

DECEMBER 2006 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Six men were killed in gun incidents during December. Fatal shootings occurred in Carshalton (south London), Croxteth (Merseyside), Handsworth (Birmingham) and Ipswich (three other men received injuries in a number of shooting incidents linked to one nightclub which police have asked to be closed). Three men were shot, one fatally, at an MOT centre in Lambhill (Glasgow) in an incident which has been reported to be part of an on-going criminal feud in Glasgow. A man found dead in Cottingham (Humberside) had been badly beaten but had also been shot a number of times with an airgun.
- A man died from gunshot wounds at a farm near Broadway, Worcestershire. Police are investigating whether the death was accidental or suicide.
- Three men received gunshot wounds in shootings linked to a nightclub in Ipswich which claimed the life of another man (see above). Two other victims were injured during the incident in which one man was shot dead in Lambhill (Glasgow) (see above). An ice cream salesman was shot with a shotgun and critically injured in his van in an attack in Penicuik - the shooting may be due to a past grievance. Two men were injured in a shooting incident in Ordsall (Salford). Police were called to an incident in Tynemouth in which a man was seriously injured when he was shot in the legs. Another teenager became the target of a Manchester gun attack - the 17-year-old was shot three times whilst cycling through a park in Stretford. A man was injured in the hand when he was shot outside a pub in Springburn (Glasgow).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A masked gunman robbed a woman of thousands of pounds worth of jewellery and cash when he raided her home in Sandbanks (Dorset). Two men tied up and threatened another woman in her home in Gravesend (Kent) before stealing cash, jewellery and her car. A pensioner was robbed by three armed gunmen at his home in Berkhamsted (Hertfordshire).
- A female security guard was threatened with a handgun by robbers who stole cash she was delivering in Wickford (Essex). Another security guard was robbed whilst delivering cash to a shop in Bury. Two men were robbed in the street of a bag of cash which they were taking to deposit at a bank in Huntingdon.
- A man was threatened at gunpoint and had his car stolen after taking two men for a test drive in Harlow.
- Robberies and attempted robberies by men armed with guns occurred on a petrol station in Doncaster, travel agents in Darlington and Hartlepool (the raids may be linked), off licences in Whittingham (Preston), Belvedere (south London) (a ball-bearing gun was fired, see below), Fratton (Portsmouth) and Rugby, on other shops in Penge and Anerley (south London) (the same gang may have been involved), Long Buckby (Northamptonshire) (a ball-bearing gun was used, see below), Hatfield (Hertfordshire), Leasowe (Wirral) (a stun gun was used) and York, a restaurant in Forres (Morayshire), a building society in Ashbourne (Derbyshire), post offices in St Agnes (Cornwall), Porth (South Wales) and Darnall (Sheffield) and a betting shop in Leicester.

- **Other Incidents** - Two nurses at a Birmingham hospital were threatened by a man thought to have been armed with a gun.
- A man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after a fight at a pub in Newlyn (Cornwall).
- A suspected thief, armed with a stun gun, smashed a glass door at the Harrods store in Knightsbridge (London).
- A nightclub in Croydon was evacuated and a loaded pistol found after a man had been spotted with a handgun.
- **Gun Thefts and Finds** - A haul of 65 guns was discovered by police in an empty house in Crystal Palace (south London).
- A rifle, ammunition, telescopic sight and silencer and an air rifle and pellets were stolen from a farm outbuilding near Elgin. During a robbery at a shop in Swansea a number of air rifles and ball-bearing guns were stolen.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - **In December there were several trials involving gunmen charged with murder or attempted murder, a number of whom were in their teens at the time of the crime.**
- Two men were sentenced to a minimum of 35 years for the murder of PC Sharon Beshenivsky who was fatally shot during an armed raid on a travel agents in Bradford: another police officer was injured. Two other members of the gang were found guilty of PC Beshenivsky's manslaughter (one was sentenced to at least 11 years, the other will be sentenced in January).
- Following another incident in which a woman police officer was shot, a man was convicted of the attempted murder of PC Rachael Bown in Nottingham and sentenced to 30 years in prison.
- Four teenagers were convicted for killing a woman who was shot dead at a christening party in Peckham - a 17-year-old was found guilty of murder, the other three of manslaughter. All face long terms in jail when sentencing takes place.
- Three members of a London drugs gang were convicted of shooting and murdering a man during the 2004 Notting Hill Carnival in west London.
- A man described as an expert shot was jailed for at least 26 years for killing his landlord, a farmer in Radcliffe, with a shotgun.
- Two men were given indeterminate jail sentences after being found guilty of attempted murder and other offences following the shooting of a man when violence had erupted at a bar in Basingstoke.
- A soldier has been jailed for three years after he stole a pistol from the armoury of his barracks in Devon and used it to threaten his drug dealer. Three other soldiers have been given custodial sentences (over five years, two years and eight months and six months) for their involvement in a scheme to buy guns in Iraq and sell them to fellow soldiers (two other soldiers are due to face proceedings next year).
- A collector of "illegal things" pleaded guilty to various firearms charges after a cache of guns and ammunition had been found in his home in Aberdeenshire.
- A man who worked at Harrow School used his gun collection to lure vulnerable victims was jailed for 16 years for subjecting boys to a catalogue of sexual abuse.
- A man who buried an illegally-held handgun in his garden was given a two year suspended sentence and ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work after he claimed to have brought the gun into the country inadvertently.

- **Airguns** - Two teenagers have been charged with murder after the body of a man was found in a field at Cottingham (Humberside): he had been shot several times with an airgun and badly beaten.
 - A man was shot and injured in the leg with an air rifle following an argument in a pub in Diss (Norfolk).
 - The windscreen of a bus was shattered by an airgun pellet whilst the vehicle was being driven through Elgin.
 - Police in Withington (Gloucestershire) reprimanded three boys aged 16 and 15 after an air rifle was fired.
 - A Leeds man who documented acts of vandalism, threatening and anti-social behaviour on camera says he recorded airgun pellets being fired and threats made to shoot a four-year-old girl.
 - A 20-year-old pleaded guilty to charges of unlawful wounding following an incident in Poole in which a seven-year-old boy was shot with an air rifle.
 - A man appeared in court after he was arrested for having a loaded air pistol in his car in Lerwick - the gun was confiscated.
- **Imitation Guns - During a month in which parents were warned by police forces across the country not to buy imitation guns for their children at Christmas there was further evidence of the criminal use of these weapons. Because of their ease of availability, it is likely that many more of the handguns reportedly used during armed robberies (see above) will have been imitation guns.**
 - Shop workers were shot with ball-bearing guns during hold ups on shops in Belvedere (south London) and Long Buckby (Northamptonshire).
 - A woman was taken to hospital after being shot, probably with a ball-bearing gun, in a street in Carlisle.
 - Three men admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after pointing a ball-bearing gun out of a car in the centre of Mansfield.
 - A man was given a supervision order for 18 months after he had been seen in Preston carrying a machete and a ball-bearing gun.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - In addition to the continuing catalogue of sickening attacks on cats with airguns, there were also reports of dogs being targeted by gunmen.

INCIDENTS – DECEMBER 2006

ENGLAND

Sheffield Today, 30 December 2006

A robber brandishing a silver handgun confronted a sub-postmaster as he was opening up the branch in **Darnall**. He demanded to be taken inside and be given the contents of the safe. He tied up the sub-postmaster and then climbed on to the roof to escape. The victim's wife called the police who sent an armed response team but the robber had fled.

BBC, 30 December 2006

A 17-year-old was shot three times in what is being described by police as a targeted attack. The teenager was cycling through a park in **Stretford**, Manchester, when he was shot in the back, stomach and legs. His condition is described as comfortable.

The Press (York), 29 December 2006

Two armed robbers used a handgun to demand cash from terrified shop assistants at a shop in **York**. The men took cash and escaped.

Peterborough Evening Telegraph, 29 December 2006

A bag of cash was stolen from two men in **Huntingdon** when they were approached by a man with a handgun. They were intending to deposit the bank at a nearby bank.

BBC, 28 December 2006

A man was discovered dead in a field in **Cottingham** near Hull. He had been brutally beaten to death and also been shot with an **air weapon**. Another report described the victim's body being found peppered with wounds from an airgun (*Sun*, 28 December 2006). The police want to speak to people with information about air weapons being used in the area. Two teenagers, aged 18 and 17, are due to appear in court charged with murder and another, aged 15, has been released on bail pending further inquiries (*Press Association*, 30 December 2006).

BBC, 28 December 2006

A robber told the staff at a **Leicester** betting shop that he had a handgun. He threatened them with an object wrapped in a carrier bag then left with a quantity of cash.

BBC, 27 December 2006

A shop assistant in **Leasowe** on the Wirral was threatened by a robber armed with a stun gun who made off with the takings. The victim was left shaken but uninjured.

BBC, 26 December 2006

A man armed with a shotgun threatened an attendant at a petrol station in **Doncaster**. The attendant was forced to hand over cash. She was left shaken but otherwise unhurt.

This is Hertfordshire, 22 December 2006

Two masked raiders threatened staff with a handgun and a baseball bat as they stole a small amount of cash from a book shop in **Hatfield**.

BBC, 22 December 2006

Two robbers held a gun to the head of a security guard as he made a delivery to a supermarket in **Bury**. The men ran away with at least five bags containing a "significant amount" of money.

BBC, 22 December 2006

A teenage shop worker was injured when he was attacked in an off licence in **Rugby** by a masked man carrying a handgun. The robber fled with an unknown amount of money after kneeling the victim in the stomach.

Telegraph, 21 December 2006

Douglas Bernstein buried an illegally-held .357 Ruger revolver and 20 bullets in his garden in **Dunsfold**, Surrey. His wife discovered what he had done and informed the police. He pleaded guilty to having a prohibited firearm and ammunition without a certificate. He said he had bought the weapon lawfully in America and claimed he had inadvertently brought it into Britain inside the drawer of some furniture when he took up a post at Southampton University. He was given a 51 weeks' jail sentence suspended for two years and was ordered to carry out 180 hours' unpaid work.

Hemel Today, 21 December 2006

A pensioner was robbed at gunpoint at his home in **Berkhamsted**. Three men, one of whom was holding a black handgun, stole Christmas presents, cash and credit cards. They had rung his doorbell late in the evening and then demanded money from him.

AOL News, 21 December 2006

Four teenagers have been convicted of killing a woman as she cradled a baby at the child's christening party in **Peckham** in August 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). A 17-year-old was convicted of murder and the other three, aged 15, 16 and 17 were convicted of manslaughter. All four were members of an armed masked gang who burst into a christening party and after shooting the victim robbed other guests of valuables. All four face lengthy jail sentences: sentencing will take place in February 2007.

Times, 20 December 2006

A soldier, Danny McKee, has been jailed for three years after stealing a Browning 9mm pistol from the armoury of his barracks at **Chivenor**, north Devon, in June 2006 and using it to threaten a drugs dealer in a row over £20.

Diss Mercury, 20 December 2006

A man was shot in the leg at point-blank range outside a pub in **Diss** following an argument. About half an hour after time had been called one of the men who had been arguing returned brandishing an **air rifle** and shot the other man in the leg. The victim needed hospital treatment for severe bruising but was saved from more serious injuries after the pellet first hit his keys.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 20 December 2006

Deke Merlin Hogan of **Willenhall** was given a community punishment order for 12 months and ordered to do 100 hours unpaid community work after having a loaded **air rifle** in a public place without lawful authority. The gun was forfeited.

BBC, 20 December 2006

Two robbers dressed as postmen threatened a couple at their home in **Ewell**, Surrey. It is believed that were armed with a firearm in a black plastic bag. They had entered the property after telling the man they had a letter in their van. The robbers stole money.

National Newspapers, 19 and 23 December 2006

Yusuf Jama, 20, has been found guilty of the murder of PC Sharon Beshenivsky, who was shot dead at point blank range following a bungled armed robbery at a travel agents in **Bradford** in November 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Another police officer, PC Teresa Milburn, was shot and injured. Two brothers, Faisal Razzaq and Hassan, were found guilty of the manslaughter of PC Beshenivsky. Jama was also found guilty of possessing a Mac10 machine gun and a 9mm pistol with intent to endanger life and two counts of possessing firearms. Raza Ul-Haq Aslam was cleared of all charges except for robbery and be retried in February. Earlier Muzzaker Shah had admitted PC Beshenivsky's murder, but the judge had ordered the jury to clear him of PC Milburn's attempted murder. Shah and Jama have each been sentenced to a minimum of 35 years in prison. Faisal Razzaq was given a life sentence and will serve at least 11 years before being considered for parole. Hassan Razzaq will be sentenced in January. Two other men, Mustaf Jama and Piran Ditta Khan remain on the run from the police.

Lancashire Evening Post, 19 December 2006

Michael Richard Allen has been given a supervision order for 18 months after being seen in **Preston** carrying a machete and a **ball-bearing gun**.

Leeds Today, 18 December 2006

A man who spent hours documenting acts of vandalism, threatening and antisocial behaviour in a street in **Middleton**, Leeds, describes some of the things he caught on camera as outrageous. He says he recorded **airgun** pellets being fired and threats made to shoot a four-year-old girl.

ic Birmingham, 18 December 2006

Police are investigating the death of a man who was discovered with gunshot wounds at a farm near **Broadway**, Worcestershire. An inquest has been opened (*Evesham Journal*, 20 December 2006).

Sunday Mirror, 17 December 2006

A masked gunman robbed a woman of up to £500,000 of jewellery and cash at her home in **Sandbanks**, Dorset. She was alone when the man broke in through an open side door.

BBC, 17 December 2006

A shop worker was shot with a **ball-bearing gun** as two men held up a shop in **Long Buckby**, Northamptonshire. The robbers fled with the night's takings. The victim was shot in the arm and suffered bruising.

Portsmouth.co.uk, 16 December 2006

Three robbers burst into an off licence in **Fratton** and threatened a cashier with a gun. The men attempted to get into the till but were unable to open it and fled empty-handed.

Contactmusic.com, 16 December 2006

A suspected thief pulled out a stun gun in Harrods store in **Knightsbridge**, London. The suspect smashed a glass door before running away, chased by security guards. He surrendered 30 minutes later after running into a block of flats.

Cotswold Journal, 15 December 2006

Police in the North Cotswolds are warning parents about the pitfalls of allowing children and teenagers to own air weapons. The warning comes after police received reports that youths were firing an **air rifle** at the windows of homes in **Withington**. Three boys, aged 16 and 15, were given a police reprimand.

BBC, 15 December 2006

Staff at a travel agents in **Darlington** were confronted by a gunman who stole £5,000 in sterling and other denominations. No one was hurt in the incident, although two female members of staff were left shocked and shaken. Police are investigating whether the robbery is linked to the one on another travel agents in Hartlepool (see below).

BBC, 15 December 2006

A murder inquiry has begun after a man was shot at his home in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. Police say they were called to reports of an incident at the house. The victim died in hospital.

Hartlepool Today, 14 December 2006

A man fled with cash which he demanded from a female shop assistant at a travel agents in **Hartlepool**. Police believe he was carrying a handgun. The assistant was badly shaken but not hurt during the incident.

Daily Echo, 14 December 2006

Thomas Blackburn, 20, pleaded guilty to charges of unlawful wounding and possession of a firearm, following the shooting of a seven-year-old boy who was riding his bicycle outside his home in **Poole** in August 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). An **air rifle**, silencer and ammunition were found in his room at home after the attack. The victim spent three nights in hospital where surgeons attempted to remove an airgun pellet from his leg and clean the wound. Blackburn was remanded on bail and will be sentenced next month.

Guardian, 13 December 2006

Lloywen Carty, Jermaine Labastide and Conroy Smith, members of a London drugs gang, were convicted of murder during the 2004 Notting Hill carnival. The gang drew weapons, including a Mac10 sub-machine gun, and shot the victim near **Kensal Green** underground station (see [Incidents](#)).

Bromley Times, 13 December 2006

Two armed robberies are believed to have been carried out by the same gang of youths. At **Penge** four men burst into a shop, one of them brandishing a handgun wrapped in a cloth or a sock. They made off with an undisclosed sum of money and some cigarettes. A shop was robbed in **Anerley** by a similar gang who accosted a security guard, threatened him with a handgun, before taking him into the back room while they stole two till trays, emptied the safe and took packets of cigarettes.

BBC, 13 December 2006

A man threatened a lone female cashier with a gun during an armed robbery on a building society in **Ashbourne**, Derbyshire. The man escaped with £1,500.

Press Association, 12 December 2006

Trevon Kyron Thomas was convicted of trying to kill PC Rachael Bown in a back street in **Nottingham** in February 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). PC Bown suffered life threatening injuries in the attack and has still not returned to duty. Thomas was also convicted of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. He had responded to being sprayed with CS gas by PC Bown's colleague by firing three shots from his Browning 9 mm pistol, two of which hit PC Bown. He has been jailed for 30 years (*BBC*, 14 December 2006).

Mansfield Today, 12 December 2006

A group of men have appeared in court charged with pointing a **ball bearing gun** out of a car while they drove around the centre of **Mansfield** in February 2006. Matthew Smith, Jason Brown and Richard Meehan admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. They also admitted other driving and vehicle offences. Sentencing was adjourned.

Journal (Newcastle), 12 December 2006

Armed police were called to an incident in **Tynemouth** in which a man was shot in the legs. Members of the public reported the sound of gunshots. The victim was in a serious condition in hospital. A man was later arrested and questioned.

News Shopper, 11 December 2006

A woman was tied up and threatened with a handgun and a knife after robbers forced their way into her home in **Gravesend**. Two men asked if they could read the electricity meter and when they were refused entry they pushed the door aside, followed by two more men. The gang stole cash, jewellery and the woman's car which was recovered an hour later.

Guardian, 11 December 2006

Lance Corporal Ross Phillips and Private Shane Pleasant from the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment admitted possession of a prohibited pistol at a hearing at **Catterick Garrison**. Two other soldiers admitted an offence of trying to pervert the course of justice. Two other soldiers, who are both due to face proceedings next year, planned a "business arrangement" to buy guns in Iraq and sell them to colleagues at the battalion base in Germany in an alleged plot to smuggle guns out of Iraq and trade them for drugs and cash (see [October 2006 Incidents](#)). Phillips had bought an **imitation handgun** converted to fire live ammunition from one of the other soldiers and Pleasant admitted buying from the same man a different **imitation pistol** which had been converted to fire live rounds. Phillips and Pleasant were both sent to prison for over five years. The other soldiers, Lance Corporal Ben Whitfield and Private Robert Marlow, were sentenced to a jail sentence of two years and eight months and six months in an Army detention centre, respectively (*BBC*, 11 December 2006).

BBC, 11 December 2006

A man from **Church Langley**, Harlow, took two men for a test drive in his car, which he had advertised for sale. He was threatened at gunpoint by the men who stole his mobile phone and drove off in his car.

BBC, 11 December 2006

Police have applied to magistrates for a closure order on a nightclub in **Ipswich** after one man died and three others were injured. A post-mortem examination revealed that the dead man had received a gunshot wound (it was initially reported that the victim had been stabbed). Another man was shot in the shoulder and legs, and two men were also treated for gunshot wounds after being injured in the club. A man was arrested for a public order offence and released on bail and eight people have been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences but a spokesman said police were unable to say whether the arrests had any connection with the earlier incidents at the nightclub. A handgun was found in a car park at the rear of the club (*East Anglian Daily Times*, 11 December 2006).

BBC, 10 December 2006

A man was shot dead in his car in a busy retail park in **Croxteth**, Merseyside. It is believed that the gunman escaped in a car which was later found abandoned in Norris Green. The victim, described as a notorious criminal, had survived an attempt on his life by a masked gunman after being sent off while playing in a football match in 2005 (*Liverpool Echo*, 12 December 2006).

Manchester Evening News, 9 December 2006

Peter Grass, described as an expert shot, hunted down and executed a dairy farmer, shooting him twice from behind and then waiting five minutes before reloading his shotgun and killing him by shooting him in the head. Grass was arrested after a seven-hour siege at his victim's farm at **Radcliffe**, near Bury. Grass had been friends with the victim and had lived as a tenant on the farm for seven years but their relationship had changed and he had been ordered to leave. He must serve at least 26 years in jail before he can be considered for release.

BBC, 7 December 2006

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after a fight at a pub in **Newlyn**, Cornwall.

BBC, 7 December 2006

Two nurses at a **Birmingham** hospital were threatened by a man, believed to have been a patient and thought to be armed with a gun. He demanded drugs. Police used a stun gun to arrest a man who is now in custody. The incident was very traumatic for staff and patients, although none were injured.

ic South London, 6 December 2006

An off licence in **Belvedere** was raided by three masked robbers who shot a shop worker three times with a **ball bearing gun**. A ball bearing was removed from the victim's arm. The robbers took just a few packets of cigarettes.

ic South London, 6 December 2006

A **Croydon** nightclub was evacuated by armed police after a man was spotted with a handgun. The loaded pistol was found hidden in the gents' toilet.

News & Star, 5 December 2006

A woman was taken to hospital with a bruised arm after being shot as she walked down a street in **Botcherby**, Carlisle. Police believe her attacker used a **ball bearing gun**.

This is Hertfordshire, 4 December 2006

A man has died after being found with gunshot wounds at a house in **Carshalton**, south London. The victim did not live at the address and it is not know what links he had there (*ic Croydon*, 8 December 2006).

This is Hampshire, 4 December 2006

Jermaine Tyrer and Simon Brooker have been given indeterminate jail sentences after they were found guilty of attempted murder, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of Class A drugs. A man was left with a life-threatening gunshot wound to his abdomen after violence erupted in a **Basingstoke** bar in December 2005 (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 4 December 2006

Three masked men threatened customers and staff at a post office in **St Agnes**, Cornwall. They were armed with a sawn-off shotgun.

BBC, 4 December 2006

A haul of 65 high-powered guns was discovered during a raid on a house in **Crystal Palace**, south London. The house was unoccupied and no-one was arrested.

BBC, 2 December 2006

A worker in an off licence in **Whittingham**, Preston, was threatened with a gun by two men during an armed robbery. The pair drove off in a car after stealing cigarettes.

BBC, 2 December 2006

Two men were injured in a shooting in **Ordsall**, Salford. Both men are in a stable condition and their injuries, both to legs, are not believed to be life-threatening.

BBC, 2 December 2006

Neighbours reported a disturbance and said a gun had been seen at a house in **Birmingham** where it was believed a man was being held hostage at gunpoint. However, after a six hour siege it was discovered that there was no on inside the house.

Press Association, 1 December 2006

Philip Bignell, a man described as an "evil" gun collector, has been jailed for 16 years for subjecting young boys to a catalogue of cruel sexual abuse. He used his collection of weaponry and war memorabilia to lure vulnerable victims into his clutches. Bignell, who worked at **Harrow** School, has had his dozen gun licences withdrawn.

BBC, 1 December 2006

A female security guard was threatened with a handgun by masked robbers as she was delivering cash to a store in **Wickford**, Essex. They forced the guard to drop the cash box and made off by car.

SCOTLAND

ic Dumfries, 31 December 2006

A man was recovering in hospital after he was shot in the hand by a masked gunman outside a pub in the **Springburn** area of Glasgow.

Daily Record, 23 December 2006

A bus driver has described how his glasses saved him from serious injury when his windscreen was shattered by an **airgun** pellet as he drove his bus along a quiet road in **Elgin**. Fortunately he was going slowly so was able to steer his bus safely to the side of the road.

Shetland News, 19 December 2006

Anthony Leigh Allport was arrested for driving home with a loaded **air pistol** (a gas cartridge ball bearing pistol, described by the Procurator Fiscal as a menacing weapon and identical to a 9mm Browning pistol) in his car in **Lerwick** in July 2006. He claimed he did not realise he was breaking the law, but the sheriff found he had no reasonable excuse for having the gun in a public place. The gun was confiscated.

BBC, 14 December 2006

A rifle, ammunition, telescopic sight and silencer have been stolen from a locked farm outbuilding near **Elgin**. An **air rifle** and pellets were also stolen.

BBC, 7 December 2006

A masked man who robbed a restaurant in **Forres** was armed with what appeared to be a handgun. He threatened a female staff member before escaping with a sum of money.

BBC, 6 December 2006

One man has died in a triple shooting in **Lambhill**, Glasgow. The two other victims were in a serious condition in hospital. Police were looking for two men who entered an MOT centre where the shooting took place. Police indicated that the shooting was pre-planned and may be something to do with a wider "criminal ongoing feud". One of two men shot in **Auchinairn**, near Glasgow, in November 2006 has now been arrested by police officers probing what have been described as tit-for-tat shootings (*Sunday Mail*, 17 December 2006).

BBC, 5 December 2006

Brian McIntosh was caught with a cache of guns and ammunition at his home at **Greenheads Cottage**, Aberdeenshire, in July 2004. Police discovered part of weapons suitable for use in an AK47 assault rifle, three stun guns and more than 1,000 banned bullets which expand on impact. He pleaded guilty to firearms charges. He told police he liked to collect "illegal" things.

BBC, 5 December 2006

A man in an ice cream van was shot in an attack in **Penicuik**. He is in a critical condition in hospital. The victim had just served a group of teenagers when the shooting occurred. It is believed that a lone gunman armed with a shotgun is responsible. Police say they are following a positive line of inquiry and are looking into possible links to an alleged assault on the victim's son around a month earlier. Three suspects, who are said to have a grievance against the victim, have been questioned (*Edinburgh Evening News*, 14 December 2006).

WALES

Western Mail, 28 December 2006

Thieves have stolen 19 **air rifles** and **ball-bearing guns** after breaking into a store in **Gowerton**, Swansea. Fishing equipment was also stolen.

ic Wales, 20 December 2006

Police closed roads around **Llangeitho**, near Tregaron, west Wales, after shots were reported to have been fired.

South Wales Echo, 4 December 2006

A man wielding a gun attacked a worker in a post office in **Porth** and then escaped with a sum of money.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Portsmouth.co.uk, 21 December 2006

A family's pet cat has had to have a leg amputated after he was shot in a **Fareham** street by an **air rifle**. Vets discovered an air rifle pellet embedded in the cat's leg but could not save the leg. It is the third time in two years the family have had a pet cat shot.

Stockport Express, 20 December 2006

Following **airgun** attacks in **Bramhall** one pet cat will have to be destroyed if he has to face further surgery and another has a pellet embedded so deeply in her leg vets could not remove it. The first cat was shot in the leg in February and, during surgery, vets pulled another pellet out which had lain undetected. In August he was shot in the spine. The other cat recently returned shaken and bleeding after being shot in the leg.

Milton Keynes Today, 19 December 2006

A collie dog was shot with an **airgun** while she was being taken for a walk by her 13-year-old owner in **Hatton**. A vet was certain that the wound she received was caused by an air weapon.

ic Coventry, 18 December 2006

RSPCA staff at an animal rescue centre in **Allesley** fear that someone may be deliberately targeting cats with an **airgun**. Three cats dropped off at the centre recently underwent routine checks by vets who discovered airgun pellets in their bodies. One cat with breathing difficulties had a pellet lodged in his head. All three had been shot some time ago because the wounds had healed over but have responded to treatment.

Bolton News, 13 December 2006

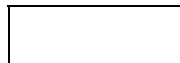
A reader wrote to the paper commenting on an incident in which a cat was strapped to a tree and shot 20 times with an **airgun**. Vets in **Bolton** say they deal with a lot of cats that have been shot, but rarely with one that has been pelted so many times.

Hoddesdon & Broxbourne Mercury, 8 December 2006

A cat has had to have stitches after she was shot with what is thought to be a large **air rifle** in **Hoddesdon**. A "big and pointed pellet" was removed by a vet.

BBC, 6 December 2006

A puppy was shot dead in front of its owner outside a house in **Kirkby**, Merseyside. The owner was uninjured in the attack.



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