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# BARLEY • HALL •

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## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Barley Hall belongs to York Archaeological Trust and is named after our first chairman, the late professor Maurice Barley.
- Barley Hall was 'rediscovered' in 1984. Although it had long been known that there was a medieval building in this location, the house was not officially recorded as medieval until 1980, and it was not until the site was sold for redevelopment that the extent of the medieval structure became clear.
- Barley Hall was bought by the Trust in January 1987. Later that year a full archaeological investigation of the interior was carried out through one metre of deposits to the 14<sup>th</sup>-century levels, revealing the remains of the floor of the Great Hall. Further investigations in 1990 and 1991 looked at the courtyard and found the remains of the exterior stairway to the Great Chamber on the first floor. Work to restore the Hall to its former glory began in 1990 and it re-opened to the public in 1993.
- Having completed the restoration of the house, we are now furnishing and equipping it as it might have appeared in about 1483, when the Snawsell family lived here and Richard III was King of England. All the furnishings have been carefully researched and handmade by craftsmen using medieval techniques.
- In our re-creation of Barley Hall, we have chosen to focus on the life and times of Master William Snawsell, probably the Hall's most distinguished resident, who lived and worked in York under Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III and Henry VII
- York Archaeological Trust owns Barley Hall and is an independent educational charity based in York [Registered charity in England & Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846)].

ENDS

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## 10 Things You Didn't Know About Barley Hall

- Barley Hall boasts the only horn window in Europe
  - Made from softened cow horn, a cheap alternative to glass in the medieval period
- Barley Hall is not the original name for the building, this has been lost to history. Instead it is named after the first chairman of York Archaeological Trust, the late professor Maurice Barley
- Once home to the Priors of Nostell, a monastic order based in West Yorkshire, the Hall was subsequently let out to private tenants
- One of the most famous of these tenants was William Snawsell, a Goldsmith and Lord Mayor of York. It is his residence that is recreated in today's attraction
  - Snawsell lived at the Hall during the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III & Henry VII - the period we now know as the 'Wars of the Roses'
  - He was part of civic committee that welcomed Richard III to York in 1483
- Unlike other attractions, visitors are actively encouraged to get 'hands-on' with history and sit on the furniture and handle the objects
- The medieval structure of the Hall was hidden away for centuries under a modern facade, only when the building as a whole was going to be demolished was the rich architecture from the Middle Ages re-discovered
- Archaeologists from York Archaeological Trust undertook painstaking research to uncover the history of the Hall and re-constructed the interior and exterior using period-specific techniques.

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## About the Exhibition

- Located in the top floor galleries of Barley Hall, 'Power & Glory' tells the story of Henry VIII's only visit to York in 1541, in the aftermath of the 'Pilgrimage of Grace' rebellion, when he was accompanied by his fifth wife, Catherine Howard
- Split into four themes, exploring Henry's impact on the city:
  - Who is Henry VIII?  
Where we explore the man and the myth
  - Henry and the Civic Authorities  
Experience what it was like to sit in one of York's taverns and eave drop on the gossip of the residents
  - Henry and the Guilds  
Discover the many Guilds that policed trade in the city and take to the stage on our 'waggon stage'
  - Henry and the Church  
Explore the legacy that the dissolution of the monasteries had on York with the interactive map
- Archaeological finds discovered in York help bring medieval York to life
- The exhibition also contains costumes from some of the most important and popular portrayals of the life and times of Henry VIII, including:
  - Keith Michell's 'Henry VIII', Patrick Troughton (the 2nd Doctor Who) 'Duke of Norfolk', Annette Crosbie (Margaret Meldrew, One Foot in the Grave) 'Catherine of Aragon' from the BBC's 1970 hit 'The Six Wives of Henry VIII
  - A replica Catherine Howard costume from Heaver Castle
  - Charlotte Rampling (Broadchurch) 'Anne Boleyn' from 'Henry VIII and his Six Wives (1972)
  - A replica of Orson Well's 'Cardinal Wolsey' from 'A Man for All Seasons' (1966)
  - Jonathan Rhys Meyer's 'Henry VIII' from Showtime's 'The Tudors'

Power and Glory: York in the Time of Henry VIII will run from May 2015 onwards and is included in standard admission to Barley Hall. For more information visit [www.barleyhall.co.uk/henryviii](http://www.barleyhall.co.uk/henryviii)

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