December 2024

The Hadleigh Society

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching and the Society has had a good year, with continuing strong membership and excellent attendances at Society talks. In the summer members enjoyed a fascinating tour of the house and grounds of Glemham Hall. In July the Society was presented with a prestigious Heritage Champion Award by the Suffolk Preservation Society, and we are concluding the year with the publication of a very well researched history of Hadleigh Guildhall which is now available for members and public to purchase - an ideal Christmas stocking filler.

Next year we are arranging a visit for members to another of Suffolk's historic homes and have already booked a good selection of speakers with an interesting range of topics for this coming year's programme of talks The Society will continue to monitor and respond to the various development proposals proposed for the town whether made in the emerging Local Plan or in submitted planning applications. It is important that the Society continues to do this in order to minimise the impact of any such developments on our town's special character.

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As a community we are fortunate to have the luxury of a vibrant and busy town centre with few vacant shop frontages and with a wealth of historic and beautiful buildings housing our shops and offices. But how long might this last? The iconic Partridges store in the centre of town is closed and has been vacant for 18 months. On the horizon there also appears to be a triple whammy of events which will potentially threaten the character of our town centre.

The first is the introduction of car parking charges in all public car parks, 6 days a week from 8 am to 6pm. The second whammy is the possibility of a new out of town Lidl Store being located in Hadleigh. Whilst the store will undoubtedly be welcomed by many, if built, there may be, especially with the introduction of parking charges in town, a propensity for consumers to shift trade away from the town centre. And so to the third whammy, that of the central government's recent imposition of an increase in employers National Insurance rates, the lowering of the National Insurance thresholds on when payment becomes due, and the substantial increase in minimum wages levels.

These three changes will undoubtedly impact the many small independent stores, and hospitality businesses that operate in the town centre. We, as Hadleigh residents, must continue to support our local traders in order to protect the unique character of our town centre

On a lighter note I would like to thank you all for your continued support during the year and on behalf of the Executive Committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN NEARING FORMAL ADOPTION

The Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan is nearing its last few hurdles before final adoption as planning policy.

Following the last public consultation on the draft Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan held earlier this year, Ann Skippers BSc (Hons) MRTPI FRSA FHEA AoU, was appointed as an Independent Examiner and contracted by Babergh District Council to review the plan and all its supporting documents. She also made a covert visit to Hadleigh to understand the

area covered by the Plan and to assess the details of the plan for relevance in the local area.

The final report from the Examiner was received on the on October 3rd after which Babergh District Council reviewed the recommendations and decided to support all of them without alteration. In her summary the Examiner praises the Neighbourhood Plan saying "The Plan is well presented and supported by a number of relevant evidence-based documents such as the excellent Character Assessment. It has a detailed vision supported by robust objectives."

The Examiner required some modifications in the interest of precision and clarity and that subject to these being made, the plan meets the basic condition tests and that it should proceed to a local referendum. Hadleigh Town Council is now incorporating these required modifications into the Plan which will then be presented at Full Council for approval. When Council has agreed the final text it will be submitted back to the District Council, prior to the Referendum taking place early next year. There are 18 modifications to make, ranging from grammatical errors and clarifications and some bigger items like amendments to policies, additional appendices and map updates.

It should be noted that a considerable amount of work undertaken by Hadleigh Society members has been incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan. This includes the Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets complied by the Society together with a specific policy to safeguard these properties, a summary of the town's history, and an Advertising and Shopfront Design Code Document.

If approved in the Referendum the Neighbourhood Plans policies regarding Landscape and Design (Policies HAD1 and HAD2), Natural Environment (Policies HAD3, HAD4 and HAD5), Heritage (Policy HAD6), Low Carbon Development (Policies HAD7 and HAD8), Safe, Sustainable and Active Travel (Policies HAD9 and HAD10), Housing (Policy HAD11), and Community, Visitor and Service Economy (Policies HAD12 and HAD13) will be adopted as planning policy which developers and plan makers must thereafter take account of in any proposals they make for development in the town. The adoption of the plan also means that the Town Council will receive a higher proportion of

Community Infrastructure Levy monies from developers which it can use in local community projects.

Look out for voting notifications for the Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan Referendum planned for early next year.

CHAIRMAN ACCEPTS SPS HERITAGE CHAMPION AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY

As mentioned in the June Newsletter, the Society was nominated for a 2024 Suffolk Preservation Society Heritage Champion Award by residents in the Castle Road area for the work the Society undertook in researching the history of the medieval sunken track known as Bacon Lane and in acknowledgement of the Society's help with planting a new hedge on the boundary of the lane . The Society was one of eleven winners of the award and the award ceremony took place in the evening of the 18 July 2024 at The Stable Courtyard of Heveningham Hall in north Suffolk.

The awards were presented to the 11 winning groups and individuals by Jerry Musson, a renowned architectural historian, with Geoffrey Probert President of the SPS. Our Chairman, Richard Fletcher, attended the ceremony to accept the award on behalf of the Society. At the same ceremony one of the Society's long time members John Walker was also presented with an Award for his work in the study and research of timber framed buildings in Suffolk. Incidentally, John will be giving a talk to the Society on 8 October 2025 regarding 'Timber framed buildings - with particular reference to Hadleigh'.

A GRAND DAY OUT

On July 2nd this year some 23 members and guests travelled to Glemham Hall, the 1,763-acre sporting and farming estate, located in Little Glemham near Woodbridge. Glemham Hall belongs to the notable Cobbold family, who are famous for their involvement in the brewing industry and stewardship of Ipswich Town Football Club. The Cobbold family has owned the hall since 1923.

Glemham Hall was originally of the Elizabethan period, it but was considerably altered and extended between 1712 and 1722, giving it an overall Georgian façade. The 16th-century mansion consists of 12 main bedrooms, seven main reception rooms, domestic offices, a lodge cottage, and parkland, as well as six cottages.

View of Glemham Hall [credit Strutt & Parker]

The gardens of Glemham Hall originated with the construction of the 'new' Hall itself, which dates back to 1560. As structural changes were made to the hall in the early 1700s the gardens and parkland were equally changed. Much of what is seen in its 8 acre gardens and fine 200-acre park were designed by Humphrey Repton for which he produced a Red Book in 1791.

At the house we were greeted by Lavinia Wells, a member of the Cobbold family, and who was to be our guide for a tour of the house and its grounds. Lavinia provided an engaging talk covering art, historical events, previous occupants and what it was like to grow up on a country estate. She was a wonderful host with an abundance of tales to tell from spending time with family at Glemham.

Lavinia led us through the grand Reception Hall, Library, Dining Room, Drawing Room and Billiard Room all on the ground floor, whilst also telling us about the Cobbold family history and how her early years were spent in the Hall, The Hall has maintained

its charm and character as a family home which is now occupied by Philip Cobbold.

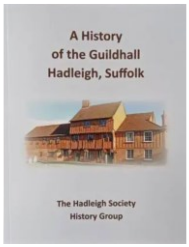
Our tour continued through the seven first floor bedrooms, two of which had floor areas as great as the footprint of a modern 3 bedroomed house. The tour of the house concluded with a viewing of the numerous untouched servants' quarters in the attics.

Following the house tour we were able to walk about and enjoy the beautiful the walled rose garden, the herbaceous flower beds and an avenue of Irish Yews. Dotted about the garden were several examples of modern sculpture. The day finished with an excellent cream tea held in conservatory.

NEW BOOK - A HISTORY OF HADLEIGH GUILDHALL

You will have seen and heard the talk given by members of the Hadleigh Society History Group last summer regarding the history of Hadleigh's Guildhall. Now you can own a copy of the Society's "A History of the Guildhall, Hadleigh, Suffolk" for £10.

The origins of the book lie in a project undertaken by the Society's History Group to draw up a timeline charting the history of the buildings that now make up the Guildhall Complex. The timeline was to be strictly evidence-based using only primary sources. These primary sources include original documents that are held in Hadleigh's own Archive located within the Guildhall itself, Suffolk Archives and even Canterbury Cathedral Archives. The project took 3 years to complete and the result is the "Timeline: The History of Hadleigh Guildhall" which can be viewed on the Hadleigh Society homepage at https://hadsoc.org.uk/guildhalltimeline/



The History Group presented the Timeline to the Society in a Society evening session on the 23 August 2023. It was a very popular event with over 100 attendees. The presentation was given in 5 individual talks by the members of the History Group, each talk covering a stage of the development of the building over its 600-year history. Fittingly the

talk was held in the downstairs chamber of the two-story Guilds Hall (now known as the Guild Room) which was built for the Medieval Guilds of Hadleigh c1449 to 1451.

It was at this presentation that a member of the audience suggested that the talks could be turned into a book, so the History Group looked into the idea and the book was born. The book is 120 pages long and is fully illustrated throughout. The Timeline itself is present at the back of the book in an appendix.

Mayor & Authors: L to R: Roger Kennell, Sally Looker, Margaret Woods, Cllr. Sue Monks (Mayor), Sue Angland, Jan Byrne and Mark Lawrence

The members of the History Group, Margaret Woods, Sally Looker, Jan McNelly, Mark Lawrence, Sue Angland, Jan Byrne and Roger Kennell all contributed a chapter or conclusion to the book.

1. The Medieval Context and Origins of Hadleigh Guildhall;
2. The 15th Century: The Guildhall and the new Market Hall;
3. The Workhouse;
4. The Guildhall in the 17th and 18th Centuries;
5. Revival in the 19th Century;
6. The Guildhall in the 20th Century; followed by
7. Conclusion

Anyone who is interested in the history of Hadleigh should not be without a copy. The information it contains has been used in part by the nationally renowned Caroe Architecture Ltd who have been commissioned by the Town Council to assess the Guildhall and Town Hall's architectural and historical importance as part of the Council's Guildhall Conservation Management Plan for the building. As Caroe Architecture Ltd say in their report: "Decisions which would shape Hadleigh's history were made within its walls". Furthermore, Caroe concluded from their work in the building that our Guildhall is of Exceptional Significance and is of international importance. We should be very proud of our wonderful Guildhall and now, with this book, we can

appreciate more fully its history and significance to the town.

The Society's book was launched at the Guildhall's Guild Room on Saturday 2 November 2024 with a special presentation to Cllr Sue Monks, Hadleigh's Mayor, in recognition of the Town Council's generous grant, which together with a grant from the Suffolk Local History Council assisted the Society in being able to fund the cost of printing. The launch was accompanied by an exhibition of photographs of the Guildhall buildings and selected images from the book. The launch was attended by many members of the Society with the authors available to answer any questions about the building and the book.

Copies of the book may be purchased direct from the Society at its regular talks, Avis Newsagents and The Idler. Copies can be sent via Royal Mail at a cost of £10 plus £2.95 post and packaging. Payment for post should be paid via bank transfer to:
The Hadleigh Society,
Account Number: 00178519,
Sort Code: 20-44-51.
Use your name as the reference.
Alternatively pay by cheque made out to "The Hadleigh Society".

NEXT EVENT

Our next public talk will be "A Merry Olde Christmas" with the historical music group Chanter's Jigge on Wednesday December 4th. As usual, in the Guildroom at 8pm. An entertaining evening is promised when musical duo, Chanter's Jigge, use their skills to perform "A Merry Olde Christmas" – a festive celebration of carols and seasonal music from across the centuries. These will be sung and played with ancient, traditional and modern instruments. Malcolm and Elizabeth have performed together for more than 30 years. Having toured the UK, and internationally, they now perform mainly in East Anglia, where they weave as many as 20 instruments into their performances drawing on their diverse styles of folk, jazz, traditional and classical music. Expect a hurdy-gurdy of accordion, guitar, saxophone, recorders, bagpipes, chalumeau, whistles, mandola, crumhorn, ukulele, percussion and vocals!

25-29 GEORGE STREET, HADLEIGH

Figure 1 South-East front of 25-29 George Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk in 2011. For this note the front is assumed to face south

25-29 George Street, Hadleigh has the appearance of a medieval Wealden House, that is one with two jettied ends with a recessed hall between them (Fig. 2) but is not one. It acquired this form in c.19th and 20th centuries. The left hand west crosswing is no. 25, the east right hand one no. 29 with no. 27 between them. Today no. 25 and 27 are in the same ownership. The two jettied ends are medieval crosswings. Little is visible inside of the timber framing of no. 25, with more in no. 29 indicating it was a crosswing not part of a Wealden house (Fig. 3).

Figure 2 Example of a full Wealden House Thatchers Hall, Hundon, Suffolk

Figure3 Front (south) wall of no. 29 in 2011 - left ground floor, right first floor

Between them would have been a low open hall like at 45-47 High Street, Hadleigh which still has a (very short) medieval hall between two crosswings (Fig. 4).

Figure 4

No. 29 George Street was divided into two rooms on the ground floor suggesting this was the service crosswing with the hall's entrance at the east end of the hall. If correct then the medieval crosspassage (or cross-entry) is where there is a passageway today on the west side of the service crosswing leading from the road to the back garden (Fig 1).

Figure 5
Door in south end of east wall of no. 25 viewed from hall

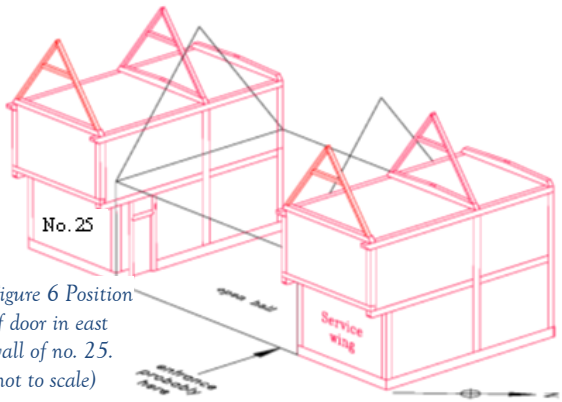


Figure 6 Position of door in east wall of no. 25. (not to scale)

What is visible of no. 25, seen from the hall, is a doorway in the east wall against the street end of this wall (Figs. 5 & 6). This is consistent with it being the high (upper) end of the open hall where there would have been a bench against the high end wall with the doorways at the ends of the wall into the parlour wing beyond. What is unusual is that this doorway has a straight head, not the usual arched doorhead. It could be that the crosswing was built to a tight budget or more likely the ground floor of the west crosswing was being used as a shop or workshop.

Around the middle of the 16th century the medieval hall at nos. 25-29 was rebuilt much taller, the new timber frame being open framed against the two crosswings with the area above the wallplates of the crosswings infilled with wattle and daub supported by the crosswing's wallplates (Fig. 7). Usually the principal storey posts of such open frames are

Figure 7 South-east corner of new hall built open framed against side of east crosswing

that is often found in Colchester's medieval buildings.

jowled (Fig. 8) and braced to the tiebeams, but not here (Fig. 7). However the east service crosswing also seems to have unjowled posts (Fig. 3 first floor), something

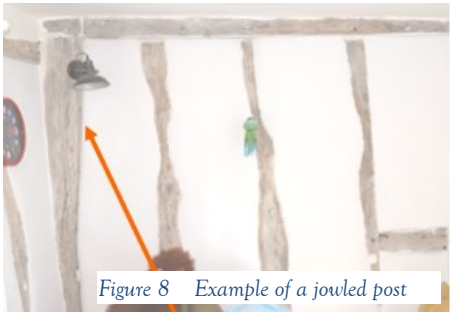


Figure 8 Example of a jowled post

Figure 9 Hall fireplace - right side with later alterations

The new hall was two storeys with the ground floor heated by a brick chimney stack on the rear wall of the hall (Fig. 9). The hall ceiling has moulded joists with double ogee chamfers on the both the principal and common joists (Fig. 10). There is a central south-north binding joist dividing the hall into two bays, the west bay larger than the east bay. In most post-medieval transitional houses the layout is still medieval with a crosspassage at the end of the smaller bay, whereas mentioned above there is today a passage way through from the road to the rear garden. The central south-north joist supports a east-west bridging joist on only its west side, with the common joists running north-south in the west bay and, unusually, west-east in the smaller east

Figure10 Hall floor joists in west bay with double ogee mouldings

bay (Fig. 9). The central south-north joist is now given extra support at its north end by the later addition of what appears to be a jetty bracket brace (Fig. 11).

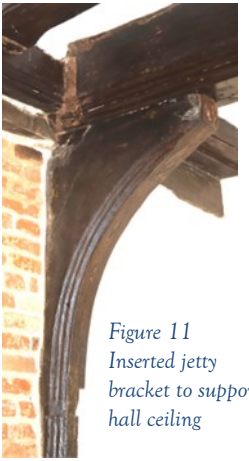


Figure 11 Inserted jetty bracket to support hall ceiling

The brick fireplace was large, 9½ft wide opening with an oven on the left hand (west) side. Clearly a cooking fireplace even though it mantel beam is pyramid shaped with decorated carving; acanthus leaves decoration on the top (Fig. 12) and roll moulding along the bottom, the upper roll incorporating ball-flower decoration (Fig. 13). The area between these has been hacked back for later plaster.

Figure12 Acanthus leaf decoration on fireplace mantel beam

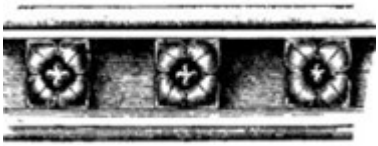


Figure13 ball-flower decoration

With its tall replacement hall the house would have looked similar in the 16th century to 97-99 High Street, Hadleigh with its tall centre range between two earlier underbuilt jettied crosswings (Fig. 14).

Figure14 97-99 High St., Hadleigh

In, probably, the 19th century (looking at the roof construction) the west crosswing and the hall were re-roofed in line, later extended in the 20th century after 1912 to cover no. 29 giving it the 'Wealden' appearance. A 1912

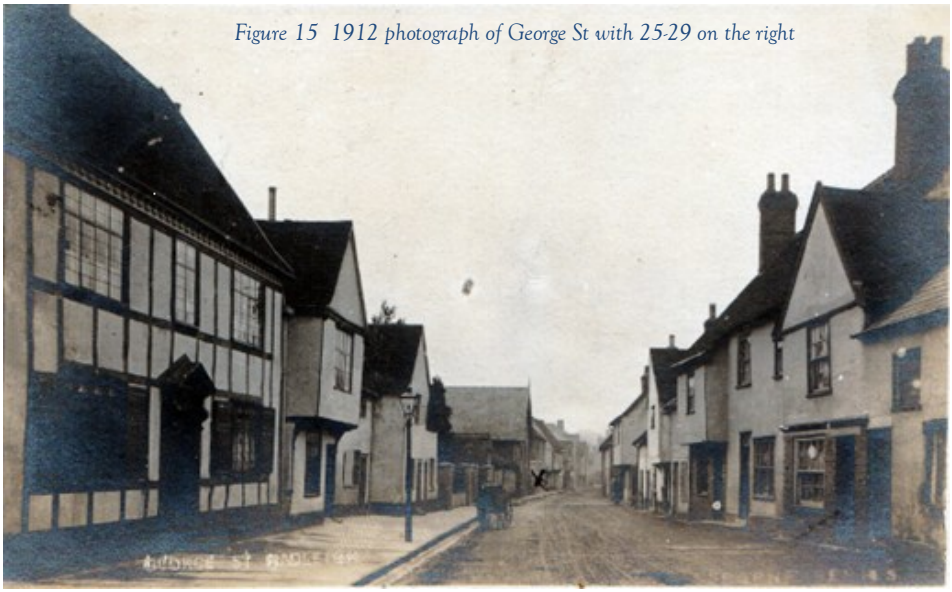


Figure 15 1912 photograph of George St with 25-29 on the right

photograph shows nos. 25 and 27 roofed inline but no. 29 still with its medieval roof (Fig 15). Thanks to Roger Kennel for supply this copy of the photograph and its date.

The roof over nos. 25 and 27 is of slim sawn rafters with two tiers of narrow section side purlins, the upper one clasped between the rafters and collars nailed to the rafters, the lower one supported by raking shores (Fig. 16). All probably 19th century.

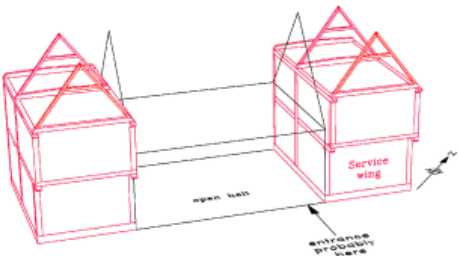
Figure 16 Roof over 27 George St. looking west

John Bloomfield told me many years ago that 25-29 George Street was not a Wealden but not why.

John Walker August 2024 *johnwalker1943@hotmail.com*

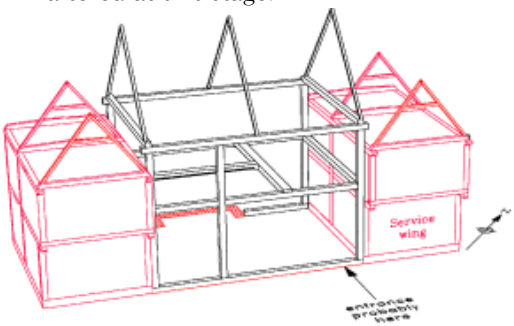
Summary of the Development of 25-29 George Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk

This building is unlikely to have started as a Wealden house. It would have had a medieval open hall between the two crosswings originally.



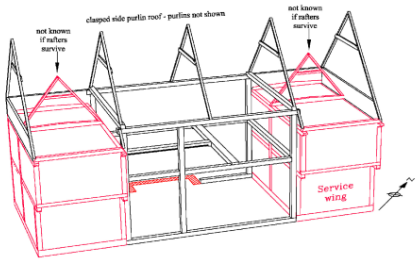
a Originally two medieval jettied crosswings with open hall between them (not known if wings had crownpost roofs)

Then in the 16th century the building was updated, the hall between the two crosswings rebuilt much taller than the medieval hall to accommodate two floors with the high ceilings and a brick chimney added to the rear of the hall to heat just the hall on the ground floor. The roofs of the crosswings would have been little altered at this stage.



b In 16th century hall rebuilt much taller with two storeys and hall heated by a chimney stack on the back wall. Crosswings probably retain their medieval roofs. Type of roof over new hall unknown.

In probably the 19th and 20th centuries the building was re-roofed in-line, first over the west crosswing and hall, then extended over the service crosswing to give it the "Wealden" appearance.



c In c.19th and 20th centuries re-roofed in-line across hall and crosswings with side and rear walls of crosswings raised.

Drawings are not to scale or the framing shown necessarily correct. They are only designed to illustrate the development of the building.

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THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY

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All views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Hadleigh Society

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2024/25

All are on Wednesdays at 8pm in the Guildroom. Entry is free for members, £3 for non-members.

Dec 4th	Merry Olde Christmas - historical music group	Chanter's Jigge
Feb 5th	Cardinal Wolsey	Dr Phil Roberts
Mar 26th	Privies, Drains and Disinfection - glimpses of rural Suffolk from the Inspector of Nuisance	Dr J Belsey
May 14th	Matthew Hopkins, Witchfinder General	Robert Halliday
Jun 25th	AGM	
Aug 13th	Lost Gardens of Suffolk	Edward Martin
Oct 8th	Timber Framed Buildings -with particular reference to Hadleigh	John Walker

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