

## **DECEMBER 2005 - SUMMARY**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Gunshot injuries were responsible for the deaths of men in Grimsby, Dewsbury (another victim was injured in this incident), Old Trafford (Manchester) (during a raid at an off-licence) and Greenock (the victim's brother was injured in the shooting). A woman was found shot dead at a house in Audley (Staffordshire). A farmer's wife was killed when her husband shot her with a humane killer in Shirenewton (near Chepstow) before shooting himself - he survived but was critically ill. A man shot his girlfriend dead with a shotgun and then killed himself in a field in Woodsetts (South Yorkshire). The police shot dead a man at his home in Meir (Stoke-on-Trent) after he was seen wielding a firearm, reported to have been a shotgun, and a sword.
- A man was injured in the legs when he was shot in his car in Wembley, another was shot after a car crash in Heckmondwike (West Yorkshire), four people were arrested after a man was shot in Chapeltown (Leeds) and a man was shot in the stomach in a Basingstoke bar. Nine people were arrested after a shooting in Harpurhey (Greater Manchester) after a disturbance outside a nightclub. A biker shot at two men, one of whom was injured, in Ladbroke Grove (London). In Scotland four friends were shot with a shotgun in Balloch and a man was injured in a shooting near Bridgeton Cross in Glasgow. Two beaters were shot after a misunderstanding with shooters during a pheasant shoot in Devon.
- **Armed Police Officers** - There were a number of incidents in December to which armed police officers were called. There were serious consequences in a number of these. A man was shot dead in Meir (Stoke-on-Trent) and another was shot in the arm as police tried to arrest him during a robbery on a supermarket in Peckham. Police reportedly shot a man as he fled from a house in Fulham: the man was wanted for a string of crimes including robbery. A man suspected of firing shots at police in West Linton (Peeblesshire) was hit by baton rounds fired by police.
- Motorists were left horrified at witnessing what appeared to be arrests made at gunpoint on a main road outside Hertford: these turned out to be part of a training exercise.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A shop worker lost his life during an armed raid on an off licence in Old Trafford (Manchester). There were other armed raids involving guns on shops in Perham Down (Wiltshire), Tiptree (Essex), Bedford, in the Bournemouth area (where five armed robberies have been linked) and Cleland (North Lanarkshire), on a bank in

Glasgow, on a building society in Taporley (Cheshire), on a betting shop in Shettleston (Glasgow), on a football club in Bristol, on post offices in Newburn (Tyneside) and Great Thurlow (Suffolk) (one worker suffered a cut after being struck by the butt of a sawn-off shotgun) and on security vans outside a shop in Ashby de la Zouch and a bank in Harpenden. Gunmen demanded that a man leaving a post office in Millfield (Peterborough) hand over cash. A girl had a gun held to her face and her mobile phone stolen by two youths in New Eltham. A gang of armed raiders forced their way into a home in Warwickshire and stole cash. A gunman who forced a woman to drive him to Bristol Temple Meads station at gunpoint is being hunted on suspicion of armed robbery. In a shocking incident in Spalding an 11-year-old boy was sexually assaulted by a man at gunpoint.

- **Other Incidents** - Three people were arrested after a weapon had reportedly fired in Cuxton (Kent) and a man was arrested after reports of shotgun fire in Manninford Bohune (Wiltshire). A gun was fired from a moving car in Hulme (Manchester) and a raider who attempted to break into a pub in Norbury (South London) fired a shot at the building. Police arrested two people after an incident in Workington and a man is due to appear in court after a gunman blasted the windows of a house in Merstham (Surrey). A gunman was arrested outside the St Enoch shopping centre in the centre of Glasgow. In South Wales another man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place in Ystradgynlais and a five-hour armed siege was sparked by a suspected gunman in Roath.
- Hundreds of school pupils in South Queensferry were locked in their classrooms after a man with a gun threatened to commit suicide in a house opposite.
- A man opened fire with a gun after disturbing two intruders at his house in Walpole St Andrew (West Norfolk).
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Air Rifles**) - Damien Hanson, convicted of the widely reported murder by stabbing of a financier and the attempted murder of his wife in Chelsea, was carrying a handgun at the time of the crime. Jail sentences were given to a number of men convicted of gun crime: to a man who granted a gunman permission to execute a victim in Northolt (North West London) (25 years), to a man for the torture and shooting of a teenager in Burnham (Buckinghamshire) (another man has already been given a life sentence for the murder and the inquiry continues), to six men who killed a doorman in Birmingham (minimum of 30 years) and to a man who dug up a shotgun from his garden in Orpington and shot and injured a visitor in the leg (12 years). A man faces a possible life sentence after being caught with a sub-machine gun and three pistols in Clapham (surprisingly he was given bail until sentencing in February).

- **Firearms Recovered and Stolen** - Firearms were recovered in police raids in Romford (relating to motor vehicle theft) and Hertfordshire (illegal drug trade). Police feared that over 100 BB guns found in the backyards of boarded-up homes in Burnley Wood could easily have got into the hands of criminals or children. Thieves stole four BB guns during a break in at a house in Sandhurst.
- **Imitation and Converted Guns** - Yet again the majority of the incidents involve juveniles, frequently as the victims, but there are still a number of incidents in which adults have used imitation guns. Three teenagers have been arrested after BB guns were fired at junior school children in Maltby (South Yorkshire) and in what appears to be a similar incident three teenagers fired at youngsters at a primary school in Perth. A man was arrested after threatening youths with an imitation gun in Sandy (Bedfordshire), a boy pointed a BB gun at a bus driver in Liverpool and a 12-year-old girl was arrested after using a BB gun to shoot a man in Macclesfield,
- A Croydon man was jailed for five and a half years for possessing a converted Glock handgun he claimed he had bought to commit suicide (police believe he was involved in drugs crime) and a terrorist who was found with a blank firing gun converted to shoot live rounds was convicted under the Terrorism Act (sentencing adjourned). A BB gun had been used by two of three men who were jailed after a series of crimes committed in Wakefield and Darlington. A 15-year-old admitted taking a pot shot with a BB gun and hitting a woman in her garden in Scone (Perthshire) and an 18-year-old was convicted of possessing an imitation firearm after waving it in Buckley town centre (North Wales). A 15-year-old has been banned by an ASBO from shops in Elmbridge (Hull) after firing a BB gun at a security camera
- **Airgun Incidents** - The windscreen of a van was cracked by air rifle fire whilst it was being driven in Welton (Somerset), four teenagers were arrested after a number of people were shot with an air rifle in Dogsthorpe (Peterborough), a man was arrested after being seen brandishing an air rifle in Lincoln and youths attacked a bus with an airgun as it passed through Gainford (Teesdale),
- There should be no doubt that airguns can be lethal. A coroner's court was told how a New Addington man had killed himself with an air rifle he kept in the loft, and an appeal court heard how a man had shot his wife in the head and neck with an air rifle in Cockermonth in a bid to murder her. A boy was said to have been "extremely lucky" after he was shot in the head as he "played" with an airgun with a friend in Billingham.
- In the first of two cases from Norfolk a man who admitted possessing an air rifle intending to cause fear and violence after firing the gun twelve times at two people, one a paramedic, in Mulbarton, was given a two and a half year jail sentence. In the second a teenager who threatened

bouncers with an air rifle in Dereham was given 18 months youth custody. A man pleaded guilty to affray after he used an airgun to frighten youngsters in Llandudno.

- Air weapons were again reported to have killed or injured a number of animals including swans and cats. A man from Cudham (Kent) was given a conditional discharge and a fine after admitting shooting a dog with an air rifle.

## DECEMBER 2005 - INCIDENTS

### ENGLAND

*Bedford Today*, 31 December 2005

Police turned out in force in **Sandy** after reports of a man threatening a group of youths with a silver handgun. The gun was later discovered to be a **replica**. A man was arrested and released on bail.

*icSouth London*, 30 December 2005

Simon Gill who claimed he had an 8 mm handgun to commit suicide was jailed for five-and-a-half years. Detectives, however, believed he paid for the **converted Glock handgun** after being caught up with drugs crime. Police found the gun during a raid on a premises in **Croydon**. Gill admitted possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of seven rounds of ammunition.

*BBC*, 30 December 2005

Armed police have arrested a man after the fatal shooting of another man in **Grimsby**. The victim died in hospital after being found lying in the street.

*BBC*, 30 December 2005

Three people were arrested by armed police after a man said a weapon had been fired at him in **Cuxton**, near Rochester. It is not believed that anyone was injured in the incident.

*BBC*, 29 December 2005

Two men robbed a football club in **Bristol**, threatened and assaulted a barman before taking a quantity of cash. During the raid a sawn-off shotgun was fired.

*BBC*, 28 December 2005

Two men were accidentally shot during a pheasant shoot in the **Hennock** area, near Newton Abbot. Both were hit by shotgun pellets. Police said the incident followed a misunderstanding between heaters and shooters. The Health and Safety Executive has been made aware of the incident.

*BBC*, 28 December 2005

A man was shot in the leg as he sat in his car in **Wembley**. He was approached by five men who hit him around the head before he was shot. The victim's condition is described as serious, but not life-threatening.

*Bexley Express*, 28 December 2005

Two youths, aged around 18, are being sought after a 15-year-old girl had a gun held to her face and her mobile phone stolen in a street in **New Eltham**. It is thought that a man may also have been a target of the duo at New Eltham train station.

*BBC*, 27 December 2005

A man has been shot dead and another received minor gunshot injuries after a row at a bar in **Dewsbury**. According to the police it is believed that the incident followed an altercation inside the bar.

*BBC*, 27 December 2005

A woman was found shot dead at a house in **Audley**, north Staffordshire. A man has been arrested and is helping police with their inquiries.

*BBC*, 24 December 2005

An 11-year-old boy suffered a serious sexual assault from a man who threatened him with what is believed to have been a handgun. The boy was walking in **Spalding** with a 9-year-old boy when they were approached by the man. He pulled out a what is thought to have been a gun and grabbed the 11-year-old. The other boy managed to run away.

*BBC*, 24 December 2005

Two shop assistants were threatened by a man with a pistol at a store in **Perham Down**, near Tidworth in Wiltshire. The man stole cash and then walked away from the scene.

*South London Press*, 23 December 2005

Damien Sawyers faces a possible life sentence after being convicted of possessing firearms and intent to supply crack cocaine and heroin. He was caught with a Skorpion CZ-91S sub-machine gun and three pistols, one disguised as a key ring, when police went to his hideout in **Clapham** in February 2005. However, despite the likelihood of a jail term the judge allowed Sawyers home until sentencing in February.

*BBC*, 23 December 2005

A security van was robbed by an armed gang in an attack at a supermarket in **Ashby de la Zouch**. One of the gang was armed with a handgun. Guards were threatened and a substantial amount of cash was taken.

*BBC*, 23 December 2005

A man has been arrested after reports of shotgun fire and shouting at **Manninford Bohune** near Pewsey in Wiltshire. Specialist officers were called to protect police and the public. Shotguns were seized.

*BBC*, 23 December 2005

The windscreen of a van was cracked as it was being driven along a road in **Welton, Midsomer Norton**, after it was shot at by a man using an **air rifle**.

*This is Local London*, 22 December 2005

Jerome Charles was sentenced to 25 years in jail after being convicted of murdering a man in **Northolt** as he begged for his life. He had granted an unknown gunman permission to execute the victim, who had gone to the location for a drug deal in February 2005 (see [Incidents](#)).

*Liverpool Echo*, 22 December 2005

A schoolboy pointed a **BB gun** at a bus driver and passengers near **Liverpool** city centre. Two children were picked up by the police following the incident. The gun was seized and the boys taken home to their parents to be warned about their behaviour. The driver was so terrified he is considering quitting his job.

*icHuddersfield*, 22 December 2005

Abu Mansha plotted to "hunt down" and kill a decorated British soldier. When police searched his flat in **Thamesmead** they found "virulent anti-Western propaganda" and a **blank firing gun** in the process of being converted to shoot live rounds. He insisted he had bought the pistol from a market stall as a souvenir. He was convicted of one count under Section 58 (1b) of the Terrorism Act. Sentencing was adjourned.

*Herts Advertiser*, 22 December 2005

A man armed with a handgun robbed a security van outside a bank in **Harpenden**. The man got away with a substantial sum of money.

*Croydon Guardian*, 22 December 2005

A man from **New Addington** shot himself dead with an **air rifle**. A pellet entered his right temple and went right through his head. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide. His wife believed that the gun, which was in the loft, had been disposed of some time ago.

*BBC*, 22 December 2005

A gun was fired from a moving car in **Hulme**, Manchester. Damage was caused to a house window and wall, but there were no injuries.

*Mirror*, 21 December 2005

Earl White was reportedly shot by police in the back as he drove at an armed police officer when fleeing his mother's home in **Fulham**. White was wanted by police for a string of crimes including robbery. The Independent Police Complaints Commission would not confirm the details of the incident, although Scotland Yard have warned that White, who is in hiding, is "dangerous" and should not be approached.

*Peterborough Today*, 20 December 2005

Four teenagers have been arrested after a number of people were shot at with an **air rifle** in **Dogsthorpe**. Residents were forced to duck for cover as the gun was fired at pedestrians and vehicles. Three people were treated at hospital after being hit.

*BBC*, 20 December 2005

A boy was shot in the head with an **airgun** in an incident described as an accident, which happened as he played with the gun with a friend in **Billingham**. He had to go to hospital to have a pellet removed from his head. Cleveland Police say he was "extremely lucky". The victim does not wish to press charges.

**BBC**, 19 December 2005

Mohammed Omar Akbar was found guilty of murder following the torture and shooting of a teenager at a house in **Burnham** in November 2003. Altogether seven people have been convicted in connection with the murder but an inquiry is to continue. Another man, Majad Khan, had also been found guilty of murdering the victim and was jailed for life in November 2004.

**BBC**, 19 December 2005

A man was shot dead by police at his home in **Meir**, Stoke-on-Trent, after armed police were called to a block of flats by a neighbour. A firearm was found at the scene and the man is also reported to have been wielding a sword. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating the incident. A later report suggested that the weapon was a shotgun (*Mirror*, 20 December 2005).

**BBC**, 19 December 2005

A man is recovering in hospital after he was shot in the leg following a car crash in **Heckmondwike**. He was shot as he returned to his car after approaching the other car involved in the collision to talk to the driver.

**BBC**, 18 December 2005

A man has been arrested after he was seen brandishing an **air rifle** in the centre of **Lincoln**. He had been reported to have been pointing a firearm at cars and passers-by.

*Manchester Evening News*, 17 December 2005

A shop worker was shot dead at an off-licence in **Old Trafford**. The victim, who suffered a single gunshot wound, died at the scene. It is thought that two gunmen escaped from the scene and that the shooting may have been a robbery which turned violent.

*Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)*, 17 December 2005

An armed raider made off with money from the counter at **Newburn** post office after he had pointed a handgun at the postmaster's head.

**National Newspapers**, 16 December 2005

Damien Hanson, who was convicted of the murder of a financier and the attempted murder of his wife at their **Chelsea** home in November 2004, was also carrying a handgun when he knifed his victims as he and an accomplice attempted to rob them.

**National Newspapers**, 16 December 2005

Police have revealed that Lee Smith fatally shot his 16-year-old ex-girlfriend before turning his shotgun on himself. Their bodies were found in a field near **Woodsetts** in south Yorkshire. Both had died from a single gunshot wound to the head.

*Burnley Today*, 16 December 2005

Around 100 **BB guns** were discovered in the backyards of boarded-up homes in **Burnley Wood** by community officers, who returned the following day to find another 20 to 30 weapons. The guns ranged from handguns to large weapons. Police feared that they could easily have got into the hands of criminals or children.

*BBC*, 16 December 2005

A man opened fire with a gun after disturbing two intruders at his house in **Walpole St Andrew**, west Norfolk. The intruders escaped in a white van. Police said that it remained unclear if either of the suspects was injured.

*BBC*, 16 December 2005

A group of youths thought to be between 12 and 15 fired **BB guns** at younger children outside a junior school at **Maltby**, near **Rotherham**. Some of the children were hit in the face by the pellets. There are unconfirmed reports that the incident was filmed on mobile phones. *South Yorkshire Police* (21 December 2005) have announced that three males, aged 13, 14 and 15 have been arrested and released on police bail. BB guns and ammunition and a mobile telephone have been seized.

*This is Hertfordshire*, 15 December 2005

**Hertfordshire** Police seized a gas-powered **ball bearing gun** in one of a series of raids in Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, London Colney, St Albans and Borehamwood targeted at the drug trade.

*Bromley Times*, 15 December 2005

Leonard Scamp dug up a shotgun from his garden and used it to shoot a visitor to his **Orpington** house in the leg. He was jailed for 12 years.

*Yorkshire Post*, 14 December 2005

Andrew Sunman, 15, who deliberately fired a **ball-bearing gun** at a shop security camera, has been banned by an ASBO from four stores in **Elmbridge**, Hull, for the next two years. He had shot at the camera when he refused to leave a store from which he was already banned and was told he was on CCTV.

*Life Style Extra*, 14 December 2005

One of nine men arrested following dawn raids in London's East End and Essex for offences relating to theft of motor vehicles was also arrested for possession of a firearm. He was detained at an address in **Romford**.

*icCroydon*, 14 December 2005

A masked raider attempting to break into a pub in **Norbury** fired a shot after he failed to get in. He sped off on a motorbike driven by another man.

*BBC*, 14 December 2005

Gunmen wearing balaclavas forced their way into a **Warwickshire** home where a couple and their two daughters were watching television. The owner was forced to hand over cash and he was punched in the face. Two of the five men in the gang carried guns.

*Teesdale Mercury*, 13 December 2005

Passengers on a bus that was attacked by youths as it passed through **Gainford** described it as an **airgun** attack. Three of the bus's windows were smashed and the bus driver talked about someone using an air rifle.

*BBC*, 13 December 2005

A man was hurt in a struggle with an armed robber during a raid in **Great Thurlow**, Suffolk. Two men wearing balaclavas armed with sawn-off shotguns entered the post office. One worker suffered a cut to the head after being struck by the butt of a gun.

*BBC*, 12 December 2005

A shop worker was threatened with a handgun during a robbery in **Tiptree**, Essex. The robber forced the man to open the till and the safe before escaping with cash.

*BBC*, 12 December 2005

Nine people were arrested after a series of morning raids in connection with a violent disturbance outside a nightclub and a subsequent shooting in **Harpurhey**, Greater Manchester. Police believe that two of the people shot had been involved in the earlier disturbance.

*BBC*, 11 December 2005

A man underwent surgery after being shot in the stomach in a bar in **Basingstoke**. Another man suffered a wound to his face, and a third man had a minor hand injury. Two men were being questioned after the shootings.

*News & Star*, 10 December 2005

Simon Lee shot his wife in the head and neck with an **air rifle** in a bid to murder her in **Cockermouth** in December 2001. He has lost an appeal to have his convictions overturned. The Crown considered it to be a deliberate shooting as Lee would have had to reload the gun between shots. He was sentenced to nine years for attempted murder and three years concurrent for a firearms offence.

*BBC*, 10 December 2005

Thieves have stolen four **BB guns**, along with electrical items, during a break in at a house in **Sandhurst**. Police fear the stolen guns could be used to commit crime.

*Eastern Daily Press*, 9 December 2005

Michael Harper admitted possessing an **air rifle** intending to cause fear of violence and was jailed for two and a half years. A court heard how in July 2005 he had fired the rifle at a neighbour and a paramedic in **Mulbarton** after becoming "frustrated" over a financial matter. Harper fired twelve shots in total, ten from his house and two from outside.

*Macclesfield Express*, 8 December 2005

A 12-year-old girl was arrested after using a **BB gun** with a laser sight to shoot a man in the ear. She had fired the gun from a house in **Macclesfield**. Her victim lost hearing in his right ear for several hours after the attack.

*Eastern Daily Press*, 7 December 2005

Gary Franks, 18, was sentenced to youth custody for 18 months after threatening bouncers with an **air rifle** in **Dereham** after being refused entry to a pub. Franks had previously been sentenced to youth custody for starting a blaze.

*Sun*, 5 December 2005

An army captain who had apparently stayed up drinking on the night before target practice shot a sergeant in the leg with his Minimi machine gun at a range between **Lydd** and **Hythe**. He stumbled and accidentally fired a stream of bullets.

*BBC*, 5 December 2005

Police are hunting a gunman who forced a woman to drive him to Temple Meads station in Bristol. The man stopped her as she was driving in **Montpelier**, got into the vehicle and forced her to drive him to the station where he left her unharmed. The man is being hunted on suspicion of armed robbery.

*BBC*, 4 December 2005

A suspected robber was shot in the arm by police as they tried to arrest him at a supermarket in **Peckham**, south east London. The wounded man and two others were arrested, but a fourth man ran away.

*BBC*, 4 December 2005

A man is recovering in hospital after being shot in a Saturday night incident in **Chapelton**, Leeds. Four people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

*Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)*, 3 December 2005

Shaun Sidgwick was given a life sentence after admitting two robberies and imitation firearm offences, Mark Gamble was jailed for seven years after admitting two imitation firearm offences and other offences and William Gatley was jailed for six years after he admitted theft and robbery charges. The three men were involved in a series of crimes in May 2005. Gatley pointed a pistol at a man in **Wakefield** and, together with Sidgwick and another man, stole the victim's car. Later the same day Sidgwick pointed the gun at security guards after Gatley had tried to steal four cans of cider from a supermarket in **Darlington**. In another incident Gamble and Sidgwick robbed a woman of her car at gunpoint. When police stopped Gamble in the car they found a kitchen knife and a **BB gun**.

*Peterborough Today*, 2 December 2005

Three robbers tried to drag a man into their car as he left a post office in **Millfield**, Peterborough. They demanded that he hand over any cash and was hit over the head with a gun. He handed over his wallet and mobile phone and the robbers took his coat.

*News & Star*, 2 December 2005

Armed police officers were called to an incident on an estate in **Workington** in which a firearm was believed to have been involved. A man and a woman were later arrested and police were searching for a second man.

*Hertfordshire Mercury*, 2 December 2005

Motorists watched in horror as armed police held two suspects at gunpoint on the A414 outside **Hertford**. However, it was revealed that the incident had been a training exercise. Although police defended the exercise, some witnesses were terrified by the incident.

*Chester Chronicle*, 2 December 2005

A man in a deerstalker hat threatened staff of a building society in **Taporley** with a handgun during an armed robbery. He escaped with around £2000.

*Bedfordshire Times & Citizen*, 2 December 2005

A man is in custody after a bungled shoplifting in **Bedford** in which a handgun was produced and two members of staff threatened outside a shop. The assailant dropped his weapon which broke revealing it to have been an **imitation gun**.

*BBC*, 2 December 2005

Greater Manchester Police have begun an investigation after an officer accidentally fired a gun in the changing room of **Collyhurst** police station. It is believed that a bullet ended up embedded in a wall. The officer was a GMP authorised firearms officer.

*BBC*, 2 December 2005

Six men who killed a doorman in **Birmingham** in November 2004 (see [Incidents](#)) have each been jailed for life. Dean Smith, William Carter, Carl Spencer, Michael Christie, who were allegedly all part of a street gang called the Johnson Crew, and Leonard Wilkins and Jemal Parchment were found guilty of murder. They were also convicted of attempting to murder three of the murder victim's colleagues. Two 9 mm handguns were used in the murder. The judge said that the defendants must serve at least 30 years in prison.

*icSurrey*, 1 December 2005

Police are hunting a gunman who blasted the windows of a house in **Merstham**. He used both barrels of a shotgun before jumping in a car which was later abandoned in the car park of East Surrey Hospital where a man and a woman left in a taxi and were dropped off in Crawley. A man is due to appear in court charged with three firearms offences - four other people have been bailed (*BBC*, 3 December 2005).

*BBC*, 1 December 2005

A masked man armed with a handgun threatened a shop assistant in the **Southbourne** area of Bournemouth before stealing the shop's takings. The gun was not fired. Police are hunting an armed man and his accomplice believed to have been involved in five armed robberies in the Bournemouth area between 3 November and 10 December. Premises targeted have been a bookmakers, a petrol station and three stores (*BBC*, 15 December 2005).

*BBC*, 1 December 2005

A biker shot at two men as they sat parked outside a pub in **Ladbroke Grove**, west London. The driver is recovering from minor gunshot wounds.

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## SCOTLAND

*Evening Times*, 30 December 2005

An armed robber held up a bank at gunpoint in Byres Road in **Glasgow's** West End. He threatened a female member of staff before making off with a "four figure sum of money".

*BBC*, 25 December 2005

Two men, one of whom was armed with a gun, robbed a newspaper shop in **Cleland**. The men escaped with a four-figure sum of money, after threatening two female members of staff.

*Evening Telegraph & Post*, 23 December 2005

Three teenagers fired a **BB gun** at youngsters at a primary school in **Perth**. Nobody was injured but police say they are taking the incident very seriously. The incident occurred as pupils played in the school guns.

*icPerthshire*, 16 December 2005

A 15-year-old boy took a pot shot at a woman in her garden in **Scone** with a **BB gun**. The boy admitted injuring her by culpably and recklessly discharging a BB pellet gun and striking her head. The gun was designed to look like an American self-loading Colt pistol which had been sold to one of the boy's friends in a high street shop.

*Scotsman*, 15 December 2005

Hundreds of pupils at a school in **South Queensferry** were locked in their classrooms after a man with a gun threatened to commit suicide in a house opposite. Armed police arrested the man following a two-hour standoff.

*Record*, 14 December 2005

A man suspected of firing shots at police was hit with baton rounds in a siege at his home in **West Linton**, Peeblesshire. The police had surrounded the house after reports that a man had been seen with a gun.

*Evening Times*, 14 December 2005

Detectives are hunting a masked pair who abducted a betting shop worker at gunpoint and forced him to open up the bookies in **Shettleston**, Glasgow. The men made off with thousands of pounds.

*Evening Times*, 12 December 2005

A man was gunned down near **Bridgeton Cross** in Glasgow. The victim was in hospital but his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

*Evening Times*, 9 December 2005

Four friends who were standing together on the street in a housing scheme in **Balloch** were shot with a shotgun. All four were rushed to hospital.

*Evening Times*, 7 December 2005

Armed police swooped on a gunman outside the St Enoch shopping centre in the centre of **Glasgow**. A man is likely to appear in court in connection with the incident.

*BBC*, 7 December 2005

One of two brothers shot in **Greenock** has died, while the other victim is critically ill in hospital. A number of shots were fired at the two men. It is reported that children were on the street at the time of the shooting. A woman and a man have been arrested over charges arising from the incident (*BBC*, 21 December 2005).

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## WALES

*icNorth Wales*, 21 December 2005

Robert Jones pleaded guilty to affray after he used an **airgun** to frighten youngsters near his home in **Llandudno**. There had been problems in the vicinity in the past but there was no suggestion that the boys he attempted to frighten were the cause of past problems.

*Wales on Sunday*, 18 December 2005

Following a tip-off from a passing motorist, a man was arrested in **Ystradgynlais** on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place.

*South Wales Echo*, 14 December 2005

A suspected gunman sparked a five-hour armed siege after threatening to shoot passers-by from his home in **Roath**. It is believed that the man had called police with the threat. The suspect was arrested.

*Daily Post*, 14 December 2005

Darren Davidson, 18, smuggled a novelty gun he bought on holiday in Majorca through airport security. He was caught on CCTV camera waving the **imitation gun** in **Buckley** town centre. He claimed it was a joke but admitted possessing an imitation firearm. Magistrates imposed 40 hours unpaid work, with £55 costs, but Davidson was told he could have faced 10 years in prison.

*Sun*, 5 December 2005

Richard Parker-Morgan, a farmer from **Shirenewton** near Chepstow, apparently shot his wife with a humane killer before phoning the police and then turning the device on himself. He survived and is critically ill in hospital, but his wife was killed. He was under arrest on suspicion of murder.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

*BBC*, 16 December 2005

Two swans at a country park near **Tiverton** have been shot in an **air rifle** attack. One bird was hit twice and was found dead by a member of the public. The other was seen in distress but escaped capture by RSPCA officers.

*Sutton Guardian*, 16 December 2005

Two children in **Sutton** have been left devastated by the death of their kitten which was shot with an **air weapon**. The cat was violently sick when it arrived back at his owner's home. It had been shot twice in the abdomen.

*Bromley Times*, 15 December 2005

Brian Evans of **Cudham** was ordered to pay £600 and given a 12-month conditional discharge for causing unnecessary suffering to an animal after admitting shooting the dog of a neighbouring farmer with an **air rifle**. The dog died from blood loss after a pellet went through muscles, kidney and colon and then an artery of the spleen and pancreas. The air rifle was 50 per cent overpowered, unbeknown to Evans or the dealer who had sold him the gun.

*News & Star*, 10 December 2005

An eight-month-old cat was shot in the face with an **air weapon** near **Egremont**. It later died of its injuries.

*Eastbourne Today*, 8 December 2005

An **Eastbourne** pensioner discovered her pet cat died after being shot in the head with an **airgun** pellet. She did not know her car had died until three days after the shooting which must have been carried out at close range.

*Yorkshire Post*, 2 December 2005

The RSPCA has launched an appeal for information after a swan was shot twice in the head with an **airgun** in **Barnsley**. X-rays revealed that the bird was lucky to be alive. The pellets were shot from directly above its head, meaning somebody stood over it and close to it before they repeatedly fired.



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