

Property

oxfordtimes.co.uk/homes

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Generational thing



■ CHANGING TIMES: Above: Courtyard Barn, Nuneham Courtenay. Top right: Manor Barn, Sutton Courtenay

By **GILL OLIVER**

propertyedit@nqo.com

ELDERLY parents needing care and children who have flown the nest only to return are just two factors driving sales of what are known as multi-generational homes.

As a result, the once unfashionable annexe is now more popular than ever.

Developer David Smith of BCL, which is marketing Courtyard Barn a barn conversion and annexe in Nuneham Courtenay, said: "People consider moving back with their parents for lots of reasons.

"Once the decision is made, though, finding the right property can be an issue as you need somewhere that provides independent space for two families within a single residence."

Courtyard Barn was designed with this in mind. It offers about 3,000 sq ft of

living accommodation in two former barns in a courtyard setting. Both are laid out with open-plan spaces that can be configured according to lifestyle. The main house has a vaulted reception room with dining, kitchen and reception areas plus a separate family room, a master en suite and two more bedrooms.

The annexe, across the courtyard, is another barn with open-plan living space and two bedrooms. The property comes with a three-bay car port, workshop, gardens and nine acres of paddocks.

Mr Smith added: "We designed Courtyard Barn to be flexible for multi-generational or multi-purpose living. You can easily imagine two families living there, although the annexe would make an excellent office or studio too."

Graham MacDonald, of agents Kemp & Kemp, agrees: "The whole multi-generational living idea is definitely a growing market. In our experience, annexes work particularly well if they are detached from the main property.

"Sadly, we find that because of rising

divorce rates many people in their 30s and 40s are returning to their parents' homes, often with children in tow. We are noticing that the number of buyers looking for flexible accommodation is going up.

"I have been in this business for 30 years and it used to be almost unheard of for people to want a property with an annexe but now it is becoming increasingly common."

Mr MacDonald cited the example of Manor Barn, a six-bedroom Grade II-listed barn conversion in the grounds of a manor house in Sutton Courtenay.

The property, which has a triple garage with a three-bedroom annexe flat above, frontage on to the River Thames, boat house and grounds of almost an acre, is on the market for £2.25m.

Courtyard Barn is on the market for £1.485m with Carter Jonas on 01865 511444 or visit carterjonas.co.uk

For more details about Manor Barn, contact Kemp & Kemp on 01865 510000 or visit kempandkemp.co.uk