

JANUARY 2006 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Four men died as a result of gun injuries in Folkestone where the victim may have been shot through a window, and in London - in Hackney in an incident in which one man was fatally wounded and another seriously wounded, in Streatham in which a man was shot during a mugging and in Ladbroke Grove where the victim was found in an alleyway. The police reported that they were not looking for anyone else in the connection with a double shooting at a house in Finstown, Orkney, in which a wife and her husband, a licensed firearms and shotgun owner, died. According to the police there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the fatal shootings of men found with shotgun wounds in gardens in Ardsley (Yorkshire) and Tintinhull (Somerset).
- Shooting victims sustained injuries in incidents in Hackney (outside a nightclub, see above), Southsea (also outside a nightclub), Benchill, Manchester (where shots were fired into a house), Lenton, Nottingham (in a car park), Blackheath, south east London (during an attempted street robbery), in Parson's Green, Sheffield, (the victim was on his doorstep) and in Hartcliffe, Bristol. There were other victims who sustained injuries in attacks with airguns and BB guns (see below).
- **Police Officers** - Police officers were fired at with an airgun in Grimsby during New Years Eve disturbances, and a gunman fired at an unarmed policeman during a chase in Dulwich.
- Three men were convicted after incidents in which airguns were pointed at police (Lochgelly, Clydebank and Thorpe), a man received a jail sentence after an incident in Glenrothes police station involving an imitation gun and a policeman was honoured for arresting a man armed with an imitation gun in Stockport.
- A man has been put on trial for the fatal shootings of a policeman and another man in Clapham in 1993.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - The theft of mobile phones in a Streatham street ended with the fatal shooting of one of the victims (see above), and a man was shot and injured during an attempted robbery of jewellery in a Blackheath street (see above). A man was robbed of his wallet on a Norwich street and another theft of a wallet occurred in East Grinstead when a gun, believed to be a BB gun, was held to the victim's head (see below).
- Armed robberies were reported to have been attempted on post offices in Broseley (Shropshire) and Chorley, on shops or supermarkets in

- Middleton Cheney (Northamptonshire), Coventry, Crosspool (Sheffield) and Chipping Norton, on fast food outlets in Sunderland, Bolton and Prenton (Merseyside), on a bookmakers in Burton-on-Trent, at a petrol station in Birchencliffe (Huddersfield), on building society branches in Pershore and Gloucester, and in linked attacks from people using cash machines and at a pub in East Kilbride and Uddingston. A security van was help up on the M20 near Maidstone, and a car was stolen at gunpoint from a woman in Timperley, Manchester.
- A man was kidnapped at gunpoint from Coulsdon South station and only released a day later. A gang of youths frogmarched a Camberwell teenager at gunpoint and stole items from his home, and a man from Pitstone (Buckinghamshire) was shut in a cupboard in his home at gunpoint during a burglary.
 - As the weapons used in many of these incidents have not been recovered it is not known whether they were real or imitation. However, the evidence from a number of court cases reported in January and from the robberies in Prenton, in which an imitation firearm was allegedly used, and East Grinstead (thought to have involved a BB gun) suggests that imitation weapons are being used in a number of these crimes.
 - **Other Incidents** - Guns were fired at two women in a Battersea street (neither was injured) and at houses in Cardonald (Glasgow) and High Green (Sheffield).
 - A sniper was blamed for causing thousands of points worth of damage to floodlights in Wroxham.
 - There were reports that a man had been abducted at gunpoint in Queenslie (Glasgow).
 - **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Air Rifles**) - Michael Millcroft and Anita Mansfield were jailed for life (minimum of 25 and 30 years) for the brutal shooting with a shotgun of two women in Hockliffe (Bedfordshire), and two brothers, Robert and Lee Firkins, were also jailed for life for the murder of a couple in their home near Wadebridge, both victims had been shot with a shotgun. Six men were given jail sentences for their part in another shotgun murder, the killing of a teenager in Wythenshawe (the sentences ranged from 18 months to life, the majority of them being over 10 years). Two men were jailed for drugs and firearms offences after an incident in which their colleague was shot dead by police in Edgware (7 and 6 year jail sentences). A man admitted shooting a man twice in the legs in Careys Field (Surrey) (9 years imprisonment), and four men were sentenced for their involvement in the armed kidnapping of a man from Doncaster (7 and 8 years imprisonment). A man was given 15 years for holding up a security guard and stealing a vehicle in Wimbledon, and a man was convicted of firearm and drug offences after his flat in Homerton had been raided (six-and-a-half years).

- **Firearms Recovered and Stolen** - A modified starting pistol, together with a hand grenade were found at a waste depot in Wimborne. Three replica guns were among items seized by police during raids on car boot sales in Bingley. As a result of a theft from a rifle club in Hildenborough, Kent, twenty rifles and ammunition are now in the hands of criminals.
- **Imitation and Converted Guns** - A 13-year-old girl was hit in the eye with a BB gun during a drive-by shooting in High Wycombe. A young man was robbed of his wallet when he was attacked in East Grinstead by two men carrying what was believed to be a BB gun, and a man was held on suspicion of attempted robbery and possession of an imitation gun after a pizza parlour owner was held hostage in Prenton, Merseyside. Vandals have caused damage with BB guns in Carlisle and Portishead
- A man with a gun-shaped cigarette lighter precipitated an alert involving armed police at Reading Crown Court.
- After another incident involving a cigarette lighter imitation gun a man was jailed for two years after he had carried it in Crawley. Two men were sentenced to 12 years and 10 years in jail for an armed robbery in Blackwell, Worcestershire, in which an imitation firearm was brandished. A man was jailed for 14 months after pointing a BB gun at a motorist's head in Shotton and another offender was jailed for four-and-a-half years after threatening to shoot police officers in Glenrothes police station with what turned out to be an imitation gun. Another police officer was honoured following his arrest of a man with a gun in Stockport - the gun was an imitation.
- During a two year ordeal a 9-year-old boy had been subjected to abuse by a man with a record of sex attacks - the abuse included being shot at with a BB gun.
- **Airgun Incidents** - The misuse of airguns, particularly in incidents involving young people, was again apparent from reports published in January. A 14-year-old boy was shot in the eye with an air rifle pellet whilst walking in the street in Waterlooville, and two teenagers have been hit with pellets in a street in Gosport. A consultant ophthalmologist in Southend has reported that two Southend boys have each lost an eye in airgun "accidents" and a teenager from Barmston, Washington, faces surgery to remove an airgun pellet from near his right eye after what was described as a "fun fight". A postman was hit with what is believed to have been an air rifle pellet fired by youths whilst riding his bike in Carshalton, and a man needed 18 stitches to a head wound after he was struck with an airgun in Dursley, Gloucestershire. School pupils' bags were searched after a complaint that an airgun had been fired at nearby houses in Larkhall. A 16-year-old boy was given an eight-month referral order for shooting a teenage girl with an air rifle in Haverhill.
- Police were fired at with an airgun in Grimsby (see above). Three people were jailed for 5 or 7 years for an armed robbery in Reigate in which an

airgun was brandished. A man was jailed for 5 years after pointing an air rifle at police in Lochgelly, and another for 7 years after pointing a loaded airgun at two policemen in Clydebank. Another man was given a one-year jail term for an incident in which an air rifle was pointed at a police officer in Thorpe (Norwich).

- **Animals** - Figures released by the RSPCA and the Scottish SPCA indicate that media reports of animals being shot with air weapons reflect just a very small proportion of the total number of incidents. In January there were particularly distressing reports of gun attacks on various species of bird.

JANUARY 2006 - INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

Liverpool Echo, 31 January 2006

A pizza parlour owner was held hostage at gunpoint during a robbery in **Prenton**. Armed police surrounded the building and shouted at the gunman to drop his weapon. The gunman, who was drunk, was pushed to the ground and taken to a police station on suspicion of attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

Hemel Today, 31 January 2006

A man from **Pitstone** was held at gunpoint and shut in a cupboard during a burglary at his home. The man had found three men behind him as he returned home who had rushed into the house behind him. The gang made off in his car with several other items.

Burnley Today, 31 January 2006

Stuart Wedge, who had a record of horrific sex attacks, faces a long jail sentence for subjecting a 9-year-old boy from **Burnley** to a two-year ordeal of physical and mental abuse which included shooting him with a **ball-bearing gun**.

BBC, 31 January 2006

Twenty rifles and ammunition were stolen from Tonbridge Rifle Club in **Hildenborough** by robbers who managed to break through a reinforced door.

Eastern Daily Press, 30 January 2006

Three teenagers robbed a man at gunpoint on a street in **Norwich**. They made off with just £4 from his wallet. One of the offenders had pulled out a handgun and demanded the wallet.

BBC, 30 January 2006

Three **replica guns** were among goods worth £100,000 seized by police during raids on car boot sales in **Bingley**. Officers targeted traders who had previously been identified as selling illegal items.

BBC, 30 January 2006

A man suffered fatal gunshot injuries at an address in **Folkestone**. It is believed that the victim may have been shot through the window. Police have said they wish to talk to Stuart Benson, a local man, in connection with the shooting.

ic South London, 27 January 2006

A 15-year-old boy was set upon by seven youths in a park in **Camberwell** and frogmarched to his home where the gang stole a games' console and a pair of trainers. He was allegedly threatened with a gun during the incident.

Bucks Free Press, 27 January 2006

A 13-year-old schoolgirl was the victim of a drive-by shooting in **High Wycombe** in which she was hit in the eye with a **BB gun**. The shot was fired from the back seat of a moving car.

BBC, 27 January 2006

Bags of cash were taken from a security van by armed robbers who raided the van on the **Maidstone** turnoff of the **M20**. Witnesses said the offenders were carrying handguns. No one was injured.

BBC, 27 January 2006

A man threatened the staff of a **Gloucester** building society with a gun before making off on foot with money.

BBC, 27 January 2006

A man needed 18 stitches to a head wound after he was struck with an **airgun** in **Dursley**, Gloucestershire. He was approached by a man who shouted threats at him and was then struck several times.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 26 January 2006

A member of the African-Caribbean community in **Huddersfield** has told a reporter that up to 20 guns, including two Uzi sub-machine guns, are being passed around young people in the town. He said the problem was interlinked with drugs.

BBC, 26 January 2006

A teenage woman was shot in the waist with a pellet whilst walking in **Gosport**. She will need surgery to remove the pellet from her pelvic bone. A few days earlier a 19-year-old man had been attacked in the same street with by a man armed with an **air rifle**. The victim needed to have a pellet removed from his leg. The police are treating the incidents as linked (*BBC*, 27 January 2006).

BBC, 26 January 2006

Three men have been arrested after shotgun incidents in Bristol. In **Hartcliffe** a man suffered a wound to his leg and in an incident in **Knowle West** a shot was fired at a house. A shotgun was recovered by police after the latter shooting. During searches on a number of properties police found shotgun cartridges, a suspected **reactivated handgun** and other ammunition.

Worcester Standard, 25 January 2006

A robber armed with a gun stole thousands of pounds from a building society in **Pershore**. No one was hurt in the incident which lasted two to three minutes.

Weston Mercury, 25 January 2006

Thousands of pounds of damage was caused in **Portishead** when vandals went on the rampage. Staff at a builders merchants found eight bullet holes in the main window of the shop front. It was not know whether they were caused by a **BB gun** or an **airgun**. Damage was also caused to cars and a telephone kiosk.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 25 January 2006

A teenager faces surgery to remove an **airgun** pellet from near his right eye after being shot in the head during what was described as a "fun fight". He was also shot in the right leg at a house in **Barmston**, Washington. Another teenager appeared in court charged with two offences of assault, causing actual and grievous bodily harm, and robbery.

Eastern Daily Press, 25 January 2006

A judge rewarded Terry Dickens £200 for his "great courage" and negotiating skills in helping a police officer in to a neighbour's flat at **Thorpe**, Norwich, in August 2005. Andre Soppitt was holding an **air rifle** and started pointing it at the officer. The judge heard that Soppitt had taken sleeping pills in a suicide bid. He was given a one-year prison term suspended for a year after admitting possessing an air rifle with intent to cause the police officer to fear unlawful violence would be used against him.

BBC, 25 January 2006

Wesley Lovell and Frank Graham have been jailed for seven and six years respectively for drugs and firearms offences. In April 2005 they were in a car that was stopped in **Edgware** by armed police. A third man, Azelle Rodney, was shot dead by police during the incident (see [May 2005 Incidents](#)). The court heard that three guns were found in the car. Lovell admitted possessing a loaded handgun and Graham to having a pistol and ammunition.

BBC, 25 January 2006

Chief Inspector John Buttress of Greater Manchester Police will be honoured for bravery after arresting a man armed with a gun in **Stockport** on Christmas Day 2004. The man was later jailed for possession of an **imitation firearm**.

ic South London, 24 January 2006

A gunman fired at an unarmed police officer during a late-night chase in **Dulwich**. Police had pulled over the man's car and he fled on foot. He pulled a gun and opened fire at least three times when the officer cornered him in an alleyway. The policeman was unharmed. The gunman has not been traced.

24dash.com, 24 January 2006

Gangs of youths have caused more than £9,000 worth of damage to a man's home in **Carlisle**, including smashing four sets of double-glazed windows. The most recent breakage was caused by a **ball-bearing gun**.

Evening Gazette & Echo, 23 January 2006

Two **Southend** boys have each lost an eye in **airgun** accidents within a month. A consultant ophthalmologist at Southend Hospital said that the boys were treated in the eye unit after pellets lodged in or near their eyes.

BBC, 23 January 2006

Six men were jailed over the killing of a teenager who was shot in the back of his head with a shotgun in **Wythenshawe** in July 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). The gang involved thought they had shot a friend of the victim. Raphael Smith was sentenced to life imprisonment after admitting murder. Daniel Jacobs, Les Brown, Mark Palfreyman, Rocky Burke and Neil Bergin were given sentences of 14 years, 10 years, 18 years, 18 months and 5 years respectively. Hayley Smirk pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon: the gun was found at her house when a man shot himself in the foot.

BBC, 23 January 2006

Thirteen staff at a supermarket in **Chipping Norton** were held hostage by four men, one with a sawn-off shotgun. The balaclava-clad men were waiting as staff arrived for work and stole cash from a safe after forcing a woman to unlock it.

BBC, 22 January 2006

A masked gunman shot a man in the chest on the doorstep of a house in **Parson's Green**, Sheffield. The victim was taken to hospital where his condition was described as poorly but stable. The gunman and an accomplice escaped on foot.

BBC, 21 January 2006

A man was shot in the car park of a cinema in **Lenton**, Nottingham. He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as "stable".

BBC, 21 January 2006

A man was shot in the arm after he tried to stop two men from robbing him in the street in **Blackheath**, south east London. He was shot when he refused the men's demands for jewellery.

Sutton Guardian, 19 January 2006

A postman was shot in the buttock with what is believed to have been an **air rifle** as he was riding his bike in **Carshalton**. Four youths in a car shot at him. The victim suffered bruising.

BBC, 19 January 2006

A gunman is being hunted after shots were fired at a residential property in **High Green**, Sheffield. The occupants of the house were shaken but not injured.

BBC, 19 January 2006

Robert Firkins and Lee Firkins have both been jailed for life after being found guilty of murdering a couple in their own home near **Wadebridge** in November 2003 (see [Incidents](#)). The victims were each shot three times with a shotgun and beaten with a sledgehammer.

BBC, 19 January 2006

Gary Nelson is on trial for the murder of a policeman and a nightclub bouncer in **Clapham** in October 1993. The policeman was killed by a single bullet as he went to investigate gunshots. The other victim was found shot dead in a house opposite.

ic Surrey, 18 January 2006

A young man was robbed of his wallet containing credit cards and £60 in cash when he was attacked by two men in **East Grinstead**, one of whom held what was described as a **BB gun** to his head.

ic Surrey, 18 January 2006

Abdul Rehman has been jailed for two years after carrying an **imitation firearm**, a cigarette lighter, in **Crawley** as he looked for someone he claimed had assaulted him. He pleaded guilty of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

East London Advertiser, 18 January 2006

A double-barrelled pistol, disguised as a matchbox size keyring, was found at the flat of Charles Yeboah, after he was arrested in **Homerton** in connection with a number of car-jackings. Also recovered was a **ball-bearing-firing replica pistol**. Yeboah was jailed for six-and-a-half years after admitting firearm and drug offences.

ic South London, 17 January 2006

Teams from the Metropolitan Police's automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) teams have clinched a string of results in the fight against gun crime in **Southwark**.

Eastern Daily Press, 17 January 2006

A sniper was blamed for causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to floodlights at **Wroxham** football club's ground. People with houses backing onto the ground have reported hearing the sound of gunfire on two occasions.

BBC, 17 January 2006

The body of a man was discovered in the garden of a house in **Tintinhull**, Somerset. A shotgun was also recovered and the police say that they "are satisfied that there are no suspicious circumstances".

BBC, 15 January 2006

The body of a man who had been shot was found in an alleyway in **Ladbroke Grove**, west London. Police were keeping an open mind about the circumstances surrounding the death and are appealing for witnesses. Four men are being questioned by police (*Willesden & Brent Times*, 18 January 2006).

Life Style Extra, 13 January 2006

A 21-year-old was shot dead in **Streatham** by a gang who mugged his friends of their mobile phones as he lay dying. One gang member pulled a handgun and shot the victim in the upper body: he was dead when police arrived. A 20-year-old was being questioned by police.

BBC, 13 January 2006

Keith Wickers admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent following the shooting of a man in **Careys Field, Smallfield**, Surrey, in December 2004. The victim was shot twice in the legs. Wickers was jailed for nine years.

BBC, 13 January 2006

Armed police raided a house in **Sale** in the hunt for clues linking a gun to the murder of a criminal at his home in Stretford in March 2004 (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 13 January 2006

Michael Millcroft and his wife Anita Mansfield were jailed for life and were told they would serve a minimum of 25 years and 30 years, respectively, before they would be considered for release. They were convicted of murdering two women by shooting them with a shotgun at a house in **Hockliffe**, Bedfordshire, in February 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). One of the victims had fostered Millcroft and he had lived with her and her late husband into adulthood. The murder had been committed with the intention of raising £800,000 on fraudulent life insurance policies.

ic South London, 12 January 2006

Simon Dunn, who held up a security guard at a bank in **Wimbledon** and then stole a vehicle at gunpoint from a member of the public in September 2005, was sentenced to 15 years jail after pleading guilty. He had been in possession of a loaded handgun.

Cambridge Evening News, 12 January 2006

A 16-year-old boy was given an eight-month referral order for shooting a 13-year-old girl with an **air rifle** in a car park in **Haverhill**. The girl was hit on the arm and suffered a small puncture wound.

ic Surrey, 11 January 2006

Stephen Sharp, Maria Smale and Abigale Godley were sentenced to five, seven and seven years respectively for their involvement in an armed robbery on a **Reigate** off-licence in February 2005. They stole about £300 in cash, cigarettes and phone cards. Smale had borrowed the silver **airgun** with which the gang were armed from his wife. He and Godley were sentenced to three years for possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

This is Lancashire, 10 January 2006

Two armed men burst into a fast food restaurant in **Bolton** shortly before Christmas. One of the robbers held a pistol to the head of a restaurant worker and threatened to kill him unless the safe was opened. No one was injured but the staff were left shaken. About £1000 was stolen.

BBC, 10 January 2006

A silver gun (a **modified starting pistol**) and a hand grenade were found dumped in a plastic bag by workers at a waste depot in **Wimborne**.

South Yorkshire Police, 9 January 2006

A wine merchants in **Crosspool**, Sheffield, was robbed by a man who threatened a female member of staff with what appeared to be a firearm. Just over half an hour later a second off licence was robbed and a male member of staff threatened with what appeared to be a firearm.

BBC, 8 January 2006

A nightclub doorman was injured when he was shot by a gunman wearing a horror mask in **Southsea**. The victim was being guarded by police as he awaited surgery in hospital.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 7 January 2006

A security officer at **Reading** Crown Court spotted a man taking a **gun-shaped lighter** out of a bag on CCTV and raised the alarm. Firearms police swooped on the building and a number of people were trapped inside a courtroom for an hour.

Yorkshire Post, 6 January 2006

A college lecturer was found dead from a shotgun wound in the garden of his home in **Ardley**. Police say there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death and they are not seeking anyone else in connection with the investigation.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 January 2006

Armed raiders escaped with cash from a security guard in a raid at a petrol station in **Birchcliffe**, Huddersfield. One of the two masked men was brandishing a handgun.

BBC, 6 January 2006

Robbers wearing surgical masks raided a bookmakers in **Burton-on-Trent** and stole several hundred pounds. Although no weapons were seen the robbers told staff they had guns.

BBC, 6 January 2006

A 14-year-old boy is recovering from surgery after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet in **Waterlooville**. He and another boy were walking along the street when they heard youths talking, and his friend turned to find blood pouring from the victim's eye. A youth, held by police, has been bailed and an air rifle found in the town centre has been handed in by a member of the public (*BBC*, 11 January 2006).

BBC, 6 January 2006

Post office staff in **Chorley** were threatened by a man armed with a handgun during a raid in which the robber made off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

BBC, 6 January 2006

A group of masked men escaped with a large amount of cash following a raid at a supermarket in **Coventry**. Members of staff were threatened with a gun.

Telegraph, 5 January 2006

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded by the coroner at the inquest into the death of a 20-year-old man who was shot five times in the head in **Brixton** in June 2004. Three members of a rival gang were cleared in September 2005 of conspiracy to murder when the prosecution offered no evidence.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 5 January 2006

Two men tried to rob a takeaway in **Sunderland**. They entered the shop, pulled out a gun and demanded money from the staff. No cash was handed over and the men ran off empty-handed.

Bromsgrove Standard, 5 January 2006

Robert Mohid and Jason Mahoney were sentenced to 12 years and 10 years, respectively, for armed robbery and given the same length sentences for possession of an **imitation firearm**, the terms to run concurrently. The convictions related to an armed robbery committed at a post office in **Blackwell** in October 2004. The staff had been threatened by the men brandishing a handgun and a sledgehammer.

BBC, 5 January 2006

Two gunmen shot at two women in a street in **Battersea** shortly after they had been dropped off by a minicab. Neither of the women was injured and the police say they do not know why they were targeted.

BBC, 5 January 2006

Three men with a gun threatened a woman in **Timperley**, Greater Manchester, before stealing her car. The car later collided with an armed response vehicle before the gang drove away.

South Yorkshire Police, 4 January 2006

Four men, Adrian Jorgenson, Darren Petch, Wayne Osbourn and Jonathan Pratt, received sentences of 7 and 8 years imprisonment for their involvement in the kidnapping of a man from the **Woodlands** area of Doncaster in January 2005. They were convicted of kidnap, blackmail, assault, false imprisonment and possession of a firearm.

BBC, 4 January 2006

Two men, armed with what appeared to be a handgun, stole cash from the till of a newsagents in **Middleton Cheney**, Northamptonshire.

BBC, 4 January 2006

Four people are being questioned by police investigating the kidnap at gunpoint of a man at **Coulsdon South** station. The victim was threatened and bundled into a white van by three men in balaclavas. He was released the next day.

Shropshire Star, 3 January 2006

A man armed with a shotgun burst into a post office in **Broseley** and robbed the staff at gunpoint. Police have released an e-fit of the robber.

BBC, 3 January 2006

A 17-year-old boy was injured when shots were fired into a house in the **Benchill** area of Manchester. A man has been charged with attempted murder and firearms offences.

BBC, 2 January 2006

Two men, both aged 19, were seriously wounded in a shooting outside a nightclub in **Hackney**. One of the victims later died from his wounds in hospital: police are looking for two suspects (*BBC*, 3 January 2006). An 18-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder (*Black UK Online*, 12 January 2006).

BBC, 1 January 2006

During a night of violence in **Grimsby** police officers were shot at with an **airgun** on the Nunsthorpe estate. Officers investigating reports of a stolen car were fired at from surrounding houses as they arrived on the estate.

SCOTLAND

Press Association, 21 January 2006

Inquiries were being made into claims that a man was abducted at gunpoint near an industrial estate in **Queenslie**, Glasgow. The man ran away from two other men, one of whom appeared to have a firearm, and called out for help as he was bundled into their car.

BBC, 18 January 2006

Police searched the bags of pupils from a school in **Larkhall** following a complaint from a member of the public. An **airgun** had reportedly been fired at nearby houses. Nothing was found.

BBC, 15 January 2006

A gun was fired at the door of a house in the **Cardonald** area of Glasgow. A woman and two young children were inside at the time of the shooting. The incident is being treated as attempted murder.

BBC, 13 January 2006

Edward Graham, who brandished a loaded **airgun** (a ball-bearing gas-powered target gun, described as a very realistic-looking weapon) at two policemen in **Clydebank** in August 2005, has been jailed for seven years. He admitted resisting arrest, brandishing a gun at two constables and having a loaded air weapon in a public place.

Daily Record, 12 January 2006

Two people using cash machines and pub staff were robbed at gunpoint by what is believed to have been the same gang in **East Kilbride** and **Uddingston**.

BBC, 11 January 2006

Christopher Smith admitted assaulting police officers by presenting an **imitation firearm** at them and threatening to shoot them and maliciously breaking panes of toughened glass. The incident took place in **Glenrothes** in September 2005 when Smith walked into a police station with a plastic toy gun with the appearance of an automatic pistol. Smith, who had been drinking before the incident, was jailed for four and a half years.

Daily Record, 10 January 2006

Robert McManus pointed an **air rifle** at police officers when they surround his flat in **Lochgelly** after a dispute with a neighbour in September 2005. One of the officers grabbed hold of the weapon while another sprayed McManus with CS gas. He has been jailed for five years after admitting two assault charges relating to the incident.

Press Association, 6 January 2006

Police responding to reports of an incident involving a firearm at a cottage in **Finstown**, Orkney, discovered the bodies of a husband and wife. The deaths are being treated as suspicious and it is understood that police are treating the death of the woman as murder. Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. Police later confirmed that the couple died of gunshot wounds and that the husband, David Leask was a firearms and shotgun certificate holder. Their four-year-old daughter was removed unharmed from the scene (*Orcadian*, 7 January 2006).

WALES

Daily Post, 13 January 2006

Richard Queen has been jailed for 14 months after he was captured on CCTV pointing a **ball-bearing pistol** at a motorist's head in **Shotton**. He was arrested at gunpoint by armed response officers. He was drunk at the time and claimed that it was just a joke.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Times, 28 January 2006

The first breeding eagle owl to live in Britain for hundreds of years has died after being fired on with a shotgun at a secret location in the **North Yorkshire** dales. The female owl and her mate were featured in a BBC documentary. When the dead bird was found her body contained a large amount of heavy-gauge shot, normally used to kill foxes.

Dearne Today, 26 January 2006

During a spate of attacks on a **Dearne** estate a swan, a robin and a sparrow have been killed by being shot with an **air rifle**. The swan had a pellet lodged in its neck, the robin was found hanging from a tree and the sparrow was on the ground. A spokesman for the Safer Neighbourhood Team said that the incidents demonstrated the ongoing problem of misuse of air rifles.

BBC, 24 January 2006

A goose, affectionately known as The Colonel, has been shot in the head at point-blank range with an **airgun** on a village pond at **Hanley Swan**, Worcestershire. After minor surgery the goose has been returned to the water.

Mirror, 17 January 2006

Trevor Wellington, a farmer from **Wadebridge**, shot dead his neighbour's dog which he claimed had terrorised his family. Magistrates ruled that he was not entitled to shoot the dog. He was to be sentenced the next day.

Edinburgh Evening News, 16 January 2006

The Scottish SPCA called for tighter controls on airguns as they revealed that 200 pets had been injured or killed by the weapons in the last year. Their report, [Airgun Agony](#), is based on records from vets and Scottish SPCA inspectors. Animals attacked included cats, dogs, swans and other wild birds, seals, lambs, horses, deer and small animals such as rabbits. The worst records came from **Aberdeen** and **Glasgow**.

News & Star, 10 January 2006

A Cumbrian RSPCA officer has spoken out after revealing that there were more than 100 **airgun** attacks on animals in the **North of England** in 2005. He has warned those who take pot-shots at pets that they could end up in court.

Manchester Evening News, 2 January 2006

A cat was left blind in both eyes after being held down and shot seven times with an **airgun** in **Fazakerley**, Liverpool. Three of the pellets were embedded in the cat's skull. Vets were unable to remove two pellets, one remains in her jaw and one in her leg. The family's other cat was also shot recently and the family are being taunted by the cat's attackers - a bag of pellets was left on the doorstep.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 2 January 2006

A kitten needed major surgery to remove 9 inches of badly-damaged intestines after being shot with an **airgun**. His owner, from **Elland**, said "the pellet had gone deep into his intestines and almost come out the other side". It is not known what the long-term damage will be.



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