



## **AUGUST 2007 - SUMMARY**

**Gun crime returned to the headlines in August 2007 as a result of a number of high profile fatal shootings, especially the one which resulted in the death of 11-year-old Rhys Jones in Croxteth.**

**The total number of incidents recorded by GCN was certainly higher in August. The heightened concerns about gun crime no doubt led to more comprehensive media reporting. A survey by the *Daily Mirror* on one week's incidents based on information from the police was a reminder that GCN is only recording a proportion of the incidents.**

**As we have suggested on previous occasions further measures to deal with gun crime, now being discussed again, must take into account not only the most tragic incidents that have resulted in fatal and serious injuries but also the problems experienced by a wider cross-section of the community which are caused by weapons, such as airguns and imitation guns, that remain too easily available. As this summary reveals there are far too many gun incidents involving these weapons and these happen in areas distant from those most affected by gangs and drugs, frequently cited as the causes of gun crime.**

**It is clear that there can be no tolerance of the carrying of guns of any description in public. The age of someone brandishing a gun can never be considered to reflect the lethality of the weapon he is holding. Rhys Jones' killer, armed with a lethal firearm, was reportedly in his mid-teens.**

**GCN will be making more detailed comments shortly.**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were a number of high profile gun murders in August. Nine people were killed in shooting attacks.
  - A teenager was shot dead in the street in Brixton (south London)
  - Another teenager was fatally injured outside a club in Paisley (Renfrewshire)
  - An 11-year-old was killed in Croxteth (Liverpool)
  - In a second fatal shooting in Liverpool a 20-year-old was killed on a busy street in Wavertree
  - A motorcyclist was shot dead on the M40 in Warwickshire
  - An airgun was used to murder a pensioner from West Lothian (see below)
  - Three people, including a 17-year-old, were shot dead at a house in Bishop's Stortford (Hertfordshire): two women were injured during the attack
- A number of teenagers have been questioned about the Croxteth shooting and a teenager has been charged with murder for the airgun shooting. Four people have appeared in court charged with offences relating to the M40 murder.
- A man whose body was found on farmland in Suffolk is believed to have died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound: a shotgun was recovered from the scene.

- A man died after an apparent shooting incident on remote farmland in County Durham.
- Victims sustained injuries in double shootings in Chorlton-on-Medlock (Manchester), Letchworth Garden City (Hertfordshire) and Mossley Hill (Liverpool).
- In London other victims were injured by gunfire at a street party in Tulse Hill, in a street in Streatham and outside a nightclub in the Old Kent Road. Two separate shootings occurred at the Notting Hill Carnival, three people were injured in shootings at a party in Tottenham and a few days later another youth was injured in another shooting in Tottenham.
- In West Yorkshire a man was injured in a street attack in Bingley and another received minor facial injuries in a shooting in Leeds. Another man was shot in the face in Cheetham Hill (Manchester). In a drive by shooting in Glasgow the victim was shot five times.
- A police officer was accidentally shot by a colleague at a firing range at Gatwick police station (Sussex).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies at a shop in Port Talbot (Glamorgan), a bookmakers in Podsmead (Gloucestershire), post offices in Corby and Brigstock (Northamptonshire) and a bank in Troon (Ayrshire). Petrol stations were held up in Corby (Northamptonshire) and in Droitwich (Worcestershire) where the robber was believed to have been armed with a replica handgun (see below). A man attempted to rob a bus company's premises in Cowley (Oxford). A man threatened to shoot a shop worker in Cleethorpes (Lincolnshire), two men threatened a cashier in Blackwood (Gwent) and a man pulled a handgun in a shop in Wallsend (Tyneside)
- A man in Luton was forced to hand over the keys to his car which was taken by two men, one armed with a handgun. A teenage gunman demanded car keys from a couple in Hale Village (Cheshire) but was fought off.
- Three girls in Telford (Shropshire) were confronted by a man who pulled a handgun on them, demanding a handbag. Two men were robbed by a gang of armed youths outside a pub in Wolverhampton.
- **Other Incidents** - A dog died after being shot when a house was attacked in Salford: nobody in the house was injured. In Widnes a bullet tore through the sofa in a house minutes after a 4-year-old boy had been sleeping there. A window was shattered when a gun was fired at a house in Lenton (Nottingham) and shots were fired through a house window in Tuebrook (Liverpool).
- Shots were fired at a police car on the M5 in Gloucestershire after a car was stopped.
- A gunman opened fire in a busy pub in Paisley (Renfrewshire). A man was arrested in Bristol after an incident in Bristol when shots were reported to have been fired. A man was arrested and charged after reports of shots being fired in a Dundee street.
- A teenager is reported to have fired three or four shots in Broadway Market (east London) sparking fears that a gang "turf war" was escalating.
- A woman was seen to fire a long-barrelled weapon at a neighbour in St Neots (Cambridgeshire).
- A man was arrested in Newquay (Cornwall) after someone was seen pointing a gun through a pub window.
- A shotgun was pointed at children in Ellesmere Port (Cheshire): two men were arrested. Three 18-year-olds said a shotgun was fired at them in New Mills (Derbyshire). A woman was threatened with a shotgun at a railway station on Merseyside.

- Police arrested a man in Godalming (Surrey) after threats were made with a gun.
- A man was released on police bail after being spotted with a gun in Bridgewater (Somerset) on CCTV. Four men were questioned by police after being found with a firearm in an Ipswich street. A 16-year-old was arrested for possessing of a firearm in Sheffield. Other men and youths were reported being seen with guns in Cambridge, Bristol, Wilmslow and Widnes (Cheshire), Peterborough, Kegworth (Leicestershire), Pocklington (Humberside) and Spittals (Cambridgeshire).
- A 10-year-old threatened a man with a handgun on a train in Preston.
- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - In London a teenager was arrested when police found a massive arsenal of weapons including a handgun in Bermondsey, three people were arrested in Bayswater Road on suspicion of possession of firearms and another four were arrested for possessing a firearm after a raid on an address in Maida Vale.
- A woman has been charged with firearms and drugs offences after police found a handgun and accessories in her car during a routine stop-check in Preston.
- A handgun and ammunition were found by police in an alleyway in Ardwick (Manchester): an 18-year-old has been arrested. Children discovered a sawn-off shotgun in a bag close to a jail in Durham.
- A loaded air rifle was stolen from an allotment in Middlesbrough.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A teenager who was part of a gang responsible for the murder of a man in Wembley (north London) was found guilty and was warned he would be sent to jail for life. A third man was jailed for the murder of a man shot dead in Willesden (north London).
- One of the country's most feared and dangerous criminals, who was involved in a number of gun crimes linked to Nottingham was identified after receiving long jail sentences for his involvement in the murders of a jeweller in Arnold (Nottingham) and a couple at their bungalow in Trusthorpe (Lincolnshire).
- Three youths were convicted of the murder of a Merseyside gang leader who was shot dead in Fazakerley (Merseyside).
- A teenager has been given 28 months youth custody after police found a converted firearm and 9mm bullets at his flat in South Norwood (south London).
- **Airguns** - A pensioner was shot dead with an airgun at his home in Winchburgh (West Lothian): a 17-year-old has been charged with murder.
- Other victims of airgun attacks sustained injuries in incidents in:
  - Cleethorpes (shot fired from a car leaving the victim unable to see out of one eye)
  - Tovil (Kent) (a boy was shot in the leg and two youngsters arrested)
  - Maidenhead (Berkshire) (a 16-year-old girl was shot in the leg)
  - Carlisle (a teenage cyclist suffered a collapsed lung)
  - Dundee (two 15-year-olds were shot with an airgun in a park)
  - Hulme (Manchester) (the victim was a 13-year-old boy)
  - Inverness (a man was taken to hospital)
  - York (two men were hit with air rifle pellets: three teenagers were arrested)
  - Huddersfield (a woman removed a pellet embedded in her head and was taken to hospital)

- Killingholme (Humberside)
  - Blaby (Leicestershire)
  - Mansfield (Nottinghamshire) (a man was reportedly hit in the back)
- A 3-year-old girl was left with an airgun pellet in her brain after what was described as "a tragic accident" at a pub in Stoke-on-Trent: it appears her 6-year-old sister may have fired the gun.
- At Elderslie golf club in Renfrewshire two women players had to run for cover when two boys took pot shots at them. A youth turned an air rifle on an elderly man at a reservoir near Rotherham (South Yorkshire). Firefighters in Portland (Dorset) responding to a 999 calls were shot at with an airgun.
- An air rifle was recovered after a youth was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and for allegedly threatening a woman in Bedworth (Warwickshire): the air rifle is not believed to be linked to the incident.
- A man armed with an air rifle and a knife was arrested after he refused to leave his flat in Blandford (Dorset): he was arrested after police officers used a stun gun to disarm him. In Wales a man with an air rifle made threats to kill in Bargoed (Caerphilly) and police disarmed a man with an air rifle during a domestic incident in Newport.
- Police in Warminster (Wiltshire) are stepping up measures to combat a rising spate of air rifle attacks on residents and animals. Later they seized a gas-powered BB gun from youths in the town.
- Two teenagers were issued with a warning for possessing a loaded air rifle in public after being arrested in Newport (Essex). Two youths were seen firing an air rifle in a country park in Cambridgeshire.
- Windows at a cricket club clubhouse in County Durham were smashed: airgun slugs were found.
- **Convictions** - A man who left a trail of havoc in Lyndhurst (Hampshire) when he raided a shop and entered a restaurant whilst armed with an air pistol has been jailed indefinitely. Another man who attempted to rob a corner shop in Thornbury (Bradford) whilst armed with an airgun was sent to a young offenders institution for 18 months.
- **Imitation Guns** - A 20-year-old man was charged with possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, an offence believed to be linked to the murder of a man in Huyton (Merseyside).
- A number of young children were hit with pellets fired from imitation guns
  - A seven-year-old boy was shot just below the eye with a BB gun in Sidford (Devon)
  - Another boy, aged 9, was taken to hospital with a serious eye injury after a BB gun pellet hit him in Chesterfield
  - A 10-year-old boy shot at two schoolgirls, one of whom was hit on the arm, in an attack in Heath Hayes (Staffordshire)
  - A 10-year-old boy was the victim of a ball-bearing gun attack in Midway (Derbyshire) following which a 15-year-old was reprimanded by police
  - A 10-year-old girl suffered minor facial injuries in Cannock (Staffordshire)
  - A 9-year-old boy lost part of a front tooth after being shot with a ball-bearing gun in a caravan park on the Isle of Arran
  - A 3-year-old was hit on the hand in High Valleyfield (Fife) (a 13-year-old has been reported)
  - A 9-year-old was shot outside a Dumfries primary school (an 11-year-old will be reported)
  - An 11-year-old in Crewe was reported to be firing at other children in the street

- There were also attacks on a number of adults
  - A council worker was hit by a missile fired from a ball bearing gun by a gang of youths in Luton
  - A shopper was nearly blinded in Chadderton (Oldham) when a 14-year-old fired a ball-bearing from a replica gun
  - A male cyclist was shot and injured with a BB gun in Lowestoft (Suffolk).
  - Several pedestrians were hit by pellets fired from a BB gun in Skegness (Lincolnshire): two men were arrested and two BB guns seized from their vehicle
- Two masked men armed with a starting pistol terrified a family in their Ilkeston (Nottinghamshire) home: the pistol was fired.
- A man armed with an imitation gun held a number of people hostage in Sittingbourne (Kent).
- A man was charged with attempted armed robbery and possession of an imitation firearm while committing a serious offence after an incident on a street in Worsley (Manchester). A man responsible for a robbery in Droitwich (Worcestershire) was believed to have been armed with a replica handgun.
- A man was arrested for possession of a BB gun in a public place after alarming passers by in St Neots (Cambridgeshire). A man was threatened with a replica pistol in Slough (Berkshire). A 15-year-old was arrested for aiming an imitation handgun at people in Levenmouth (Fife).
- Police believe that someone taking potshots with a ball-bearing gun may be responsible for damage to windows at a care home in Renfrewshire.
- Youths firing paintball gun pellets damaged a number of vehicles in Lowestoft.
- Three men were arrested and later released after a blank-firing pistol was fired in a garden in Bath.
- Two 15-year-old girls have been cautioned by police after being seen with a replica gun in Manchester. A group of youths in Eye (Cambridgeshire) were reported with a 9mm Glock pistol. A man was charged with possession of an imitation gun in Nuneaton (Warwickshire) a few hours after a man had been seen waving a handgun at youths.
- **Convictions** - Two young teenagers who were armed with a ball-bearing gun were sentenced to five years and two years and eight months in custody for their part in a vicious attack on a teenager in Preston.
- Two men were jailed for a total of 19 years after a raid on Atherton railway station (Bolton) when a cashier was threatened with a fake handgun. A 19-year-old has been detained in a young offenders' institution for four and a half years after threatening a woman with a ball-bearing gun in a Croydon street and demanding that she hand over money. A 16-year-old admitted robbery and attempted robbery on two women in Edinburgh when he was armed with an imitation gun (a cigarette lighter).
- A man who shot a 13-year-old schoolgirl in the leg with a ball-bearing gun in Blackford (Perthshire) was jailed for 100 days.
- A Burnley man was given a one year suspended jail sentence and 12 months supervision after he had pointed a ball-bearing gun at a man at his ex-girlfriend's house.
- A 16-year-old girl whose offences included shooting at youngsters with a ball-bearing gun has been given an Asbo.
- A man from Crayford (Kent) who was given a rehabilitation order for child cruelty and assaulting his wife was reported to have shot his daughter in both knees with a ball-bearing gun.

- A 19-year-old who fired a ball-bearing gun while at work in Louth (Lincolnshire) was given a four month prison term, suspended for 12 months.
- A man was given a suspended jail sentence after police found him with an imitation gun in his jacket pocket when his car was searched in Droitwich (Worcestershire).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were further reports from across the country of cats falling victim to airgun attacks (Aberdeenshire, Bolton, Cambridgeshire, Chester, Clwyd, Inverness-shire, Shropshire, Sussex )
- Cygnets and swans were victims of attacks with air rifles and BB guns in Doune (Perthshire), Telford (Shropshire) and Mablethorpe (Lincolnshire).
- Two men have been fined for killing four deer near Alford (Aberdeenshire).

## **GUN INCIDENTS – August 2007**

On 3 September 2007 the *Daily Mirror* published an article listing half of the 127 gun-related incidents from 35 constabularies who responded to a request to reveal every reported firearm incident in one week (24 August - 30 August). Those which had not already come to GCN's notice are included in the list according to the date on which the incident occurred.

### **ENGLAND**

***Sunderland Echo***, 31 August 2007

A jury has failed to reach a verdict in the case of a man accused of shooting an **air rifle** at a teenage girl as she waited at a bus stop in **Wingate**, County Durham, in December 2006. The 19-year-old defendant denied possessing a firearm with intent to cause another person to fear violence would be used against them. Prosecutors have been given time to decide if they want a retrial. The air rifle was shot from a passing car but the jury heard conflicting accounts from two of the four men in the car.

***Huddersfield Daily Examiner***, 31 August 2007

A woman was in the garden of her home in **Waterloo**, Huddersfield, when she was shot at by two boys, aged about 13, standing in the wood behind the house. She pretended to phone the police and was threatened by the youths who then fired a shot at her head. She removed an **airgun** pellet that was embedded in her head and was taken to hospital to have stitches.

***Evening Star***, 31 August 2007

A male cyclist was taken to hospital following an incident in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk, when he was shot with a **BB gun**. A ball bearing penetrated his skin and became lodged close to his spine, requiring an operation to remove it. In another incident in the town four teenagers were arrested and an imitation firearm recovered after a number of vehicles were damaged by youths firing **paintball gun** pellets (*Lowestoft Journal*, 31 August 2007).

***BBC***, 31 August 2007

Police were looking for two teenage girls caught on CCTV brandishing what looked like handguns in **Manchester** city centre. The guns were believed to be **replicas**. Two 15-year-old girls have been cautioned by police who were satisfied that the weapons seen were toy guns (*BBC*, 2 September 2007).

**Incidents** from 30 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Report of a man with a handgun on the A14 near **Spittals**, Cambridgeshire

Report of youths with a rifle in **Widnes**, Cheshire

Report of suicidal man with a weapon in **Peterborough**

Gang of youths with a handgun rob two people outside a pub in **Wolverhampton**

Man arrested for making threats with a gun in **Godalming**, Surrey

Woman threatened with a shotgun at Seaforth railway station, Merseyside

Man shot in the leg outside a pub in **Newton Heath**, Manchester

**Incidents** from 29 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Report of an 11-year-old with a **BB gun** shooting at children in the street in **Crewe**

Gun raider attempts to rob post office in **Brigstock**, Northamptonshire

***This is Cheshire***, 29 August 2007

A teenage gunman pointed a handgun at the head of a man in **Hale Village**. He threatened to shoot the man, who was with his wife, and demanded car keys before firing two shots in the air. The victim fought off the gunman with a stick.

***The Press (York)***, 29 August 2007

At least two people were hit by pellets from an **air rifle** in a busy street in **York**. One of the victims was working the door of a pub, the other was a visitor who was with his family. Police found an air weapon inside a flat and three people, an 18-year-old man, a 14-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy were arrested and bailed.

***Oldham Advertiser***, 29 August 2007

A 14-year-old boy nearly blinded a shopper in **Chadderton** in July 2007 with a ball bearing fired from a **replica gun**. The boy pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and common assault. He was given a three-month-action plan order, ordered to pay £150 in compensation and £60 costs.

***Mansfield Chad***, 29 August 2007

A man has described how he was one of several pedestrians hit by pellets fired from a **BB gun** whilst he was on holiday in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire. Two men in their 20s had opened fire from a car travelling between Skegness and Ingoldmells. Two men were arrested and issued with fixed penalty tickets for disorderly behaviour. Two BB guns were seized from their vehicle.

***Daily Echo***, 29 August 2007

A sniper with an **airgun** fired shots at firefighters responding to a 999 call on **Portland**, Dorset. Pellets were fired at the windscreens of a car and a fire engine.

**BBC**, 29 August 2007

Three people, one of them believed to be a 17-year-old boy, were dead after a shooting at a house in **Bishop's Stortford**, Hertfordshire. Two women were injured in the attack and a three-year-old girl survived uninjured. Police believe that the killing was carried out by professional hitmen who fired up to 10 shots (*This is London*, 30 August 2007).

**Incidents** from 28 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Man reported shot in the back by an **air rifle** in **Mansfield**, Nottinghamshire

Youth shot in torso and arm in **Tottenham**, North London

Two youths seen carrying an **air rifle** in **Ferry Meadows Country Park**, Cambridgeshire

Policed seize **gas-powered BB gun** from youths in **Warminster**, Wiltshire

A man pulls a handgun in a shop in **Wallsend**, Tyneside

**Worcester News**, 28 August 2007

A woman cashier was confronted by a man carrying what may have been a plastic **replica handgun** at a petrol station in **Droitwich**. The man escaped with a small amount of cash. The woman was left shaken but unhurt.

**BBC**, 28 August 2007

A woman was shot several times outside a nightclub in **Old Kent Road**, south London. A gun was fired into a crowd and the victim may have been accidentally caught up in a feud between bouncers and four men. She was in a stable condition in hospital. A man has been arrested and charged with attempted murder and other offences. A second man has also been charged with firearm offences (*Croydon Guardian*, 3 September 2007).

**BBC**, 28 August 2007

A man underwent emergency surgery after being shot in a street in **Streatham**, south London. He had suffered a gunshot wound to the thigh. He was in a stable condition in hospital.

**BBC**, 28 August 2007

Two shootings occurred at the **Notting Hill** Carnival in west London. A 17-year-old was taken to hospital with a shoulder wound. An arrest was made in connection with the incident. Later a 14-year-old was shot in the leg. Three people were arrested in **Bayswater Road** on suspicion of possession of firearms.

**BBC**, 28 August 2007

A masked man brandishing a firearm threatened staff at a petrol station in **Corby**, Northamptonshire. He demanded cash and fled on foot carrying a bag.

**BBC**, 28 August 2007

Three men were arrested and a road in the **Englishcombe** area of Bath was sealed for more than an hour after reports of shots being fired. A **blank firing pistol** was recovered. The men were later released without charge.

**Incidents** from 27 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Man seen waving a handgun a youths in **Nuneaton**, Warwickshire

Youth reportedly seen with a handgun in **Wilmslow**, Cheshire

Man with suspected handgun in Queensgate car park, **Peterborough**

Man charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** in **Nuneaton**

Man seen with a weapon in **Kegworth**, Leicestershire

A 16-year-old arrested for possession of a firearm in Cliff Street, **Sheffield**

Two teenagers seen with suspected handgun in **Pocklington**, Humberside

**Life Style Extra**, 27 August 2007

Four people were arrested by armed police for possessing a firearm after a raid on an address in **Maida Vale**, London. A firearm was seized.

**BBC**, 27 August 2007

A robber, thought to have been carrying a firearm, threatened a female cashier at a bus company's premises in **Cowley**, Oxford. After a short struggle the man left empty handed on the back of a large motorcycle.

**Scotland on Sunday**, 26 August 2007

Three youths were convicted of murdering a leading member of a notorious Merseyside gang who was shot dead yards from the entrance of Altcourse prison in **Liverpool** in August 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 26 August 2007

A 13-year-old boy was one of three victims of a shooting during a house party in **Tottenham**, north London. The boy was shot in the leg. An 18-year-old woman suffered a gunshot wound to her lower back and an 18-year-old man was shot in the chest during the incident. The injuries were not life-threatening.

**Incidents** from 25 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Man shot in face in **Cheetham Hill**, Manchester

Shots fired through house window in **Tuebrook**, Liverpool

Man reported carrying a sword and gun in **Bristol**

Two arrested in **Ellesmere Port**, Cheshire, after four men point a shotgun at children

In **Slough**, Berkshire, one man threatens another with a **replica pistol**

Man pulls handgun on three girls, demanding a handbag, in **Telford**, Shropshire

A 10-year-old threatens a man with a handgun on a train in **Preston**

Three 18-year-olds say a shotgun is fired at them in **New Mills**, Derbyshire

Man is shot with **air pellet** in **Killingholme**, Humberside

Woman is injured by a **pellet** in **Blaby**, Leicestershire

Group of youths in **Eye**, near Peterborough, reported with a 9mm Glock pistol

Woman seen to fire a long-barrelled weapon at a neighbour in **St Neots**, Cambridgeshire

**Daily Post**, 25 August 2007

Two doormen were shot outside a nightclub in the **Mossley Hill** area of Liverpool. One of the victims was in a critical condition with stomach injuries, the other was in a stable condition with leg injuries.

**BBC**, 25 August 2007

A 10-year-old girl suffered minor facial injuries after being shot at with a **BB gun** in **Cannock**, Staffordshire. Earlier in the month police had also received reports of a passenger in a car firing pellets from the vehicle in the town.

**BBC**, 25 August 2007

A 13-year-old boy is being treated in hospital after being shot with what is believed to be a pellet from an **air weapon** in **Hulme**, Manchester. No arrests have been made.

**Incidents** from 24 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Man threatens to shoot a shop worker in **Cleethorpes**, Lincolnshire

Man reported with a handgun sitting in Grafton Centre car park, **Cambridge**

Property tycoon suffers minor facial injuries in a shooting in **Moortown**, Leeds

***This is Derbyshire***, 24 August 2007

A 10-year-old boy has been shot in the leg and head whilst playing with friends in **Midway**, Derbyshire. A 15-year-old boy was interviewed by police and issued with a reprimand for assault. Two **ball-bearing guns** were confiscated from him and destroyed.

***Hackney Gazette***, 24 August 2007

A teenager fired between three or four shots in **Broadway Market**, east London, sparking fears that a gang "turf war" was escalating. Six weeks before a teenager was chased by men firing a gun and earlier in the year picnickers diver for cover when a motorcyclist opened fire on a group of youths in **London Fields**.

***BBC***, 24 August 2007

A man died after an apparent shooting accident on remote farmland between **Wolsingham** and **Frosterley** in County Durham. The alarm was raised when a man reported that a colleague had been badly hurt after a shotgun had been fired. The man was declared dead at the scene.

***BBC***, 24 August 2007

The M5 motorway was closed after shots were fired at a police car when another vehicle was stopped as part of a routine check in **Gloucestershire**. No one was injured. Police gave pursuit but lost track of the car from which the shot were fired.

***Worcester News***, 23 August 2007

Craig Taylor has been given a suspended jail sentence after police found him with an **imitation handgun** in his jacket pocket. He was a passenger in a car searched by police in **Droitwich** in November 2006. Taylor admitted being in possession of an offensive weapon.

***News & Star***, 23 August 2007

A teenage cyclist suffered a collapsed lung after being shot by an **airgun** sniper in **Carlisle**. The victim is now recovering at home. He had been hit in the chest. He is still suffering medical problems more than three weeks after being targeted.

***National Newspapers***, 23 August 2007

An 11-year-old boy has been shot dead, allegedly by a hooded teenager on a BMX bike. The victim was in a pub car park in **Croxteth**, Liverpool, where he was kicking a football when the attack occurred. Three shots were fired one of which hit the boy. Police are questioning a 16-year-old in connection with the murder. Two other teenagers had previously been arrested and released on bail (*Press Association*, 25 August 2007). Police were questioning another five teenagers (*Scotland on Sunday*, 26 August 2007).

***Luton Today***, 23 August 2007

A man was forced to hand over the key to his luxury car at gunpoint after he had just parked the vehicle in **Luton**. He was approached by two men who eventually drove off in his car which was found later parked in the town. One of the two men was armed with a handgun.

**The Comet**, 23 August 2007

Two men were seriously injured in a street shooting in **Letchworth Garden City**, Hertfordshire. The victims were taken to hospital where the condition of one is described as serious and the other as stable. Five men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and a woman was also arrested for violent disorder.

**BBC**, 23 August 2007

A police constable was shot accidentally by a colleague at a firing range at **Gatwick** police station, Sussex. The officer, who was wearing body armour, was not seriously injured and was taken to hospital with bruising.

**BBC**, 22 August 2007

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after another man was shot whilst walking between his car and a house in **Bingley**, West Yorkshire. The victim was able to take himself to hospital where his condition was stable.

**BBC**, 22 August 2007

A loaded **air rifle**, used to kill vermin, was stolen during an attack on an allotment in **Easterside**, Middlesbrough. Three racing pigeons had their necks broken during the raid and other birds were stolen.

**BBC**, 22 August 2007

A youth turned his **air rifle** on an elderly man who had told him to stop firing at ducks on a reservoir near **Rotherham**, South Yorkshire. The youth fired the gun in the man's direction but he was uninjured.

**Asian Image**, 22 August 2007

Murtaza Hussain brandished an **airgun** that looked like a semi-automatic pistol when he attempted to rob a corner shop in **Thornbury**, Bradford, in May 2007. The shopkeeper pushed the panic button and Hussain was arrested after the being chased by the shopkeeper. He was sent to a young offenders institution for 18 months after pleading guilty to attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.

**News Shopper**, 21 August 2007

A man has been given a two year rehabilitation order for child cruelty and assaulting his wife. Among various actions, the man from **Crayford**, Kent, had shot his daughter in both knees with a **ball-bearing gun**, claiming it was an accident.

**Cambridge Evening News**, 21 August 2007

Two teenagers were arrested in **Newport**, near Saffron Walden in Essex, after a concerned woman saw teenagers carrying a weapon. The two will appear in court later this month. The police have issued a warning that possessing a loaded **air rifle** is a public offence.

**BBC**, 21 August 2007

Colin Joyce and Lee Amos, leading members of the Gooch gang in **Manchester**, have been arrested for breaching the terms of their licence, following release from prison. Detectives believe the pair were linked to a recent spate of shootings in Manchester. Three other men were also arrested in connection with gun crime incidents and firearms were recovered.

**BBC**, 21 August 2007

A man has been charged with attempted armed robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** while committing a serious offence after an incident on a street in **Worsley**, Greater Manchester.

**BBC**, 21 August 2007

A three-year-old girl was shot in the head with an **airgun** at a pub in **Stoke-on-Trent** in what was being described as "a tragic accident". She was taken to hospital where her condition was described as stable. She has a pellet lodged in her brain. Police have spoken to another child, reported to be her six-year-old sister, who was in a bedroom with the girl at the time of the shooting. A weapon has been recovered (*BBC*, 22 August 2007).

**BBC**, 20 August 2007

Staff at a post office in **Corby**, Northamptonshire, were forced to hand over cash to a masked man brandishing a firearm. The robber made off with an accomplice. Police said a link to a robbery at a betting shop in Corby could not be ruled out.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 18 August 2007

A man stole £400 from a betting shop in **Podsmead** after threatening a young male member of staff with a handgun.

**Sunderland Echo**, 17 August 2007

Children found a sawn-off shotgun in a bag hidden in dense woodland close to Frankland Jail in **Durham**. The bag also contained 20 shells and two black balaclavas. The police were keeping an open mind about where the gun came from.

**Life Style Extra**, 17 August 2007

Craig Dyer, 19, has been given 28 months youth custody after pleading guilty to possessing an illegal firearm and ammunition. Police had discovered a **converted firearm** and 9mm bullets during a search of his flat in **South Norwood**, south London, following the murder of a 16-year-old boy in **Streatham** in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Kilburn Times**, 17 August 2007

A third man has been jailed for the murder of a man who was shot dead in **Willesden** in January 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Darren Mathurin was found guilty of conspiracy to murder. Roberto Parchment and Romain Whyte had previously been jailed.

**BBC**, 17 August 2007

A man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life after police were called to a pub in **Newquay**, Cornwall. Witnesses said a man was pointing a gun through the pub window.

**BBC**, 17 August 2007

A man was in a stable condition in hospital after being shot near **Tulse Hill** station in south London. Police are investigating whether the man was chased by youths before being shot.

**Evening Star**, 16 August 2007

Four men were due to be questioned after being found with a firearm in a street in **Ipswich**. The men have been released on bail (*Evening Star*, 17 August 2007).

**This is Wiltshire**, 15 August 2007

Police are stepping up measures to combat a rising spate of **air rifle** attacks on residents and animals in an area of **Warminster**. A number of people have complained about being targeted in their own back gardens in recent weeks.

**This is Cheshire**, 15 August 2007

A gunman opened fire on a house in **Widnes**. A bullet tore through a sofa minutes after a four-year-old boy had been sleeping there. The boy's father and his two-year-old sister were also asleep in the house. The gunman was described as being aged between 16 and 20.

**ic Surrey**, 15 August 2007

Jephath Sango, 19, has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and sentenced to concurrent sentences of four years and four and half years detention at a young offenders' institution. In March 2007 he had threatened a woman with a replica **ball-bearing gun** in a street in **Croydon** and demanded that she hand over money.

**Citizen (Burnley)**, 15 August 2007

Michael Redmond from **Burnley**, who pointed a **ball-bearing gun** at a man at his ex-girlfriend's house, has been given a one year jail sentence, suspended for two years, with 12 months supervision and the Think First programme. He had admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Although Redmond's defence described the weapon as a "glorified toy gun" the judge said that the victim did not know this.

**Nottingham Evening Post**, 14 August 2007

Two masked men were being hunted after terrifying a family in their home in **Ilkeston**. The men were armed with a **starting pistol** and a machete and during the raid the gun was fired and one family member was hit on the back with the machete.

**BBC**, 14 August 2007

A man was arrested after police officers used a stun gun to disarm him. He was armed with an **air rifle** and a knife and was refusing to leave his flat in **Blandford**, Dorset.

**Nottingham Evening Post**, 13 August 2007

Police are investigating reports that a gun was fired at a house in **Lenton**. A window was shattered following what police described as an "ongoing feud". No one was injured.

**Luton Today**, 13 August 2007

A woman council worker was hit by a missile fired from a **ball bearing gun** by a gang of youths as she was working at a recreation ground in **Luton**. She was shocked by the attack but not injured.

**Grimsby Telegraph**, 13 August 2007

Nineteen-year-old David Riley fired a **ball bearing gun** while at work in a factory in **Louth**. He has been given a four month prison term, suspended for 12 months. He had pointed the gun at three workmates and one pellet was fired which ricocheted and struck one of them on the hand. Riley was placed under an 18-month supervision order, told to carry out 40 hours' unpaid work and ordered to pay £100 compensation to his workmate.

**BBC**, 13 August 2007

A motorcyclist was shot dead as he was travelling on the southbound carriageway of the M40 near **Leamington Spa**, Warwickshire. Police have said that biker gangs are a "strong line of inquiry" and they wish to trace the occupants of a green Rover 620 seen nearby. Four men have appeared in court in connection with the murder, three charged with murder, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and one other firearms offence. The fourth man has been charged with a firearms offence (*BBC*, 25 August 2007).

**BBC**, 12 August 2007

Two men have been arrested over a double shooting in **Chorlton-on-Medlock**, Manchester, in which two other men received gunshot wounds. One of the victims was shot in the torso and arm, the other in the neck. Both are recovering in hospital. A 17-year-old boy and a man has been charged with attempted murder (*Manchester Evening News*, 5 September 2007).

**BBC**, 12 August 2007

A 21-year-old woman has been charged with firearms and drugs offences after police found a handgun and accessories when her car was pulled over as part of routine stop-checks in the **Fulwood** area of Preston.

**BBC**, 12 August 2007

A 20-year-old man has been shot dead on a busy street in **Wavertree**, Liverpool. He was walking back to a friend's house when then shooting occurred.

**Wear Valley Mercury**, 11 August 2007

**Airgun** slugs were found after 12 windows of the clubhouse of **Hunwick** Cricket Club, County Durham, were smashed. Windows had also been broken in May.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 10 August 2007

Ian Smith left a trail of panic in his wake when he went on the rampage in **Lyndhurst**, Hampshire. Whilst high on a mix of medication and alcohol he first raided an off licence in the town where he loaded an **air pistol** and pointed it at the shop assistant. Smith grabbed a fistful of notes from the till and filled a bin liner with cigarettes. He fired the gun, smashing something at the back of the shop. Minutes later he entered a restaurant and then a pub where a customer took the gun off him. After that he went to a supermarket in **Calmore** and pretended to be armed and swung a bottle at the manager. He pleaded guilty to robbery, attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm for robbery and putting people in fear of violence. He has been jailed indefinitely.

**Nottingham Evening Post**, 10 August 2007

An 18-year-old man in on trial accused of pulling a sawn-off shotgun on three people in **Clifton** in November 2006. He denies possession of a firearm with intent.

**Birmingham Mail**, 10 August 2007

Reis Kelly of **Chelmsley Wood** was given a six-month community order for having a loaded **air rifle** in a public place and possession of cannabis.

**BBC**, 10 August 2007

A Baikal SL handgun and ammunition were recovered by police in an alleyway in **Ardwick**, Manchester. They were discovered after officers patrolling the area noticed two men crouching in the grounds of a school who both fled when they realised they had been spotted. An 18-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm.

**BBC**, 10 August 2007

A 20-year-old man has been charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. The offence is believed to be linked to the murder of a man in **Huyton**, Merseyside.

**ic South London**, 9 August 2007

A teenager has been arrested with a massive arsenal of weapons in **Bermondsey**. He was caught with eight stun guns, more than 20 CS gas cannisters and a handgun. Police fear he was supplying gangs.

**ic Coventry**, 9 August 2007

Two men arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence were released without charge. The arrests followed reports that someone had a gun or had been threatened with a gun in a street in **Hilfields**. No weapons were recovered.

**BBC**, 8 August 2007

A nine-year-old boy was taken to hospital with a serious eye injury after an incident in **Chesterfield** when he was hit in the face with a pellet fired from a **BB gun**. Derbyshire Police warned young people not to carry BB guns and encouraged traders to sign up to the Gunsafe initiative and withdraw BB guns from sale.

**BBC**, 8 August 2007

A 16-year-old girl was shot in the leg while walking along a street in **Maidenhead**, Berkshire. An unknown attacker had fired an **air rifle**. She was taken to hospital as a precaution.

**ic Coventry**, 7 August 2007

A youth has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence for allegedly threatening a woman in **Bedworth** town centre. She claims the teenager made verbal threats to her and also believed she had seen him with a handgun. An **air rifle** was recovered which is not believed to be linked to the incident.

**Express & Star**, 7 August 2007

A boy aged 10 shot at two schoolgirls with a **ball bearing gun** as they walked close to a play area in **Heath Hayes**, Staffordshire. One of the girls was hit on the arm.

**Bolton News**, 7 August 2007

Two men have been jailed for a total of 19 years after a raid at **Atherton** railway station in December 2006. They escaped with more than £2000 after threatening a cashier with a **fake handgun**. Paul Anthony Benson pleaded guilty to robbery, possession of a firearm and three burglaries and received 11 years in total. Shane Francis Scally was jailed for 8 years after pleading guilty to robbery.

**Evening Star**, 6 August 2007

A man has been found dead on farmland off the road linking **Bruisyard** and **Peasenhall** in Suffolk. A shotgun was recovered from the scene. It is believed he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police are not treating the death as suspicious.

**BBC**, 6 August 2007

One arrest was made after reports of a man with a gun in **Bridgwater**, Somerset. Council CCTV operators had raised the alarm. The man was released on police bail.

**Avon and Somerset Constabulary**, 4 August 2007

Police arrested a man on suspicion of being in possession of a firearm after an incident in **Bristol**. There were reports that a shot had been discharged towards the ground resulting in one person sustaining a minor injury from debris.

**AOL News**, 4 August 2007

A teenager, believed to be aged 18 or 19, has become the latest victim of a fatal shooting in south London. Police found him near **Brixton** underground station after they were called to reports of shots being fired. A man on a motorcycle had ridden up to a group of 11 or 12 youths and spoke to them before pulling out a gun and shooting at them (*BBC*, 4 August 2007). A teenager is due to face court charged with murder (*Press Association*, 11 August 2007).

**Telegraph**, 3 August 2007

Colin Gunn, described as one of the country's most feared and dangerous criminals, has been jailed for life following an unprecedented undercover police operation. Gunn ran a **Nottingham**-based gang with his brother David. He was behind the murders of a couple at their home in **Trusthorpe**, Lincolnshire, in August 2004 (see [Incidents](#)) and was linked to the murder of jeweller Marion Bates in **Arnold**, Nottingham, in September 2003 (see [Incidents](#)). He had been connected to at least six murders and 50 shootings. He was serving a minimum of 35 years for masterminding the Trusthorpe murders and has now been sentenced to another nine years for his role in police corruption. An order banning his identification was lifted.

**Sidmouth Herald**, 3 August 2007

A seven-year-old boy from **Sidford**, Devon, narrowly escaped serious injury after being shot just below the eye by a **BB gun**. Police are keen to track two youths following the attack. The attack occurred a week after police warnings over BB guns following the seizure of three weapons from Swedish students in **Sidmouth**.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 3 August 2007

Abdul Ibrahim, 16, and a 14-year-old boy have been sentenced to five years and two years and eight months in custody, respectively, for their part in an attack in which a teenager was almost beaten to death in a park in **Preston** in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was attacked in a robbery by the pair who were armed with a cosh-type weapon and a **ball-bearing gun** which they fired at the victim's friends.

**ic Berkshire**, 3 August 2007

Zafram Saleem, 19, has had an appeal against criminal conviction turned down. He was one of four people convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent following an attack in a park in **Maidenhead** in February 2005 which involved a Stanley knife and an **airgun**. Saleem had captured the attack on mobile phone and was sentenced to two years in jail,

**Life Style Extra**, 2 August 2007

Christopher Toussant-Collins, 19, has been found guilty of being one of a gang of armed men who lay in wait outside a man's home in **Wembley**, north London, in July 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot as he was about to take his two children to school and died of his injuries. Toussant-Collins has been warned that he would be sent to jail for life.

**Kent News**, 2 August 2007

After a boy was shot in the leg with an **air rifle** as he walked by the River Medway in **Tovil** two youngsters were arrested, one (aged 15) for assault and possession of a firearm with intent to cause injury. The shot was one of three fired by one of a gang of five youths who took aim at a group on the opposite bank of the river.

**This is Grimsby**, 1 August 2007

A man is unable to see out of one eye after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** or **pellet gun**. He was leaving a house in **Cleethorpes** when a shot was fired by someone in a car. Doctors currently cannot tell how much long-term damage has been done.

**Hunts Post**, 1 August 2007

A man in **St Neots** seen walking along with a silver gun down his trousers, pulled the gun out, alarming passers-by, before heading off into a nearby flat. He was later arrested for possession of a **BB gun** in a public place.

**BBC**, 1 August 2007

A dog has died after being shot when three masked gunmen opened fire at a house in **Salford**, Greater Manchester. The dog was behind the door at the time. He had to be put down after he was found to be too badly injured. Nobody inside the house was injured.

**BBC**, 1 August 2007

Police arrested a man on suspicion of firearms offences and false imprisonment after a number of people were taken hostage at a hostel in **Sittingbourne**, Kent. There was a stand-off which lasted more than seven hours overnight. The man was armed with an **imitation firearm**.

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## SCOTLAND

**Incidents** from 29 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

A 15-year-old arrested for aiming **imitation handgun** at people in **Levenmouth**, Fife

Man shot five times in a drive-by in **Glasgow**

**BBC**, 29 August 2007

A man was arrested and charged after reports of a gun being fired in a street in **Dundee**.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 24 August 2007

Police are trying to track a person they believe has been taking potshots at the bedroom windows of a care home in **Erskine**. At least four small round holes have been discovered in glass panes and the police are working on the theory they were caused by shot from a **ball-bearing gun**. However, a spokesman for the care home said that the damage may have been caused by stones spat out by mowers.

**Herald**, 24 August 2007

Police are hunting a man who stole thousands of pounds in an armed robbery at a bank in **Troon**, Ayrshire. The man threatened staff with what appeared to be a firearm.

**BBC**, 24 August 2007

A man was shot with an **air rifle** in an incident at an address in **Inverness**. The man was taken to hospital but was not seriously injured.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 23 August 2007

Saeed Sarfraz, 16, has admitted robbing a woman in **Edinburgh** with a cigarette lighter shaped as a gun in January 2007. He also admitted trying to rob another woman with the same weapon in an **Edinburgh** street four days later. He admitted possessing an **imitation gun** on both occasions and robbing his first victim of her bag, purse, money, cards, phone and keys.

**BBC**, 22 August 2007

A nine-year-old was shot with a **BB gun** outside a primary school in **Dumfries**. He was taken to hospital but found to be uninjured. An 11-year-old will be reported to the Children's Reporter following the incident.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 21 August 2007

A pensioner was shot dead with an **airgun** at his home in **Winchburgh**, West Lothian. A 17-year-old man has been arrested and has appeared in court charged with murder (*Evening News*, 22 August 2007).

**BBC**, 21 August 2007

A three-year-old boy was shot with a **ball-bearing gun** whilst he was playing in a park in **High Valleyfield**, Fife. A 13-year-old boy has been reported in connection with the incident. The victim's hand was slightly scratched but he did not require hospital treatment.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 15 August 2007

Two women players at **Elderslie** golf club had to run for cover when two boys, aged between 10 and 13, took pot shots at them with a high-powered **air rifle**. The gun was fired at least twice. Other golfers who chased the boys were attacked with bricks and stones. The area was searched by police but the culprits were not found.

**BBC**, 8 August 2007

Two 15-year-old boys suffered minor injuries when they were shot with an **airgun** in a park in **Dundee**. The police think the weapon may have been fired from a nearby window and said that the outcome could have been "much more serious".

**Herald**, 6 August 2007

An 18-year-old, who was shot a close range as he left a 21st birthday party at a club in **Paisley**, died in hospital shortly after the shooting. Another victim has been left fighting for his life. Three shots were heard and residents saw a saloon car speed away from the scene.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 3 August 2007

A gunman opened fire in a busy pub in **Paisley**. The police know the identity of the man who has apparently gone into hiding. A single shot was fired from a pistol during a bar brawl.

**Arran Banner**, 3 August 2007

A 9-year-old boy has lost part of a front tooth after being shot in the face with a plastic pellet from a **ball-bearing gun**. The boy, who was on holiday, was playing with other children at a caravan park on **Arran** where they were shooting at each other with toy guns. The guns were on sale in a shop in **Brodick** for £3.99 but had a sticker saying over 18s only. They have now been removed from the shelves.

**BBC**, 1 August 2007

Paul Pitcairn, 21, shot a 13-year-old schoolgirl in the leg while he was high on drink and drugs in August 2006. He had chased the girl down the street in **Blackford**, Perthshire, before pinning her against a fence and shooting her with a **ball-bearing gun**. The victim had bruising on her leg which was painful for a time. Pitcairn was jailed for 100 days.

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## WALES

**Incident** from 29 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Man with an **air rifle** disarmed by police during a domestic incident in **Newport**

**Incident** from 28 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Man with an **air rifle** makes threats to kill in **Bargoed**, Caerphilly

**Incident** from 27 August 2007 (as reported by the *Daily Mirror*)

Two men threaten a cashier with a handgun in **Blackwood**, Gwent

**News Wales**, 6 August 2007

A man armed with a knife and a handgun took money from the till of a shop in **Port Talbot**. He made off with an accomplice on a motorcycle.

**Evening Post (Swansea)**, 4 August 2007

An unnamed 16-year-old girl from **Neath** has been given with an Asbo for terrorising neighbours, shooting at youngsters with a **ball-bearing gun** and various other offences. Breaching the order could result in five years' detention.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**BBC**, 31 August 2007

Two young men have been fined £750 and £500 respectively for shooting three roe deer and a red deer. Lloyd Fowlie and Steven Wilson shot the animals with an illegally held .22 rifle near **Alford**, Aberdeenshire, in November 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Daily Record**, 30 August 2007

A cat found by a crofter in **Banavie** near Fort William had an **airgun** pellet lodged in his right back leg. The damage was so severe that vets had to amputate the limb.

**BBC**, 30 August 2007

A seven-month-old cat who was shot in a field in **Broseley**, Shropshire, had to be put down. The cat had an **airgun** pellet lodged in its back.

**Evening Leader (Wrexham)**, 23 August 2007

A cat who had gone missing from home for five days was taken to a vets in **Chirk**, Clwyd, and found to have been shot with an **air rifle** which had caused serious nerve damage and a broken pelvis. It is not known whether the cat will survive his injuries.

**BBC**, 17 August 2007

A female swan was killed with an **airgun** at **Doone Ponds Nature Reserve**, Perthshire. The bird had been shot once in the head and was discovered beside the water by walkers. The shooting must have happened within view of the swan's mate.

**The Argus**, 14 August 2007

A cat has been shot dead in **Hastings**, East Sussex. Two men seen playing with an **air rifle** are believed to be responsible.

**Chester & District Standard**, 10 August 2007

A cat has been left paralysed after an **airgun** pellet pierced her spine. The cat was found in **Blacon**, Chester, by a member of the public. An RSPCA called to the scene said that she has a slim chance of survival.

**BBC**, 9 August 2007

Police have appealed for information after a young cat was shot with an **airgun** in **Tarves**, Aberdeenshire. The pet was left with a pellet close to his spine.

**Louth Leader**, 8 August 2007

Police believe thugs may have been firing **BB guns** at cygnets at a boating lake in **Mablethorpe**, Lincolnshire. One cygnet was found dead and three others have disappeared.

**BBC**, 2 August 2007

Two cygnets have been killed on a golf course in **Telford** by someone with an **airgun**. The birds had been shot in the head in separate incidents which RSPCA officials believe were instances of "target practice".

**Mid Sussex Times**, 1 August 2007

An **air rifle** pellet fired at a pet cat in **Cuckfield** narrowly missed his eye. The pellet lodged in his face and was removed by a vet with no lasting damage.

**Cambs24**, 1 August 2007

A pet cat has been attacked with an **air rifle** in **Hall Weston**, Cambridgeshire. Vets discovered he had been shot after the cat was howling whenever he went to get up.

**Bolton News**, 1 August 2007

RSPCA chiefs in **Bolton** urged cat owners to be on their guard after a cat was hit in the leg by a pellet from an **airgun**, the third cat to be shot in the space of two weeks.

**BBC**, 1 August 2007

See Incident in **ENGLAND**