



Page three

● Slashing the energy bills across campus



Page five

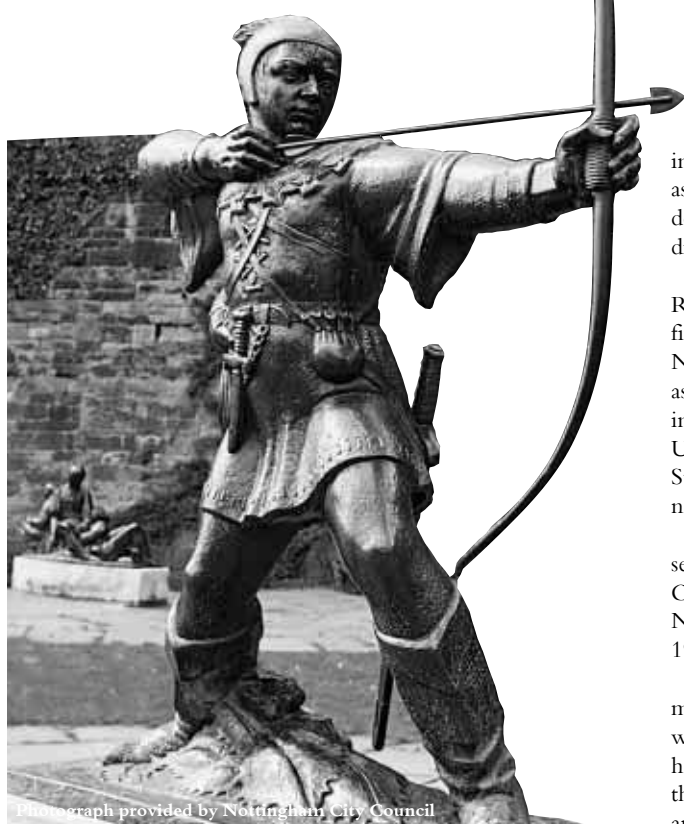
● Department merger will help meet the needs of the construction industry for the 21st-century

Campus Arts



● In pursuit of leisure ... Victorians at play

# Robin makes it to the Big Apple



Photograph provided by Nottingham City Council

One of the world's most enduring legends came under the spotlight at an international conference this month, as a Nottingham academic joined delegates from all over the world to discuss a centuries-old folk tale.

Outlaw and all-round good guy Robin Hood was the focus for the first ever international gathering in New York of scholars specialising in aspects of the legend — they included Helen Phillips from the University's Department of English Studies who spoke on the role of names in the Robin Hood texts.

There are already plans for a second International Robin Hood Conference to be held in Nottingham at the University in 1999.

"A feature of Robin Hood material is the range of forms in which the legend is told: plays may have been the earliest medium for the stories in the Middle Ages; there are also ballads, broadside printed

editions, children's literature, TV and film, pantomimes, cartoons, novels and poetry — Keats wrote on Robin Hood as a radical. The hero has also inspired all sorts of popular sayings, from ancient proverbs to modern newspaper headlines and adverts, especially in Nottinghamshire," said Helen Phillips.

"It is the development of academic interest in popular culture, popular and protest literature, film studies and also in non-standard and non-authoritative genres, that has made this long-lived legend of interest to researchers in many areas. The conference included films, music, performance and an exhibition of art with Robin Hood as a theme."

Ms Phillips' particular area of interest in the legend is the place names which occur in ballads and the paper she presented focused on: *Outlaws and Forests, Places and Plots: The Role of Names in the Robin Hood Texts*.

(Continued on page two ...)