

Barley Hall Visual Story



What you might see

When you arrive at Barley Hall you will see our courtyard. If it is a very cold day the door will be closed. If it is closed feel free to push it open. There is a very large step to get inside. This is our admissions area and our shop where you can buy your ticket. A helpful member of staff in uniform will tell you about the Hall and sell you your ticket. You can ask them anything you would like to know about the history of the Hall. They will also offer you an audio guide and explain how to use it if you decide to take one on your visit. You will hear Medieval music playing in this area. You can also take a Barley Hall leaflet from this area which contains a map of the hall that you may find useful on your visit.



As you move around the Hall there will be steps between each room. Sometimes if it is dark outside the rooms will also seem a little bit dark. There will be electric lighting or candles in all of the rooms to help you see though.



This room is called the Steward's Room. You will see some information panels in this room and a short video explaining the development of Barley Hall. There is also a bed where the Steward would have slept. On special occasions you will be able to purchase drinks and snacks in this room.



This area is the Vestibule. Our toilets are located in this area and there is also a computer you can use by touching the screen. When you select an item to look at, it will activate a voice to tell you more information



This is our Great Hall. This is a large open space with a glass wall where you will be able to see other people passing through the alleyway. This area sometimes has volunteers who can tell you more about the Hall. The volunteers will also let you handle items if you would like to. The tables are set as if ready for a meal. You can pick up items from the side tables but you must not touch items on the top table, these are just for looking at as they are delicate. Sometimes a school party may be eating lunch in this room but you can still go in and look at the items if you would like to.



Next you go up the stairs to the Gallery. The stairs are a little bit steep but there is a hand rail for you to use. The Gallery is a wide open space. In here there are more items you can handle if you wish. You will hear voices chattering as if you are in a Medieval tavern. Half of the room is set to look like a tavern and you can sit on the furniture and handle the items. In this area there are two smells; hops and “old tavern.” You have to push a button to activate these so you can skip this part if you would like to. In the other half of the gallery there is a tent where you can watch some videos and some headphones if you want to listen to them. There are also some books to look at. Again, you can skip this part if you would like to.



From the Gallery there are two different ways that you can make your way around the Hall. We recommend you make your way into the Parlour next but you can go whichever way you like.



This is the Parlour.

The Parlour is quite a dark room. You can sit on any of the benches if you would like and feel free to pick up any of the items. Sometimes there is a volunteer in this room who can tell you more about the Hall if you would like. Sometimes there will be a school group in this room taking part in an activity. This will make the room a little crowded but you can still look at it and handle the display items if you would like to. During the school holidays and at weekends there will be a member of staff in costume who will be leading activities for anyone to take part in. These are optional but you should feel free to ask the member of staff any questions you might have.



There is a staircase down to the Buttery and Pantry. The stairs are a little bit steep but there is a handrail for you to use.



When you get to the bottom of the stairs the room on your left is the School room and the rooms to your right are the Buttery and Pantry. These rooms are quite small and dark but you can pick up any of the items that you would like to. You will also see a glass wall and be able to see people outside walking past.



Our school room is a bright space with toys and games that you can play with if you would like. Sometimes this room is in use by schools that are visiting the Hall. If the curtains are drawn across the doorway you will need to visit this room later if you would like to see it. Sometimes there will be a member of staff in costume in this room. You should feel free to ask them any questions. Sometimes they will be leading an optional activity that they can tell you about.



You will then need to retrace your steps back the way you came to the Gallery. From here you can visit the Lesser Chamber.



This is our Lesser Chamber.

This is a light room but may get noisy if there are lots of children playing. You can touch all of the items on display. There is a stage in here with some costumes at the back that you can try on and there are other items on the stage for you to play with. There are some steps up to the stage. You can skip this part if you would like to. There is also a colouring in activity in here that you can choose to do.



This is our Great Chamber. It is a very large room and can sometimes be a little dark. There is a map of old York in the middle of the room with projections on it. You can watch the projections change if you would like. There is a box in here with buttons you can press that will make a loud voice sound and tell you about the friaries. You can skip this if you wish. You will also hear some background noise in here of monks chanting. There are also costumes and other finds to look at in this room.



When you have finished looking at everything you will need to retrace your steps back the way you came, past the Great Hall and into the shop.



Things You Will Hear:

Medieval music

Monks chanting

Recorded voices

School children chatting and laughing

School tours taking place

Volunteer talks and demonstrations

Things You Will Smell:

Hops

“Old Tavern” smell

Mulled wine (on special occasions)

Air freshener in the toilets



BARLEY HALL

