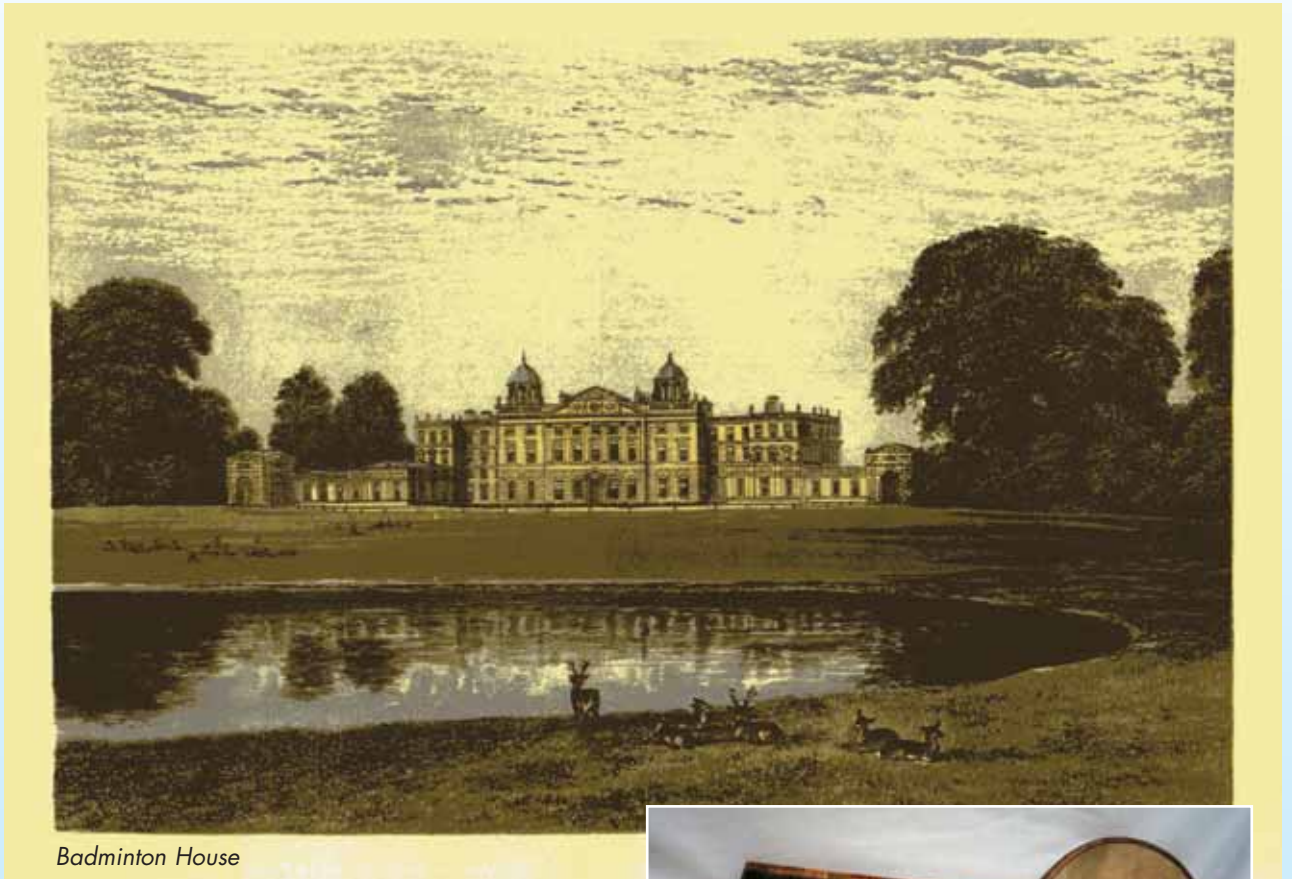




THE HISTORY OF

BADMINTON

Badminton House



Badminton House

Badminton takes its name from Badminton House, home of the Duke of Beaufort and the Somerset family, in Gloucestershire. The house was built for the 1st Duke of Beaufort in 1682.

Battledore and shuttlecock was certainly played at Badminton House in the middle of the 18th century, and antique battledores and shuttlecocks have been found in the House. Two of the battledores have inscriptions handwritten in ink on the parchment, which refer to the number of hits made continuously by the Somerset children – *'Kept up with Lady Somerset on Saturday January 12th 1830 to 2117 with (unreadable), while the second states 'The Lady Henrietta Somerset in February 1845 kept up with Beth Mitchell 2018.'*



Antique battledores

It is believed that at a house party in the 1860s some of the guests set up a net and using battledores and shuttlecocks played an early form of badminton. John Loraine Baldwin was a friend of the Duke of Beaufort and stayed at Badminton – he was also a keen sportsman and writer of sports rules. It is thought he standardised this new game and called it badminton.