



## JANUARY 2007 - SUMMARY

- **Youths and Gun Crime** - In December 2006 a report commissioned by the Home Office (see [News Items](#)) included a warning that a quarter of those who went on to commit serious gun crime had "first experienced airguns and BB guns, typically in their early teens". Earlier this month Sussex Police released a shocking report about the level of gun crime among young people in their county, which highlighted the numbers who were committing offences with imitation guns (see [News Items](#)).
- Sadly this month's incidents provide too many further instances of a continuing involvement of the under 21s in all aspects of gun crime. More details can be found below, but among the incidents were an armed raid on a shop in Stranraer involving boys as young as 12, a street robbery in which two teenagers held up a man with a replica gun, the hold up and robbery of a bus driver by three youths and the attempted hold up of another driver by someone aged about 14 or 15, a shooting in which a 19-year-old fired an airgun into his 16-year-old girlfriend's face causing her serious injuries, and two separate incidents in which passengers were shot at or intimidated by young people firing BB guns on trains. Around the country a number of people aged 21 or under were arrested for having imitation guns in public or for targeting people, animals and property with airguns. Those who attempt to dismiss some of these incidents as youthful antics or pranks should put themselves in the position of the victims and consider how frightened they would be if a gun were pointed at them, not knowing if the weapon were real or imitation, or reflect that when an airgun is fired at a person it may not just cause a bruise but has the potential to inflict a fatal injury.
- Would impressionable youngsters still commit so many of these crimes if airguns and imitation guns were less easily available and young people actively discouraged from using guns by **all** agencies and organisations? Gun Control Network is sure they would not. For too long many of the weapons used in these crimes have been considered as little more than toys, whilst shooting with potentially lethal guns has been promoted as an appropriate and character building activity for young people. Both views send out the wrong message about these dangerous and frightening weapons.
- To stop any more of these guns getting into the hands of young people and others who might misuse them, we hope that the Government speeds up the introduction of the measures from last year's Violent Crime Reduction Act which restrict airgun sales to registered dealers and their ownership and unsupervised use to the over 18s, and which ban the sale, manufacture and import of imitation guns. And they should do so without introducing any loopholes.
- Soft air weapons are extremely realistic-looking military-style imitation firearms used solely for and as an integral part of a pastime, skirmishing. According to the latest Home Office statistics for England and Wales soft air weapons, together with BB guns, accounted for 84 percent of all imitation weapons used in crime in 2005/06, yet Home Office Ministers propose that an exemption can be made so that soft air weapons are still available. This would drive a coach and horses through new legislation that was supposed to prevent the sale of anything that resembled a real gun, which existing soft air weapons certainly do. It seems quite possible

that features (such as a change of colour) could be incorporated allowing soft air weapons to be readily distinguishable from real guns.

- The Government and others will also need to recognise that the problem won't just disappear once gun sales become more restricted. Despite increasing concern over a period of years the Government took too long to introduce even these measures. In the meantime the number of weapons in circulation has been allowed to grow. This continued easy availability has been reflected over the decade in a huge increase in the level of crime involving imitation guns (566 offences in England and Wales in 1998/99 rising to 3275 in 2005/06). There will therefore be a need for additional measures, not least ones which promote a change of attitude towards guns by both youngsters and parents, together with an amnesty aimed at removing many of the guns already in circulation. If these measures are not taken it seems inevitable that the problems with youths and gun crime will continue for some time to come.
- **Gun Deaths and Injuries - Most of the incidents resulting in fatal or serious injuries occurred in the London area. Of the other incidents we noted, two occurred in Scotland and one in Northamptonshire.**
- Three victims were killed in shooting incidents in London: in Barking a man died in what was described as a gangland-style shooting, in Cricklewood a man was fatally wounded with his own air rifle during a robbery in his home (see below) and in Brentford a man was killed when he was shot with a machine gun. The body of a man, apparently shot in the face with a shotgun in a gangland hit, was found in Rigsid (South Lanarkshire).
- Three victims were injured, one critically, during a shooting at a nightclub in Islington (north London): two people had been injured in another shooting at the same club two days earlier. A second man was injured during the machine gun attack in Brentford (west London) in which another victim died.
- A man received injuries to his legs in a shooting in Wellingborough (Northamptonshire). A male victim was shot in a residential street in Nitshill (Glasgow).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults - As we have noted previously, because of the difficulty in identifying a weapon (often the description is of one *looking like a handgun*) it seems likely that a significant number of the incidents summarised below will have involved an imitation gun, a view supported by the increasing number of convictions for robbery involving an imitation weapon.**
- Two men forced their way into a woman's house in Deighton (Huddersfield) at gunpoint and stole property. A gun was fired at the door of a house in Shawclough (Rochdale) by burglars who stole a purse.
- Security guards were robbed of thousands of pounds in Chippenham (Wiltshire) and in Kilmarnock (Ayrshire).
- Tamworth FC's clubhouse was raided after an FA Cup game by men armed with a shotgun and a knife who stole several thousand pounds.
- Two young boys held up at store in Stranraer at gunpoint - three 13-year-olds were later arrested. There were robberies and attempted robberies on other shops and supermarkets in Langleigh (Buckinghamshire), Chippenham (Wiltshire), Newsome (Huddersfield) (a weapon was fired), Bromsgrove (Worcestershire), Tredworth (Gloucester) (where the robber was overpowered by the shopkeeper), Penge, South Norwood and Thornton (the last three incidents in south London may be linked), Chesterfield, Southbourne (Sussex) and Wigan, off licences in Bradley

(Huddersfield) and Blyth (Northumberland) (a handgun was fired as the raiders escaped), a post office in Livingston (West Lothian) and petrol stations in Chesterfield (by the man also responsible for the raid on a Chesterfield shop) and Wickham (Hampshire).

- A taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint of money and his mobile phone in Sherwood (Nottingham) and a bus driver was held up at gunpoint in Anerley (south London) and robbed of personal possessions. In another bus incident in Conisbrough (South Yorkshire) the driver was threatened by a boy aged between 14 and 15 armed with a handgun but he managed shut the doors and drove off.
- **Other Incidents** - Following an armed siege in Chilcompton (Somerset) involving a man thought to be armed with a firearm and explosives police fired a stun gun and a baton round - a man was arrested. Another man was arrested in Newton Poppleford (Devon) after police received a report of a man armed with a firearm and a knife.
- Streets in Nottingham and Bristol were closed off after reports of shots being fired. Police cordoned off part of a residential area in Portsmouth after reports of a man being fired at, possibly with an air pistol.
- A firearm was brandished in a pub in Bitterne (Southampton) shortly before the premises was firebombed.
- A prisoner, who was later recaptured, escaped when two armed men released him from an ambulance at Hammersmith Hospital in west London.
- **Smuggling, Thefts and Losses** - Three Lithuanian nationals were given long jail sentences (one for ten years and two for eleven years) after being found guilty of smuggling converted pistols into Britain.
- The pistol used by a man to kill four members of his family in Newcastle was brought back to this country from Bosnia after the man had served there with the army (see below).
- A shotgun and an air rifle were stolen from a house in Duffield, Derby.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - An 18-year-old will serve at least 17 years for the murder of a man in Duntocher (Glasgow) whom he shot with a powerful hunting rifle.
- A second man has been convicted of the murder of a man in Bulwell (Nottinghamshire) in August 2003 - he supplied the gun used to shoot the victim and will serve a minimum of 18 years.
- A man pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of four members of his family in Newcastle on the grounds of diminished responsibility - he shot all his victims with a pistol he had brought back from Bosnia where he served as a soldier.
- An elderly man will be sentenced later for shooting and injuring his love rival with a borrowed shotgun at an allotment in Orsett (Essex).
- A man has been given a 16-year-jail sentence after being found guilty of attempted murder following a shooting incident in Fen Ditton (Cambridge) (details in November 2006 Incidents).
- An eight-year-jail sentence was given to a man who carried out a series of armed robberies in south London - he faced seven counts of possessing a firearm. Six men have been jailed for minimum terms of five years to ten years following a bank raid in Ashton (Preston) in which a pistol was fired from the getaway car.
- **Airguns** - A man was killed with his own high-power air rifle which was lying in his home in Cricklewood (north west London) when it was raided

by a gang of three men, one of whom shot him in the chest during a struggle.

- In Paulton (Somerset) a 16-year-old girl was seriously injured when she was shot in the face with an air rifle by her 19-year-old boyfriend.
- Armed police were called to the car park of a retail park in Colne after someone fired an air rifle at cars, hitting one man in the back of his head. An 18-year-old was hit with an airgun pellet whilst walking in the street in Scotstoun (Glasgow) and other people reported being fired at in the same area - a 20-year-old was arrested. Three youths, aged 14 and 15, were arrested following incidents in Eaglestone (Buckinghamshire) in which a number of people were hit with airgun pellets.
- Police have described how a serial sniper has been targeting motorists in Greenbank (County Durham): 34 incidents have occurred since January last year.
- Three men, all under-21, were questioned after an air rifle was brandished out of the window of a van at Dunsop Bridge in Lancashire.
- Three men and a woman were arrested in Wrexham after windows were damaged by somebody firing an airgun. Vandals may have been using air rifles repeatedly to cause expensive damage to a swimming centre in Norwich. Police believe an air weapon was used in an attack at a family home in Seaburn (County Durham) in which a kitchen window and a car window were smashed. In Peterhead (Grampian) a special needs school and a house have been damaged in air weapon attacks.
- Two men were given suspended custodial sentences (51 weeks and 30 weeks) after threatening people with an air rifle and a samurai sword at Ockham (Surrey).
- A man was given a conditional discharge after being spotted in a Halifax pub with an air rifle.
- A Wiltshire man who, as a result of a previous jail sentence, was not permitted to have a firearm has been given a three month sentence for being in possession of an air rifle (details in October 2006 Incidents).
  
- **Imitation Guns** - Two teenagers armed with a replica gun held up a man in Beckenham and stole his wallet and mobile phone.
- Two incidents involving youths firing BB guns on trains were reported during January. Two elderly women train passengers were targeted with a BB gun on a train between Aberdeen and Stonehaven - two 14-year-olds, a boy and a girl, have been charged. Four male youths fired a gun at one another on a train and as they stepped onto the platform at Hove station before stealing alcohol from a shop - police were questioning three teenagers and a 20-year-old.
- A 16-year-old was charged with possession of an imitation firearm after an incident at Stanton Hill (Nottinghamshire).
- Cars on the A361 in Devon were attacked by someone firing what were probably BB gun pellets.
- Three men, aged 21 and 20, were arrested in Lincoln after a man was seen with a gun in the street - two BB guns were recovered. A 17-year-old was arrested after a gun was pointed at a BBC reporter in West Howe, Bournemouth - the weapon was confirmed to be a BB gun.
- A man faces jail for a string of armed robberies in Hampshire in which he threatened staff of four stores and petrol stations with an imitation gun. Another man has pleaded guilty to a number of charges including two relating to a doorstep robbery in which he pointed an imitation weapon (an airgun) at an elderly couple in Weston-super-Mare.
- Following an incident in Boston a man has been jailed for two years for possessing an imitation gun (an 8 mm blank-firing pistol) with intent to cause fear of violence.

- Three youths, aged 15, 17 and 18, who fired ball-bearing guns at pupils at a school in Ashbrooke, Sunderland, in September 2006 will not have to face court action.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Two youths, aged 18 and 17, pleaded guilty to killing a swan using a powerful air rifle in Harlington (South Yorkshire). Another youth, aged 16, was arrested after swans were the target of an airgun attack in Widnes.
- In other airgun incidents a dog had to be put down after it was shot whilst walking with his owner in Merthyr Tydfil and two cows were shot in the eyes with an air rifle in Redhill (Somerset).
- In Ash (Surrey) three horses were attacked with a shotgun - at least one had to be put down as a result of its injuries.

## **GUN INCIDENTS – January 2007**

### **ENGLAND**

**BBC**, 31 January 2007

A serial sniper with an **air rifle** has been targeting motorists passing under a bridge on the A693 in **Greencroft**, near Stanley in County Durham. Thirty four vehicles have been hit since January 2006, and police believe the same person is behind all the attacks. Police fear that someone could end up being hurt or even killed.

**Norwich Evening News**, 29 January 2007

A swimming centre in **Norwich** has been continually bombarded by vandals causing thousands of pounds of damage. Staff believe that catapults or **air rifles** are being used to fire at the glass frontage.

**BBC**, 29 January 2007

Three men, aged 21 and 20, were arrested following reports of a man with a gun in a street in **Lincoln**. Two **BB guns** were recovered at the scene. A police spokesman said "This was extremely irresponsible and foolhardy, dare I even say stupid. It is very hard to tell if these are toys or real guns but our officers are armed with real gun, real bullets and a situation could turn very tragic."

**BBC**, 29 January 2007

David Bradley, a former soldier, has admitted the manslaughter of four members of his family on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The victims were found shot dead at the home they shared in **Newcastle** in July 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Charges of murder were dropped when it was found Bradley was mentally ill. He had kept the 7.65 mm CZ pistol used to kill his family from his Army days after serving in Bosnia. Bradley was remanded in custody whilst psychiatric reports are prepared.

**BBC**, 29 January 2007

A man was killed when he was shot in the head with a machine gun at a flat in **Brentford**, west London. Another man who was also shot remained in a stable condition and a pet dog suffered a bullet wound to the leg.

**BBC**, 28 January 2007

Three men have been questioned by police after reports that an **air rifle** was brandished out of the window of a van at **Dunsop Bridge**, near Clitheroe in Lancashire. The men, aged 19, 20 and 21, were advised about their conduct and air rifles confiscated.

**Sunderland Echo**, 27 January 2007

Three youths, aged 15, 17 and 18, who used two **ball-bearing guns** to fire at pupils at a school in **Ashbrooke**, Sunderland, in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) will not face court action. One had gone to the school with his mother to apologise to the head. The decision was reached following consultations between Northumbria Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

**The News (Portsmouth)**, 26 January 2007

Anthony Journet is facing jail after a string of armed robberies. He robbed four stores and petrol stations in **Havant, Wickham, Southbourne** and **Liphook** in a period of three months. Each time he went to the till as if to pay and then pulled a balaclava over his head, threatened staff with an **imitation gun** and grabbed the contents of the till. The weapon was found when police searched Journet's home. He pleaded guilty to four counts of robbery and three counts of having an imitation firearm with intention to commit an offence.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 25 January 2007

Brian Linley has pleaded guilty to three thefts, aggravated burglary and possessing an **imitation firearm** and asked for 12 other thefts to be taken into consideration. Linley was in charge of collecting money from fellow residents at his retirement home to pay for a break, but stole the money. He tried to pay the money back by staging a doorstep robbery in **Weston-super-Mare** in which he pointed an **airgun** at an elderly couple.

**This is Local London**, 25 January 2007

A murder inquiry was launched after a man was shot with a high-power **air rifle** in **Cricklewood**, north west London. Three men forced their way into the victim's home when he answered his door, and during the ensuing struggle one of the men shot him in the chest with his own air rifle. According to police the air rifle was right on the legal limit and was "powerful enough to be as lethal as shooting a firearm". The weapon was taken by the intruders who also stole his mobile phone and laptop computer (*BBC*, 26 January 2007). One man has been arrested in connection with the investigation (*Willesden & Brent Times*, 26 January 2007).

**Press Association**, 25 January 2007

On the day before the latest gun crime figures for England and Wales were released, a Home Office worker, on his way home from sharing a meal with Home Secretary John Reid, was attacked in **Beckenham** by two teenagers armed with a **replica gun**. The victim's wallet and mobile phone were taken. Two men, aged 19 and 17, are in custody.

**Boston Standard**, 25 January 2007

Valdimantas Patrosis was jailed for two years after admitting possessing an **imitation weapon** with intent to cause fear of violence. Patrosis was arrested after being chased by a police officer through **Boston**. He had been seen after an incident near a nightclub and been spotted slipping something inside his jacket before pushing past the police officer. An 8mm blank-firing pistol was found close by after being discarded by Patrosis.

**This is Lancashire**, 24 January 2007

A supermarket sales assistant in **Higher Ince**, Wigan, was threatened by an armed robber with a gun. The man, who was armed with what appeared to be a handgun, was handed a bag stuffed with notes and fled.

**BBC**, 23 January 2007

A BBC reporter was filming in **West Howe**, Bournemouth, when she was threatened with what appeared to be a semi-automatic weapon. A youth pulled out the gun and pointed it at her and then ran off. The weapon was recovered by police officers and confirmed to be a **BB gun**. A 17-year-old has pleaded guilty to firearms offences and will be sentenced following reports. His defence counsel said "This was one of those offences that starts as a silly prank that gets built out of control." (*BBC*, 1 February 2007).

**Sunderland Echo**, 20 January 2007

"Bullets" were fired at a family home in **Seaburn** in what neighbours described as a "drive-by" shooting. Police believe an **air weapon** was used. The rear window of a car and a back kitchen window of a house were smashed.

**Wimbledon Guardian**, 19 January 2007

Shaun Partleton has been sentenced to eight years in prison for a catalogue of crimes including six counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery and seven counts of possessing a firearm. The offences took place at betting shops in **Brixton Hill** in May 2006 and September 2006, in **Brixton** in August 2006 and in Streatham Hill in October 2006 (twice) and December 2006.

**Milton Keynes Today**, 19 January 2007

Three youths, aged 14 and 15, have been arrested following complaints from residents in **Eaglestone** who had been hit by **airgun** pellets. The police had received four complaints, including one from a postman. An air weapon has been recovered by the police (*BBC*, 21 January 2007).

**Hucknall Today**, 19 January 2007

Gary Salmon has been convicted of the murder of a man who was gunned down in a car outside a pub in **Bulwell** in August 2003. He provided the gun used by Michael O'Brien to shoot the victim in a case of mistaken identity. Salmon will serve a minimum of 18 years, the same term eventually given to O'Brien, who was convicted in July 2004 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Chichester Today**, 19 January 2007

A masked robber threatened staff in a shop in **Southbourne**, west Sussex. The man, who was carrying a handgun, walked into the shop and made off with a large amount of cash from the till.

**Doncaster Today**, 18 January 2007

A boy, aged between 14 and 15, attempted to hold up a bus with a handgun in **Conisbrough**, south Yorkshire. He approached the bus as it was setting off from its stop and reached in his pocket to produce a handgun, demanding "Give me your money". The driver shut the doors of the bus and immediately drove away. He is said to be very traumatised by the incident.

**BBC**, 18 January 2007

A gun was fired at the door of a house in **Shawclough**, Rochdale, by burglars who then threatened two women inside. The two masked men stole a purse containing a small amount of cash before fleeing by car after one of the women escaped and alerted neighbours.

**Bromley Times**, 17 January 2007

Three branches of Tesco in south London were targeted by armed robbers over the same weekend. The stores were in **Penge**, **South Norwood** and **Thornton Heath**. In each case three men were involved, though the police have only said that they are keeping an open mind as to whether the three incidents were linked. One of the men was armed with a handgun. Cash was stolen from the Penge branch, but at Thornton Heath the men failed to open the tills, panicked and fled. In December 2006 two other branches, in Penge and Anerley, were robbed (see [Incidents](#)).

**Argus (Brighton)**, 17 January 2007

Commuters on a train watched in horror as teenagers shot at each other across the carriage with a **ball-bearing gun**. The youths continued shooting the weapon at each other as they stepped on to the platform of **Hove** station. Moments later the police were told that a gang of youths had stolen alcohol from a shop and that one had a gun in his back pocket. Officers searched the area and arrested four males on suspicion of possession of an imitation firearm and theft. Police were questioning three boys aged 13, 14, and 15 and a 20-year-old man.

**Preston Today**, 16 January 2007

A gang of six men have been jailed following a £130,000 bank raid in **Ashton**, Preston, in April 2006. Staff and customers were left terrified when three masked men, armed with handguns, a crowbar and a sledge hammer, burst into the premises. A gun was pointed at the face of a bank worker. Peter Anderson, Alan McClenan and David Cullen pleaded guilty to robbery, possession of a firearm and possession of a prohibited weapon and were sentenced to a minimum of six years, a minimum of five years and to ten years, respectively. Bradley McClenan, who fired a pistol from the getaway car, pleaded guilty to robbery, possession of a firearm, possession of an offensive weapon and also to having a firearm with intent to endanger life. He too will serve a minimum term of six years. Two other men were jailed after admitting conspiracy to rob.

**BBC**, 16 January 2007

Thousands of pounds were stolen from a security guard while he was unloading money for a cash machine at a supermarket in **Chippenham**. The man was approached by two men, brandishing what witnesses claim was a handgun, who forced the guard to the ground before taking the cash from his van.

**BBC**, 15 January 2007

A man has been arrested after police received a report of a man armed with a firearm and a knife in **Newton Poppleford** in Devon. The man put down his weapons after negotiations with police.

**BBC**, 13 January 2007

Part of **Bristol** city centre was cordoned off after reports that a gun had been fired close to a club.

**BBC**, 13 January 2007

Police officers were called to **Chilcompton**, Somerset, after reports that a man with a firearm and explosives was threatening to kill himself. The man refused to cooperate and made threats to officers but the siege was ended when police fired a baton round and used a stun gun. A man was arrested and was taken to hospital for an examination.

**BBC**, 12 January 2007

BBC Radio Derby has learnt that a teacher was sacked for taking a gun into a **Derbyshire** school. The incident took place in 2005. Derbyshire County Council's education spokesman did not outline how the weapon was discovered.

**Portsmouth.co.uk**, 11 January 2007

Armed police officers cordoned off a large part of **North End**, Portsmouth, following reports of a gunman loose in the residential area. A man claimed to have been shot at by another man, whom he said he knew. Three hours later the police stood down their search and cordon having been unable to locate the man with the weapon. The victim believed the weapon could have been an **air pistol**.

**Chesterfield Today**, 11 January 2007

Police believe that one man is responsible for three armed robberies in **Chesterfield**. Two of the robberies have taken place in the last week at a petrol station in **Heath** and a shop in **Whittington Moor**, while the third robbery occurred at a bank in the town in November 2006. During each incident the cashier had a gun pointed at them.

**Portsmouth.co.uk**, 10 January 2007

A man armed with a handgun robbed a petrol station in **Wickham**, near Fareham. He pointed the gun at staff before making off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

**ic South London**, 10 January 2007

A bus driver was held up at gunpoint by three youths in **Anerley**. He was robbed of his personal possessions but was unhurt and able to call for help over his radio.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 10 January 2007

A handgun was fired during a bungled robbery in **Blyth** after two men had burst into an off-licence. Three shots were fired after they were chased from the premises by the shopkeeper.

**BBC**, 10 January 2007

The manager of a store in **Tredworth**, Gloucester, overpowered a man armed with a gun during an attempted robbery. The man had demanded money while threatening staff. A 20-year-old man is helping police with inquiries.

**Bromsgrove News**, 9 January 2007

A shop in **Bromsgrove** was robbed at gunpoint by two masked armed raiders. The pair entered the store brandishing a handgun and escaped with a quantity of cash after threatening two members of staff and a customer.

**BBC**, 9 January 2007

A prisoner has been helped to escape by two masked men, one of whom was armed with a gun. The escape took place as the man arrived at **Hammersmith Hospital** by ambulance. Three prison officers were forced to uncuff the prisoner. No shots were fired. Although unhurt the officers were treated for shock. Joe Farnan has been recaptured by police at a property in **Docklands**, east London (*BBC*, 12 January 2007).

**BBC**, 8 January 2007

Reuben Bettis opened fire on his love rival with a double-barrelled shotgun at an allotment in **Orsett**, Essex, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). His victim was hit in the hand and stomach. Doctors had considered amputating his hand. Bettis admitted possessing the gun which he had borrowed from a friend. Sentencing was adjourned but the judge has already told Bettis that he would be jailed.

**BBC**, 8 January 2007

Masked men armed with a shotgun and a machete-style knife threatened staff and customers at **Tamworth** FC's clubhouse before fleeing with several thousand pounds several hours after the club's FA Cup game with Norwich.

**BBC**, 8 January 2007

Three men who broke into a house in **Duffield**, Derby, stole two guns, a shotgun and an **air rifle**, as well as cash and jewellery.

**BBC**, 7 January 2007

A 16-year-old has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence after an incident at **Stanton Hill** near Skegby in Nottinghamshire. Police officers fired shots from a baton gun at the youth, who was struck but not seriously injured.

**Evening Courier (Halifax)**, 6 January 2007

Police are investigating two robberies in Huddersfield. Two masked men armed with a handgun held up an off-licence in **Bradley**. The robbers ran off with a small amount of property after staff activated a panic alarm. A woman was attacked by two men with what is believed to be a handgun as she unloaded her shopping from her car in **Deighton**. They forced their way into her home and made off with property.

**BBC**, 6 January 2007

A man was found with wounds to his legs following a firearms incident in **Wellingborough**. The victim was found by police after they were called by witnesses reporting a person with a firearm.

**Pendle Today**, 5 January 2007

Armed response units were called to a retail park in **Colne** after someone opened fire on people and vehicles from a nearby embankment with an **air rifle**. One customer was in his car when he was struck on the back of the head by a pellet which had been fired through his open window. Another driver heard a pellet hit his vehicle at about the same time.

**Evening Courier (Halifax)**, 5 January 2007

Karl Scorgie was caught at a pub in **Halifax** with an **air rifle** he had just bought. The licensee reported him after he had asked him to leave the pub and been confronted by him. Scorgie was conditionally discharged for two years and ordered to pay costs.

**BBC**, 5 January 2007

Police have condemned as "mindless" whoever struck a number of cars on the A361 between **Barnstaple** and **Braunton** over several days with what are thought to have been **BB gun** pellets.

**24dash.com**, 5 January 2007

Three Lithuanian nationals, Darius Stankunas from **Sheffield**, Orestas Bubliauskas from **Chigwell** in Essex and Andrius Gurskas of no fixed address, were jailed for a total of 32 years over a plot to smuggle a consignment of lethal converted pistols into Britain. Stankunas was jailed for 10 years, Bubliauskas for 11 years and Gurskas for 11 years. The trio were seized by armed police following a surveillance operation. More guns were found at an address in **east London**. Ammunition and a silencer were also recovered during the operation. All three had previous convictions.

**PinkNews.co.uk**, 4 January 2007

Spencer George Payne, 18, was found guilty for the possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or unlawful violence. Gary Joe Smith, 19, was found guilty for possession of an offensive weapon in public. The pair arrived at a car park in **Ockham**, Surrey, in May 2006 and shouted homophobic abuse at passers-by before producing an **air rifle** and a samurai sword and using them in a threatening manner. Payne was given a 51-week sentence suspended for two years. Smith received a sentence of 30 weeks suspended for 18 months. Both were ordered to carry out community service.

**Yorkshire Post**, 3 January 2007

A bullet was fired past the head of a shop assistant during a robbery in a store in **Newsome**, Huddersfield. The man who fired the shot had grabbed the handgun from his accomplice and pulled the trigger after the assistant had rejected demands to hand over takings. Three robbers were involved.

**Salisbury Journal**, 3 January 2007

A gunman held up a shoe repair shop in **Chippenham**. He pointed a handgun at the lone, male member of staff and demanded cash from the till be handed over. Approximately £200 was taken. CCTV pictures of the man have been released.

**Evening Standard**, 3 January 2007

In what has been described as a gangland-style assassination a man was killed as he arrived at a garage in **Barking**, east London, to collect a car. Two gunmen walked up to him and fired a volley of shots at close range. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

**BBC**, 3 January 2007

Two thieves threatened staff at a shop in **Langley**, Slough, with what appeared to be a gun before stealing cash and cigarettes.

***This is Local London***, 2 January 2007

One man was fighting for his life and two other people, a man and a woman, were also wounded after being shot while celebrating at a nightclub in **Islington**, north London. All the victims were being treated in hospital. The shots were fired on the dance floor following a disturbance. A fourth victim later came forward (*Islington Tribune*, 5 January 2007). In another shooting incident in **Islington** two days earlier a doorman at a nightclub and a member of the public were injured after three men were refused entry. They fled the scene in a vehicle.

***Huddersfield Daily Examiner***, 2 January 2007

The manager of a betting shop in **Crosland Moor** was robbed at gunpoint after locking up. Two men, one of whom had a gun, demanded cash and fled with the victim's rucksack.

***BBC***, 2 January 2007

A cab driver was robbed at gunpoint in the **Sherwood** area of Nottingham having been dispatched to an address that did not exist. As he tried to find the house two men appeared, one of them armed with a gun, who demanded cash. The driver handed over £70 and a mobile phone.

***BBC***, 2 January 2007

A 16-year-old girl sustained serious injuries after being shot in the face with an **air rifle** in **Paulton**, Somerset. A 19-year-old has been charged with assault causing grievous bodily harm and a firearm's offence. According to the police the victim is in hospital in a critical but stable condition (*Avon and Somerset Constabulary*, 2 January 2007). The man is reported to be her boyfriend (*Press Association*, 2 January 2007).

***This is Hampshire***, 1 January 2007

The landlord of a pub in **Bitterne**, Southampton has described his shock after an armed man brandished a handgun in the bar which, moments later, was attacked with a firebomb by a second man. A 17-year-old is helping police with their enquiries.

***BBC***, 1 January 2007

A busy shopping street in **Nottingham** was closed by police after reports that a shot had been fired. No-one was injured in the incident.

---

## SCOTLAND

***Scotsman***, 30 January 2007

Two men shot another man at close range in a quiet residential street in **Nitshill**, Glasgow. The victim was taken to hospital where his condition was described as being stable.

**Scotsman**, 30 January 2007

Two alleged members of the Ulster Defence Association were cleared of charges that followed the seizure of an automatic pistol and ammunition at a house in **Buckhaven**, Fife. Stephen Moffat, in whose home the pistol was found, is already serving a five-year jail sentence after admitting he was looking after the pistol and that he belonged to the UDA, a "proscribed organisation".

**Evening Times**, 30 January 2007

A man's body was found dumped in a woodyard in **Rigside**, South Lanarkshire. He is believed to have been shot in the face with a shotgun in a gangland hit. It is unclear how long he had been dead.

**Evening Times**, 29 January 2007

A security guard was robbed at gunpoint at a supermarket in **Kilmarnock**. The robber fled with thousands of pounds in a security case which the guard was forced to hand over.

**Buchan Observer**, 17 January 2007

A special needs school in **Peterhead** has been targeted by vandals who have caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to windows at the rear of the building. The attack is believed to have involved the use of **air rifles**. Five separate holes were left in the windows and the janitor found tiny metal ball bearings. The latest attack follows other incidents of vandalism last year.

**Buchan Observer**, 17 January 2007

A house in the Blackhouse area of **Peterhead** has been attacked with an **air weapon**. Police were investigating vandalism to a window.

**Evening News**, 13 January 2007

Two hooded men armed with a machete and a handgun held up staff at a sub-post office in **Deans**, Livingston. They made off with an undisclosed sum of money. The post office had also been robbed in November 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 11 January 2007

Jamie Munn, 18, has been found guilty of murdering a man in **Duntocher** in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot through the heart with a powerful hunting rifle. Munn was also found guilty of firearms charges including having a Taser stun gun in his home. He will serve at least 17 years in prison before he can apply for parole.

**Daily Record**, 9 January 2007

A youth, aged 15 to 18, fired an **airgun** at a pensioner on an Aberdeen-Glasgow train and hit her in the chest. He had brandished the gun in front of three girls who grabbed the weapon which he snatched back. He then shot the woman. He got off the train at **Stonehaven**. The victim did not require treatment. Two children, a boy and girl both aged 14, have been reported to the Children's Reporter after being charged. The *BBC's* news report indicated that a **BB gun** had been fired at *two* elderly women on the train (*BBC*, 9 January 2007).

**Times**, 5 January 2007

Police in **Stranraer** were looking for two boys as young as 12 who carried out an armed robbery at a local store. They held up staff with a gun before making off with cigarettes and hundreds of pounds in cash. A police spokesman said that the weapon could turn out to have been a **replica gun** but added that it was certainly being treated as if it could be the genuine thing. Three 13-year-olds have now been arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal (*Press Association*, 6 January 2007).

**Daily Record**, 3 January 2007

An 18-year-old who was walking with a friend along a street in **Scotstoun**, Glasgow, was shot with an **airgun** pellet. He was taken to hospital for treatment for his injuries before being allowed home. It has since emerged that a number of other people have also complained about being fired at around the same time (*Evening Times*, 4 January 2007). A 20-year-old man has been arrested (*Daily Record*, 4 January 2007).

---

## WALES

**BBC**, 1 January 2007

Three men and a woman have been arrested in **Gwersyllt**, Wrexham, following an incident in which a resident reported that their windows had been broken by somebody firing an **airgun**.

---

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Dearne Today**, 18 January 2007

David Pickering, 18, and a 17-year-old have pleaded guilty to killing a swan and having a loaded firearm and will be sentenced next month. They used a powerful **air rifle** to shoot a number of swans on the River Dearne at **Harlington** in September 2006. According to the report the Sharp Innova 11.22 air rifle was powerful enough to be classed as a Section 1 firearm for which a licence is required.

**BBC**, 8 January 2007

A 16-year-old youth has been arrested by Cheshire police following reports of swans being targeted with **airguns**. One swan was found shot dead at a recreation ground and nature reserve in **Widnes**.

**South Wales Echo**, 6 January 2007

A one-year-old pet dog had to be put down after he was shot with an **airgun** while walking with his owner. It is believed that a gang of three youths seen near a reservoir in **Merthyr Tydfil** were responsible.

**BBC**, 5 January 2007

A horse had to be put down after an attack on a grey stallion and two Shetland ponies at a farm in **Ash**, Surrey. The animals were peppered with shotgun pellets. Vets fear that the two survivors may also have to be put down.

**BBC**, 3 January 2007

Two cows were shot in the eyes at point blank range by someone with an **air rifle** in a field in **Redhill**, north Somerset. Two men were seen leaving the scene carrying what looked like an air rifle in a long black case.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs 2.5 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.5/).