

A Georgian Pastime

During their residence at Orchard Side from 1768 – 1786, the poet William Cowper and his companion Mrs Mary Unwin are known to have played Battledore and Shuttlecock in the Parlour. They would play in the evenings as a variation from reading to themselves or each other. It must have been rather hazardous as, by Cowper's account in one of his letters the room was so full of furniture and other objects...

“ as well as our own proper persons, as to scarce leave room for anything else ”

... not to mention his three pet hares who were allowed into the room to play on the 'Turkey Carpet'.



Antique Battledores
Courtesy of National Badminton Museum