



APRIL 2007 - SUMMARY

Gun Control Network understands that despite the Violent Crime Reduction Act receiving its Royal Assent in November 2006, various measures in the Act, in particular those which ban the sale of imitation guns and restrict airgun sales to registered dealers, will not now be implemented until the autumn. Those who have allowed this delay to occur should be ashamed as it will mean that even more of these weapons will be in the hands of those who are likely to misuse them, especially young people. As this Summary shows, while much of the more serious gun crime is confined to inner city areas, that involving imitation guns and airguns affects communities throughout the country.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - A pregnant woman and a 12-year-old girl were among the four victims who died after being shot in April. The woman died in Battersea, the victim of one of two more fatal shootings in south London: the other took place in Brixton where a man was killed. A man was fatally injured when he was shot in a restaurant in Harehills (Leeds). A 12-year-old girl died in hospital a few hours after being shot in the head at a house in Gorton (Greater Manchester) - her 16-year-old brother has been arrested.
- Another man died of gunshot wounds in Wincle (Lancashire) though police were not treating the death as suspicious.
- There were other shootings in London. Two teenagers, one aged 19 and another aged 14, were injured in separate drive-by shootings in Plaistow (east London) - the 19-year-old was critically ill. In another east London shooting a man was injured whilst being chased by two men in Leyton. Police who stopped a car on the Woodbury Down Estate (Manor House, north London) found that the passenger had been shot in the leg.
- In Liverpool a man was shot in the back in a street in Toxteth. A woman was shot in the face in an attack in Broomhall (Sheffield) - police believe her companion was the intended victim.
- A man received minor injuries after he was shot in his car in Burnage (Greater Manchester). A man was shot whilst driving in Glasgow and crashed his car into another vehicle.
- A man was shot and seriously injured whilst at a party at a flat in Leicester.
- A number of other victims sustained injuries in attacks with airguns and BB guns (see Details below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A man was robbed on the street at gunpoint by a masked gunman in Bow (east London).
- A car was hijacked at gunpoint by a man in Littlehampton (Sussex): a man has been arrested. A motor home owner foiled an attempt by a gunman to steal the vehicle in Upton Scudamore (Wiltshire).
- A man delivering cash to ATM machines at a Bedford supermarket was forced to hand over a large amount of cash when threatened with a sawn-off shotgun. In Gorse Covert (Warrington) a gunman stole cash being collected from a shop by a security man.
- There were reports of robberies or attempted robberies on a betting shop in Horwich (Greater Manchester), a post office in Bangor (a woman was shot with an airgun during the raid), a pub in West Bridgford (Nottingham)

and a shop in Swindon (involving two young girls). A petrol station was robbed in Andoversford (Gloucestershire). Another fast-food outlet was robbed at gunpoint in Portsmouth, the latest in a number of similar robberies in the city this year.

- **Other Incidents** - Three men were arrested after a gun was fired at a house in Grangetown (Middlesbrough).
- A single gunshot was fired from a car at a house in Muirhouse Green (Edinburgh).
- A man was arrested on suspicion of a number of firearms offences after a 10-hour siege on a house in Exeter.

- **Gun Finds** - Twelve people were arrested and one firearm recovered after raids on more than 200 homes in Manchester. Four people were charged for possession of imitation firearms, a prohibited weapon and a firearm without certificate in a crackdown on gun crime in Salford. Two BB guns were seized in Ipswich in raids targeting drug suspects.
- Three guns were found during raids in Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, during which a number of people were arrested, one of them for firearms and drug offences.
- A First World War pistol was found and two suspects arrested, and another pistol and ammunition recovered, during police raids in Southwark (south London).
- An air rifle was seized during a crackdown on crime in Nottingham.

- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A man who had already been convicted of one murder in Merseyside was sentenced to ten more years in prison for wounding a former friend in a drive-by shooting in Toxteth.
- A man was jailed for life for his part in the murder of a man in Marsden (Tyneside) - he admitted luring the victim to the murder location but denied firing the fatal shots.
- A sentence of over five years was given to a man who shot and injured a police officer who had chased him after a car crash in Peckham (south London). A four year sentence was given to a man who used a firearm (a sawn-off gun) to resist arrest during an incident in Merthyr Tydfil.
- A man was jailed for eight and a half years for raping a woman at gunpoint in her Cheshunt (Hertfordshire) home.
- A man is facing a 5 year jail sentence after admitting possessing a prohibited revolver, whose serial number he had swapped with a legal, deactivated gun, at his house in Lochgilphead (Argyllshire). A Denbighshire gun enthusiast was jailed for four-and-a-half years after admitting dealing in prohibited weapons.
- A man was sentenced to seven years in prison for the possession of an arsenal of guns and ammunition in Manchester.

- **Airguns - Those who use airguns to fire at people target their victims regardless of age.** In Allesley (Coventry) an 8-year-old boy was hit in the head with a pellet whilst playing in his bedroom with a friend - the gunman was spotted by the boy's mother leaning out of the window of a nearby flat. A 75-year-old man was shot in the face with an air rifle pellet whilst visiting a hospital in South Shields (Tyneside) - three teenagers have been arrested.
- Three more young boys were hit in the head with air weapons and needed hospital treatment. One, who was cycling in Hebburn (Tyneside), received serious injuries after being shot in the face, another boy was shot whilst in

a field in Derby, and a pupil at a school in Easterhouse (Glasgow) was shot in the face (a 14-year-old was charged).

- An 18-year-old female cyclist was shot with an air rifle whilst on a bike ride in Hook (East Yorkshire) - a group of youths is believed to have been responsible.
- During one of two apparently separate airgun incidents in Bangor (Gwynedd) a woman was shot and injured during a robbery on a post office (she needed hospital treatment) - two men have been arrested. In the other incident there were unconfirmed reports that a man had been shot with an airgun - a man was arrested in connection with this incident.
- A photographer was hit in the back of the head after an airgun was fired at a nightclub in Mayfair (central London).
- A group of youths threatened another group with an air rifle in Carlisle.
- Police were called to investigate reports of a man firing an air rifle in public on waste land in Brighton.
- Youngsters fired an airgun at a passing train in Bolton. A taxi was hit with a shower of missiles in an attack by youths in Widnes - the damage indicated an airgun had been used by the attackers. In Aberdeen taxis and buses appear to have been targeted with airguns - some of the vehicles were damaged.
- Airgun pellets were fired into the back garden of a house in Rubery (West Midlands).
- **Convictions for Incidents Involving Airguns** - A father pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of his son whom he had shot in a Salford street with a modified air rifle - police say that the victim was lucky to have survived.
- A 17-year-old from Greenock has admitted shooting a 16-year-old boy and terrifying three shop assistants with an air pistol whilst he subject to an anti-social behaviour order.
- A man was given an eight-month jail sentence after an incident in which he threatened a neighbour in Nelson (Lancashire) with an air pistol and fired two shots.
- Three teenagers were sent to a young offenders' institution for two years for attacking a man during a burglary in Saffron Waldon (Essex) in which they were armed with an air rifle.
- A man who shot himself in the head with a converted Brocock airgun during a weekend of heavy drinking in Bromley (Kent) was given an 11-month suspended sentence.
- A man caught in possession of an air weapon in a public place in Shrewsbury was given 100 hours of community service.

- **Imitation Guns** - This month's victims included a baby shot through the letter box of his home in Poplar (east London) with a BB guns - a 14-year-old has been arrested.
- In the latest attack on schoolchildren three schoolgirls were shot with a BB gun by two 13-year-old boys in Blackburn - one victim is fortunate not to have been blinded. A 10-year-old was hit when two men, both with BB guns, fired at pedestrians in Ingoldmells (Lincolnshire).
- A retired Blackburn man was attacked in a park by a youth armed with a gun whose friends eventually pulled off the attacker and told the victim that it was not a real gun.
- A 13-year-old threatened a bus driver in Hampton Court (Middlesex) by pointing a toy gun at her.
- Two unarmed police officers arrested a man who chased terrified people in a Derby street whilst armed with an exact replica of a sub-machine gun. Ten BB guns, including ones resembling assault rifles and a shotgun, were recovered by police after four men were seen brandishing firearms in a

picnic area in Felixstowe. Sussex police were called to incidents in Portslade and Hollingdean involving youths seen with BB guns in public. South Yorkshire police described an incident in Thurcroft, to which an armed response team had to be called, that involved youths firing a BB gun and a plastic assault rifle indiscriminately.

- Two BB guns were recovered after armed police surrounded a tower block in Havant (Hampshire) after reports of two gunmen - two men were arrested.
- BB guns were apparently used when a house was trashed during a party in Houghton-le-Spring (County Durham).
- In Lancashire damage was caused to a parked car in Colne after a pellet was fired from a BB gun, while another BB gun was used to smash a window at a home in Leyland.
- A man faced charges after causing damage in a drive-by shooting rampage with a paintball gun in Dalton (Cumbria).
- Two teenagers from Ellesmere Port (Cheshire) were charged with possession of an imitation firearm after mobile phone footage of a group brandishing guns was discovered.
- Two people charged in a crackdown on gun crime in Salford have been accused of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Two BB guns were seized by Ipswich police in an operation focused on drug suspects who frequent the area (see **Gun Finds** above).
- **Convictions for Incidents Involving Imitation Guns** - A man who had escaped from custody whilst serving a life sentence evaded the police on a later occasion by pointing a BB gun at them in Salford - he was recaptured a few days later. A 16-year-old pointed a BB gun at police officers in Sutton-in-Ashfield (Nottinghamshire) and was sentenced to 18 months' detention and training.
- A man who held a gun at the heads of three young people in Lowestoft was sentenced to a 10-month detention order.
- A 16-year-old who threatened a shopkeeper in Stockport with a realistic-looking ball-bearing gun was given a rehabilitation order.
- A man has admitted presenting a firearm or imitation firearm (a starting pistol) whilst demanding a kebab at a Glasgow takeaway.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were yet more reports of cats and swans being shot with airguns and also details of an incident in which a horse was shot by youths in a field in County Durham.

GUN INCIDENTS – APRIL 2007

ENGLAND

Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News, 30 April 2007

A motor home owner was threatened at gunpoint by an armed man who tried to steal the vehicle while its owner attempted to park it in **Upton Scudamore**. The owner fought back and managed to drive off to safety.

Evening Star, 30 April 2007

Armed police were called to a picnic area in **Felixstowe** after four men were spotted brandishing firearms. The men, aged about 19 and 20, were detained. The officers recovered **ten BB guns**, including replicas of MP5, AK47 and shotgun weapons. The weapons had been bought from a market, according to police who said their improper use was "grossly irresponsible".

BBC, 30 April 2007

Five teenagers have been arrested after mobile phone footage of a group brandishing guns was discovered. Police launched a series of raids in **Ellesmere Port**, Cheshire, and a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old have been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm**. Two 15-year-olds and a 13-year-old have been referred to the Youth Offending Team.

BBC, 30 April 2007

A 12-year-old girl was shot in the head and critically injured in an incident at a house in **Gorton**, Greater Manchester. She later died in hospital (**BBC**, 1 May 2007). Police arrested a 16-year-old boy, the girl's brother, who is understood to have told police that the shooting was an accident. It was unclear what kind of weapon was involved (**Guardian**, 1 May 2007).

BBC, 30 April 2007

A woman was shot in the face in **Broomhall**, Sheffield. Police say she was the accidental victim of a targeted attack by two men, her companion was the intended target in the attack. Several shots were fired and the victim was taken to hospital for treatment.

This is Cheshire, 29 April 2007

A security man collecting cash from a shop in **Gorse Covert**, Warrington, threatened by a man armed with a handgun. The gunman stole a large amount of cash. No shots were fired and nobody was injured.

BBC, 28 April 2007

There were two separate shootings in London, one of which left one man dead. The fatal shooting happened in **Brixton**, south London, where the victim was pronounced dead at the scene. Another man was shot after being chased by two men in **Leyton**, east London. He was in a stable condition.

BBC, 28 April 2007

A man was injured in a shooting at a party in a flat in **Leicester**. The victim was taken to hospital where his condition was described as "serious but stable".

Bromsgrove News, 27 April 2007

Police were probing an incident in **Rubery** in which **airgun** pellets were fired into a family's back garden. No one was hit but the police warned that the weapons were not toys and that pellets fired from them could cause serious injury and death.

BBC, 27 April 2007

Steven Bevens has been jailed for life for his part in the murder of a man who was shot in his car at **Marsden**, south Tyneside, in May 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He had admitted luring the victim to the spot but denied firing the fatal shots. Another man had already been jailed for four years in connection with the shooting and another third man is being sought.

Goole and Howden Courier, 26 April 2007

An 18-year-old woman cycling through **Hook** was shot by an **air rifle**. The victim suffered swelling and bruising to her arm after she was struck by a pellet, which she believes came from a group of youths in a field.

South Yorkshire Police, 25 April 2007

The police have described an incident in **Thurcroft** as a prime example of a point that officers are trying to get over to parents about the consequences of the possession of imitation guns. An armed response vehicle was called after a report that a man was shooting children with an air rifle and that 4 guns had been seen. On arrival the officers found that the incident involved youngsters who had with them two **BB guns** and a **plastic assault rifle** which they had been firing indiscriminately. Some children had been hit with pellets and had sustained reddening of the skin. The police emphasised yet again that imitation firearms generally cannot be distinguished from the real thing at a distance and that when such incidents are reported an armed response is usually the only option.

Salford Advertiser, 25 April 2007

Barry Hayes shot his son in the head, leg and chest with a modified **air rifle** to settle a family argument. He had followed his son in his car in **Salford** in November 2006 and shot him when he pulled over and got out of the car. After the attack Hayes drove his victim to hospital where he was arrested. His son had to undergo extensive surgery to remove the pellets, one from his head, and two could not be removed at all. One pellet had punctured his heart and his right lung had collapsed. He is lucky to have survived, according to police. Hayes pleaded guilty to attempted murder and with possession of a section one firearm. He will be sentenced in June.

East Anglian Daily Times, 25 April 2007

Police have announced that two **BB guns** have been seized along with cash and drugs as part of Operation Academy which has focused on drug suspects who frequent **Ipswich** and have alleged links to gun crime in London. Since January 62 alleged offenders have been arrested.

BBC, 25 April 2007

Police who stopped a car in the **Woodbury Down Estate** in north London found the front seat passenger to be suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg. The female driver was uninjured. The victim was taken to hospital where he remained in a stable condition.

BBC, 25 April 2007

Members of staff at a pub in **West Bridgford**, Nottingham, were tied up and threatened with a gun by three men. One employee was made to open the safe at gunpoint and the robbers made off on foot with a substantial amount of cash.

Manchester Evening News, 24 April 2007

A man who had already been given a life sentence but had managed to escape whilst in custody, evaded capture again after pulling a **ball bearing gun** on police who had spotted him in **Salford**. Christopher McDonagh was caught three days later following another chase during which he brandished a machete. McDonagh has been given another indeterminate sentence after admitting escaping from custody, possessing a ball bearing gun with intent to resist arrest and possessing a machete and a knife.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 24 April 2007

An 8-year-old was hit in the head by an **air rifle** pellet in his own bedroom in **Allesley** where he was playing with his best friend. They heard a pellet bounce off the window and seconds later another shot ricocheted off the window frame and hit the boy. His mother saw a man, aged about 20, handing out of the window of a flat in a nearby block. The man and the gun had gone when the police investigated. But it was four days before police collected the pellet which the mother had later found on the bedroom floor.

BBC, 23 April 2007

A 75-year-old man became the latest victim of an airgun attack when he was shot in the face with an **air rifle** while visiting a hospital in **South Shields**, Tyneside. A pellet hit him above the right eye and he was kept in hospital overnight after receiving treatment. A 19-year-old and a 17-year-old have been arrested and an air rifle and ammunition recovered by police. Police have arrested a third teenager (*The Journal*, 25 April 2007).

ITV, 21 April 2007

A man was shot dead in a restaurant in **Harehills**, Leeds. The incident is believed to have involved four masked men.

BBC, 21 April 2007

Omar Malik has been sentenced to seven years in prison for the possession of an arsenal of guns and ammunition. He was arrested in May 2006 after a number of shootings. The guns were found in his car when Greater **Manchester** police executed a search warrant. A 12-gauge shotgun and a pump-action rifle were found along with ammunition. Malik was charged with eight firearms offences.

The News (Portsmouth), 19 April 2007

Armed police surrounded a tower block in **Havant** after reports of two gunmen on the loose. Two men were arrested, one inside the block of flats. Two **ball-bearing guns** were recovered at the scene. Although no-one was injured residents say there was a lot of confusion.

North-West Evening Mail, 19 April 2007

Andrew John Sams appeared in court after a drive-by shooting rampage with a **paintball gun** in **Dalton**. He had been given the weapon by his mother. Sams faces the charge of possessing a replica firearm after admitting shooting it in public. He fired the weapon from the window of a car at the door of a house which was covered in paint and had a hole in the centre of it. Sams was arrested three days later when a woman heard a loud bang and saw a car with the tip of a gun pointing from the window. The defence counsel excused his behaviour by saying that paintball guns "are designed to be fired at people after all". The case was adjourned for pre-sentence reports.

Littlehampton Today, 19 April 2007

A man brandishing what appeared to be a gun hijacked a car following an argument involving two groups of men at a house in **Littlehampton**. The occupants of the car, neither linked with the earlier incident, were ordered to get out by the gunman and escaped uninjured. A 20-year-old has been arrested but no gun has been recovered.

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 18 April 2007

A binge drinker, Paul Morgan, shot himself in the head during a weekend of heavy drinking with friends in **Bromley** in September 2006. He found the gun in a bush and after waving it around put the gun to the back of his head and fired. A 9mm bullet was removed by hospital staff who alerted police. The gun was a converted Brocock **airgun** but was not recovered by police. Morgan, who did not think it was a real gun or it was live ammunition, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and having ammunition without a certificate. He was given an 11-month suspended sentence.

East London Advertiser, 18 April 2007

A gunman wearing a 'Scream' mask robbed a man at gunpoint under a railway arch in **Bow**. The gunman, who pushed the weapon into the victim's stomach, had two accomplices, one armed with a knife. Cash and a phone were stolen.

BBC, 18 April 2007

A cash delivery van driver was threatened with a sawn-off shotgun who forced him to open the van and hand over a large amount of cash before escaping on a motorbike driven by an accomplice. The incident happened at a supermarket in **Bedford**.

Lancashire Evening Post, 17 April 2007

A **ball-bearing gun** was used to smash a window at a home in **Leyland**, near Preston.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 16 April 2007

A teenager had an **airgun** pellet removed from his head after he was shot in Derby. He was with a friend in a field at **Breadsall Hilltop** when he was hit. Three youths were seen running away from the scene but no-one had been found. The victim was recovering in hospital.

Ashfield Today, 16 April 2007

A 16-year-old who was armed with a loaded **ball-bearing gun** in **Sutton-in-Ashfield** was hit by two baton rounds after he pointed his gun at police officers after refusing to put it down in an incident in January 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He had had an argument with another boy and threatened two of the boy's neighbours who feared they would be shot. The teenager was sentenced to 18 months detention and training.

BBC, 15 April 2007

A man was arrested following a 10-hour siege on a house in **Exeter** by police investigating reports of a man brandishing a handgun. A man was arrested on suspicion of firearms offences and a firearm was recovered.

Shropshire Star, 14 April 2007

Anthony Bevan was caught in possession of an **air weapon** in a public place, a field in **Shrewsbury**, in January 2007. He has been given 100 hours of community service by magistrates.

BBC, 14 April 2007

A 14-year-old boy was shot in the neck in a second drive-by shooting in **Plaistow**, east London. He was standing outside a shop when shots were fired from a car with blacked-out windows. The boy was treated in hospital and discharged.

Ealing Times, 13 April 2007

A 13-year-old boy threatened a bus driver in **Hampton Court** with a realistic-looking **toy gun**. He stepped out in front of the vehicle and pointed the gun at the female driver. He was given a reprimand for a public order offence.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 13 April 2007

Two unarmed police officers tackled a man who was chasing people in a **Derby** street with what appeared to be a machine gun. The officers saw two lads running with a look of sheer terror on their faces and a short distance behind them the armed man. The officers sprayed CS gas at the man after he turned and pointed the weapon at the chest of one of them. The gun turned out to be an **exact replica of an Ingram Mac 10 sub-machine gun** that fired blanks. A 20-year-old man has been charged with two offences of possession of an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence.

Daily Star, 13 April 2007

A house in **Houghton-le-Spring**, County Durham, was trashed during a party held by a teenager who lived there. Up to £30,000 of damage was caused. Pellets from a **ball-bearing gun** were found on bedroom floors.

Widnes Weekly News, 12 April 2007

A taxi driver was driving in **Widnes** with a woman passenger when his car was hit by a shower of missiles from a seven-strong gang waiting in ambush. He fought to keep control of the car. When he inspected the damage he found it included circular holes in the windscreen and a hole in the wing the size of an airgun slug. He is convinced that the youths were armed with **airguns**.

This is Lancashire, 12 April 2007

A terrified retired man was held up by a robber as he strolled through a park in **Blackburn**. His attacker, who had been drinking with a gang of around six other teenagers, threatened to blow off his head with a gun unless he emptied his pockets. However one of the youth's friends eventually pulled him away and told the victim that it was not a real gun. Police say that they do not know whether the gun was real or **imitation** but in any event the offence was being taken very seriously.

Evening Courier (Halifax), 12 April 2007

Three men are on trial charged with attempting to murder a man who was cornered by a group of men in **Brighouse**, West Yorkshire, in March 2006 before one of them shot him in the stomach with a shotgun. All three deny attempted murder, causing grievous bodily harm with intent and carrying a shotgun with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

BBC, 12 April 2007

Yet another teenage boy has been shot in the face with an **air weapon**. The latest victim was cycling at the rear of a pub in **Hebburn**, Tyneside, when a pellet hit him above the eye. His injuries were reported to be serious.

Macclesfield Express, 11 April 2007

A fish farmer was found dead at his home in **Wincle** with a single gunshot wound to his head. Police are not treating his death as suspicious.

Daily Post, 11 April 2007

A man was shot in the back when someone called his name from a passing vehicle as he was walking along a street in **Toxteth**, Liverpool. His condition was described as comfortable.

BBC, 11 April 2007

Three men have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder after a gun was fired at a house in **Grangetown**, Middlesbrough.

BBC, 10 April 2007

A 10-year-old boy has been hit by what is believed were pellets from a **BB gun**. He was with a group of youngsters in **Ingoldmells**, Lincolnshire, when a car drove by and two men, both with BB guns, allegedly fired at pedestrians.

BBC, 10 April 2007

Christopher Ashton shot a former friend in a drive-by shooting from a moving car in **Toxteth**, Liverpool, in May 2004. He pleaded guilty to wounding his victim and was sentenced to more than ten years in prison. His victim underwent surgery to remove a bullet and had to have his spleen removed. Ashton is already serving a minimum of 32 years for the murder of another man who was stabbed, shot and set alight in a gang attack in Merseyside who was killed in October 2004 after Ashton was arrested and released on bail.

BBC, 10 April 2007

A 19-year-old was hit in the head in **Plaistow**, east London, during a drive-by shooting. He is critically ill in hospital. Police are appealing for witnesses and are treating the shooting as attempted murder.

BBC, 10 April 2007

A man, believed to have been armed with a gun, robbed a petrol station in **Andoversford**, Gloucestershire. He escaped with around £250.

This is Wiltshire, 9 April 2007

Two young girls burst into a **Swindon** shop and stole all the takings. According to the owner the girls were aged around 15. One of the girls pointed a small handgun at him. One girl has been arrested (*This is Wiltshire*, 12 April 2007).

ic South London, 9 April 2007

A gun a pristine First World War pistol, was uncovered during a series of dawn raids across **Southwark**. A second handgun was found by police, and two suspects were arrested for alleged firearms offences. Another pistol and ammunition were found at a second address.

Sunday Sun, 8 April 2007

Police are investigating claims that an **air rifle** was pointed at youths in King Moor Nature Reserve, **Carlisle**. The incident followed a row between two groups of youths. Those involved in pointing the gun were described as aged 15-16.

The News (Portsmouth), 7 April 2007

In the latest in a series of armed robberies at **Portsmouth** fast-food outlets (see [March 2007 Incidents](#)) a masked gunman threatened a teenage employee as he demanded thousands of pounds. The gunman fled before police, alerted by an automatic alarm, arrived at the scene.

Guardian, 7 April 2007

A pregnant woman has become the latest victim of a fatal shooting in south London. She was shot at point blank range on her doorstep in **Battersea**, and may have been killed over a parking dispute, according to police. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Cambridge Evening News, 7 April 2007

Three teenagers, Matthew Cannon, Charles Pretlove and Carl Hooper, attacked a man with an **air rifle** and a knife during a burglary in **Saffron Waldon** in August 2006. They admitted aggravated burglary and were sentenced to two years in a young offenders' institution. The judge said that the crime was driven by abuse of cannabis in conjunction with alcohol.

The Press (York), 6 April 2007

A mother was furious after her two young daughters, aged 12 and 10, were sold a realistic-looking **imitation handgun** at a shop in **York**.

Pendle Today, 6 April 2007

Police officers carried out extra patrols in the Alkincoats Park area of **Colne** after a pellet was fired from a **ball bearing gun** at a parked car causing £100 worth of damage. Youngsters caught with the guns will be served with fixed penalty notices.

Pendle Today, 6 April 2007

Terence Bray was given an eight-month jail sentence, suspended for 18 months, with 12 months supervision, after he admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. His neighbour in **Nelson** had gone to speak to him about noise and verbal abuse in July 2006 and Bray had got irate. He pulled out what the neighbour believed to be a black handgun and fired two shots in the air. Police found Bray drunk and with an **air pistol**, operated by a gas canister, on his lap.

Metro, 5 April 2007

A nightclub in **Mayfair**, central London, was cleared and searched by police after an angry reveller had fired an **airgun** at a photographer. It was reported that the victim was hit in the back of the head.

Manchester Evening News, 5 April 2007

Four people have been charged in a crackdown on gun crime. Two were accused of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence, one was charged with possessing a prohibited weapon and one with possessing a firearm without a certificate. A police spokesman said it was a good result for **Salford**.

ic theWharf, 5 April 2007

A baby was shot in the face with a **ball-bearing gun** which was fired through the letterbox of his home in **Poplar**, east London. He was hit just below his left eye but had little injury other than passing redness, according to police. He was treated at the scene by ambulance staff. A 14-year-old has been arrested.

Cheshunt & Waltham Mercury, 5 April 2007

Terrance Bishop has been jailed for eight and a half years for raping a **Cheshunt** woman in her own home at gunpoint in June 2006 and beating her up when she threatened to go to the police. He was high on drink and drugs at the time of the rape and had come up behind his victim and pressed a gun to her head.

BBC, 5 April 2007

A man who held up a betting shop in **Horwich**, Greater Manchester, was caught on CCTV cameras, police have revealed. The man posed as a customer before threatening workers with a gun. He left the shop with a substantial amount of cash.

BBC, 5 April 2007

Nottinghamshire Police seized an **air rifle** and two vehicles in a crackdown on crime in the Kimberley and Eastwood areas of **Nottingham**.

In the News, 4 April 2007

Dwayne Reid was found guilty of grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of a firearm while prohibited to do so. He was sentenced to a minimum of five years and 315 days in prison. The sentence followed an incident in **Peckham**, south London, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) when police chased two occupants of a car which crashed. One of the officers was shot, but Reid was arrested by two other officers. All three police officers were awarded High Commendations, the Metropolitan Police's highest honour.

East Anglian Daily Times, 3 April 2007

Philip Catterick held a gun at the heads of three young people in the centre of **Lowestoft** in August 2006. He approached a group of youngsters asking about drugs but they moved away from him, concerned about his behaviour. He produced a black handgun and held it at the heads of two boys and a girl. Catterick was arrested shortly afterwards and a handgun, a magazine and **BB pellets** seized. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and possessing a firearm while prohibited. He was sentenced to a 10-month detention order.

Daily Mail, 3 April 2007

A masked raider, aged 16, held a gun inches from the chest of a shopkeeper in **Stockport** during a raid in February 2007. The youth demanded the contents of the till but fled empty handed. He was arrested within hours. Police recovered the weapon which turned out to be a **ball-bearing gun**, capable of causing serious injury and indistinguishable by sight from an automatic firearm. He has been given a rehabilitation order, a sentence that has been severely criticised by the victim.

The Argus (Brighton), 3 April 2007

Brighton and Hove Police had four calls about firearms in a period of three days. Unarmed officers were sent to deal with three teenage boys "playing" with a **ball-bearing gun** in **Brighton**. A group of boys, probably the same ones, were reported later in **Hollingdean**, having been seen with a gun. They were stopped and police recovered a BB gun. Unarmed police also went to an incident in which a man was reported to be firing at birds in **Portslade**. Armed police were dispatched to deal with a man firing an **air rifle** in public on waste land in **Brighton** but he had gone when they arrived.

The Press (York), 2 April 2007

A farmer from **Hovingham** has denied charges of criminal damage and affray and told a jury why he considered it "reasonable" to fire shotgun pellets twice into a stranger's pick up truck and keep him and his seven-year-old child in a field for more than 20 minutes. The shots hit the windscreen and a front headlight. He told the court that thieves had broken into his outbuildings ten times between 2004 and 2006 and he believed the man and his son were thieves and that shooting at them was "a perfectly reasonable thing to do". The man targeted said he was there to dismantle a horse box container he had bought from its owner. The trial continues.

Bolton News, 2 April 2007

Youngsters opened fire with an **airgun** on a passing train as it passed close to Heaton Cemetery in **Bolton** in March. This and a number of other incidents in the area have prompted police to increase patrols on railway lines.

BBC, 2 April 2007

More than 200 homes were being searched by police as part of an operation to tackle gun crime in Manchester. Twelve people have been arrested and one firearm recovered. Sixteen "key addresses" in **Moss Side**, **Fallowfield** and **Hulme** were raided.

This is Lancashire, 1 April 2007

Three schoolgirls were shot by two 13-year-old boys who opened fire on them with a **ball-bearing gun** in **Blackburn**. The boys, who are fellow pupils, were suspended for two days. One of the victims was hit just below the eye and is fortunate not to have been blinded. Police are investigating.

BBC, 1 April 2007

A man was shot while sitting in his car at a set of traffic lights in **Burnage**, Greater Manchester. The victim was able to make his own way to hospital.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 28 April 2007

Police are investigating the possibility that **airgun** pellets have been fired at taxis and buses in **Aberdeen**. They received a number of complaints about vehicles being struck and damaged by an object, described as being similar to an airgun pellet. None of the drivers was injured.

BBC, 26 April 2007

Armed police seized three guns and quantities of what are believed to be controlled drugs from four house in **Barrhead**, East Renfrewshire. One man was arrested for alleged drugs and firearms offences. Reports are being sent to the Procurator Fiscal about four men and two women and another male and two female were arrested for other offences.

Evening Times, 18 April 2007

Peter Sheridan has admitted presenting a firearm or imitation firearm at a worker at a takeaway in **Glasgow** in June 2006. He demanded a free kebab and after he left was seen pointing the gun, a **starting pistol**, at the shop and firing one. He was arrested ten days later. He will be sentenced next month.

Daily Record, 17 April 2007

Following a fire at a house in **Lochgilthead**, Argyllshire, firefighters found a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver. The homeowner, Geoffrey Hutton, admitted possessing the gun and faces a five year jail sentence. He had swapped its serial number with a legal, deactivated version. A plea in mitigation will be heard next month.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 13 April 2007

A single gunshot from a shotgun was fired from a car at a house in **Muirhouse Green**. The family had moved out of the property a few weeks before the shooting because of fears about the environment. It is thought that a 19-year-old member of the family may have been the target.

BBC, 10 April 2007

A man crashed his car into a passing female motorist after he was shot as he drove along a street in **Glasgow**. The man was being treated in hospital where his condition was described as serious but stable. The woman motorist was also injured.

Daily Record, 5 April 2007

Garry McGowan, 17, shot a 16-year-old boy with an **air rifle** in **Greenock** in January 2007. He also admitted terrifying three shop assistants with an **air pistol**. He was subject to an anti-social behaviour order at the time. He admitted the offences and will be sentenced in May.

Sunday Mail, 1 April 2007

A pupil has been shot in the face with an **airgun** at a school in **Easterhouse**, Glasgow. The victim needed hospital treatment. A 14-year-old has been charged with a firearms offence and will be referred to the children's panel.

WALES

News Wales, 24 April 2007

Seven people were arrested after police raids in the **Cardiff Bay** area conducted under Operation Hurricane, an operation targeting gun crime. Class A drugs, cannabis and cash were seized but no firearms were recovered.

BBC, 18 April 2007

A man was arrested in connection with an **airgun** incident following unconfirmed reports that a man had been shot, but not seriously injured, in **Bangor**, Gwynedd.

BBC, 18 April 2007

In a second apparently unlinked incident in **Bangor** a woman suffered facial and arm injuries after being shot at a post office, with what is thought to have been an **airgun**. The victim's injuries were not life threatening but she needed hospital treatment. The woman was working in the post office and was shot four times in the face and neck by two armed robbers (*Daily Post*, 18 April 2007). Two men have been arrested (*BBC*, 24 April 2007).

BBC, 4 April 2007

Gun enthusiast Paul Williams from **Trevor**, Denbighshire, was jailed for four-and-a-half-years after admitting dealing in prohibited firearms and ammunition. He supplied a selection of pistols and a sub-machine gun converter kit. The court heard that Williams was a collector and enthusiast with an interest in firearms since he age of nine. He had supplied a tight circle of three people. Williams asked for 18 other similar offences to be taken into consideration. One of the transactions had taken place at Wrexham Gun Club. The judge said that Williams must have known of the changes in the law in the wake of the Dunblane massacre but had disregarded them.

South Wales Echo, 3 April 2007

A police officer feared for his life when a man he was chasing pointed a sawn-off gun at him. Luke Morgan pointed the gun as the officer approached him on an estate in **Merthyr Tydfil**. Morgan was punched and sprayed with CS gas but broke free and was driven away. He was arrested a few days later. The incident occurred after a one-armed bandit was stolen from a pub. Morgan, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to a total of four years for using a firearm with intent to resist arrest, possessing a firearm when prohibited and theft.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Sunderland Echo, 30 April 2007

A six-year-old girl from **Silksworth** discovered her pet cat lying in pain and in a pool of blood in her play house. The cat had been shot with an **air rifle**. Vets had to amputate the pet's leg as a pellet had shattered the bone in one of its front paws. Another pellet was found in its back. The family had reported hearing air rifles going off on an earlier occasion but in the absence of witnesses to the cat's shooting there is nothing the police can do. A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said that if anyone does see such an incident they should call the RSPCA and the police.

Northern Echo, 27 April 2007

A horse needed treatment by a vet after being shot by an **airgun** in a field near **Chester-le-Street**, County Durham. Up to a dozen teenagers are thought to have been in a field firing air rifles to frighten a group of horses when one of them was hit.

Daily Echo (Dorset), 25 April 2007

Vets claim that a family's cat only has a 50:50 chance of surviving operations after the pet was shot with an **airgun** in **Poole**. She has already had to have a kidney removed. The previous week the paper had reported how a pet cat from **Wimborne** had an eye removed after being shot with what was believed to have been an **airgun**.

BBC, 20 April 2007

At least two cats have been shot and badly injured by an **air rifle** sniper in east Kent. Several incidents are being looked into amid reports that someone has been seen carrying an air rifle in public. One cat was shot in the leg in **Hythe**, and a few days later a cat was shot in the throat in **Dover**. Kent police have warned that the person responsible could face jail.

Ealing Times, 19 April 2007

Police are investigating the death of a swan which was killed by an **air rifle** in a park in **Mitcham**, south London. It died from a single shot to the head. Two coots also died in the incident. The dead swan was part of a pair who were in the process of making their nest together.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 7 April 2007

A family's pet cat died a slow and agonising death after an **airgun** pellet became lodged in her liver, and despite a desperate fight by vets to save her life she died from infection two days after she was shot near her home in **Livingston Village**, West Lothian. The vet who treated the cat said that the injury was caused by a deliberate act with a powerful airgun.

Evening Leader, 3 April 2007

A cat has had her eye shot out in an **airgun** attack in **Cain Park**, Wrexham. The cat appeared at the back door with blood on her face. The vet found an air rifle pellet behind her eye.



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