

THE NewsLetter

No. 161

The University of Nottingham

October 31 1997

Page three

Page five

Campus Arts

● Slashing
the energy
bills across
campus



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



● In pursuit
of leisure ...
Victorians at
play

Robin makes it to the Big Apple

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 ...)

Photograph provided by Nottingham City Council

News • Research Focus • Across The Quadrangle • Campus Arts • Student View

The University of Nottingham

THE NewsLetter

Published fortnightly during term time by the Public Affairs Office, University of Nottingham NG7 2RD

Telephone: 0115 951 5765
Facsimile: 0115 951 5733

Editor/designer:
Lyn Heath-Harvey
(ext 15798)
e-mail:

Lyn.Heath-Harvey@nottingham.ac.uk

Contributors: Philip Dalling,
Liz O'Neill and Katrine
Scott-Mitchell

What's On, What the Papers Say
and advertising
(rates on application) :
Barbara Sandford (ext 15798)
The Editor reserves the right
to refuse advertising. The
University does not necessarily
endorse any products or
services advertised.

Contributions from staff and students of possible news stories, features and other items are welcomed and should be sent marked NewsLetter, to the Editor.

Produced by the
Public Affairs Office

Extracts from NewsLetter should not be reproduced without prior permission from the Editor

Printed by
The Sherwood Press
(Nottingham) Limited

International stage for Robin

(... continued from page one)

"Part of what I am doing is to suggest solutions to some hitherto unidentified or uncertain local references, including some in Rutland and Cumbria, in ballads from the 15th- to 17th-centuries. But the paper is not concerned with the sort of literal hunt to track down a real historical Robin Hood — we can't know if there was a real person behind the legend.

"The legend and its almost infinite capacity for transformation is the subject of the conference. My particular research is concerned more with the role of names and places in the ballads."

She added that, on one hand, geography is essential to the Robin Hood legend: a terrain of three elements — the forest, the highway and the (dangerous) town — is central to it, yet this terrain of the plot is not essentially localised. Not even to Nottingham and Sherwood.

Other regions appropriate the Robin Hood myth. She highlighted two in particular: Staffordshire — Needwood Forest and Tutbury; and Cumbria — Inglewood Forest, a location also for King Arthur in some medieval romances. There was even a Scottish Robin Hood.

"My paper asks why, when the adventures can happen anywhere that has the elements of the essential geography, placenames turn out to be so important in the Robin Hood ballads and what significance they have," she said.

There are already plans for a second international conference at the University in two years' time. The Department of English Studies has already a strong research interest in regionality in literary, linguistic and drama studies. It also contains the English Place Name Survey. There is increasing interest in cultural studies in the department, especially in relation to language studies, and Robin Hood ballads already figure in the undergraduate English studies course.

Other Nottingham speakers who attended the international conference at the University of Rochester in New York were Frank Abbott of Nottingham Trent University, who talked about the transference of the legend to a new medium in the city centre-based *Tales of Robin Hood*, and Michael Eaton, who talked about his award-winning film *Fellow Traveller* and his short film *Moving Pictures* on the history of Robin Hood on film.

Some of the ballads set Robin in Yorkshire — he goes fishing at Scarborough in one — and sometimes the claims of other regions have seemed to threaten Nottingham's own pre-eminence as Robin Hood country.

There have been two pieces in the Nottingham Evening Post (see cartoon, left) about the conference and the research on the legend and the point was made that there is perennial interest from tourists and visitors in the Robin Hood legend here in Nottingham.

I am glad to say that my paper points out that some of the apparently Yorkshire references may not be to Yorkshire but bring him back nearer home to the Rutland countryside. There are also other references that tend to reinforce the specific East Midlands and Nottingham settings of some of the ballads, which may be a comfort to anyone who fears that academics will spoil the traditional links with Nottingham.

Sometimes the ballad detail shows specific knowledge of Nottingham geography — and the sheriff, his castle and prison are clearly Nottingham.

This conference showed just how big the myth is and has been through the centuries. There is no fixed, original Robin Hood tale which is the 'real' story. Robin Hood can be everywhere and nowhere, but he is also often located somewhere in particular and, over the centuries, Nottingham and Sherwood have been the most important places.

Switch it off!

Staff and students at the University are being urged to be 'energy-aware' in a bid to slash rising bills. The University spends around £4.5 million on energy and water every year — but an estimated £500,000 of that is waste, for example from leaving lights on in unoccupied rooms.

Energy Management Engineer Tim Rudge took up his post in February. He is keen to encourage individuals to cut the amount of energy each of us wastes each year by using resources more wisely.

"A lot of good work has already been done. Over the last five years, the University has invested heavily in modern gas boilers and computerised heating controls. However, what was missing was the ability to make informed decisions on where energy was being wasted, because we had not been keeping records for most of our buildings," said Mr Rudge.

"The major part of my first year has been spent on creating a database of energy and water consumption, so that we can accurately measure our

performance in future years and decide where further investment in new equipment is required. Although we have reduced our usage of heating fuel over the last few years, our electrical power consumption has risen by an alarming 15 per cent, principally due to the introduction of IT equipment. Buildings are being used much more intensively, with evening, weekend and holiday usage becoming more commonplace.

"I certainly don't mean by that that we should all sit in the cold with the lights out — people have a right to work in comfortable, well-lit buildings. What I'm talking about is eliminating needless waste and using resources more widely.

"The effort of each individual is significant — with many thousands of people on our campuses, any small improvements soon mount up if people make an effort."

Tim's energy-saving tips include:

- Report overheating to the Estate Office so the problem can be remedied
- Switch off unnecessary lights when you



● Main photo: Tim Rudge checking on electricity consumption. Inset: just one month's electricity bill for the University.

leave a room for a period of time — even fluorescent tubes

- Switch off your computer monitor when you leave the room — you can leave the base unit on it to be used later

For further advice on energy management contact Tim Rudge on ext 13583 or by e-mail at: tim.rudge@nottingham.ac.uk

New rehabilitation initiative launched at Derby unit

The University's Rehabilitation Research Unit based in Derby has obtained a further boost and continued recognition as a centre of excellence in specialist rehabilitation.

It has been awarded a contract of £135,000 a year for five years to establish the third National Disability Equipment Assessment Centre. The funding will be provided by the Department of Health through the Medical Devices Agency and was won outright in the face of competition from other centres. The centre will be run by the University's unit, in partnership with the Derby City General Hospital, the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary and the Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust.

It will provide a needs-led evaluation programme for the assessment of aids and assistive

equipment designed for people with disabilities. The centre will be staffed by a research co-ordinator, a centre administrator, a clerical assistant and by sub-contracted staff seconded from within the region. This will allow appropriate professional expertise to be recruited as necessary and will provide research and development opportunities for those involved.

The assessment centre's management group includes: Professor Chris Ward (University of Nottingham), Maeve Groom (Derby City General Hospital), Dr Lorraine Pinnington (University of Nottingham), Dr Christian Murray-Leslie (Derbyshire Royal Infirmary), Dr David Pratt (Derbyshire Royal Infirmary), Chris Bould (Derbyshire Community Health Services), Julie Spicer (Derby City General Hospital) and Philip Gerard (Disability Direct).

Universities boost UK economy, report reveals

Money spent on universities is money well spent, according to a recent report which shows investment in higher education has a major impact on the UK economy, boosting industry and generating wealth and jobs across all sectors.

The report, *The Impact of Universities and Colleges on the UK Economy*, reveals that in addition to fulfilling their core mission of education and research, universities serve as vital players in the economy:

- the higher education sector provides jobs, either directly or indirectly, for more than three per cent of the total UK workforce
- business worth £43.19 billion is generated across the economy by the higher education sector, which spends £12.58 billion on goods and services produced in the UK (equivalent to 2.1 per cent of UK Gross Domestic Product)

● in 1995/96 the higher education sector had an estimated balance of trade surplus of £1.3 billion. Every £1 million of total expenditure by higher education institutions generates £2.21 million of output in other sectors of the UK economy

Commissioned by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) and sponsored by business lawyers Eversheds, the research was conducted by Professor Iain McNicoll and colleagues from the University of Strathclyde.

"Universities underpin the UK economy. This report shows money invested in universities is hard working cash. Not only does it 'buy' education and high level skills for the nation, but it has a powerful knock-on effect, bringing wealth and jobs to other industries," said Diana Warwick, chief executive of CVCP.

Research Committee events

University soirée and presentation planned

● New Lecturers' Research Soirée

The Research Committee and Training and Staff Development Unit are holding a research soirée for new lecturers on Tuesday November 4 from 4–5.30pm in the Delta Suite at the University Staff Club

The aim of this soirée is to bring together the different departments and people who have an interest in newer research initiatives. Each participant will be invited to submit on one side of A4 a résumé of their research interests, to be displayed at the soirée, to facilitate communication between researchers relatively new to this University.

These summaries of research interests will be published on the Virtual Research Office page following the event.

The soirée will be chaired by Professor David Wood (Psychology) and chairman of the Research Committee's Humanities Strategy Group. Dr Richard Aldrich (Politics) and Ian Campbell (Manufacturing Engineering and Operations Management) will be giving their first-hand experiences, as previous recipients of awards when they were new lecturers to the University, of obtaining and benefiting from these awards from the Research Committee.

The objectives for this soirée

are to bring together relatively new lecturers from all faculties: to identify research 'hot-spots' to form the basis of pan-Nottingham applications for new project support; to appreciate strategic issues determining the policies of funding bodies; to allow researchers to exchange summaries about their work and plans and to influence future initiatives aimed at supporting new researchers.

If you wish to attend the soirée you should contact Sue Renshaw either by phone on ext 15741 or by e-mail to: Susan.Renshaw@nottingham.

● Presentation by Professor Ron Amann, chief executive of the Economic and Social Science Research Council

Professor Amann, chief

executive of the ESRC, is visiting the University on Friday November 7. He will give a presentation about the ESRC's role, its methods for supporting research and the latest thinking that will determine how research funds are allocated in the future.

The presentation will take place in the Senate Chamber, Trent Building, at 2 pm. All those who have an interest in the ESRC, whether considering applying for a project grant or being part of a team that is applying for multidisciplinary programme grants or a student in receipt of an ESRC grant, should attend this presentation. There will be opportunities to question and discuss with the ESRC chief executive current priorities and future funding opportunities.

Departments merge to form new School of the Built Environment

The Department of Urban Planning is being merged with the Department of Architecture and Building Technology to form a new School of the Built Environment.

The new school, to be launched tomorrow, will be headed by Professor Saffa Riffat and consists of the Institute of Architecture, Institute of Building Technology and Institute of Urban Planning.

The aim of the school is to bring together architects, engineers and planners to carry out interdisciplinary teaching and research in innovative ways to meet the need of the construction industry for the 21st-century.

Meet the need

Academic staff of the three institutes will be based in the building currently occupied by the Department of Architecture and Building Technology — Wortley Hall — while the Urban Planning building, Paton House, will

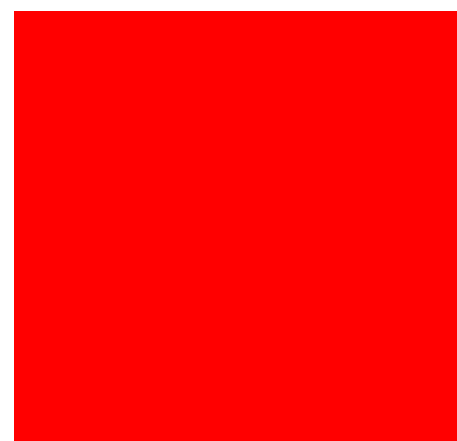
become a centre for postgraduate studies.

“The merger of the two departments will allow more effective use of resources including secretarial staff, technicians, computer and workshop facilities,” said Professor Riffat.

“Students from the three disciplines will use the same studio space and will be encouraged to work on their design projects as part of a team involving architects, engineers and planners. This should allow better integration of architectural design, planning and services — a feature often lacking in many modern buildings.”

This month, the school launched a new MSc course in renewable energy and architecture, which encourages architects and engineers to work together to design buildings which use ‘environmentally-friendly’ technologies for heating, cooling and power generation.

In October next year, the school intends to launch an innovative degree, MA Eng, which will produce graduates with a dual qualification in architecture/building services engineering.



● Professor Saffa Riffat

Accreditation of the new degree will be sought from the RIBA/CIBSE. It is also intended to launch in the near future another interdisciplinary degree involving architecture and planning.

Campus welcomes World Games

The University was chosen as one of five venues this summer to host the 1997 World Games for people with cerebral palsy.

The event — known as the Robin Hood Games because of its association with Nottingham — attracted nearly 900 competitors from 37 countries to take part in nine different sports.

“To welcome elite athletes to the University is an honour and these athletes were elite in every sense of the word,” said Diane Hardwick of the Sports Centre. “Many of them already have their sights set on Sydney 2000 and several are already paralympic medallists in their own right.”

The University was selected as a venue for the boccia and swimming competitions, while other events — including athletics, football, powerlifting, canoe slalom and sprint, table tennis, bowls and cycling —



were held at other venues within the city.

The Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA) is one of the youngest international organisations for sports for the disabled, but has one of the largest memberships. It works alongside other disability sports federations to give an identity to people with cerebral palsy and provide greater opportunities to show that even those with a severe disability can compete at the highest levels.

Cerebral palsy is a condition of great

complexity. Brain damage, usually caused at or around birth, has many effects and lack of balance and co-ordination, communication difficulties and many other conditions may result.

Normal learning patterns in terms of movement and co-ordination are never experienced, consequently, participation in sport poses particular challenges.

Specific coaching techniques are required and,

for the purpose of competition, classification is necessary — allowing for groups of people with similar types of abilities to compete against one another.

“Taking place over nine days, the games took place in a wonderful atmosphere of friendly rivalry, team spirit and genuine joy and camaraderie shown by all teams as they celebrated one another’s triumphs and commiserated with each other in their disappointments,” said Diane.

EMCC cooks up tasty partnership

Staff at the East Midlands Conference Centre have cooked up a tasty partnership with the prestigious Hilton Park Lane.

In a bid to give the EMCC service extra sparkle, the conference and banqueting team has invited leading industry specialists to take part in its latest quality review.

Hilton Park Lane director of banqueting David Irving spent a day shadowing EMCC front of house manager Michael Wilcockson in a 'no secrets' review and plans are now in the pipeline for EMCC chefs to visit London and to work in the Hilton kitchens.

"Regular quality reviews provide us with an opportunity to make improvements and changes which we feel will offer added value to our customers," said conference manager Malcolm Youngson.

"We were delighted when the Hilton Park Lane agreed to share their expertise



● *Malcolm Youngson, Conference Manager at the EMCC*

with us by providing an outsider's opinion on our conference and banqueting

Top London hotel shares tricks of the trade

operations. The feedback received so far has proved extremely useful."

He said that as Investors in People, the EMCC was committed to developing its staff in line with the objectives of the business and the Hilton Park Lane partnership provided everyone with an opportunity to review both their operation and ways of working.

"In an extremely competitive business it is vital that we do everything we can to ensure total customer satisfaction," he added.

Courtyard update

An end is in sight to the extensive work being carried out on the Trent Building. Estates staff have promised.

It has been a long hot summer of noise, dirt and scaffolding for staff who work in the building, but the courtyard and refurbished main entrance will re-open to through-traffic on Monday November 3.

The programme of refurbishment has included cleaning the stone facade of the listed building, relaying and replanting the courtyard and improving disabled access.

However, the project ran into problems part-way through when the stone supplier hit a bad seam and could no longer guarantee the consistency of the stone. Another supplier had to be found quickly and work phased to coincide with supply.

"We can only apologise to those who have been affected by work both inside and outside the Trent

Building — we have done our best to bring the project back on track as quickly as possible," said Director of Estate Management Chris Jagger.

"It has been a particularly sensitive project because Trent is a listed building and we had to ensure that all work was carried out sympathetically. However, we have researched what the original 1920s layout of the courtyard would have been and the new planting and turfing scheme brings us closer to those plans — I'm confident that the result will be worth the wait."

The service road at the rear of the building will be closed for two or three weeks from November 17 to allow workmen to complete cleaning of the final elevation, but diversions and traffic flow arrangements will be made (see next **NewsLetter**).

Any other remaining work will involve only short periods of closure outside normal working hours.

All public and inaugural lectures will in future be advertised on the back page of *NewsLetter* in the "What's On" section.

The aim is to promote the lectures to a wider circulation, therefore the customary public and inaugural lecture card will no longer be published.

A spot of bother

A multidisciplinary team of researchers from the University and Leeds has been awarded £433,000 by the NHS Research and Development Health Technology Assessment programme to look in depth at a skin complaint that affects between 20 and 30 per cent of 15–25 year-olds in the country — acne.

This is the first major award to be given solely to the study of a dermatological problem. The project, which started in August, will evaluate the use of antibiotics in mild to moderate acne in the community. For the purpose of the study, mild to moderate acne is defined as pimples sufficient to seek medical help from a general practitioner.

The team includes Dr Hywel Williams (Medicine and Health Sciences — Dermatology), Professor Mike Pringle (Medicine and Health Sciences — General Practice), Professor Alain Li

Wan Po (Pharmaceutical Sciences — Clinical Pharmaceutics) and Dr Dave Whynes (Economics — Health Economics) from Nottingham and Dr Anne Eady (Microbiology) and Professor Bill Cunliffe (Dermatology), Leeds.

Difficult decisions

To date, no one has looked at the comparative effectiveness of the many antibiotic products available for use in this condition. GPs are faced with difficult decisions when trying to work out the best treatments for their patients.

The main focus of the three-year study will be to try and establish which products are the most effective and cost effective in treating acne and more about the pattern of bacterial resistance to the antibiotics that are used. The overall aim is to

establish national guidelines for the management of acne in the community.

The trial will be a community-based randomised controlled clinical trial recruiting 1,200 patients from GP practices in the Leeds and Nottingham areas. All patients will be randomly allocated one of 11 different treatment schemes. Each scheme includes a cream and a tablet.

Dr Williams explains one of the major differences about this trial. He says: “Unlike many other clinical trials, we will be placing emphasis on how our patients feel about their acne both before and after treatment. We will, of course, also be looking at more objective outcome measures like the number of inflammatory spots and facial redness and will take pre- and post-treatment pictures to help in our evaluation of the treatment methods.”

Flower power

University grounds staff are celebrating after helping Nottingham to win the overall Britain in Bloom large city trophy for 1997.

And the team came third in the overall city winners for Nottingham — they were piped to the post by Wollaton Post Office and

Nottingham Hospice. Pictured above are: Simon Robinson, Michael Wroblewski and Ray Sturman. The city will now go forward next year to Europe's Entente Floral.

“It's nice to know that we at the University did our bit to help with that success,” said Grounds Superintendent Ian Cooke.

TQA success

The Department of Urban Planning has scored 23 out of a possible 24 marks in the latest Teaching Quality Assessment. The marks were: curriculum design content and organisation — 4; teaching learning and assessment — 3; student progression and achievement — 4; student support and guidance — 4; learning resources — 4; and quality assurance and enhancement — 4. “Yet another fantastic result for a Nottingham department,” said Director of Teaching Enhancement Alan Howe.

Crab appeal

Four members of the security staff at the University of Birmingham are undertaking a charity bicycle ride from Plymouth to Aberdeen in aid of the CRAB (Cancer Research at Birmingham) appeal, calling at other universities on the way. They will call at Nottingham on November 3–4, and are appealing to staff and students to support them with donations. Money can be handed to the participants on the ride or cheques made out to the Cancer Research Campaign sent to: K Whitehouse/E Cox, Security Section, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham.

Martin Reed, Professor Trevor Benson, Professor Peter Kendall and Dr Philip Sewell of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering have been awarded the JJ Thomson Premium by the Institution of Electrical Engineers for their paper *Anti-reflection coated angled facet design*, which was published in the IEE Proceedings — Optoelectronics. This is the second time that Professor Benson has won an IEE Premium award. In 1995 he received the Electronics Letters Premium with Vladica Trenkic and Professor Christos Christopoulos for the development of a new symmetrical super-condensed node for the transmission line modelling (TLM) method.

One in three people in the UK will have cancer at some time in their lives ... one in four will die from it. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is looking for young and enthusiastic people to help to achieve their vision for the future. ICRF employs 1,000 doctors and scientists who are working towards a better understanding, prevention and cure of all kinds of cancers — they believe that if current trends continue they will be able to cut the number of cancer deaths by one-third by the year 2020. The charity would like to set up a vision team in Nottingham, a very different type of fundraising group and one of the first of its kind, with the challenge of raising £5,000 over the next 12 months. The vision team will not only offer the opportunity to contribute to the lifesaving work of the ICRF but also to meet new people, make friends and have some fun.

The University of Aberdeen's Department of Forestry is seeking volunteers to help with its 1997 Internet survey research project. Researchers are investigating public preferences with respect to a wide range of landscapes and 'alternative' forest management systems. The survey is also being used to compare data obtained by conventional door-to-door surveys with that obtained from the Net. The team is looking for more than 500 volunteers nationwide. The survey is open to anyone with a computer and Internet access — it is easy to complete, self-contained and simply involves assessing images viewed on the computer screen. The URL for the survey is: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~for275>

Is anyb

Ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties have been a part of our folklore for thousands of years. **Lyn Heath-Harvey** looks at how modern science is turning the cold spotlight of fact onto the paranormal.

It's hard to describe, but if you've ever felt it, you will know exactly what I mean. A sharp intake of breath, a prickle down the neck and a distinct impression ... that you are not alone.

Thousands of people every year claim to experience events they feel they cannot explain away by conventional means — apparitions, poltergeists, ESP and things that go bump in the night.

Some would say there are those who have a sixth sense which allows us to detect a supernatural presence or tune-in to someone's thoughts; others would snort with derision and claim the 'happenings' are merely the product of an over-active imagination or too much cheese for supper.

Whatever your standpoint — and, for the record, I am firmly in the believers' camp — the scientific research done over many years in this field by Dr Alan Gauld of the University's Department of Psychology is gripping stuff.

He is far from the Hollywood view of a 'ghostbuster' — his work in the field of parapsychology is much-respected and thoroughly scientific.

Dr Gauld's aim is to apply scientific methods to reports of strange happenings in an attempt to explain them in a rational way. He is open-minded about the subject but says he can explain away the majority of reports of strange events as belonging to an earthly rather than a spiritual dimension. That said, he can also tell a tale spooky enough to give you goosebumps.

Dr Gauld tries to keep out of the media limelight nowadays — he is understandably wary of how his work could be sensationalised or attacked by those who are hostile for whatever reason. But his eyes have a tell-tale sparkle when he talks about the excitement of a potential paranormal encounter.

"I was seven or eight when I embarked on my first supernatural adventure. There was an old building where strange things were supposed to have happened and I wanted to investigate, but I hit my head falling off a plank and that was an abrupt end to it," laughed Dr Gauld.

"Undeterred I retained my interest and joined the university's psychic research society

when I got to Cambridge. One of the first places we went to investigate in the early 1950s was a very old house called Abbas Hall near Sudbury, which was then isolated in the middle of a field. We had heard that the woman who lived there claimed to have seen the ghost of a nun crossing her room on many occasions.

"It was wonderfully atmospheric because there was no electricity, just oil lamps and suits of armour everywhere and the flames flickered, creating large shadows. It only served to add to our anticipation when we stopped off for milk at a local shop on the way and a girl heard us talking. You're not going *THERE* are you?" she said wide-eyed.

"During the night, members of the group saw lights they could not account for and there was a curious column of cold which you could put your hand into as it moved around. There was also a great noise at the window, as if someone had run their hand down the leaded panes, but I looked out and there was no one around. The highlight of the evening was when one member of the group sitting on the sofa suddenly yelled out that he had seen the nun beside him. I remember he was very upset and breathing heavily."

Another occasion, which Dr Gauld says still plays on his mind as one of the more curious of his many investigations, was at another very old hall about five miles from Wisbech. It was occupied by the then local Labour candidate for Wisbech, who later became an MP and now sits in the House of Lords, plus his wife, two children and mother-in-law.

"The family kept hearing funny noises from upstairs — raps and bangs and even a shaking bed. We were genuinely not expecting anything much to happen, but arrived late one foggy night and assembled the family together downstairs to hear their stories.

"We started them off on a ouija board, mainly as a device to ensure we knew where they — and their hands — were positioned to eliminate them as culprits" if anything happened. I went upstairs to stand on the first-floor gallery. The temperature suddenly dropped around 10 degrees in a very short space of time and I heard footsteps coming up

body there?

the stairs which stopped half-way ... there was absolutely no one there.

"Then from a room off the gallery was a loud crack like a rifle going off. A colleague joined me and we settle down in the room on mattresses, presuming nothing more would happen. We tried to sleep but soon heard little taps coming from the floor. We elicited specific patterned replies from the taps and they travelled and got louder."

There followed a sequence of strange events — a chair stacked on a packing case fell to the floor with no one near it; the taps moved around the room and answered their attempts at communication; no one was in the room below while the taps were going on and nothing was found between the floorboards, as they re-entered the room having fetched a third colleague, the door slammed shut and behind the metal plate on the door was lodged an old brass roasting fork which had gone through the door staple, bolting them into the room.

Investigation techniques were basic in the 1950s, but despite careful measuring of the building to rule out any hidden rooms and acoustic experiments to see if the sounds could have been projected from elsewhere, no rational explanation was to be found.

Dr Gauld said he has investigated many many cases since and has even captured poltergeist activity on video, but the Wisbech case of 40 years ago still tantalises.

Other areas of more repeatable phenomena, such as extra sensory perception (ESP) are also an area of interest for Dr Gauld, who has conducted lab-based experiments which he says are intriguing. This area of science is gaining increasing credibility, in fact, professor of parapsychology at the University of Edinburgh Robert Morris has this week gone on record in a national newspaper and will next week state at a public lecture that he is between 90 to 95 per cent sure that humans possess a "hitherto undocumented ability to communicate with

the world around them."

Using data on fluctuations in the Earth's magnetic field, it has been shown that ESP experiments are considerably more successful at times when global geomagnetic activity is low. Now, the work begins to find out why.

So tonight when the lights are dim and you hear a heavy knocking sound, don't have nightmares — it's only the kids playing trick or treat!! Or is it?

Poltergeists by Alan Gauld and Tony Cornell is available at the University Library.

Across the Quadrangle

It is not always true that people make the most poignant pictures. A 1940s vintage double decker bus turning off University Boulevard, past Highfields Lido, with only open space in the distance, is one of the most telling images of a cine film unearthed in the project to produce an historical Golden Jubilee video.

Living on the University Park campus today, with more than five times as many students and members of staff as in the early post-war years, is still hardly a shoulder-to-shoulder affair. Imagine the feeling of spaciousness in the days when science city and even Portland Building were nothing more than projects in Bertrand Hallward's visionary mind. In fact you do not have to imagine it, as the cine archives capture the atmosphere so beautifully.

As a result of appeals in *NewsLetter* and *The University of Nottingham Magazine* two major sources of film have come forward. The Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections has a small but valuable archive, the highlight of which is a 12-minute, 16mm black and white film, made in 1946, entitled Saturday at UCN. This features a male and a female student and follows their progress throughout the day. The boy, Peter R. Smith, is seen getting up and shaving in his lodgings, and the couple's progress is monitored from catching a bus in the Old Market Square to saying goodnight after the Saturday night 'hop'.

The original film was discovered in the Chemistry Department in 1992, transferred to Manuscripts earlier this year and copied on to video. The film was made by an outfit called Photo Tech Film Unit and has full credits. It features both students of UCN and those of Goldsmiths College, still at Nottingham in 1946 as part of their wartime evacuation.

A current task is to try and trace the two stars' of the film. Peter R. Smith was a UCN student but neither the Nottingham alumni relations office or its counterpart at Goldsmiths can trace the girl in the production, Cynthia Bardwell. There is no such problem in the case of the other major item of film offered for the Golden Jubilee tape. Former chemistry reader Dr Stephen Wallwork has supplied cine films of various events on campus in the early fifties, including that of the graduation of his wife-to-be.

Distinguished graduates in the world of television, including Bob Phillis of the BBC and Edward Childs, responsible for much of the best drama seen on ITV in recent years, have offered advice and assistance in helping to realise what is proving to be a fascinating product. One major question remains. Cynthia Bardwell, where are you today?

Philip Dalling

Artist-in-residence workshops

The Christmas lights are already being hung around Nottingham, but before you start to panic about the festive season, why not book onto a workshop designed to help you make your own cards, wrapping paper and printed fabrics, in the helpful (?) company of your own family.

Creatively

The special family workshop takes place on Saturday December 6, when adults and children will work creatively together, have some fun and print their own custom-made materials in plenty of time for Christmas. The workshop is led by Heather

Connelly, artist-in-residence at the Djanogly Art Gallery, and is suitable for children over five, with a maximum of three children per adult. The fee for the workshop is £15 (£10 concessions) for one adult and one child, with £5 per extra adult or child.

Heather Connelly will also be revealing the secrets of printing and hand painting onto fabric in a creative workshop for adults on Saturday November 29. Some places for this session are still available and the fee is £12 (£9 concessions).

For further information, or to book your place on one of these practical and creative days, please contact Exhibitions Secretary Tracey Isgar on ext 13189.

● Banner-making workshop with Heather Connelly, artist-in-residence at the Djanogly Art Gallery.

Sounds of revolution

University Philharmonia, conducted by the Sir Charles Mackerras conducting fellow, Jonathan Tilbrook, take to the stage in the Trent Building's Great Hall once again on Sunday November 16, with a concert featuring Shostakovich's *Symphony no.12 'The Year of 1917'*.

Completed in 1961 and dedicated to the memory of Lenin, the symphony is a dramatic portrayal of the Russian Revolution. Each movement has a subtitle — the third is named *Aurora* after the cruiser which gave the signal to begin the October Revolution by firing a shot through the windows of the Winter Palace.

Exhilarating

The 12th symphony has been described as Shostakovich's most directly 'public' music. The mood of the music varies from quiet contemplation to exhilarating brazen power, but the atmosphere throughout the work clearly demonstrates that the composer has something important to say.

University Philharmonia will also play Nielsen *Pan and Syrinx* and Sibelius *Karelia Suite*. The concert begins at 7.30pm and tickets are priced £6 (£4 concessions). Tickets may be booked by contacting Concerts Secretary Joyce Ençer (ext 14764), the Angear Visitors Centre (ext 15791) or Classical CD in the Lace Hall, High Pavement, Nottingham, tel (0115) 948 3832.

The University Choir's performance of *Carmine Burana* will now take place in the Trent Building's Great Hall, rather than the Albert Hall in Nottingham. The concert date remains unchanged, as Sunday December 7, and tickets will now all be sold at the cheaper price of £7 (£5 concessions). Tickets already purchased will be valid for the new venue. If you have bought tickets at the higher price of £10 (£7 concessions), please contact Joyce Ençer on ext 14764.

Tickets for concerts in the Djanogly Recital Hall have been on sale at Classical CD in the Lace Hall for some time now, but this season sees the launch of an exciting new development in the recital hall's relationship with Nottingham's leading classical music retailer.

DUET at the Djanogly Recital Hall and Classical CD is a special promotion which combines tickets for recital hall concerts with recordings which feature music or artists included in the season. These recordings are all on sale at Classical CD and, if you purchase tickets for any Djanogly Recital Hall concert at the same time as your CDs, you will receive a discount of 10% on the price of the recordings.

Contact Liz O'Neill (ext 15797) or Classical CD in the Lace Hall, tel (0115) 948 3832.

Jonathan Tilbrook

● *Where Next?* by Edward Frederick Brewtnall (private collection)

The Pursuit of Leisure

The new exhibition at the Djanogly Art Gallery, which is set to rival 1994's spectacular *Heaven on Earth*, will be officially opened by the Director of the Tate Gallery, Nicholas Serota on Monday November 3, during a reception attended by Sir Harry and Lady Djanogly and many other distinguished guests.

The Pursuit of Leisure: Victorian Depictions of Pastimes includes paintings from many of the nation's finest art collections, and as far afield as New York. Works which normally hang in the Tate, the National Portrait Gallery, Lord's Cricket Ground and even Number 10 Downing Street (as part of the Government Art Collection) have all been brought together for the first time in a major consideration of Victorian art.

The exhibition examines the rapidly

changing face of Victorian society through paintings and drawings which depict the Victorian's at leisure — reading a book, playing cricket, or even catching rats!

Contemporary life

"The challenge of representing the rapidly changing face of Victorian society generated a particular vitality, with artists employing a wide variety of different styles, handling and approaches," commented Joanne Wright, the University's Director of Visual Art and co-curator of the exhibition. "Although the theme of this exhibition is leisure pursuits, the paintings also reveal the aspirations, the prejudices and the complexities of an art that attempts to mirror contemporary life."

The Pursuit of Leisure includes works by Lavery, Tissot, Frith, Millais, Holman Hunt

and Alma Tadema. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday November 1 and continues until Sunday December 14. Opening hours are 10am–6pm Monday to Friday, 11am–6pm Saturday and 2pm–5pm Sunday and Bank Holidays. Admission is free.

● **One leisure pursuit which has stood the test of time particularly well is the Victorian talent for telling a good tale. From Hans Christian Anderson to Oscar Wilde, a range of delightful Victorian children's stories will be read to gallery visitors on three Sunday afternoons during *The Pursuit of Leisure*. Stories will be read for around half an hour, from 3pm on Sundays 9, 16 and 30 November in the gallery or (if the gallery is very busy) in the Angear Visitors Centre. Admission is free.**

~ What the Papers Say ~

A fortnightly selection of just some of the stories from across campus that are making the news in national and local press. Full copies of the articles can be obtained from the Public Affairs Office in the Trent Building on extension 15798.

New Scientist 4/10: Dr Jack Rieley (Life Science) is among scientists who say that fires that have raged across Indonesia, which are having a significant impact on global warming by releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from the underlying peat, are a result of the Indonesian government's land clearance policy. (Also New Scientist 18/10 and The Scotsman 16/10)

Derby Evening Telegraph 7/10: The University has appointed Professor Richard Donnelly to investigate diseases of the arteries at a new centre of excellence at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary (pic).

The Engineer 9/10: A study by the University's Centre for Management Buy-Out Research shows that a record number and value of MBOs and MBIs in the UK were concluded in 1996.

Nottingham Evening Post 9/10: Review of rush-hour concert performed by Peter Hill at the Djanogly Recital Hall.

Nottingham Evening Post 10/10: URN wants to be able to go on air permanently — it has just started its annual month-long FM broadcast to the whole of the city.

Farmers Guardian 10/10: Professor Eric Lamming (Physiology and Environmental Science) says that genetic selection for fertility should be included in selection criteria for future breeding of sires.

Financial Times (Euro Section) 10/10: Various articles making reference to findings made by the University's Centre for Management Buy-Out Research.

Sheffield Telegraph 10/10: The Meningitis Research Foundation has launched a research project at the University to find out why so many 15 to 24-year-olds carry the meningitis bacteria.

Nottingham Evening Post 11/10: University chef Melvyn Keeling has been jailed for five years for knocking down and killing Ronald Platt while over the legal drink-drive limit.

Nottingham Evening Post 13/10: Review of concert by the Youth Chamber Orchestra at the Djanogly Recital Hall.

Nottingham Evening Post 14/10: Beeston police are to mount special patrols and use the University's new surveillance cameras to view the campus grounds in a bid to cut down bicycle theft.

Nottingham Evening Post 14/10: Professor John Pearce (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) says that despite the number of children in Nottingham being prescribed a drug called Ritalin to treat hyperactive behaviour doubling over the past two or three years, he believes it is not being over-subscribed but should only be used as a last resort.

The Guardian 14/10: The University hopes to set up a D H Lawrence Pavilion to house his notes and papers.

The Times 15/10: Professor Roger Murphy (Education) is leading the University's involvement in a study called *Hearing Men's Voices* to uncover whether the changing role of men has had an impact on their spiritual beliefs.

The Independent 16/10: In a feature on university funding and the introduction of the £1,000 tuition fee, Vice-chancellor Professor Sir Colin Campbell argues the case of letting universities charge students what they need on the lines of American universities.

Sunday Times 19/10: Article on how a Government-backed research project on birds of prey at the University has led to the development a new DNA profiling method using a single feather to help trap bird thieves.

Nottingham Evening Post 21/10: Dr Jon Van Tam (Public Health Medicine and Epidemiology) has advised the national campaign for flu immunisation on the need for at-risk people to get vaccinated.

Nottingham Evening Post 23/10: Review of concert performed by the University Sinfonietta at the Djanogly Recital Hall.

Daily Telegraph 24/10: Dr Keith Neal (Public Health Medicine and Epidemiology) has carried out a study which shows that university students are more likely to develop meningitis than the general population, with students living in halls of residence being most at risk.

Student View

Who comes first?

By Amy Jones
UNU President

Arriving at university three years ago, I was overwhelmed by the quality of opportunity, abundance of resources and excellence of teaching.

Today, I find myself asking the question: "Who is benefiting from this?" The students in Nottingham are typically of a well-off background from good schools.

I had worked hard to come to Nottingham but there were plenty of others at my school with huge potential, drive and ability, yet none came to Nottingham. Some did apply and were not offered places, others did not feel they would fit in.

This is seemingly a great waste of potential that possible students do not feel Nottingham would be a good place for them, or that the University does not feel these individuals would be good for Nottingham.

What are the reasons that this University does not even present itself as an option to many in certain sectors of society.

Obviously, there is great disparity between quality of schools which will impact on how potential students perform. This is a problem requiring long term solutions to be implemented by the Government.

On a more immediate level, what could be done for the admissions system to make it fairer and to encourage wider access?

When offering places, admissions tutors may look for good grades but also a wide range of extra curricular activity.

But how can a fair comparison be made between applicants who have been provided with and those who have been to schools where they don't compete across the country in sport or debates, have no prizes and awards, no head girls and head boys?

Equally, interviews and extra tests (as in law) do not provide a level playing field to those who have not been coached and groomed for such occasions.

Potential students should be judged on how they have used the resources available to them before university, not what resources were available to them.

Fiddling on the beach

By Dr Peter McGregor
Life Science

Six members of the Behaviour and Ecology Research Group in Life Science helped to make the 25th International Ethological Conference the largest gathering of animal behaviour researchers in the 50-year history of the subject.

More than 1,000 delegates from 43 countries attended the conference held in Vienna this August. While most delegates were buying T-shirts as mementoes, two Nottingham postgraduates had no such need. For Claire Latruffe and Fiona Burford, their first international conference was made unforgettable by the award of the prize for the best newcomers' poster paper. More delegates voted for their poster than for any of the other 450 presented at the conference — quite an accolade!

Their winning poster, entitled *Fiddling about on the beach 2: more on Uca tangeri behaviour*, used a squeaky soft toy to entice delegates to read about their research on fiddler crabs. The study was carried out in Portugal this summer. It was funded by the

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour and supervised by myself and Rui Oliveira (ISPA, Lisbon).

"I had no idea this would happen, it was really the pinnacle of my time at Nottingham," Claire told **NewsLetter**. Fiona added: "We thought the poster was pretty good, but so were lots of others. How are we going to top this for the 26th conference in Bangalore in 1999?"

Before the prize was announced, the poster had attracted the attention of independent production companies from the USA and Europe who discussed the screening of Claire and Fiona's research on TV. Meanwhile, you can see the fiddler crabs on the poster outside the BERG research room (107) in Life Science.

Nottingham tennis success

Nottingham's tennis teams have always been strong, but this year they can be labelled champions thanks to the efforts of the 1997 summer team.

Confident

Consistently reaching the semi-finals or finals of the British Universities Sports Association competition for the past few years, Nottingham was confident having finished as runners-up in the winter premier league. The semi-final opponents were Bath University, whose team included four tennis scholarship players. Nottingham, however, managed a 7-2 win.

On the second day, Nottingham faced the

holders and winter league champions Loughborough University. Sports bursar and captain of the Nottingham team Jeremy Cross altered the team pairings for the final so that strength could be evenly spread. This proved an excellent tactical move as the Nottingham team went on to have a remarkable win to become the BUSA champions — the last time the University men's tennis team won the university championships was in 1954.

The Department of Physical Recreation has already been able to assist the team in order for them to benefit from good coaching, and arrangements are being made for the men's and ladies' teams to use the facilities at the tennis centre on University Boulevard and the new racquets and health club at West Bridgford.

~ Noticeboard ~

● **Resident tutor, Derby Hall of Residence** — there is a vacancy for a resident tutor in Derby Hall of Residence, a mixed hall, starting in January 1998. Academic members of staff and postgraduates are eligible to apply. Accommodation available with this post is a one-bedroomed self-contained flat. Candidates should send a brief letter and CV to Mrs M Withnall, Warden's Secretary, Derby Hall. Closing date: November 24.

● **The University of Nottingham Hillsborough Trust Memorial Bursaries** — applications are invited from undergraduate students for these

bursaries. Applicants should have resided within the County of Nottinghamshire normally for a period of not less than two years immediately preceding entry to the University. The bursaries, which are of a value from £250 to £1,000 per annum, are intended to provide financial support for students who would otherwise experience difficulty in taking up their places or remaining at the University. The full conditions for award of the bursaries and application forms are available from: Registrar's Department, University Office, Trent Building, where they must be returned by Friday November 28 1997.

● **Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)** — this notice is to advise members of the scheme that the annual report and accounts for the year ended March 31 1997 are available for inspection in the Superannuation Office. If you wish to view the report, please telephone extension 15643 to make an appointment.

● **The Royal Society,**

Quantum Computation: Theory and Experiment — discussion meeting on November 5–6. The synthesis of quantum theory and computer science leads to remarkable and extremely efficient new modes of computation and novel methods of communication. This meeting will provide a comprehensive survey covering fundamental theoretical aspects, experimental perspectives, possible relevance to biological systems and the hi-tech industry. The meeting will take place at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London. Call 0171 451 2574/5 for details.

● **Leverhulme Trust Emeritus Fellowships** — the trustees offer annually around 30 emeritus fellowships. Applicants should hold or have recently held a teaching and/or research post in a university or other institution of comparable status in the UK, and have retired during the last three years, being aged 59 or above. Applications will be considered in all subject areas. Maximum value is £15,965. The awards are tenable for between three

and 24 months and are not thereafter renewable. Closing date for applications is November 13. Contact: The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust, 1 Pemberton Row, London EC4A 3EX

● **Leverhulme Trust Fellowships and Grants** — the trustees, through their Research Awards Advisory Committee, offer annually around 75 fellowships and grants to individuals in aid of original research. Applicants should be experienced researchers pursuing investigations and normally over 30 on June 1 next year. Applications will be considered in all subject areas. The awards, maximum value £15,965, are tenable for between three and 24 months. Closing date for applications November 13. Contact: The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust, 1 Pemberton Row, London EC4A 3EX

**For further information
contact Public Affairs
on ext 15798**

Put you in the picture . . . A Complete Photographic Service

Graduation Portraits • Portraits • Weddings • Passports
Restoration of damaged prints • Framing Service
Press & Publicity • Company Brochures • Legal & Insurance
Presentations • Company Products • Architectural
Developing & Printing • Albums • Frames
Mounts etc., etc.

ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD
DERBY DE1 1NN
TEL: 01332 332161
FAX: 01332 340400

23-25 HOCKLEY
NOTTINGHAM
TEL: 0115 950 0088

Small ads

The *NewsLetter* now has a circulation of 4,150 — to place an advertisement please call ext 5798

University diaries — limited number of diaries with staff listing and calendar of meetings for current academic year for sale. £4.95. Tel: 15741, room L5, Trent Building.

Accommodation available — Sun–Fri in Calverton, 20 mins from

City. Comprises study bedroom in detached house with shared use of bathroom, kitchen, lounge etc. Suit professional person or mature/PhD student. Terms negotiable. Tel: 0115 965 3222 weekends or 0181 205 9815 weekday evenings.

University Club

(Members only)

Christmas lunches

from 8–23 December

3 courses with coffee
and mince pies

£9.85

**Christmas parties also
available**

Please contact Liz for further
information on ext 15930

WILLS

- Your instructions taken
 - Day – Evening – Weekend
 - In your home or office
 - Simply phone:

Bob Manojlovic BEng MLIA(dip)

Affiliated to the Society of Will Writers

Mobile: 0850 573892