

OUR PLACE MK

William Cowper & Mary Unwin



William Cowper



Mrs Mary Unwin



The parlour

The house, in Olney Market Place, is now the Cowper and Newton Museum.

During their residence at Orchard Side from 1768-1786, the poet William Cowper and his companion Mrs Mary Unwin are known to have played at battledore and shuttlecock in the Parlour. They would play in the evenings as a variation from reading to themselves or each other, or in her case sewing and knitting. 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'.

Further info: www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk