



The Molesey Regatta is now in its 151st year; (below) regatta assistant secretary Fiona Wood



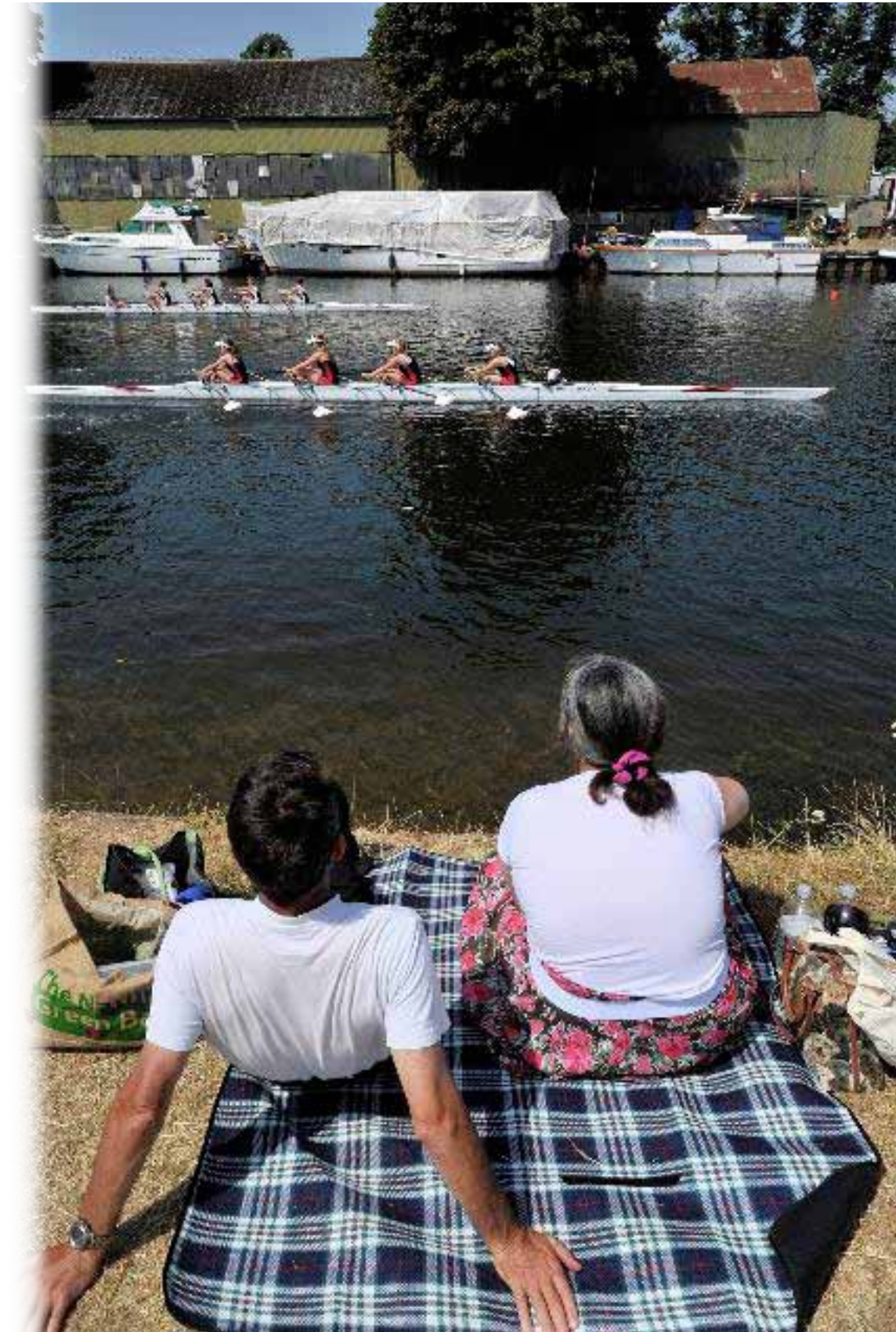
quee providing visitors with a sit down three-course meal (Saturday only). Entry to the event is free except for parking, which is £4 and includes a programme. Become a friend of the regatta for £20 and you get free parking and a programme and a rather nice metal badge, plus a free cream tea.

There is a food festival provided by local food artisans forming part of the exhibitor section, which has a wide range of handicrafts and art from local people.

"The mood will be lifted whatever the weather with live music provided by local musicians, ranging from a man and his square fiddle to larger bands later towards the end of the day and into the evening to a Motown band," adds Wood.

"There are children performing from local dance schools and street dancing and a choir, so it is indeed a medley of entertainment which will hopefully appeal to everyone.

"For the children there



is a vintage fairground, face painters, fire engine, doodle craft area and much more.

"The Saturday event closes at 10.45pm to 11pm with a crescendo of fireworks over the river.

"The whole thing continues again on the Sunday, so everything on the

Saturday is there for the Sunday, except the lunch-doodle craft area and much more.

With a day such as this it can only be hoped the sun shines - and the much-needed rain for gardens hopefully put on ice.

Platt's Eyot

UNTIL the 1880s osiers were grown on the island, a species of willow used for basket-making. The islet owes its hilly topography to the dumping of soil excavated during the creation of additional filter beds at Hampton waterworks at the end of the 19th century.

Platt's Eyot was home to the Thorneycroft boatyard, which built torpedo boats in the two world wars.

In 1994 The Independent described the old yard as "now sufficiently mellow in appearance to be considered part of the picturesque confusion rather than an industrial eyesore."

The islet was also formerly a base for the river police.

Although its features are on a small scale, Platt's Eyot has an unexpected amount of both woodland and light industry, together with amenities like a café and public conveniences provided for workers and sailors.

Many of the islet's workshops and studio units presently lie empty, but its moorings are almost fully occupied.

Sports shorts

ATHLETICS

SURREY'S young athletes did the county proud at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham last weekend.

The Surrey squad finished as runners up at the Alexander Stadium, taking four individual titles, nine second places and five bronze medals. The relay teams took three titles and a third place.

The winning 4x100 relay teams were the senior boys James Hanson (Walton AC), Samir Williams (North Croydon/Croydon Harriers), Dylan Da Costa (NC/Croydon Harriers), Micah Francis Dwyer (NC/Croydon Harriers) in 42.29sec, while the intermediate boys Derek Kinlock (South Croydon/Croydon Harriers), Jaleel Roper (North Croydon/Hercules Wimbledon), Dom Ariyo-Francis (NW/Hercules Wimbledon), Ollie Preest (Sutton/Sutton & District) clocked 42.29sec and finished almost a second clear.

The intermediate girls team of Ayola Babalola (NE), Kayla Bowley (SC/Croydon Harriers), Cedelle Aygey-Kyam (NE/Walton AC) and Toni Bryan (NC/Croydon Harriers) ran 46.70sec.

Senior pole-vaulter Emmanuel Thomas (Sutton/Croydon Harriers) retained his title with a 4.60m vault, 25cm clear of his nearest rival.

Four more individual gold medals were won on the track, none in more spectacular fashion than junior boy Felix Vaughan (NE/South London Harriers) in the 1500m.

He stormed ahead in the final 200m to take the title in 4min 11.63sec, which was more than three seconds ahead of team mate Edward Henderson (NE), who took silver in 4:14.08.

The junior girl sprinters struck gold in the 100m and 300m. Tyra Khambai-Anna (NE) took the short sprint title in one of the tightest finishes of the day clocking 12.20sec. Jeslyn Aygei-Kyam (NE/Walton AC) won the 300m in 39.20sec, almost half a second clear of the field.

Senior 400m hurdler Marcey Winter rounded off the haul racing home clear in 61.34sec.

