

WHEN Mr Geoffrey Young started work on renovating his parents' old home he had no idea of the surprises the place had in store for him. it over a few years ago.

Since starting work in August he has discovered four hidden Tudor fireplaces, several doors, a number of Tudor wall paintings, a gallery and a well in the back garden of the 16th century former inn.

The Old Inn, in High Street, Wheatley, belonged to Mr Young's parents and he only took

“When we started work on the place we knew it was very old but we had no idea we would find such treasures. It was fascinating because to begin with we were discovering something new almost every day,” he said.

Mr Young, a former teacher who lives at 48 London Road, Headington, began the work at the inn by opening up a filled-in archway through the centre of the building into the back

yard.

“Hundreds of years ago the carts would have come through the arch and you can still see the marks they made on the stonework,” he said.

With the aid of local builders Mr Young then set about clearing and renovating the inside of the inn and discovered the wall paintings, doors and the large fireplaces — complete with soot which is probably hundreds of years old.

“We have also discovered a filled- in

gallery which runs along the back . of the inn and I think this is very rare. I hope one day to restore the building to its old glory,” said Mr Young.

After the discoveries he called in several local experts who advised him on how best to preserve the finds.

Mr Young has also been looking into the history of the building which he believes, from old records, was called The George.

During the years parts

of the building have been changed and added to including the 18th century frontage. The exact history is patchy but sometime before 1830 it was split into three cottages and in 1959 was divided into just two.

Mr Young hopes to move into part of the house with his wife Joan during the summer.

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