

AUGUST 2005 - SUMMARY

We were unable to undertake as detailed a survey of gun incidents as usual during August 2005.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Two shocking incidents in London were widely reported in the news. Three people were tied up and killed in a shooting at a flat in Stonebridge and a woman holding a baby was shot dead at a christening party in Peckham. In another incident a man was shot dead and two other people injured after a pub argument in Ilford in east London. In another incident in London a man was shot at after his car smashed into railings in Walworth. A director of Queens Park Rangers football club was kicked and beaten at the club's west London ground during an attack in which a gun was held to his head. In the West Midlands a teenager was charged with murder following a shooting in Digbeth in July and a security guard and a customer were shot during an attempted robbery on a bank in Great Barr. Police in Fife were searching for a gunman who shot a man on his doorstep in Kelty.
- **Armed Hold-Ups** - There were armed raids on a shop in a Manchester shopping centre, a charity shop in Peterborough (the robber left empty handed), on banks in Muswell Hill (north London), Denny (central Scotland) and Great Barr (two people were shot and injured - see above) and on a petrol station in Croydon. A cab driver in Langley Green (Surrey) had his taxi taken by armed men, although the vehicle was later returned. In Norwich a man was robbed of his mobile phone at gunpoint - it was later suggested that the weapon was an imitation weapon.
- **Armed Responses** - Armed police confronted a gunman at a house in Grangetown (Cardiff) and there was a four-hour stand off between police and an armed man at a house in Dunster (Somerset).
- **Police Raid** - Guns and ammunition were seized by police during raids on three homes in Merseyside.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Air Rifles**) - A number of men received long jail sentences for offences involving guns: a man who shot dead a two-year-old in Easterhouse (Glasgow) with an airgun and was found guilty of murder (13 years), three men involved in the murder of a gangster who was shot with an automatic rifle outside a gym in Hoddesdon (minimum sentences of 30 years and 25 years, and 5 years), two men who carried out a violent kidnap in south London (20 years and

17 years), a convicted killer who carried out eight armed raids in south London and the Home Counties during the three years after his release (eight life terms - in each raid he had brandished an imitation gun), a man who shot a policeman in the legs in Bromley (22 years), a man who held a pistol to a young mother's eye in east London (10 years - the weapon was an imitation gun), a man who pistol whipped a father in front of his family in south London (3 years - the weapon was a blank-firing handgun) and a student who kept a double-barrelled sawn-off shotgun under his bed in Northampton (five years).

- **Imitation Guns** - The majority of the reported incidents involved young people, as victims or perpetrators. Incidents involving BB guns were reported in which a 12-year-old girl was shot and injured by her sister's boyfriend in Hartlepool (the offender was sentenced to three weeks imprisonment), two boys aged 11 and 9 were shot in Scarborough and a 12-year-old boy was hit in a park in Millom. A teenager caused alarm when he waved a BB gun at shoppers in Knutsford and two 17-year-olds were arrested after firing a BB gun from a car in Norwich. It was reported that the weapon used in a street robbery in Norwich was also an imitation gun. A shooting spree involving airsoft guns resulted in widespread damage to cars in Somerset. Two young boys, one aged 10 the other 14, received anti-social behaviour orders for causing problems to neighbours including using BB guns (Kirkdale, Merseyside and Norwich).
- Three of the men given long jail sentences (see above) were reported to have used imitation guns in their crimes, an aggravated burglary in east London, a series of raids on bookmakers in south London and the Home Counties and an attack on a father in south London.
- **Airgun Attacks** - The conviction for murder and sentencing of Mark Bonini who killed Glasgow toddler Andrew Morton with an airgun shot (see above) reflects both the dangerousness of air weapons and the seriousness with which airgun crime should be treated. Incidents involving airguns were reported from Ludlow (a woman was reported to have been shot) and Cannock Chase hospital where a man was brandishing an air pistol in a patients' waiting area. The Livingston firecrew found what appeared to be a dent caused by an air rifle in the side of their engine after it had been attacked during a call-out. In Peterborough an air rifle was found when armed police surrounded a flat where they also came across suspected stolen goods. Police had to issue a warning to airgun owners after reports of a gun being fired from the a house in Comberton (Cambridge) into a neighbouring property.
- A man received a 20-month jail sentence after he had shot a man with an air rifle in Buckley (north Wales) (his victim suffered mouth injuries), another was told he faced a possible jail sentence after randomly shooting and injuring two women in Galashiels and another was in court charged with shooting a man with an air rifle in Stevenston (Ayrshire).

- **Stun Gun Attack** - A Manchester couple were shot with a stun gun during an attack in which the woman was kidnapped.

AUGUST 2005 – INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

Evening News (Norwich), 31 August 2005

Armed police were called out to **Norwich** city centre after a teenager was seen firing a gun from a car window. The weapon, a **BB gun**, was later recovered from a garden and two 17-year-olds were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear.

Telegraph, 29 August 2005

A woman holding a baby was shot dead at a christening party in **Peckham** that was raided by a gang of armed robbers. Three hooded men armed with a sawn-off shotgun and a pistol burst in and began stealing bags and mobile telephones. The victim stood up to the robbers and was shot immediately.

Eastern Daily Press, 29 August 2005

A man was robbed of his mobile phone at gunpoint in **Norwich**. He was walking home with friends when two men jumped out of a car and threatened him with a handgun and stole the phone. Another mugging and robbery two days later may be linked (*Evening News (Norwich)*, 30 August 2005). A later report suggested that the gun was an **imitation firearm** (*Evening News (Norwich)*, 31 August 2005)

Times, 27 August 2005

Three men, Roger Vincent, David Smith and Julian Elfes, were jailed for the murder of a gangster in **Hoddesdon** in October 2003 (see [Incidents](#)). The gang was believed to be an underworld hit squad. Vincent and Smith were sentenced to a minimum of 30 years and 25 years, respectively, and Elfes for 5 years (*Guardian*, 24 August 2005). The article describes how the murder weapon, an AK47 rifle made for special forces in Hungary, had been sold by the Hungarian prison service to a company run by a Belgium arms dealer who sold weapons legally and illegally all over the world and was jailed in Belgium for two years for illegal arms trafficking.

Mirror, 26 August 2005

A teenager was captured on camera waving a gun at shoppers in **Knutsford** watched by a gang of his friends. The weapon was a **BB gun**.

icSouth London, 26 August 2005

A petrol station cashier was hit in the face with a handgun as a gunman demanded money in an attack in **Croydon**. The gunman grabbed cash from the till and ran away.

icSouth London, 26 August 2005

Robert Cassan held a pistol to a young mother's eye and threatened to execute her after he and another man had kicked down her front door in **Manor Park**. He was found guilty of three counts of false imprisonment and also convicted of possession of an **imitation gun** with intent to cause fear of violence and aggravated burglary. He was jailed for 10 years.

BBC, 26 August 2005

A shooting spree with a **soft airgun** caused damage to more than 20 cars in **Somerton, Martock, Long Sutton and Yeovil**. Shop windows in **Castle Cary** may also have been targeted police have said. They were searching for two men seen driving a car in the area.

North West Evening Mail, 20 August 2005

A 12-year-old boy was shot and suffered bruising to his arm after a youth fired at him with a **BB gun** in **Millom Park**. A group of three youths had been firing pellets in the park. Yet again police had to warn youths about the dangers of playing with BB guns.

Express & Star, 20 August 2005

Armed police were forced to fire rubber bullets at a man brandishing a gun in a patients' waiting area at **Cannock Chase Hospital**. The armed man had been shouting at medical staff. The man was disarmed and the weapon was found to be an **air pistol**. The man was arrested.

BBC, 20 August 2005

A man was arrested and a firearm seized when police entered a house in **Dunster**, Somerset, after residents said they had heard gunshots. The arrest followed a four hour stand-off.

This is Local London, 18 August 2005

Zartash Khan, 20, was jailed for 22 years for the attempted murder of a policeman who was shot in the legs three times in **Bromley** in December 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). Khan is believed to have been a member of a criminal gang known as the Muslim Boys.

Scarborough Today, 15 August 2005

Two young boys, aged 11 and 9, were shot in a **BB gun** attack as they played outside a house in **Scarborough**. Both were hit by pellets, one in the leg and the other in the neck. The boys' mother said the shots were the latest attack to oust the family from their home.

This is Local London, 13 August 2005

Malcolm Parker, a convicted killer, raided betting shops across **Elmbridge** and **south London** during the three years after his release from jail where he had served a sentence for manslaughter. In each raid he had brandished an **imitation firearm**, forcing cashiers to hand over cash. He was finally caught after a raid in **Oxford**. He was sentenced to eight terms of life imprisonment after pleading guilty to eight offences of robbery and seven charges of possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

Peterborough Today, 13 August 2005

An elderly charity shop volunteer defied a man who held a gun to her head and demanded she open the till. The man, who was armed with a handgun, burst into the shop in **Millfield**, Peterborough. The man fled empty handed.

Daily Mail, 13 August 2005

Eleven men were arrested after a director of Queens Park Rangers football club had a gun held to his head near the boardroom as the team prepared to play at their **West London** ground. Five men allegedly kicked him and beat him and tried to force him to resign from the board. Another director has been charged with blackmail and firearms offences (*Scotsman*, 15 August 2005)

Eastern Daily Press, 12 August 2005

A 14-year-old has been given an indefinite anti-social behaviour order after his terrorising behaviour led people living on a **Norwich** estate to demand action. Daniel Whiting had been causing misery on the estate for almost four years. He had been seen with a black **ball-bearing gun**.

Wandsworth Guardian, 11 August 2005

Ashley Palmer, who pistol-whipped a father in the face in front of his wife and children, has been jailed for three years. Palmer and two other men kicked open the door of the victim's home in **Southfields** in May 2004. One of the gang hit the victim with the gun and Palmer shoved the weapon into his face and demanded money. He managed to wrestle the gun away and later gave it to the police who found Palmer's DNA on the trigger. The gun was a **blank-firing Magnum handgun**, described as being identical to the real weapon.

Life Style Extra, 11 August 2005

One man was shot dead and two people, a man and a woman, were injured following a row in a pub in **Iford**. All three were apparently at the pub together when they became involved in an altercation with others, which resulted in shots being fired. The injured man and woman left the pub before police arrived in a bid to get away from the incident.

Peterborough Today, 10 August 2005

Armed police surrounded a flat in **Stanground** when a gun was found by council workers. Officers discovered it was an **air rifle**, but also came across suspected stolen goods.

Muswell Hill Journal, 10 August 2005

An armed robber put a gun to the head of a bank employee during a raid in **Muswell Hill**. He entered the bank as staff arrived. No shots were fired. The man made off with a quantity of cash.

icBirmingham, 10 August 2005

Oral Lattibeaudire and Kevin Jones have been jailed after carrying out a violent kidnap at gunpoint in south London. They gagged, beat and pistol-whipped their victim after snatching him from a street in **Brixton** in October 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). Lattibeaudire was shot in the stomach by police when they secured the victim's release from a flat in Norwood. The men were sentenced to 20 years and 17 years in jail, respectively.

icSurrey, 10 August 2005

A cab driver feared for his life when raiders held a gun to his head and stole his taxi. A man, whom he had picked up from **Langley Green**, pulled a gun out and said "We need your car". Two other men got into the car. The vehicle was returned after half an hour.

Cambridge Evening News, 10 August 2005

Police have warned **airgun** owners that they will face prosecution for irresponsible use of their weapons after reports of a gun being fired from the grounds of one house in **Comberton** into another's.

Liverpool Echo, 9 August 2005

A sawn-off shotgun, pistol and ammunition were seized by police during raids on three homes in **Croxteth** and **Norris Green**. Other weapons and drugs were also found.

National Newspapers, 7 August 2005

Two sisters and a man were found shot dead in a flat in **Stonebridge**, north London. They had been tied up. A nine-month-old baby was left unharmed.

BBC, 6 August 2005

Four gunmen opened fire at a driver who was fleeing a crash when his car smashed into railings in **Walworth**. The gang had chased the car before the vehicles collided.

Mirror, 5 August 2005

Mohammed Khan kept a double-barrelled sawn-off shotgun under his bed at **University College Northampton's** halls of residence. Police also uncovered a pistol during a search of the room. He admitted possessing a firearm was jailed for five years.

BBC, 5 August 2005

A couple were shot with a stun gun when they were confronted at their home in **Manchester**. The woman was kidnapped and thrown in the boot of a car in what the police describe as a 'targeted' attack. The woman managed to get out of the boot after the car was left in **Whalley Range**.

Shropshire Star, 3 August 2005

Police were called to a row in a **Ludlow** housing estate after reports that a woman was shot with an **air rifle** and a car was attacked with baseball bats. A couple had complained that they had been targeted by neighbours.

Manchester Online, 3 August 2005

A young shop assistant has described how terrified she was after being locked, along with another member of staff, in a toilet after she fled from a robber who burst into the off licence in **Tytherington Shopping Centre** armed with a handgun. She had to wait fifty minutes for help after making three 999 calls.

icLiverpool, 3 August 2005

A ten-year-old boy who terrorised residents near his **Kirkdale** home for 18 months has been given an anti-social behaviour order. Among the problems he has caused has been firing **ball-bearing guns**.

Hartlepool Today, 3 August 2005

Shaun Murray, 19, from **Hartlepool** shot his girlfriend's 12-year-old sister from close range with a **ball-bearing gun**. He shot her in the leg in front of his girlfriend. He was sentenced to three weeks imprisonment.

BBC, 1 August 2005

An 18-year-old was charged with murder following a shooting outside a nightclub in **Digbeth**, Birmingham, on 23 July 2005. The victim was shot in the head. Another man has been charged with possession of a firearm for an unrelated incident.

BBC, 1 August 2005

A security guard and a customer were shot in an attempted armed robbery on a bank in **Great Barr**, Birmingham. Neither injury was believed to be life-threatening. Four or five shots are thought to have been fired during the raid which involved three or four men.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Evening News, 31 August 2005

The Livingston firecrew, who had been attacked when called out to **Knightsridge**, found what appeared to be a dent from an **airgun** pellet on the side of their engine.

PA News, 26 August 2005

Two men, one carrying a firearm, threatened staff at a post office in **Denny** and made off with a large sum of cash.

Evening Times, 23 August 2005

James Lindsay, 18, appeared in court charged with shooting a man in **Stevenston**, Ayrshire, with an **air rifle** in July 2005. He faced a charge of culpable and reckless conduct.

PA News, 19 August 2005

A man was shot as he answered his door in **Kelty**, Fife. Police named Brian Martin as the person they wanted to speak to over the incident.

Scotsman, 13 August 2005

Edward Adamson, 19, was told that he faced jail after he was found guilty of randomly shooting and injuring two women with an **air rifle**. He had fired the gun from a house in **Galashiels**. Pellets had also hit a car and the window of a neighbouring property.

Scotsman, 6 August 2005

The death of two-year-old Andrew Morton was described as 'inevitable' at the trial of Mark Bonini who was accused of murdering the toddler in **Easterhouse** on 2 March 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Bonini had fired an **airgun** from his bedroom window and a pellet had entered Andrew's head at a point behind and above his right ear and carried on straight through, embedding at the front of the brain. Bonini was found guilty of murder (*Reuters*, 9 August 2005) and sentenced to spend at least 13 years in jail (*Edinburgh Evening News*, 30 August 2005).

Scotsman, 5 August 2005

A man accused of trying to shoot dead three members of a rival traveller family at a religious festival in **Granton**, Edinburgh, was freed after the trial collapsed when witnesses failed to identify him. He had been charged with attempting to murder three people by repeatedly firing a handgun at them and two other firearms offences.

WALES

Western Mail, 17 August 2005

Armed police confronted a gunman at a house in **Grangetown**, Cardiff, where witnesses described men fighting in the street with knives. Two men were in custody after the incident.

BBC, 9 August 2005

A charity catering for blind and visually impaired people is to close a resource centre in **Ebbw Vale** for lack of funds. In May 2004 the charity had to pay for CCTV after a roof window was shot at with an **air rifle**. This was one of a number of acts of vandalism.

BBC, 3 August 2005

Kevin Catherall who punched a teenage girl and later shot her brother with an **air rifle** was jailed for 20 months after he admitted common assault causing actual bodily harm. The brother suffered mouth injuries after being shot at Catherall's flat in **Buckley**.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Peterborough Today, 22 August 2005

A dog has been shot twice in **Yaxley**, Peterborough, with what her owner believes were **BB guns**. Bonny's owner first thought that the blood in which the dog was covered was from a scratch, but she suffered a second wound a few days later.

icBirmingham, 17 August 2005

A duck which had survived having a screwdriver embedded in its side for more than a year was found shot dead at Whittleford Pool, **Nuneaton**. A male swan had been found dead at a nearby pond after being targeted with a **.22 air rifle**.

Chichester Observer, 15 August 2005

A cat was left in agony with a fractured leg after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Chichester**.

Peterborough Today, 11 August 2005

A cat owner found her cat crying in pain outside the back door in **Mewburn**, North Bretton, after being shot with an **air rifle**. Blood was running out of the cat's back leg and she now has to hobble around with a metal plate in it. The owner had often seen teenagers playing with airguns in the street.

BBC, 11 August 2005

A swan which had been badly hurt in an **airgun** attack on the Forth and Clyde Canal near the **Falkirk** wheel was released back into the wild. The swan's wing was permanently damaged and she will never fly again but it is hoped that she will live out her life reunited with her mate and cygnets.

Cambridge Evening News, 4 August 2005

A pet cat was left fighting for his life after being shot at close range with an **airgun** in **Abbey**, Cambridge. An x-ray revealed he had a pellet in his left kidney.



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