



## APRIL 2008 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were two gun deaths reported during April. A man was shot dead in Harlesden (north west London). The second fatal shooting, which took place at the shotgun ranges of the National Rifle Association at Bisley (Surrey), was not being treated as suspicious.
- There were shooting incidents which resulted in injury in Oldham, Rochdale and Bolton (all in Greater Manchester). In Birmingham victims were injured in Hockley (two people were shot including a teenage boy) and Handsworth (the victim was 16). Other shooting incidents which caused injuries occurred in Streatham Hill (south London) (the victim was another teenage boy), Walker (Newcastle upon Tyne), Preston and Whitleigh (Plymouth). Another man was bruised and stabbed in Sholing (Southampton) during an attack by a gang armed with a handgun.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were reports of robberies and attempted robberies involving firearms at building societies in Cheltenham (Gloucestershire) and Moortown (West Yorkshire), banks in Sheffield (two branches involving the same man) and Cheltenham, a jewellers in Bournemouth, other shops in Cleethorpes (Humberside), Prestwich (Greater Manchester), Lowestoft (Suffolk) and Doncaster (South Yorkshire), a bookmakers in Ewell (Surrey), a takeaway in Hartlepool (County Durham) and filling stations in Renfrew (Renfrewshire) and Farnington (Kent).
- Security vans were held up outside stores in Four Marks (Hampshire), Ely (Cambridgeshire) and South Wootton (Norfolk) (a guard was shot with a stun gun). A security guard was robbed of cash at a shopping centre in Shawlands (Glasgow). Police are still examining whether a gun was used in an armed robbery on a security van guard in Poole (Dorset) - a man and a woman have been arrested.
- A man attempted to rob a teenager of his mobile phone in West Horndon (Essex) and a student was robbed of his wallet in Trowbridge (Cardiff). A woman was robbed of cash at gunpoint in a street in Headingley (Leeds).
- A taxi was stolen at gunpoint from the driver in Collyhurst (Manchester). Another taxi driver was forced to hand over cash to two armed men in Lincoln.
- A couple were tied up at gunpoint in their home in Higher Blackley (Manchester) before the gang responsible escaped with cash and a TV.
- **Other Incidents** - A machine gun was fired at a derelict former nightclub in Bury (Greater Manchester). A number of people were arrested following an incident in which a flat window was shattered by a gunshot in South Shields (Tyneside). A man armed with an automatic rifle fired around 25 bullets into a house in Fulbourn (Cambridgeshire). A window was smashed with what was believed to be a firearm in east Hull - a man and a woman were arrested.
- A gasman fled from a house in Horwich (Greater Manchester) when the homeowner came downstairs wielding what appeared to be a gun.
- A man was arrested on suspicion of assault and firearms possession after a siege in Tylorstown (Glamorgan). A man and a woman were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm following an incident at a house in

- Netherley (Merseyside), and a man was arrested on suspicion of a firearms offence after an incident at a house in Wigston (Leicestershire).
- A man was arrested for an alleged firearms incident at a caravan park at the Isle of Whithorn (Dumfries and Galloway). Armed police searched two houses in Paignton (Devon) after reports of a man wielding a shotgun. A man from Newton Abbot (also in Devon) has been charged with possession of a handgun following a police raid in the town.
  - Five teenagers were arrested after a firearm is believed to have been used to threaten someone in Skegness (Lincolnshire).
  - A man has been arrested after he was seen with what appeared to be a handgun at his front door in Barnsley (South Yorkshire).
  - Two men carrying guns caused police alerts: a motorcyclist on his way to a registered shoot was stopped by police in Brighton and a motorist in Marsh Baldon (Oxfordshire) caused an alert when he stood beside his broken-down car with his shotgun.
  - **Gun & Ammunition Finds and Thefts** - Police found an arsenal of weapons and ammunition including a blank firing pistol and an air rifle at an address in Northampton where cannabis was also discovered - a man and a woman were arrested. An imitation gun was among items seized by police in Bolton during a major drugs operation.
  - Workers cleaning a canal in Brierley Hill (West Midlands) found a bag full of live rifle ammunition.
  - Burglars stole replica handguns, a competition air rifle and pellets from a house in Northampton.
  - **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Gun** and **Airgun Incidents**) - Two brothers were given sentences of over 30 years after being found guilty of the murder of a taxi driver who was shot dead in Pitsmoor (Sheffield). Another man has been given a minimum term of nine and a half years for shooting a cafe owner in Spital Hill (Sheffield). A man who seriously injured a student by shooting him at a concert in Loughborough (Leicestershire) has been jailed for a minimum of 14 years. A man found guilty of attempted murder after firing a volley of shots at a car in Luton has been jailed for 18 years.
  - Three men have been jailed for kidnapping a business man in Chingford, north London, and taking him to Sheffield - the victim was beaten and repeatedly threatened with a gun. Two of the offenders were jailed for six years, the other for ten years.
  - A man from Nottingham was jailed for 10 years for carrying a 45-calibre revolver loaded with five bullets.
  - A man who pleaded guilty to illegally keeping a number of guns at his property in Cwmanan (South Wales) has been told by the judge that he would be shown no mercy when it comes to sentencing. A licensed gunholder from Barrhead (Renfrewshire) is facing imprisonment for possession of ammunition in excess of the authorised amount and a number of other firearms charges - another man admitted four firearms charges. A man has been jailed for five years after admitting being in possession of a banned weapon and ammunition which the police found at his home in Kilmarnock (Ayrshire). An offender from Craigmillar (Edinburgh) who had a shotgun hidden in his sister's attic was sentenced to 28 months in prison.
  - Jail sentences were handed out to a number of offenders after firearms finds in Merseyside. A woman was jailed for five years and three months for minding a stash of weapons in her home in Orrell Park. A 17-year-old girl has been sentenced to three years after admitting hiding a machine pistol under her bed. Four men, including a 16-year-old, were sentenced

to between five years and six years and four months after police found a gun, bullets and cash at a property in Haydock.

- Three teenagers were given suspended sentences in a young offenders' institution and unpaid work and a fourth was given 12 months' supervision after they took a rifle and an air rifle following a party in Alsagers Bank (Staffordshire) and fired the weapons.
- A man who claimed to have a gun and threatened to shoot a woman and children in Jedburgh (Scottish Borders) has been found guilty of four charges of breach of the peace.
- **Airguns** - There were more incidents in which victims were shot with air weapons:
  - Five people (including four teenagers) have been charged after members of the public were shot at in Gloucester
  - A 13-year-old sustained an injury to her leg in Skipton (North Yorkshire)
  - A woman working at a garage in Boston (Lincolnshire) was shot in the leg - two teenagers have been arrested
  - A girl was shot in the head with an air rifle, apparently inside a flat in Bakewell (Derbyshire)
  - A 16-year-old was shot in the neck with an air rifle in a road in Litherland (Merseyside)
  - An 11-year-old girl was shot with an airgun while out playing with a friend in Barnsley (South Yorkshire)
- A train guard was threatened with an airgun at Horton in Ribblesdale (North Yorkshire) - two men have since been arrested.
- Two ambulances have been hit with shots from airguns whilst answering emergency calls in Middlesbrough.
- A couple were woken when one of their windows was shot twice with an air rifle in Bocking (Essex). In two incidents in Flockton (Huddersfield) airguns were fired at the rear window of a vehicle and a house window. A family in Portishead (Somerset) believe their kitchen window has been broken by an airgun pellet.
- It is thought that an airgun was used to try and break windows during a robbery at an opticians in Hampstead (north London).
- The Health and Safety Executive have been asked to investigate an incident in which an airgun pellet shattered an office window in Barnstaple (Devon).
- Three teenagers were arrested when an air rifle and two BB guns were seized at a house in Bracknell (Berkshire) after young men with guns had been spotted at a skate park in Chavey Down. An air rifle was recovered from a house in Swindon where four men were arrested after a firearms-related incident.
- Would-be armed robbers are believed to have thrown away a large air rifle in Cardiff - a man and a 14-year-old boy have been arrested.
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - A man has pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawful wounding after shooting a teenager in the face with an air rifle in Ribbleton (Preston). He was given a suspended six month sentence and placed on a four month night time curfew. An 18-year-old was put on a two year probation order for recklessly discharging an air rifle and severely injuring a child in Stonehouse (Lanarkshire). Another offender who shot two young men with an air rifle in Maesteg (South Wales) has been given an indeterminate sentence. A man who shot a young woman in the eye in Portland (Dorset) has been given a two year suspended sentence with a curfew.

- A man was placed under supervision for 12 months after pleading guilty to assault: he had threatened his partner with an air rifle during an attack in a house in Wheatley Hills (Doncaster).
- A man from Oldbury (West Midlands) who fired a powerful air rifle at his father-in-law after a drunken argument with his wife has been given a suspended 12 month jail term.
- A man seen brandishing an air rifle in a park in Culcheth (Cheshire) has been given a 12 month community order.
- A man from Sudbury (Suffolk) has been jailed for two years after ignoring a life-time ban on carrying a gun (police found an air rifle at his home).
- An inquest heard how two brothers were fired at with an air pistol in New Cross (south London) shortly before one of the gang responsible plunged a knife into one of them fatally wounding the victim.
- **Imitation Guns** - An 11-year-old was arrested after two primary school pupils were shot with a pellet gun in their school playground in York.
- An armed response team was called out after two youths were seen playing with a gun in Southend (Essex) - the teenager were arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearms in a public place.
- Police seized a ball-bearing gun after residents in Denton (Greater Manchester) reported seeing a man with a gun. Armed police arrested two men in Brigstock (Northamptonshire) after reports that a man was brandishing a firearm during a street brawl - a starting pistol was recovered.
- A family who have been subjected to anti-social behaviour on their estate in Corbridge (Northumberland) have had a window smashed with a ball-bearing gun.
- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man who pointed a starting gun at his ex-girlfriend in Morley (West Yorkshire) has been jailed for five years.
- There was further evidence of the use of imitation guns in robberies
  - A man has been jailed for five years after admitting a number of charges including possessing an imitation firearm and pointing it at two shop assistants in Inverness whilst he stole lager.
  - A teenager was armed with an imitation gun when he raided shops in the Reading area - he has been jailed for eight years.
  - A member of a gang who took part in a number of raids on jewellery shops (in the South and Midlands) has been convicted of possessing an imitation weapon during a raid in Winchester (Hampshire).
  - Two men involved in robberies in Lanarkshire were armed with replica guns - they have been given sentences of eight years and eight months and 11 years and 11 months.
  - Two men from Morecambe (Lancashire) have begun jail sentences totalling more than six years for offences which included robbing a delivery driver and trying to steal another man's wallet whilst armed with a realistic looking toy gun that one of them held to the head of two victims.
- A man has been given a two-year community order with supervision after pleading guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence - he had twice fired a ball-bearing gun at a woman employee at a Bradford hospital.
- A driver who pointed an imitation gun at another motorist on the M6 in Lancashire has been sentenced to 12 months in prison.
- A security guard has been awarded for bravery after helping to apprehend a man who was seen with a replica gun at a complex in East Kilbride - the man was jailed for 30 months.

- **Incidents Involving Animals** - April was a shocking month for reports of airgun attacks on cats. Serious injuries, a number of which were fatal, resulted from incidents reported from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset (two separate attacks), Edinburgh, Gloucestershire, Kent (four separate attacks), Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire (two separate attacks), Shropshire, Somerset and South Tyneside
- Birds remain targets of illegal shooting, and this month the Royal Society for Protection of Birds warned of the dangers to the survival of Britain's bird of prey population. A buzzard died after a shotgun attack in Ramsey (Cambridgeshire). Wild birds were being shot at with air rifles by men who were aiming at bird tables in a reserve in Colne (Lancashire). Seagulls have been the target of shooters in Hastings and Bexhill in Sussex. A coot was killed with an air weapon in Little Lever (Manchester), and a dove was shot with an air rifle in Brierley Hill (West Midlands). Swans were also attacked with air weapons with reports from Canterbury (Kent) and Long Eaton (Derbyshire).

## GUN INCIDENTS – April 2008

### ENGLAND

***This is Hull and East Riding***, 30 April 2008

A window was smashed in east **Hull** with what witnesses believe could have been a firearm. A man and a woman have been arrested.

***Daily Echo***, 30 April 2008

Gareth McCarthy fired an **air rifle** pellet into a young woman's eye while he was fooling around with the weapon in **Portland**, Dorset, in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was visiting the McCarthy's girlfriend at the time and is still receiving treatment for her eye. McCarthy pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing an El Gamo 5.5mm calibre air rifle and a charge of possessing ammunition less than five years after his release from a young offender institution. He was given a two year suspended sentence with a curfew.

***Birmingham Mail***, 30 April 2008

A teenager was shot in the leg during a party in a club in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. His injury is not believed to be life threatening.

***BBC***, 30 April 2008

Two boys, aged 15 and 16, were arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm in a public place after an armed response was called out when they were spotted playing with a gun in **Southend**, Essex. The weapon was a **BB gun**.

***BBC***, 30 April 2008

A security guard was shot with a stun gun by a robber at a store in **South Wootton**, Norfolk. Two men demanded cash before the gun was fired. They stole what police described as a "quantity of cash".

***BBC***, 30 April 2008

A man is in a critical condition after being shot at point-blank range by two men on the doorstep of his home in **Whitleigh**, Plymouth. He was taken to hospital with a shotgun wound to his stomach and facial injuries. It is believed the man was pistol whipped before being shot.

***Yorkshire Post***, 29 April 2008

A woman was robbed at gunpoint as she was walking in **Headingley**, Leeds. She was approached by a man who was armed with what is believed to have been a handgun who demanded money. She was told to walk away after handing over some cash.

***Nafferton Today***, 29 April 2008

A newsagents in **Doncaster** has been robbed by three men and a woman who threatened a worker with a handgun.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 29 April 2008

A taxi driver was held up at gunpoint in **Lincoln**. He had just dropped off two women customers when two men approached. He was forced to hand over his cash when he was threatened with a handgun.

**BBC**, 29 April 2008

A man was shot in the hand in **Bolton** and had to undergo surgery to remove the bullet. He has now left hospital. Police have released CCTV images of some of the group of men with whom the victim had been involved in an argument just before the shooting.

**BBC**, 29 April 2008

The 19-year-old from **Westbury-on-Trym**, Bristol charged with terrorist offences has, among other offences, been accused of possessing a quantity of **airgun** pellets.

**Times**, 28 April 2008

A former detective has been arrested by armed police at his home in **Darton**, Barnsley, after a newspaper photographer saw him with what appeared to be a handgun at his front door.

**Lakeland Echo**, 28 April 2008

Peter Quirk, 20, and Liam Ashworth, 19, have begun jail sentences totalling more than six years for offences which happened in September 2007 in **Morecambe**, Lancashire (see [Incidents](#)). They held a gun to the head of a takeaway worker and a delivery driver. They tried to steal a wallet and demanded cash from the delivery driver who gave them what was in his cab. The weapon was a **realistic looking toy gun**. Quirk pleaded guilty to robbery and three firearm offences. Ashworth admitted handling stolen goods and one firearms offence. Both men had been drinking heavily.

**Halesowen News**, 28 April 2008

Martin Cowley from **Oldbury**, West Midlands, fired a powerful **air rifle** at his father-in-law after a drunken argument with his wife. He had been drinking heavily at the time and followed his wife and son to his father-in-law's home armed with a .22 air rifle. Cowley sent a pellet into a window frame. He has been given a 12 month jail term suspended for two years.

**BBC**, 28 April 2008

A bag full of live rifle ammunition has been found during a clean up of a canal in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands. The rounds were collected by police officers to be safely disposed.

**Yorkshire Post**, 25 April 2008

An 11-year-old girl was shot with an **airgun** while out playing with a friend in **Barnsley**. The pellet went through her jeans and into her skin.

**This is Hertfordshire**, 25 April 2008

Three men have been jailed after kidnapping a business man. He was dragged into a car in **Chingford**, north London, and driven to **Sheffield** where he was held captive. He was beaten and repeatedly threatened with a gun. His girlfriend travelled to Yorkshire and handed over a substantial sum of money to secure his release. Dean Laycock, Nathan Sutton and Dwayne Smith were given concurrent sentences for kidnap and possession of a loaded handgun, Laycock for ten years and the others for six years.

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 25 April 2008

Danville Miller has been jailed indefinitely (minimum term of nine and a half years) after shooting a cafe owner in the stomach in **Spital Hill**. The victim recovered after emergency surgery but has been so traumatised he has since sold the businesses.

**Kilburn Times**, 25 April 2008

A man was shot dead in a barber's shop in **Harlesden**, north west London. The gunman burst in and shot his victim four times before fleeing.

**Times**, 24 April 2008

A 16-year-old was among four defendants on trial after a gun, bullets and £2000 in cash were found at a property in **Haydock**, Merseyside, in November 2007. Kieran Farrell was sentenced to five years' detention for conspiring to possess a firearm, ammunition and silencer: he had taken a taxi to the home of Philip Worsley where he had arranged to buy or rent a Browning 9mm pistol fitted with a silencer. Worsley pleaded guilty and was jailed for six years and four months. His "lieutenant Andrew Bell was sentenced to six years and "storage man" Lee Travis to six years and four months.

**Crosby Herald**, 24 April 2008

A 16-year-old was shot in the neck with an **air rifle** in a road in **Litherland**, Merseyside. He had gone out for to an ice-cream van with a friend. He was taken to hospital where he underwent a three-hour operation to remove the pellet which was embedded in his skull.

**Bakewell Today**, 24 April 2008

A girl was shot in the head with an **air rifle**, apparently fired inside a flat in **Bakewell**, Derbyshire. She was treated in hospital after pellets lodged in her head.

**Times**, 23 April 2008

A 17-year-old girl, Lindsay Shinkfield, has been sentenced to three years in a secure institution after she admitted hiding a machine pistol under her bed at her family home in **Huyton**, Merseyside. Police found the weapon in December 2007. They believe it was used in an incident in 2006 in which a person was injured.

**Echo (Essex)**, 23 April 2008

A teenager was threatened by the driver of a car who pulled a silver handgun on him and demanded his mobile phone. The victim, who had been riding along a road in **West Horndon** at the time, refused and drove off.

**Devon 24**, 23 April 2008

The Health and Safety Executive have been asked by the police to look into an incident in which an **airgun** pellet shattered an office window in **Barnstaple**. It is thought that the damage may have been caused by a ricochet whilst a pest control company was dealing with a pigeon problem.

**Rochdale Observer**, 22 April 2008

A man was gunned down in the street as he walked through an estate in **Rochdale**, Lancashire. Police were called and shortly afterwards traced the victim to hospital. He had injuries to his legs and lower back which are not thought to be life threatening.

**Newmarket Journal**, 21 April 2008

Armed robbers targeted a security van at a supermarket in **Ely**, Cambridgeshire. The offenders are believed to have been armed with shotgun. They were forced to flee empty-handed in a car later found abandoned.

**Fenland Citizen**, 21 April 2008

Safraz Majid has been found guilty of attempted murder, perverting the course of justice and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. He had fired a volley of shots at a car in **Luton** in October 2006. The driver tried to get away and collided with two other vehicles. He has been jailed for 18 years.

**Cambridge News**, 21 April 2008

A man armed with an automatic rifle fired around 25 bullets into a house in **Fulbourn**, Cambridgeshire, before speeding off on a motorbike. Police arrived later and cordoned off the street.

**Bracknell Forest Standard**, 21 April 2008

Three teenagers have been arrested after an **air rifle** and two **BB guns** were seized at a **Bracknell** house. They were tracked down after a member of the public called 999 to say he had seen three young men with guns near a skate park in **Chavey Down** near Ascot, Berkshire.

**BBC**, 21 April 2008

A train guard was threatened with a gun after refusing to let two men travel. They had been ejected from the train at Settle but returned with an **airgun** as the train arrived at **Horton in Ribblesdale**. One of the men pointed the weapon at the guard. Two men, one aged 18, have been arrested (*Lakeland Echo*, 29 April 2008).

**BBC**, 21 April 2008

A man is on trial charged with the murder of a man in an "execution style" shooting in **Birmingham** in April 2003 (see [Incidents](#)). He was arrested after routine DNA checks confirmed a match and the murder weapon was allegedly found under his pillow along with other firearms at his home in **Kingstanding**. Another man has also been charged with possessing the weapons.

**BBC**, 21 April 2008

Jermain Carty has been jailed for a minimum of 14 years for shooting a student who was working as a doorman at a concert in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire, in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He had denied attempted murder and possession of a firearm. His victim was seriously injured when he was hit three times.

**Sunday Mirror**, 20 April 2008

Makin Dayil from **Nottingham** has been jailed for 10 years for carrying a 45-calibre revolver loaded with five bullets.

**Lowestoft Journal**, 20 April 2008

A masked raider fled empty-handed from a shop in **Lowestoft** after confronting the owners with a handgun. The owners told him there was no money and the man ran away.

**BBC**, 20 April 2008

A man is in hospital after being shot in the buttocks in **Werneth**, Oldham.

**The Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent)**, 19 April 2008

Four teenagers attending a party in **Alsagers Bank** in August 2007 took a rifle and an **air rifle** from the house, which belonged to the parents of one of them, Charlotte Clowry, 18. They drove in a car and fired the weapons in a wood. They then took the guns to **Audley** Community Centre. Kyle Williams, 19, said all of them had a shot but the others denied firing either weapon. The rifle was returned (100 rounds of ammunition were missing) but the air rifle, which had been used to shoot at a pigeon, tin cans, trees and a glass bottle, was never recovered. All four defendants pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without a certificate, and Williams and Clowry also pleaded guilty to possessing an air weapon in a public place. Clowry, Williams and Phillip Adams, 19, all received suspended sentences in a young offenders' institution, and unpaid work. Nathan Moss, 16, was given 12 months' supervision.

**Press Association**, 19 April 2008

Armed officers attended a street brawl in **Brigstock**, Northamptonshire, after reports that a man was brandishing a firearm. The fight involved four men. Two of the men were arrested on suspicion of assault and firearms offences and a **starting pistol** was recovered.

**Worksop Guardian**, 18 April 2008

Two teenagers have been arrested after they allegedly fired an **airgun** at cars on the forecourt of a garage in **Boston**, Lincolnshire. A woman who works at the garage was shot in the leg and was taken to hospital.

**BBC**, 18 April 2008

Two masked men robbed a building society at gunpoint in **Moortown**, West Yorkshire. One man stood at the door with a gun and the other took cash and threatened staff. The men then stole a car.

**BBC**, 18 April 2008

Police were examining whether a gun was used in a robbery on a security van guard outside a bank in **Poole**, Dorset. It is not known whether any cash was stolen. A man and a woman have been arrested.

**BBC**, 18 April 2008

A man is at the centre of a police investigation into robberies at branches of two banks in **Sheffield**. Police have issued a picture after he walked into one branch with a gun and demanded money.

**BBC**, 18 April 2008

An armed man walked into a bank in **Cheltenham**, Gloucestershire, and demanded money. He said he was carrying a handgun and also claimed to have a bomb. The police would not say whether or not any cash was stolen.

**BBC**, 18 April 2008

Three men have been found guilty of taking part in a number of jewellery raids across the Midlands and the South. Luke Nash was convicted of robbing a jewellery shop in Winchester, Hampshire, in December 2006 and of possessing an **imitation firearm** during the raid. Simon Waller pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to a string of robberies and Elliott Burton was convicted of taking part in nine raids: he absconded while on bail. The shop owner in **Winchester** described how the gun was held to his head during a second raid on the premises.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 17 April 2008

A family in **Portishead**, Somerset, who have been plagued by dog walkers throwing bags of dog faeces over the fence and into their garden have also had their kitchen window broken by what they believe to be an **airgun pellet**.

**Shields Gazette**, 17 April 2008

A window of an upstairs flat was shattered by a gunshot in **South Shields**, Tyneside. Since the incident armed police have swooped on two addresses in Westee and Biddick Hall. A man and a 17-year-old youth have been arrested (*Shields Gazette*, 18 April 2008), and another three people were arrested later (*Shields Gazette*, 21 April 2008).

**Oxford Mail**, 17 April 2008

A police helicopter and two police cars were scrambled when a man was seen with a shotgun standing beside a car at **Marsh Baldon**, Oxfordshire. It turned out that the man had a licence for the gun and his car had broken down. A policeman waited with him while his vehicle was recovered.

**Manchester Evening News**, 17 April 2008

A couple were threatened at gunpoint by raiders at the home in **Higher Blackley**, Manchester. The four men tied up the homeowners and threatened them at gunpoint. The man was assaulted with the weapon. The house was ransacked before the gang escaped with cash and a TV.

**Kent Online**, 17 April 2008

A man carrying a black handgun walked into a filling station in **Farnington**, Kent, and demanded money from a member of staff. He took a cash tin and walked out of the premises.

**Herald Express**, 17 April 2008

A man from **Newton Abbot**, Devon, has been charged with possession of a handgun following a police raid in the town. Officers also recovered ammunition and a small amount of cannabis.

**BBC**, 17 April 2008

Two primary school pupils have been shot by a youth who fired a **pellet gun** into the playground of a school in **York**. One was hit on the elbow, the second on a shin. Although one of the boys was in a lot of pain neither child was seriously hurt. An 11-year-old boy has been arrested (*BBC*, 21 April 2008).

**97.4 rockfm**, 17 April 2008

Andrew Friar took out an **imitation gun** as he passed another motorist on the M6 at **Leyland**, Lancashire, in September 2007. He took both hands off the wheel and simulated loading the gun before pointing it at the victim. He has been sentenced to 12 months in prison.

**Woking News & Mail**, 16 April 2008

A man found dead at the shotgun ranges of the National Rifle Association at **Bisley**, Surrey, is believed to have shot himself in the head. An inquest has been opened.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 16 April 2008

Shahzad Shahpal twice fired a **ball-bearing gun** at a woman employee at a psychiatric hospital in **Bradford** and held the weapon to a delivery driver's head. He was arrested by an armed response team. He has pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was sentenced to a two-year community order with supervision and a condition that he undertake psychiatric treatment for 12 months or for as long as doctors deem appropriate. The judge branded such guns a menace.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 16 April 2008

A man is recovering in hospital after being attacked in **Sholing**, Southampton, by a gang armed with a handgun. The man was left with bruising to his head and chest and a stab wound to his leg. Two people are in custody in relation to the assault.

**BBC**, 16 April 2008

An **imitation gun** was among items seized by police during an operation in **Bolton** to crack a major drugs ring in Greater Manchester.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 15 April 2008

A 13-year-old walking with a friend in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire, sustained an injury to her leg and believes she was shot with an **air rifle**.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 15 April 2008

Armed police officers stormed a house in the centre of **Swindon** and arrested four men after a firearms related incident. An **air rifle** has been recovered.

**Midhurst and Petworth Observer**, 15 April 2008

Stuart Raven shot himself after taking part in a clay pigeon shooting session in **Midhurst**, Sussex, in November 2007. He was found dead by an 11-year old boy. A coroner has recorded that he took his own life while suffering from depression.

**Herald Express**, 15 April 2008

Armed police searched two houses in **Paignton**, Devon, after reports of a man wielding a shotgun. Nothing was found and inquiries are continuing.

**Daily Post (Liverpool)**, 15 April 2008

Paula Robinson has been jailed for five years and three months for minding a stash of weapons which were found by police when her home in **Orrell Park**, Liverpool, was raided in January 2008. They discovered a bag containing three handguns, one with a silencer and loaded with a live round. She pleaded guilty to 11 firearms offences.

**Bolton News**, 15 April 2008

A taxi was stolen at gunpoint in **Collyhurst**, north Manchester. Shortly after three people got into the taxi one of the offenders grabbed the driver from behind and restrained him with a seatbelt. Another produced a knife and a sawn-off shotgun and demanded cash. The driver was then told to get out of the vehicle and the offenders drove off.

**Warrington Guardian**, 14 April 2008

Antony Peers, 21, who was seen brandishing an **air rifle** in a park in **Culcheth**, Cheshire, in November 2007, has been given a 12 month community order. He had approached two women and began to swear at them. The women then saw him fire the gun and alerted the police.

**Hartlepool Mail**, 14 April 2008

A masked robber held a handgun to the head of a female worker after three men burst into a takeaway in **Hartlepool**. They made off in a getaway car with the till and "a large quantity of cash".

**This is Lancashire**, 12 April 2008

A newsagent from **Prestwich** chased a gun-toting raider down the street after he had been confronted by the man carrying a handgun after opening up his shop. No-one was hurt in the incident but the gunman is still at large.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 12 April 2008

An **airgun** was fired at the rear window of a vehicle in **Flockton**. In another incident in **Flockton** an **air weapon** was fired at a house window.

**This is Hampshire**, 11 April 2008

A gunman ran off with a cash box after holding up a security van outside a store in **Four Marks**, near Alton. He had approached one of the guards with a small, silver handgun.

**Surrey Advertiser**, 11 April 2008

A woman was threatened at gunpoint during a robbery at a betting shop in **Ewell**. Three men demanded money from the cashier before emptying the tills and unlocking the drawers of four games machines.

**Manchester Evening News**, 11 April 2008

Police seized a **ball-bearing gun** after residents in **Denton** reported seeing a man in the street with a firearm. A 20-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of firearms offences.

**Malvern Gazette**, 11 April 2008

A burglar was seen on the roof of a shop in **Malvern Wells**, Worcestershire, by a neighbour armed with a shotgun. He and another man had been attempting to open a skylight. The neighbour threatened to shoot them if they did not stop. The man, who has admitted burglary, was put on probation for three years.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 11 April 2008

A man was rushed to hospital after being shot in the neck in **Deepdale**, Preston. The shot was fired from a car. The victim was taken to hospital where his injuries were not thought to be life threatening.

**Hexham Courant**, 11 April 2008

A family who have recently moved to **Corbridge**, Northumberland, have been subjected to anti-social behaviour on their own estate. On one occasion a window was smashed with a **ball bearing gun**.

**Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)**, 11 April 2008

Two ambulances were hit by **airgun** shots while answering emergency calls in **Middlesbrough**.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 11 April 2008

An 18-year-old is in hospital under police guard after he was shot as he walked through the cemetery in **Walker**, Newcastle. A bullet has been removed from his right thigh (*Evening Chronicle*, 12 April 2008).

**BBC**, 11 April 2008

Brothers Ashley Cohen and David Cohen will serve 33 and 31 years respectively after being found guilty of the murder of a taxi driver in the **Pitsmoor** area of Sheffield in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Their victim was shot while driving his cab. The attack was a revenge attack against the victim's son who had taken a gun to David Cohen's house in revenge for trouble at a Sheffield nightclub.

**BBC**, 11 April 2008

Five people, including four teenagers (two aged 14 and one 13) have been charged after members of the public were allegedly shot at in **Gloucester**. They were charged with possessing an **air weapon** in public after an imitation firearm was recovered.

**This is Total Essex**, 10 April 2008

A couple in **Bocking** were awoken by the sound of breaking glass after their window was shot twice with an **air rifle**.

**Bolton News**, 10 April 2008

A gasman fled from a house in **Horwich** when the homeowner came downstairs wielding what appeared to be a gun. The gasman had been trying to change the meter because the householder had been served with a disconnection warrant. Police raided the house to find the suspect no longer there.

**BBC**, 10 April 2008

Police were hunting three teenage robbers, probably aged between 15 and 18, who threatened betting shop staff with a gun. They escaped with a large amount of cash after robbing a betting shop in **Cleethorpes**, Humberside.

**BBC**, 10 April 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of a firearms offence after an incident at a house in **Wigston**, Leicestershire. There were reports that a man had been threatening someone with a gun.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 9 April 2008

Burglars who raided two houses in **Northampton** stole **replica handguns** (a Desert Eagle replica and a Glock replica) and an **air rifle** (Walther competition airgun). A tin of pellets was also stolen.

**Morley Observer & Advertiser**, 9 April 2008

Sean Hodgson pointed a **starting gun** at his ex-girlfriend at her home in **Morley**, West Yorkshire, in November 2007. He then asked a neighbour to get rid of the gun but took it back from her and went back to his ex-girlfriend. The gun had been taken from a youth the day before. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, possessing ammunition without a firearm certificate and failing to provide a breath specimen. He has been jailed for five years.

**Get Reading**, 9 April 2008

Aaron O'Neill, then 19, was responsible for five raids in a two-day spree with an **imitation gun** in February 2008. His targets were three shops, a bookmakers and a sandwich outlet in the **Reading** area. He also ordered a taxi driver to drive him home which the driver did once he spotted the imitation handgun and a carrier bag full of cash. He was caught the next day after stealing money from another shop. He was jailed for eight years.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 8 April 2008

A teenager was shot in the face with an **air rifle** seconds after his girlfriend told the gunman not to aim at them as they were walking home in **Ribbleton**, Preston, in August 2007. He was fortunate not to lose his sight. The gunman, Jamie Murphy, has pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawful wounding. His defence claimed he was aiming at chimney pots as well as a tin can. Murphy was sentenced to six months in a young offenders institution, suspended for 18 months, and placed on a four month night time curfew. Four days after the court case the teenage victim was stabbed and left in a pool of blood after an alleged robbery in **Ribbleton** (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 15 April 2008).

**BBC**, 8 April 2008

A machine gun has been fired at a derelict former nightclub in **Bury**, Lancashire. Police said 24 bullet holes were found in the side of the building and 18 spent cartridges were found nearby. No one was hurt.

**BBC**, 7 April 2008

One of three men who entered a jewellers in **Bournemouth** and threatened staff appeared to be carrying a handgun. The thieves smashed windows and displays and made off with a large amount of jewellery.

**The Argus (Brighton)**, 5 April 2008

A motorcyclist on his way to a registered shoot was stopped by police officers in **Brighton** after he was seen riding with a 12 bore shotgun strapped to his back. A force helicopter was scrambled in the process.

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 4 April 2008

Gary Hamilton used a gun to threaten his partner during an attack in a house in **Wheatley Hills**, Doncaster, which landed her in hospital. Hamilton pleaded guilty to the assault and was placed under supervision for 12 months. He has had the **air rifle** confiscated. His partner wrote to the judge pleading for him not to be jailed.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 4 April 2008

A man and a woman were arrested following the discovery of a cannabis and an arsenal of weapons at an address in **Northampton**. The weapons including an 8mm self-loading **blank firing pistol** and a high powered **air rifle** and sight, as well as ammunition including a single rifle bullet, shotgun cartridges and ammunition for the blank firing gun.

**News Shopper**, 4 April 2008

An inquest has heard how two brothers were near their family home in **New Cross**, south London, in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)), when a gang fired at them with an **air pistol** and then plunged a knife into one of them. The victim was pronounced dead in hospital. No one has been brought to justice for the murder. A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded.

**BBC**, 4 April 2008

A man and a woman have been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm following an incident at a house in **Netherley**, Merseyside.

**Suffolk Free Press**, 3 April 2008

Andrew Browning from **Sudbury**, Suffolk, has been jailed for two years after ignoring a life-time ban on carrying a gun and breaking his wife's arm with a saucepan. Police officers had found an **air rifle** when they searched his home. He was jailed for three years in 1991 for attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

**Skegness Standard**, 3 April 2008

Five teenagers were arrested after a firearm is believed to have been used to threaten someone in **Skegness**.

**Camden New Journal**, 3 April 2008

An optician's shop in **Hampstead**, north London, has been raided and sunglasses worth £15,000 stolen. It is thought that the thieves used an **airgun** to try and break windows.

**BBC**, 3 April 2008

A man armed with a handgun threatened staff at a building society in **Cheltenham** during an attempted robbery. He fled empty-handed.

**Wimbledon Guardian**, 2 April 2008

A 15-year-old was shot in **Streatham Hill**, south London. He received gunshot wounds to the lower part of his body. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

**BBC**, 1 April 2008

A man and a teenage boy were shot in an internet cafe in **Hockley**, Birmingham. Both remain under armed guard in hospital. Neither of the victims suffered life-threatening injuries.

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## SCOTLAND

**ic Lanarkshire**, 30 April 2008

A security guard has received an award for his act of bravery. Henry McLaggann conversed with a drunken man who was seen with a gun tucked into his trousers until the police arrived at the complex in **East Kilbride**, Lanarkshire. Gordon Brodie was disarmed and searched by police who found a tin of 17 dummy bullets matching a .38 Italian Magnum **replica gun**. He was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment.

**Scotland on Sunday**, 27 April 2008

A man was arrested by police investigating an alleged firearms incident at a caravan park at the **Isle of Whithorn**, Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway. They received a 999 call from a man who claimed to have a firearm.

**BBC**, 15 April 2008

John Conway and two friends drank 18 cans of lager he stole from a shop during a five-and-a-half hour siege in **Inverness** in February 2008. He has been jailed for five years after admitting to a number of charges including assaulting two female shop assistants and possessing an **imitation pistol** and presenting the weapon at them.

**Evening Times**, 11 April 2008

An armed robber fled with thousands of pounds after a raid at a shopping centre in **Shawlands**, Glasgow. A security guard was taking cash from the arcade when he was approached by a man who threatened him with a gun.

**Hamilton Advertiser**, 10 April 2008

Hugh Rodger, 18, of **Stonehouse**, Lanarkshire, was put on a two year probation order for recklessly discharging an **air rifle** and severely injuring a child. The victim, a boy aged between 12 and 14, was permanently impaired. Rodger, who had pleaded guilty to the charge of recklessly discharging an air rifle, failed to turn up for a probation review and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

**BBC**, 10 April 2008

A man is to stand trial on a charge of claiming to have a gun and threatening to take a hostage in **Jedburgh**, Scottish Borders, in January 2008. He also denied threatening to shoot a woman in a local newsagents and threatening to shoot a man's children. David Williamson has been found guilty of four charges of breach of the peace (**BBC**, 29 April 2008).

**BBC**, 10 April 2008

Nasir Ahmed took part in an attack on a man at a house in **Shotts**, Lanarkshire, whilst armed with a **replica gun**. He and another man ran off but were chased in their car by the occupant of the house who rammed their vehicle. Ahmed together with Azeem Sarwaar was involved in another violent raid on a home in Cambuslang in July 2007 in which they stole £50000. Sarwaar also tried to rob a postman in **Lanarkshire** in September 2007 when he too used a **replica gun** which he pointed at his victim and demanded keys to the vehicle. Sarwaar was jailed for a total of 11 years and 11 months, and Ahmed for eight years and eight months.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 8 April 2008

Alexander Cairns of **Craigmillar** confessed to police he had a shotgun hidden in his sister's attic. He revealed a sawn-off shotgun wrapped in a towel stuffed inside a tennis racket sleeve. Police also found 31 cartridges. He admitted in court to possessing the weapon and was sentenced to 28 months in prison.

**BBC**, 8 April 2008

Mohammed Hussain has been jailed for five years after admitting being in possession of a banned weapon and ammunition. Police had recovered a sawn-off rifle and bullets from his home in **Kilmarnock** in November 2007. He claimed he had found the gun in a car park in **Port Glasgow** but had been too lazy to hand it in.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 7 April 2008

A gunman walked into a garage in **Renfrew** and held a pistol at an assistant before demanding money from the till. The assistant refused to hand over any cash who left empty handed.

**Barrhead News**, 3 April 2008

A licensed gun-holder, William McCready, has admitted to possession of ammunition in excess of the authorised amount, failing to store them properly, and having a quantity of prohibited bullets designed to explode on impact. He appeared alongside, Alan McDonald who admitted four firearms charges. The men, both from **Barrhead**, are facing imprisonment.

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## WALES

**Daily Post**, 26 April 2008

Steven Roberts, 18, who admitted possessing an offensive weapon after brandishing a knife at a McDonalds restaurant in **Mold** was also in breach of a conditional discharge for previously having an **airgun** in public. He was given a 10-month sentence in a young offenders' institute.

**South Wales Echo**, 19 April 2008

Russell Saunders shot two young men with a potentially lethal **air rifle** as they returned home along a street in **Maesteg** in April 2007. A court heard that he had been hoarding air rifles, stun guns and anarchist literature and a homemade bomb in his bedsit. He was given an indeterminate sentence.

**Rhondda Leader**, 17 April 2008

Armed police officers surrounded a house in **Tylorstown**, Glamorgan, in a four-hour siege after fears a man who lived there had a gun. They later arrested a man on suspicion of assault and firearms possession.

**ic Wales**, 16 April 2008

Bernard Davies has pleaded guilty to illegally keeping a number of guns, including a pump-action shotgun and a revolver and to possessing exploding bullets. He also admitted drugs offences. The drugs and weapons were found during police raids on his house and garage in **Cwmanan** in Cynon Valley. The judge said that he would show no mercy to Davies when it comes to sentencing.

**South Wales Echo**, 15 April 2008

A student on his way home from college in **Trowbridge** in Cardiff was left traumatised after a teenager held what was believed to be a real gun to his head. The attacker closed in on the student and pushed the victim against a fence and demanded his wallet whilst the weapon was pressed into his temple. The attacker then pretended the incident was just a bit of fun before he ran away.

**South Wales Echo**, 2 April 2008

Would-be armed robbers are believed to have thrown away a large **air rifle** and a large kitchen knife into gardens after an attempted heist at a pub in **Cardiff**. A man and a 14-year-old boy have been arrested.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Shields Gazette**, 29 April 2008

A cat has lost the sight in one eye after being shot with an **airgun**. The stray was found on the streets in **South Tyneside** and dropped off at South Tyneside and Sunderland Animal Rescue.

**Lynn News**, 29 April 2008

An **airgun** attack has left a cat with a .22 pellet lodged in its skull. The cat from **Gaywood**, Norfolk, was shot in the head with the pellet entering his nose, passing through his mouth and lodging in the root of his tongue. His owner has been left with a £2,500 vet's bill.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 27 April 2008

Police marksmen shot dead a pair of Rottweilers who attacked and killed a horse in a field in **Haslingden**, near Blackburn.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 25 April 2008

A cat belonging to a nine-year-old boy has been left with horrific eye injuries after being shot by an **air rifle** in **Walton Cardiff**, Gloucestershire. The cause of the injuries was discovered when X-rays were taken. This is the second time that the pet has been shot.

*yourcanterbury.co.uk*, 24 April 2008

A swan has been shot twice in the head with an **air rifle** in **Canterbury**. She is now recovering at a wildlife centre in East Sussex.

*Daily Echo*, 24 April 2008

A cat was fighting for her life after being shot in the spine with an **air rifle** in **West Moors**, Dorset. The attack is believed to have taken place in a forest behind the cat's home.

*Daily Echo*, 24 April 2008

Another cat has been left fatally wounded in an **airgun** attack. The cat was shot with an airgun pellet at **Lower Bockhampton**, Dorset, and was left paralysed in his back legs. His owners had no choice but to have their pet put down.

*Chad (Mansfield)*, 23 April 2008

A 10-year-old cat was found dead by its owners near their home in **Mansfield**. The pet had an **air weapon** wound in the left-hand side of her stomach.

*Bucks Herald*, 23 April 2008

A cat from **Aylesbury** has survived an **air weapon** attack despite suffering horrific injuries. Her pelvis was shattered by one pellet which entered above her left hind leg and she had a hernia where another pellet had ruptured part of her abdomen.

*BBC*, 21 April 2008

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has warned that illegal shooting is threatening the survival of Britain's bird of prey population. It believes that some killings are being carried out by those who see birds of prey as a threat to the grouse shooting industry. The killings are happening in areas such as the **north Pennines**, the **Yorkshire Dales**, the **North York Moors** and the **Peak District**.

*Bexhill-on-Sea Observer*, 15 April 2008

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service report that there have been six shootings of seagulls in **Hastings**, Sussex, in the last three weeks. According to their casualty care manager people are shooting the gulls with a shotgun rather than an air rifle. However, in neighbouring **Bexhill** two seagulls have been shot with **air rifles** within two weeks (*Bexhill-on-Sea Observer*, 18 April 2008).

*Kent Online*, 11 April 2008

A woman whose two cats were shot with an **air rifle** in **Marden** now fears for the safety of her two young children. In the latest attack her car staggered into the home with pellets lodged in her head, leg and chest. In the previous attack another of her cats was injured in the foot.

*Evening News (Edinburgh)*, 11 April 2008

A stray cat has been found in **South Queensferry** horrifically injured after being shot with an **airgun** 40 times. It is believed that the cat was held down while being repeatedly shot. He has had to have one of his legs amputated.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 10 April 2008

A cat has died after being hit by an **airgun** pellet in **Weston Village**, Somerset. Her owner found the cat wheezing and when she was turned over she could see she was bleeding. She was pronounced dead on arrival at a veterinary centre.

**Kent News**, 10 April 2008

Three cats have been badly injured after being shot with **air rifles** in incidents in **Biggin Hill, Eltham** and **Westerham**.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 9 April 2008

**Air rifle** thugs are shooting rare birds at a nature reserve in **Colne**. Passers-by saw men lying on the ground and shooting at bird tables in the reserve. When approached the men said they were practising target shooting. Police said the men put at risk the lives of families enjoying the reserve who could have been hit by a stray pellet.

**News Shopper**, 9 April 2008

A cat was shot through the eye with an **air rifle** in **Eltham**, south east London. He was taken to the vets after arriving home wounded and has had to have an eye removed.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 9 April 2008

A cat is recovering after becoming a victim of an **air rifle** shooting in **Shirebrook**, Nottinghamshire. He suffered multiple fractures in the shooting which happened in the garden of his new home.

**The Press (York)**, 7 April 2008

A cat shot near her home in **York** has died following a two-and-a-half hour operation in a bid to save her life. The vet's bill will cost her owner more than £1000. An **airgun** pellet had lodged in the cat's abdomen damaging her liver and intestines.

**Express & Star**, 7 April 2008

A dove let out for a flight by its owner has been shot with an **air rifle**. The bird was one of three released that were perching on the roof of the owner's house in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands, when it was hit.

**Shropshire Star**, 4 April 2008

A kitten was left desperately clinging to life after being shot "at close range" with an **air rifle**. She was found by her owner cowering behind a shed in the garden in **Wellington**.

**Hunts Post**, 3 April 2008

A bird of prey died a week after being deliberately injured in a shotgun attack. The buzzard was found at the side of a road in **Ramsey**, Cambridgeshire.

**BBC**, 3 April 2008

Vets were trying to save the sight of a cat after it was shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Woodley**, Berkshire. The owners found the cat cowering under a bed with one eye closed.

**Manchester Evening News**, 2 April 2008

A dead coot recovered from **Little Lever**, Greater Manchester, was found to have been shot with an **air weapon**. It is illegal to kill these birds during the mating season from March to July.

**Evening Telegraph (Derby)**, 1 April 2008

A swan has been found dead and another seriously injured in an **airgun** attack near a canal in **Long Eaton**, Derbyshire. The injured bird had to be put down by a vet a week later.

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