

## Displays at Towneley Hall

After the AGM and furniture surgery in the new lecture theatre at Towneley we viewed the Sam Hanna film 'Seating a Chair' made at Berry's of Chipping and then visited the new displays at Towneley Hall created following a Heritage Lottery grant.

Those of special interest included: The Todmorden bed, dating from the late 16th century and loaned by the descendants of the Towneley family; a 19th century Lancashire low dresser (fig. 9) bearing an Ormskirk cabinet-maker's label purchased from the Cotton collection, new displays interpreting 17th century oak furniture of the Calder Valley (fig.10) and provenanced Lancashire rush-seated chairs of the 19th century.

The whole hall has been re-interpreted and there are two new guide books and a sound guide as well as many more labels relating to new displays throughout the building. Sadly there wasn't enough time to examine everything but members are welcome to contact Susan Bourne for another visit.



Fig. 9 Lancashire low dresser made by Thomas Nuttall, Cabinet-maker, Ormskirk



Fig. 10 Detail of an oak Calder Valley housekeepers' cupboard bearing the label 'Purchased in 1881 from James Lord of Meadowhead'. Previous history of family ownership since the 18th century