



**Fig 4: Fireplace in Service Chamber of Valley Farm**

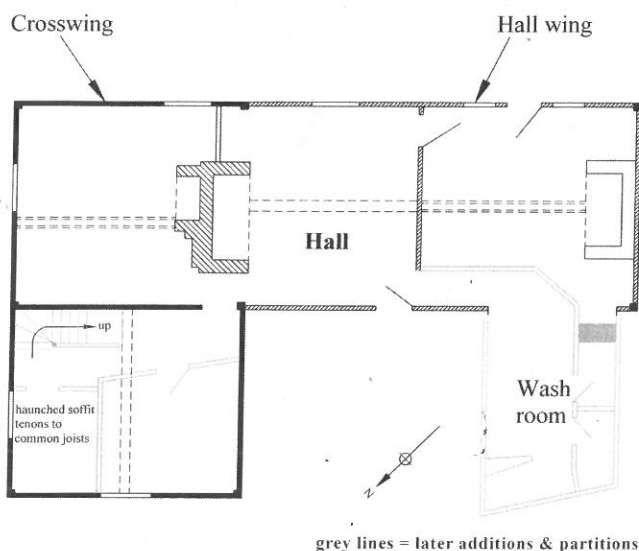
entered from the parlour chamber via a door cut into the high end of the hall at first floor level.

In the 1930s the inserted floor was removed from the hall, leaving it open to the roof, displaying the crownpost and the smoke-blackened rafters and allowing one to see how the open hall would have looked in the 15th century.

Willy Lott's House is a somewhat later building, dating from the late 17th century. This farmhouse comprises a hall with a two-storey cross-wing to its north (figs 5 and 6). The cross-wing has jowled principal posts with



**Fig 5: Willy Lott's House, Flatford Mill**



**Fig 6: Rough Plan of Willy Lott's House**  
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curved primary bracing – ie braces which are the same thickness as the studs and which cut the latter into two pieces. This contrasts with Valley Farm, where the braces are half the thickness of the studs and a 'halved' across them. As with Valley Farm, Willy Lott's House is a classic example of a building of its date so we were able to see 'evolution in progress'.

After a break for lunch, we re-convened in Hadleigh where we divided into three groups to visit Hadleigh Guildhall, Hadleigh Deanery Tower (otherwise known as Pykenham's Tower) and a selection of houses in the town. A number of members also took the opportunity to walk around the town and look at a selection of its many historic buildings, using copies of the leaflet 'A Walk around Hadleigh, Suffolk' to direct them to the key buildings and read brief descriptions of them.

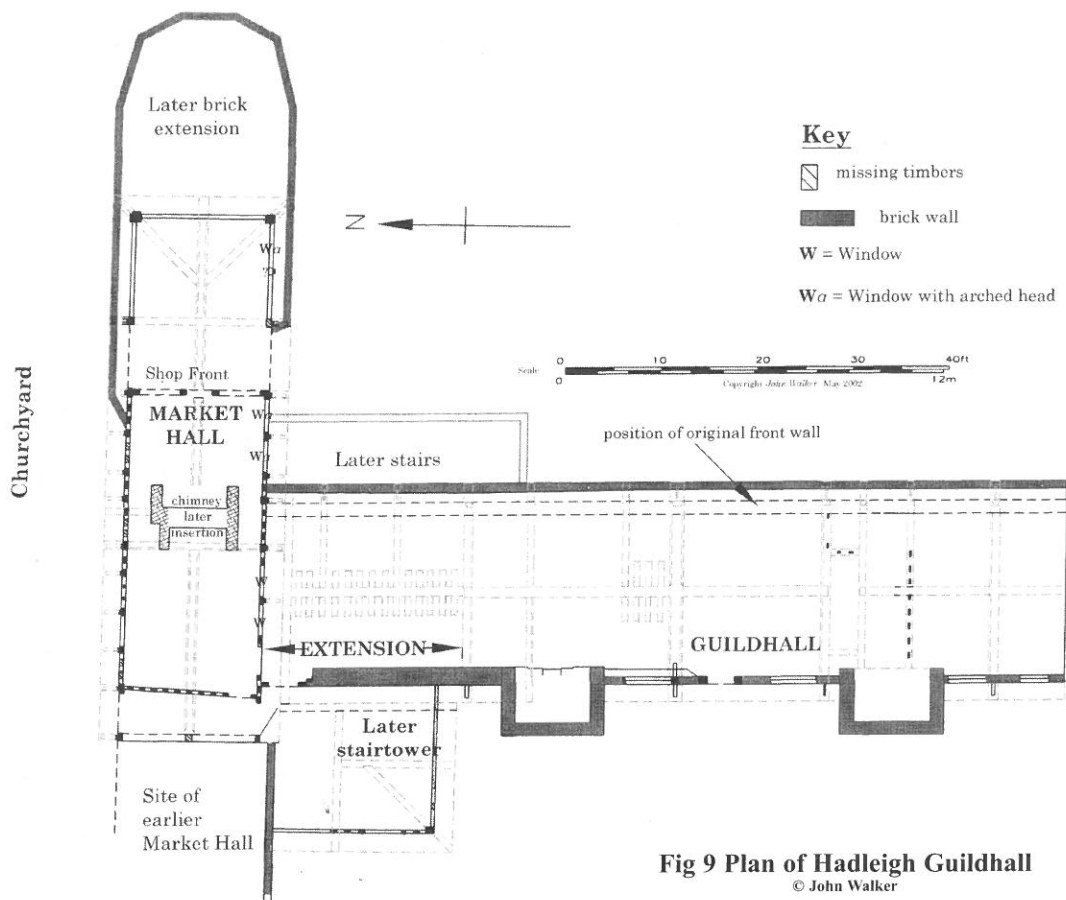
The largest building on the itinerary was the Guildhall complex (fig 7), where Pam and John Walker led 'guided' tours (some parts of the building are now Town Council offices and, for obvious reasons, this precludes allowing visitors to roam unescorted). One of the architectural glories of the building is in the Council's offices – the remains of the medieval shop fronts (fig 8), which originally faced onto an open passageway running between the Market Place and St Mary's Church – a prime position for the shop traders! The surviving parts of the Guildhall complex were first built in the 15th century as two separate buildings – the Market Hall facing onto the churchyard and the Guildhall behind and at right angles to this. Originally there was a gap between these two buildings but in the 16th century



**Fig 7: Hadleigh Guildhall**



**Fig 8: Medieval Shop Front in Hadleigh Guildhall**



**Fig 9 Plan of Hadleigh Guildhall**  
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they were joined together when the gap was filled by an extension to the Guildhall (fig 9) and a new stair-tower was built in the North-West angle to give access to the upper floors of both buildings (fig 10). Members wishing to read more about this complex of buildings are referred to John Walker's article 'A New Guidebook for Hadleigh Guildhall' in the Spring 2005 issue (No. 29) of 'Eavesdropper'. Even more details are in John's Guide Book to the buildings, available for £1.50 plus 50p for postage and packing from Pam Walker at the address on page 2 of the current issue of 'Eavesdropper'.

Before moving on to the other buildings visited in Hadleigh, it is worth drawing members' attention to the rare survival



**Fig 11: 16th Screen displayed in Hadleigh Guildhall**

of the remains of a detached medieval kitchen in the Guildhall grounds and to the spectacular 16th century screen with linfold panelling (fig 11), which has recently been moved from elsewhere in the town and displayed in a grand second floor room in the Market House part of the Guildhall complex.



**Fig 10: New 3-storey Stair Tower to left of chimney stack at Hadleigh Guildhall**

On a personal note, I feel very sad that this tour was among the last to be arranged and led by members of The Friends of Hadleigh Guildhall. This charity has raised £61,400 since it was formed in 1994, mainly by leading guided tours of the Guildhall complex and by selling cream teas. However changes to the relationship with the owners of the building have led to the Friends' closure as from the end of 2008. The funds raised have been used to improve visitor facilities at