with his wife, Naomi, viewed the property when it came on to the market and he was keen to ensure it remained as it was.

“Saving interesting and historic buildings has become very important to us,” he said.

“When we came to have a look around we just fell in love. It was like walking into a time warp. Nothing had been taken away – there were photo albums, birth certificates and all sorts.

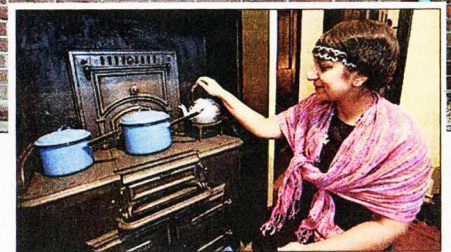
“It’s a real insight into what life would have been like for a hard-working family in 1928.

“As such, we felt a great responsibility to



VINTAGE TEA PARTY: Above, Emma Neilson, Sam Gray and Gemma Woolnough outside the restored 1920s' holiday house and, right, Angela James in the kitchen

Photos: ANDREW PARTRIDGE



try to preserve that. We didn't want to see the house changed.”

Over the last year or so, Mr Tarry and a team of local craftsmen – including metal workers JT Pegg & Sons Ltd, carpenters Church and Gooderham, and Middleton builder Gary Buckingham – have worked to sympathetically restore the house.

The original oil-bound distemper paint was analysed and reproduced and the exterior colour is now exactly as it would have looked

when the house was new, while the original Crittal window frames have also been restored using correct-to-period Douglas fir.

To help preserve the historic items found in the house, a special museum room has been created, which people can visit by contacting Best of Suffolk. The house is also available as a holiday rental. For more details visit www.bestofsuffolk.co.uk or call 01728 638962.

craig.robinson@eadt.co.uk