

would help revive one of West London's most important historic sites, famous in the garden history world as the home of Bishop Compton, who grew many newly-imported North American species there between the years 1675 and 1713, and on whom Sandra Morris delivered a fascinating lecture as part of the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust's *Winter Lecture Series*.

Further upstream, the grounds of *Chiswick House* (Grade I) are being repaired by English Heritage and LB Hounslow with HLF grant-aid, and the draft *Thames Strategy* draws attention to the significance of Duke's Meadows and the need for a Master Plan to help integrate the neglected public open space, sports pitches and allotments which were formerly part of Lord Burlington's farmland. The nineteenth-century farmhouse and out-buildings still survive, but there is little sense now of Chiswick House having been a riverside villa with fields and orchards. Burlington Lane and Edensor Road record in their names the titles and estates of the Dukes of Devonshire, but sadly they divorce the house and grounds from the Thames and the former water meadows. Nevertheless, the course of the Bollow Brook, the now-culverted stream that feeds the artificial river at Chiswick House, is commemorated in the lime tree lined Promenade Approach Road that connects Edensor Road with the Thames, and the Friends of Duke's Meadows, in consultation with LB Hounslow, have drawn up general proposals for the enhancement of the public park and environs. An upgraded existing river pier at Chiswick or a new pier at Barnes could help provide a riverboat link to Chiswick House *via* Duke's Meadows, and tie the house into the other riverside attractions such as *Kew Gardens*, *Marble Hill House*, *Ham House* and *Hampton Court*. Improvements to the riverside path and to the footpath over Barnes Railway Bridge could open up the prospect of almost continuous public open space for walking and cycling from Chiswick to *Richmond Park* and *Wimbledon Common* by way of *Putney Heath* and *Barnes Common*, the latter also linking in with Barn Elms and the new Wetland Centre.

The *Thames Path* already provides a long-distance pathway along the Thames from source to estuary, but the adventurous walker or cyclist can still invent his or her own route

linking river, canal, park, common and cemetery to cross much of London without setting foot or wheel on more than the occasional road. *London Garden Squares Day* has now entered the social calendar as an annual event, and reinforces the point that London more than any other major city is made up of parks and gardens loosely tied together by buildings, which, in the main, *know their place*. (fig.59)

## SION HILL: A POSTSCRIPT

by John Harris

In my article 'Le Rouge's Sion Hill: A Garden by Brown' (*The London Gardener*, lv: pp. 24-28) I refer in footnote 4 to the comtesse de Bouffler's garden at the *Hôtel de St Simon* in the Temple, and that at *Auteuil*, as being in the Brownian style. The presence of her Temple garden in the same *Cahier* of Le Rouge as Lord Holderness's Sion Hill is no coincidence. As we may read in David Hume's *Letters* (ed. J Y T Grieg, 1932), he and Lord Holderness shared her affections (or as Lady Hertford would write, 'Lord Holderness, who always must sigh for some lady, chose the same object [as Hume]...') Indeed, Marie-Charlotte Hippolyte de Camps de Saujon, comtesse de Bouffler, was frequently a guest at Sion Hill between 1763 and 1765.

I am presently preparing an article on the primacy of these gardens for the Brownian style in France.

F I N I S