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City films' glory night: **Page 8**

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Fans of the New Year

AROUND 2,000 people celebrated the Chinese New Year at the Lakeside Arts Centre, University of Nottingham, yesterday. Left to right are Dingding Xue and Leling Chan from the Nottingham Chinese school in Chilwell.

POSTPHOTO C100208MA4-9

More pictures in tomorrow's Post People

Fire crew faced yob with gun

By SARAH GILLETT

A FIREFIGHTER was spat at, punched, threatened with a golf club and faced a yob with an imitation gun – all in one night.

Gary Lucas, crew manager at Central Station, spoke about the violence after a report revealed attacks on crews in Notts have risen by 42% in the last year.

He said: "It was last Bonfire Night and we had been called to some waste ground in St Ann's where youths had set fire to wheelie bins up against a tree.

"When we started to put the fire out we got lots of abuse from the gang, asking why we were putting their fire out.

"We explained that it was a safety hazard but as I turned away, one of them punched me between the shoulder blades.

"When I turned around he spat at me. They were all wearing ski-masks and some of them had golf clubs."

Rise in attacks on 999 teams

On the same night, Mr Lucas' crew were called to another job in St Ann's where a youth brandished an imitation firearm.

He said: "Fortunately we realised pretty quickly it probably wasn't real, but we had to beat a hasty retreat to the vehicle."

Mr Lucas said the attacks were not isolated: "These things are still happening – just the other night there was a crew in Arnold that had bottles and bricks thrown at their vehicle.

"It's very frustrating. We know we are doing a good job for the public, but there's just a very small minority of people that seem to see anything to do with 'the establishment' as something to attack."

Figures released today by the Fire Brigades Union revealed there were 37 reported attacks in Notts in 2006/07, compared to 26 in 2005/6.

This compares to eight in Derbyshire during 06/07, and 13 in Leicestershire.

Continued: **Page 2**

St Ann's

Knife pupils are excluded

FOUR pupils at St Ann's Well Junior School have been excluded after a vegetable knife was discovered in one of their bags.

Three boys have been excluded for seven days and a ten-year-old boy they allegedly threatened has been told to remain at home for three days.

Last week the *Post* revealed how the knife was discovered.

Head teacher Jackie Flower said it was not brandished and no-one was threatened with it after the incident last Wednesday.

Mrs Flower said the three boys who threatened the ten-year-old had taken a knife into school the previous day but no one had been aware of it.

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Gedling
£60m pit site unveiling

PLANS for a £60m redevelopment of Gedling colliery will be unveiled tomorrow.

Full story: **Page Nine**

City centre
New Speakers' Corner

NOTTINGHAM is set to get its own Speakers' Corner later this month near Old Market Square.

Full story: **Page Six**

Mapperley Plains
Teen dies in car crash

NICAILA Harrison, 19, of Collyer Road, Calverton, died when her car went into a ditch.

Continued: **Page 2**