



## **JANUARY 2008 - SUMMARY**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries - In January 2008 there were a disturbing number of serious gun crimes in Merseyside and Greater Manchester, including three fatal shootings. Elsewhere there were four deaths (two in Hertfordshire, one in Cambridgeshire and one in Plymouth) involving men described in reports as gun enthusiasts. Two committed suicide, one after allegedly killing his mother-in-law by shooting her.**
- Two men were the victims of fatal shootings in Greater Manchester, one in Merseyside and one woman was killed in Hertfordshire (the alleged perpetrator of the Hertfordshire homicide then apparently shot himself dead in the grounds of a gun club where he had been a member). A gun enthusiast died after being shot at home in Cambridgeshire, but the circumstances are not clear: his wife was being questioned by police and has been released on bail. Another licensed firearms holder was found dead of gunshot wounds at an address in Plymouth.
- In Greater Manchester one man was killed and two others were injured in a triple shooting in Crumpsall and a 20-year-old died after being shot in a shooting at a takeaway in Stretford. In another serious shooting in Stretford a victim was shot in the chest (four men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder). Another man was shot in the chest in a parked car in Old Trafford and two youths were in a critical condition after being shot in a betting shop in Withington.
- In Merseyside a man died after being shot dead as he was driving through Halewood. Another man, who had earlier been shot in the stomach in Anfield, was one of three people later arrested and charged with drug offences. Another man was shot in the leg in a 'targeted attack' in Kensington, two men were injured in a double shooting in Norris Green and a man was shot in the back as he tried to escape from a gunman in Speke. A victim has lost the sight of one eye after being shot with an airgun in Kirkby (see below).
- Two men were taken to hospital after being shot on a housing estate in Preston: a 20-year-old has been arrested.
- In the West Midlands a man suffered head and stomach injuries after a shooting in Dudley and another victim was injured when he was shot in Smethwick.
- Two teenagers were taken to hospital after a shooting in Hyson Green (Nottingham): their injuries were not life threatening. A man was seriously injured in a shooting in Lightmore Heath (Warwickshire) (a man has been charged with attempted murder). Another man was shot in the back in Stratford (East London). A man had to be treated for gunshot wounds after an attack in Blantyre (Lanarkshire).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults -** A teenager held a gun to the heads of two women in separate incidents in Bolton in which a purse and a handbag were taken and one of the victims was sexually assaulted.
- A teenager was robbed of his mobile phone at gunpoint in Weston-super-Mare. Three women in the Buckhurst Hill area (Essex) were robbed in separate attacks: one teenage victim was pistol whipped. Two women were robbed at gunpoint by two men armed with handguns in The Meadows area of Nottingham.

- In Greater Manchester three robbers fled empty handed after holding a handgun to a takeaway worker's head in Atherton and cash, and cigarettes were stolen from a shop in Rhodes by two men brandishing a gun. Three men, one armed with a gun, stole cigarettes from a shopkeeper in Huddersfield. A gang of four men armed with a handgun stole cash, cigarettes and bottles of spirits from a shop in Rastrick, also in West Yorkshire. A small amount of cash was stolen by a man armed with a shotgun from a shop in Blackpool. Another man took £140 at gunpoint during a raid on a shop in Teddington (Middlesex). A man pointing a handgun tried to rob an off licence in Hastings (Sussex) but fled empty handed. Another gunman fled empty-handed after attempting to rob a newsagents in Pollok (Glasgow). Three people were held at gunpoint when a robber stole the takings of a pub in Slough (Berkshire).
  - An air rifle was used in an attempted robbery on a store in Northampton. A man armed with an imitation gun attempted to rob a bookmakers in Whitchurch (Cardiff) (see below).
  - A man threatened a woman driver with a handgun and tried to snatch her handbag in an incident in Linthorpe (Middlesbrough). Armed robbers stole a car from a cab driver in Southport (Lancashire). A teenager had his motorbike stolen at gunpoint in Droylsden (Greater Manchester).
  - In further attacks in Greater Manchester an armed gang stole a mobile phone, a handbag and keys to a car in which they escaped during a robbery at a property in Gorton, and five masked men threatened a couple with a gun in Moss Side.
  - A family was held up by a gang of armed robbers in a house in Blackheath (south east London) who stole cash.
- **Other Incidents** - A man was forced into a car at gunpoint in Altrincham (Cheshire).
  - A man was confronted by two men with a gun, possibly a shotgun, on his doorstep in Southey Green (Sheffield): they ran off after he slammed the door.
  - Staff at a takeaway in Northampton were threatened by a teenager who produced what was thought to be a handgun.
  - In a possible gang-related incident a shot was fired at a house in Allenton (Derbyshire). A firearm was discharged outside a pub in Bristol. A man fired a shot during a dispute in a street in Northampton. Police carried out a search in Winslow (Buckinghamshire) after reports of a firearm being discharged.
  - The back window of a car being driven by a couple close to Low Worsall in Cleveland was hit when they were shot at from another car: an airgun may have been involved (see below).
  - A man was arrested after reports that he was carrying a pistol in a pub in Swindon and another man was arrested after a report that he had entered a pub in Bagillt (Flintshire) with a firearm.
  - A man from Bispham (Lancashire) has appeared in court accused with possessing a handgun with intent to cause someone to believe violence would be used against them. A TV presenter making a documentary in Croxteth (Merseyside) had a gun pointed at her.
  - A man has appeared in court on a charge of being in possession of a handgun on a motorway in Dumfriesshire.
  - A man is to appear in court charged with two firearms offences and four offences under the Explosive Substances Act after an explosion at a house in Eldson (Northumberland).
  - Police were called to a number of other incidents in which firearms were reported to have been seen but were not found. These involved a train boarded by a teenager at Bourne End (Buckinghamshire), another train

stopped at Berwick station in Sussex and a home in Uffculme (Devon) where a man was arrested.

- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - Five people were arrested after police discovered handguns in Greenwich and Lewisham in south London. A 16-year-old faced firearms and drugs charges following a police raid in Catford (South East London).
- A firearm and ammunition were found by police during raids in Croxteth and Norris Green (Merseyside), and nine people were arrested and three guns seized during raids in Trafford and Eccles (Greater Manchester).
- Police found a rifle and a number of de-activated grenades at the home of a man arrested in Monkton Heathfield (Somerset), and a man was arrested on suspicion of purchasing/possessing a firearm after police raided his home in Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire).
- A Darlington man has been charged four months after police raided his home and seized a haul of replica, deactivated and components parts of military weapons and ammunition.
- Armed police found two air rifles and two replica guns during a raid on an address in Swindon (Wiltshire). A man was charged with firearms offences after a number of weapons including six imitation guns were found by police at a flat in Pangbourne (Berkshire).
- An air rifle was among items stolen from an industrial estate in Wellingborough (Northamptonshire). Replica guns were taken from a trailer in Kidderminster (Worcestershire).
  
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A number of men have been given long jail sentences (over 12 years) for their involvement in the murder in Rigsby (Lanarkshire) of a man who was shot with a sawn-off shotgun.
- Five men face life sentences after being convicted of the murder of a drug dealer whose body was found with gunshot wounds in Pattingham (Staffordshire) in 2002.
- Three men have been convicted of the murder of a man in St Osyth (Essex) and been jailed for life. A fourth man who gave evidence for the prosecution pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. See [May 2007 Incidents](#).
- A man has been convicted of manslaughter after killing a man in his flat in Cricklewood (north London) with the victim's own air rifle (see below).
- Five men have received long jail sentences (20 to 30 years) for their part in the £53m robbery at a depot in Tonbridge during which the manager's wife and child were kidnapped from their home in Herne Bay at gunpoint.
- A man has been jailed for at least three years over a shooting at a carnival in Moss Side (Manchester).
- A man who shot himself in the leg during a party in Woodgate (Leicester) but claimed he was the victim of a mystery gunman has been given a five year jail sentence.
- A robber who held a handgun to the neck of an elderly man in St Helens was jailed for five years and seven months: he had also robbed another man on a bus.
- An 18-year-old arrested on suspicion of discharging a firearm has been banned from acting in a violent and threatening manner in a number of streets in Huyton (Merseyside).
- A man from Rhyl (North Wales) has admitted having two rifles and ammunition without proper documentation: sentencing was adjourned.

- **Airguns - In spite of the recent introduction of measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Act to restrict the sales of airguns it is clear from the incidents and court cases reported in January that there are still too many of these guns in the hands of those who would misuse them. Measures must be taken to reduce the number of these weapons in circulation.**
- A man has lost the sight of one eye after being shot with an airgun in Kirkby (Merseyside). A teenager was shot with an air rifle in Calne (Wiltshire) following an apparent argument over a girl, and a 14-year-old girl was hit in the arm by an airgun sniper near Gourock (Renfrewshire).
- A teenager was arrested after an attempted robbery on a store in Northampton in which an air rifle was fired.
- A rifle was pointed at police officers when they called at a property in Penhill (Swindon): a number of air rifles and pellets were among weapons recovered from a nearby house.
- A man was arrested after an air rifle was pointed at staff at Rochdale Infirmary.
- In Scotland a property in Easterhouse (Glasgow) was searched after reports that an airgun was being fired from a window.
- New age travellers in Highworth (Wiltshire) have reportedly been subjected to an attack with what they believe was an air rifle. Pellets were fired at members of the public in Yeovil (Somerset): a woman was injured and a van damaged.
- A taxi driver was showered with glass after his cab was hit with what he believes was an air rifle pellet as he was driving between Aberfan and Troedyrhiw. In another incident in South Wales vandals shot at a car with a pellet gun near Pencoed. An airgun may have been used when the back window of a car being driven close to Low Worsall in Cleveland was hit. A 19-year-old who fired an air rifle pellet at a bus in Skelmersdale has been arrested and given a final warning.
- Damage estimated at £5000 has been caused with air rifles to new street lights in Heysham (Lancashire). An airgun sniper may have caused damage at a shop, a house, a takeaway and the Civic Hall in Totnes (Devon). A shop window in Heath Hayes (Cannock, Staffordshire) was damaged by airgun shots. A house window was damaged in Peterhead (Grampian), and in two attacks in North Berwick (East Lothian) properties were targeted and a children's playroom window fired at. A local newspaper has launched a campaign to rid the streets of Barrhead (Renfrewshire) of airguns after a number of incidents in the town. A youth has caused residents of Gwendraeth (South Wales) to fear for their safety after he fired an airgun in a park.
- A 17-year-old was arrested for possessing a firearm after an airgun was found in a toilet on a train at Chapeltown (Sheffield) after a clash between two gangs.
- A woman from Yarmouth (Norfolk) sustained an injury to her nose in what police said was an accident involving an airgun.
- Armed burglars who stole a scramble bike from a shed in Portslade (Sussex) left behind a .22 air rifle.
- **Airgun - Convictions - Homicides and domestic incidents.** Two cases in which victims had died after being shot with airguns came to a conclusion this month. A teenager will spend 13 years in jail after killing a pensioner whom he shot in his home in Winchburgh (West Lothian). A burglar who killed a man with his own airgun in Cricklewood (north London) has been convicted of manslaughter.
- A man who repeatedly shot his wife with a .22 air rifle in their home in Leeds has been jailed for three-and-a-half years. Another man who shot his wife in the shoulder at their home in Kinmel Bay (North Wales) was

given a nine-month suspended prison sentence after admitting assault causing actual bodily harm.

- **Airgun - Convictions - Other incidents.** A man who threatened a student with an air pistol in York during an attempted robbery has been jailed for five years. A 21-year-old was sentenced to 27 months after pointing an air rifle at a group of young people during a burglary in Poulton (Lancashire). A man from Smallthorne (Staffordshire) who threatened youths with an air pistol was given a 10 month suspended jail sentence.
- Following separate incidents in Solihull (West Midlands) one man was given an 18 month sentence after pointing an air pistol at a taxi as well as brandishing a machete and another was given a four month jail sentence after firing a pellet gun in a park where children were playing.
- A man who terrorised his neighbour in Farnworth, near Bolton, and allegedly fired an air rifle at his house has been banned from living in his own house.
  
- **Imitation Guns** - A teenager is having surgery in eye hospital after being shot in the face with a BB gun in Malvern: a teenager has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent. An 18-year-old girl was shot in the face with a pellet gun during a drive-by shooting in Portobello (Edinburgh).
- Three men were arrested following an incident at a flat in Manchester in which a woman was reported to have been hit over the head with a gun: police recovered an imitation firearm.
- A man apparently brandishing a blank-firing pistol and threatening to shoot armed police in Paisley (Renfrewshire) was disabled with a stun gun before appearing in court in connection with the incident.
- Two workmen were threatened with a replica gun at a property in Wigan: a man has been arrested. A man armed with an imitation gun attempted to steal cash from a bookmaker in Whitchurch (Cardiff).
- The *Evening News* in Norwich provided evidence that teenagers have been playing pretend war games (airsoft) on Mousehold Heath.
- A group of three teenagers fired a ball-bearing gun at a bus in Bamber Bridge (Lancashire).
- Four men were arrested by armed police in Rickmansworth (Hertfordshire), one for possession of an imitation gun and another for possession of an airgun. Two men were arrested in Trafalgar Square in London on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm.
- A man committed suicide after being terrorised by yobs who repeatedly fired a ball-bearing gun at his home in Pemberton (Lancashire).
- Pupils were evacuated from a school in Easterhouse (Glasgow) after guns were found in a gym cupboard: police later confirmed that the guns were toys.
- Pulborough Parish Council in Sussex has highlighted the potential risk of ball-bearing guns after a series of shootings in and around the village. Children as young as four have been spotted roaming the Whitehawk estate in Brighton shooting a buses and homes with ball-bearing guns.
- **Imitation Guns - Convictions** - A man involved in three carjackings in Bolton, Warrington and Accrington pleaded guilty to a number of offences including three of possession of an imitation firearm.
- A 20-year-old who carried out a number of raids on banks in South London has been jailed for seven years: police found a ball-bearing gun in a rucksack in his home. A man has been jailed for four years after pleading guilty to an attempted robbery in Westhoughton (Bolton) and possession of an imitation firearm.

- A gang of teenagers who were armed with an imitation pistol when they forced their way into a property in Northaw (Hertfordshire) have been jailed for between three years seven months and five years.
- A man who shot at a school minibus in Bradford with a BB gun has been given a two year jail sentence. See [December 2007 Incidents](#).
- A man who fired a ball-bearing gun at two women pensioners in Bromsgrove (Worcestershire), hitting both of them, has been sentenced to 18 months detention.
- A 16-year-old who threatened a security guard in Peterborough pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm with intent.
- A man who assaulted a fellow drinker in Durham whilst wielding a plastic BB gun was given a suspended four month term in a young offenders institution. Another man who was drunk when he pulled out an imitation gun as he was confronted by two police officers in Dumbarton has admitted possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause the officers to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Cats were again the frequent target of airgun snipers with incidents reported in Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire. Another cat was shot with a high powered gun in Cheshire.
- A dog owner from Stourport-on-Severn (Worcestershire) was jailed for four months for causing incredible cruelty to his dog which included shooting the pet with an air rifle.
- At a park in Wearside another swan has been found shot dead, in this case apparently with a BB gun.

## GUN INCIDENTS – JANUARY 2008

### ENGLAND

**Wembley & Kingsbury Times**, 31 January 2008

Francis Boateng burst into a man's home in **Cricklewood**, north London, in January 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) on the hunt for drugs and money. He picked up the man's **air rifle** and shot him in the chest fatally injuring him. Boateng was convicted of manslaughter and conspiracy to rob. Three other men were convicted of conspiracy to rob. Another man is on the run and not been traced by police. Sentencing was adjourned.

**Malvern Gazette**, 31 January 2008

A teenager was hit in the face by what is believed to have been a **BB-gun** pellet fired from a car in **Malvern**, Worcestershire. The victim is expected to undergo surgery in eye hospital to remove the pellet. Two youths have been arrested. One has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent (*BBC*, 1 February 2008).

**BBC**, 31 January 2008

Leon Johnson has been jailed for at least three years over a shooting at a carnival in **Moss Side**, Manchester, in May 2006. An 18-year-old was also convicted of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and will be sentenced in April. Police received reports of gunshot being heard. No-one was seriously injured.

**Press Association**, 30 January 2008

A 17-year-old suspected of being involved in the shooting dead of 11-year-old Rhys Jones in Croxteth, Merseyside, in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm following raids on three addresses in **Croxteth**.

**Northern Echo**, 30 January 2008

A man shot at a car being driven by a couple close to the hamlet of **Low Worsall** in Cleveland. The woman described how a car had suddenly come up behind them and an arm came out of the rear window with something black in his hand. Seconds later the back window was hit. Police have no idea whether the gun was an **air weapon** or something more deadly.

**In the News**, 30 January 2008

Two teenagers were in a critical condition in hospital after a shooting in a betting shop in **Withington**, Manchester. An 18-year-old had received gunshot wounds to the stomach and torso and a 16-year-old sustained gunshot wounds to the chest, shoulder and leg. Two men were seen fleeing the betting shop.

**Express & Echo**, 30 January 2008

Armed police went to a home in **Uffculme**, Devon, after a woman claimed that she had been held against her will. She mentioned she had seen a firearm. No firearm was seen by officers, but a man was arrested and was in custody.

**Eastbourne Today**, 30 January 2008

A train from Eastbourne to London Victoria was stopped by police at **Berwick** station after rail staff reported seeing a man with what looked like a gun or pistol in his waistband at **Polegate**. Staff were unsure whether the man had boarded the train and no weapon was found.

**Citizen (Blackpool)**, 30 January 2008

Stuart Boys, 21, has been jailed for 27 months after pointing an **air rifle** at a group of young people during a burglary in **Poulton**. He stole an X Box and some computer games. Boys had 22 previous offences on his record, including robbery.

**BBC**, 30 January 2008

Nine people have been arrested and three guns seized by police as part of an operation to tackle gun crime in Greater Manchester. Twenty house in **Trafford** and **Eccles** were searched.

**BBC**, 30 January 2008

A man was shot in **Lightmore Heath**, Warwickshire. He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable. Police are questioning a man in connection with the incident. A man has been charged with attempted murder, possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possessing a banned weapon and ammunition (*BBC*, 1 February 2008).

**Argus (Brighton)**, 30 January 2008

Children as young as four have been spotted roaming the streets in the **Whitehawk** estate, Brighton, in large numbers, shooting at buses and residents' homes with **ball-bearing guns**. Thirty two incidents of damage have been reported to the police this month. An initiative has been launched involving a curfew which will be monitored solely by residents across the estate.

**Leicester Mercury**, 29 January 2008

Levi Crawshaw accidentally shot himself in the leg but told the police he was the victim of a mystery gunman. The incident took place during a party at a pub in **Woodgate**, Leicester, in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Crawshaw has admitted that he shot himself while putting the handgun, a 7.65mm self-loading pistol, in his front trouser pocket and has been given a five year jail sentence.

**Birmingham Mail**, 29 January 2008

A window of a shop in **Heath Hayes**, Cannock, Staffordshire, was smashed when **airgun** shots were fired.

**BBC**, 29 January 2008

Three men were arrested following an incident at a flat in **Manchester** city centre in which a woman was reported to have been hit over the head with a gun. Police recovered an **imitation firearm** from the flat.

**BBC**, 29 January 2008

Five men are due to be sentenced on kidnap, robbery and firearms charges for their part in a £53m raid on a depot in **Tonbridge**, Kent, in February 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Stuart Royle, Jetmir Bucpapa, Roger Coutts, Lea Rusha and Emir Hysenaj had all denied conspiracy to kidnap, conspiracy to rob and conspiracy to possess firearms. The manager was kidnapped as were his wife and child of the depot manager who were taken from their home in **Herne Bay** at gunpoint. Two other men were cleared of involvement. The five men were given sentences of between 20 and 30 years (*Info4Security*, 30 January 2008).

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 28 January 2008

A 17-year-old was arrested for possessing a firearm after two gangs clashed at **Chapelton** station in Sheffield. Armed officers were called after the police had staged a search of the train following the confrontation and found an **airgun** in a toilet.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 28 January 2008

A man fired a shot during a dispute in a **Northampton** street. Nobody was injured and a blank firearm was recovered. Police are hunting the gunman.

**Bramley Today**, 28 January 2008

Desmond Sharp repeatedly shot his wife with a **.22 air rifle** in the living room of their house in **Fairfield Hill** in Leeds after he had been drinking. He has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

**BBC**, 28 January 2008

A rifle was pointed at police officers called to a disturbance in **Penhill**, Swindon. A man was arrested in connection with a serious firearms offence, and a number of **air rifles** and pellets along with crossbows and bolts were recovered from a nearby house.

**BBC**, 28 January 2008

A presenter filming a TV documentary in **Croxteth**, Merseyside, has had a gun pointed at her. A car with blacked out windows pulled up alongside the crew and an arm with a gun came out of the window. Police are investigating.

**BBC**, 27 January 2008

Two teenagers, aged 15 and 17, were taken to hospital after a shooting in the **Hyson Green** area of Nottingham. Their injuries were not life threatening and the 15-year-old has been released from hospital. Police have stepped up patrols in and around Nottingham.

**Avon and Somerset Constabulary**, 27 January 2008

Police are appealing for witnesses after a firearm was discharged outside a pub in **Bristol**. Damage was caused to a window.

**Wimbledon Guardian**, 26 January 2008

A man held up a shop in **Teddington** at gunpoint. The man pulled out a silver gun and demanded the till be opened. He took £140.

**Liverpool Echo**, 26 January 2008

A man was shot in the back as he tried to escape a gunman he had confronted on his doorstep in **Speke**, Merseyside. The hooded gunman had smashed down the victim's front door believing him to be in his house. The weapon is believed to have been a low-calibre shotgun.

**BBC**, 26 January 2008

Two men are in hospital after being shot on a housing estate in **Preston**. Their injuries were not life-threatening. A 20-year-old man has been arrested over the shooting (*BBC*, 27 January 2008).

**Wigan Evening Post**, 25 January 2008

A man committed suicide by stabbing himself after being terrorised by yobs who repeatedly fired a **ball-bearing gun** at his home in **Pemberton**. At the man's inquest a container of yellow ball bearings was produced by his father.

**Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)**, 25 January 2008

Two women were robbed at gunpoint in **The Meadows** area of Nottingham. They were approached by two men who pulled open the doors of their car and grabbed a bag containing cash. Both men were armed with handguns.

**Bromsgrove Standard**, 25 January 2008

Teenager Darren Irish fired a **ball-bearing gun** at two women pensioners as they visited a site in **Sidemoor**, Bromsgrove. One of the victims was left with a ball-bearing lodged in her arm because it was too difficult to remove. The other woman was hit in the shoulder. Irish who had been drinking pleaded guilty to two counts of assault causing actual bodily harm. He was sentenced to 18 months detention.

**Skelmersdale Advertiser**, 24 January 2008

A 19-year-old who fired an **air rifle** pellet at a bus in the **Digmoor** area of Skelmersdale has been arrested and given a final warning. He was one of several people targeted during a campaign to clampdown on bus vandalism following a spate of incidents in recent weeks.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 24 January 2008

Figures obtained by the paper reveal that the number of people injured by guns in **Lincolnshire** trebled over five years. Sixty people were injured in 2004/05 but 55 of the incidents involved **air rifles** and **BB guns**. The majority of the victims (56) were not seriously injured. Half of those wounded were children under 15.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 24 January 2008

A report in the paper, which describes complaints by Jeanette Fill about a lack of police response to an assault on her, reveals that she had threatened to shoot herself outside **Huddersfield** police station in December 2006. She pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm (a **ball bearing gun**) in a public place. She had spent 10 weeks in prison on remand and was then given a 51-week prison sentence suspended for two years for this offence and for threatening to destroy or damage property at a garage.

**Great Yarmouth Mercury**, 23 January 2008

A woman from north **Yarmouth** was taken to hospital after sustaining an injury to her nose in what police established was an accident involving an **airgun**.

**Bromley Times**, 23 January 2008

Ian Upson, 20, has been jailed for seven years after five raids on banks in south London. He pleaded guilty to conspiring to committing robberies on banks in **Dulwich Village, Herne Hill, Penge** and **Sydenham** between April and July 2007. He was caught after a fifth robbery in **West Wickham** in July 2007. Police found a **ball-bearing gun** in a rucksack in his home. A second man, Herbert Kulsomu was given an indeterminate sentence after pleading guilty to armed robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He had been recruited for the West Wickham robbery.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 22 January 2008

A man and a woman are on trial following a shooting in **Ribbleton** in May 2007. The victim was hit from close range with a shot from what was believed to have been a self-loading pistol though the bullet went across his chest without going through his ribs. The man denies attempted murder and his 19-year-old girlfriend pleads not guilty to intending to pervert the course of justice by providing a false alibi.

**BBC**, 22 January 2008

A shot was fired at a house in **Allenton**, Derbyshire, by someone on foot who then got into a car and drove off. A man in the house suffered minor injuries from broken glass. Police don't believe it was a random shot and are investigating whether there are any gang links. The incidents follows three others in Derby, one earlier this month in Allenton, and the police say that a 12-strong police unit has been investigating five incidents. Eight addresses have been raided in the past month (*Derby Evening Telegraph*, 23 January 2008).

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 21 January 2008

A teenager, aged between 16 and 18, produced what was thought to be a handgun and threatened staff at a takeaway in **Northampton**. He produced the gun after he was challenged for behaving aggressively. He fled the store.

**BBC**, 21 January 2008

A man has died after he threatened police officers with a knife following a domestic dispute in **Goldington**, Bedford. Police shot the man with a Taser gun and he was later found with serious injuries and died in hospital. A pathologist has said that the Taser stun gun shock was not a contributory factor in his death.

**BBC**, 20 January 2008

Yesterday a 20-year-old was shot when two other men burst into a takeaway in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester. A number of shots were fired. The victim was taken to hospital and was said to be in a critical condition, but died in intensive care three days later from his injuries (*BBC*, 27 January 2008).

**Sun**, 19 January 2008

Following the report that the Browning 9mm pistol used to wound a woman police officer in **Nottingham** had been sold by a soldier (see [December 2007 Incidents](#)) the paper reveals that a total of 109 guns have been lost or stolen from military barracks in the last seven years. The guns have apparently been smuggled back from Iraq and Afghanistan by squaddies and sold to criminals. Only 35 weapons have been recovered.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 19 January 2008

Ian McLean held up staff to rob a **Northampton** store in November 2005 and pistol-whipped the manager. He was convicted of robbery, possession of an **imitation firearm** and wounding with intent and was sentenced to 12 years in prison in July 2006. His sentence has now been reduced to take account of the time he spent in prison before he was sentenced.

**Evening Telegraph (Northampton)**, 19 January 2008

An **air rifle** was among items stolen during two burglaries from neighbouring business units on an industrial estate in **Wellingborough**.

**Evening Courier (Halifax)**, 19 January 2008

Four masked raiders armed with what appeared to be a handgun attacked a shop in **Rastrick**, West Yorkshire. The men took the contents of the till, cigarettes and bottles of spirits and damaged the security cameras. A delivery driver arriving at the scene was hit on the head with the gun and suffered a broken jaw.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 18 January 2008

Armed police raided an address in Pinehurst, **Swindon**, and found two **air rifles** and two **replica guns** which were surrendered to police. They were acting on information that guns were being stored there and believe that their removal has helped make Swindon's streets safer.

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 18 January 2008

A man was confronted by two men with a gun, possibly a shotgun, on his doorstep in **Southey Green**, Sheffield. They demanded cash but the man slammed his door and the offenders ran off without opening fire.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 18 January 2008

Three men, one armed with a gun, demanded money from a shopkeeper in **Huddersfield**. The woman's husband walked into the shop and tried to push the gun away, but was punched in the face. The thieves tried to steal the till, but failed and stole cigarettes.

**Bolton News**, 18 January 2008

A boy held a gun to the heads of two women during two separate robberies in **Bolton**. In the first incident the victim was also sexually assaulted. The offender opened the passenger door of her car, sat down and threatened to shoot her if she protested. He stole her purse and a handbag from the second victim. He is believed to be aged between 14 and 16 (*Bolton News*, 19 January 2008).

**Middleton Guardian**, 17 January 2008

A shopkeeper in **Rhodes**, Greater Manchester, was held up at gunpoint by two men who posed as customers before brandishing the gun. They demanded cash and cigarettes and escaped with £650 and more than £1000 worth of cigarettes.

**Hemel Hempstead Express**, 17 January 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of purchasing/possessing a firearm after police raided his home in **Grovehill**, Hemel Hempstead, in Hertfordshire.

**The Gazette (Blackpool)**, 17 January 2008

A shop worker was held up at gunpoint at a **Blackpool** convenience store. The gunman shoved a shotgun into the face of the sales assistant. He demanded money and got away with a small amount of cash.

**BBC**, 17 January 2008

Gun pellets were fired at members of the public in **Yeovil**. One woman was hit and needed minor treatment in hospital. A delivery driver sheltered behind his van which was damaged.

**BBC**, 17 January 2008

A man is to appear in court charged with two firearms offences and four offences under the Explosive Substances Act after an explosion at a house near **Eldson**, Northumberland.

**Advertiser**, 17 January 2008

Police carried out a search in **Winslow**, Buckinghamshire, after a report of a gunshot in the town centre. No evidence of a firearm being discharged was discovered.

**Newbury Today**, 16 January 2008

Police have charged a man with firearms offences after swords, crossbows and **imitation firearms** were found at a property in **Pangbourne**. Officers recovered six imitation firearms, seven swords, 27 knives and two crossbows at a flat. A man has been accused of pointing an imitation gun at a teenage girl and has been remanded in custody (*Newbury Today*, 24 January 2008).

**The Gazette (Blackpool)**, 16 January 2008

A man from **Bispham** has appeared in court accused with possessing a handgun with intent to cause someone to believe violence would be used against them. He has been remanded in custody.

**Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)**, 16 January 2008

A woman driver was left shaken after a man opened the door of her car and threatened her with a handgun whilst trying to snatch her handbag. The incident took place in **Linthorpe**, Middlesbrough. The man became unnerved and fled empty handed. A man has been arrested and police have recovered a handgun. He has been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear, and attempted kidnap (*BBC*, 17 January 2008).

**Bolton News**, 16 January 2008

James Roper pointed a silver **toy handgun** at an off-licence owner in **Westhoughton** during an attempted robbery in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The woman feared for her life and spent several days in hospital following the ordeal. Roper pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and has been jailed for 4 years.

**BBC**, 16 January 2008

A man was left with a gunshot wound after two men called at an address in **Smethwick**, West Midlands. The victim is in a stable condition (*Asian Image*, 17 January 2008).

**BBC**, 16 January 2008

**Replica guns** were among items stolen from a trailer outside a house in **Kidderminster**, Worcestershire. The guns and other items stolen (sound system, cowboy boots, hats, ties) belong to a Roy Orbison tribute artist.

**Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)**, 15 January 2008

Adil Perez, 16, threatened a security guard with an **imitation gun** in the centre of **Peterborough**, in December 2007. He pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm with intent and will be sentenced next month.

**Birmingham Mail**, 15 January 2008

Carlos Tolley of **Smithswood**, Solihull, was drunk when he pointed a Walther PP99 **air pistol** at a taxi, brandished a machete at two young men and threatened to kill police officers in July 2007. The offences arose after Tolley had made a 999 call. He pleaded guilty to carrying a firearm in a public place, three offences of possessing offensive weapons and one charge of affray. He has been jailed for 18 months.

**BBC**, 15 January 2008

A 16-year-old faced firearms and drugs charges following a police raid in **Catford**, south east London. A 13-year-old was also arrested and released on bail

**BBC**, 15 January 2008

A man was being treated after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Kirkby**, Merseyside. The shooting was believed to be a random attack. A man has been arrested and an air rifle recovered (*BBC*, 17 January 2008). The victim has been left blind in his left eye (*Liverpool Echo*, 18 January 2008).

**BBC**, 15 January 2008

Two workmen were threatened with a **replica gun** after being called to fix a boiler at a property in **Wigan**. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear.

**This is Cheshire**, 14 January 2008

A man walking in **Altrincham** was forced into the back of a car and threatened with a black handgun. He was held in the car by two men for nearly 20 minutes before being released.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 14 January 2008

A 16-year-old has been arrested in connection with an attempted armed robbery on a store in **Northampton**. Two people threatened the shopkeeper with an **air rifle** which was discharged into the air. Nothing was stolen and no-one was injured.

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 January 2008

Kristopher Sami fired a pellet gun in a park in **Solihull** where children were fishing. He admitted possessing a loaded **air weapon** in a public place. Sami was jailed for four months but was released immediately as he had already spent the equivalent of a nine-month sentence in custody.

**BBC**, 14 January 2008

Four men have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit two murders in Manchester. They are also being held in connection with offences of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life and the supply and possession of drugs. The arrests are part of the inquiry into the murders of two victims who were shot in June 2007 in the centre of **Manchester** (see [Incidents](#)) and in July 2007 in **Chorlton-on-Medlock** (see [Incidents](#)).

**News Shopper**, 13 January 2008

A family was left distressed after robbers burst into their home in **Blackheath**, south east London. One of the three robbers threatened the family's six year old daughter with a gun. They made off with £2,000 in cash.

**BBC**, 13 January 2008

The body of Garry Weddell, a Metropolitan Police inspector, has been found in woodland near a shooting club in **Markyate**, Hertfordshire. A forensic search of the gun club was underway. Weddell was a member of the club until his licence was revoked following his arrest for the murder of his wife last year. The discovery of the body has been linked to the death of his mother-in-law whose body was found in **Gustard Wood** in Hertfordshire on the same day. Weddell is reported to have killed himself after apparently shooting his mother-in-law (*News of the World*, 13 January 2008). The local MP wants an inquiry into why Weddell was not in custody whilst awaiting trial for his wife's murder. He had been granted bail with a surety of £200,000 on condition that he hand in his gun licence and stay away from his mother-in-law (*BBC*, 14 January 2008). A coroner has said that the judge's decision to grant bail was "properly conducted". A full inquest into the deaths of Gary Weddell, his wife and his mother-in-law will be held in March (*BBC*, 29 January 2008).

**The Sentinel**, 12 January 2008

Andrew Bullock threatened youths with a **.177 calibre air pistol** at a shop in **Smallthorne**, Staffordshire, after a friend told him she had been threatened by a group of yobs. The teens ran out of the shop. Bullock was given a 10-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and will undergo 12 months' supervision and complete an enhanced thinking skills programme. He was ordered to forfeit the weapon and ammunition.

**Northern Echo**, 12 January 2008

A man wearing a wig and waving a plastic **ball-bearing gun** punched a fellow drinker in the face in a pub in **Durham**. David Moore admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and was sentenced to four months in a young offenders' institution, suspended for a year, with 120-hours' unpaid work.

**BBC**, 12 January 2008

Two men, aged 18 and 21, were injured in a double shooting in the **Norris Green** area of Liverpool. Both were taken to hospital for treatment to injuries described as not life-threatening. Neither is co-operating with police inquiries. Rumours are that the shootings were gang-related (*Liverpool Echo*, 14 January 2008).

**BBC**, 12 January 2008

A man was shot in the chest as he sat in a parked car with a friend in **Old Trafford**, Manchester. He was taken to hospital for treatment but was later discharged.

**Southport Visiter**, 11 January 2008

Two armed robbers forced a **Birkdale** cab driver from his car at gunpoint. The victim was left abandoned on a dirt track after the raid and his car was stolen.

**Somerset County Gazette**, 11 January 2008

Police found a rifle and a number of de-activated grenades during a search of a man's home in **Monkton Heathfield**, near Taunton. The house owner remains in police custody.

**Evening News (Norwich)**, 11 January 2008

Fears have been raised over the safety of walkers on **Mousehold Heath** after footage showing a teenager playing pretend war games with his friends was posted on the YouTube website. The teenagers themselves were wearing goggles to shield them from the shots but others on the heath would not have been protected. According to the report, the gang is seen playing **airsoft**.

**BBC**, 11 January 2008

The gang responsible for the murder of a drug dealer whose body was found in **Pattingham**, Staffordshire, in September 2002 with five gunshot wounds have been convicted of murder (see [2006 Incidents](#)). Adam Joof, Antonio Christie, Levi Walker, Owen Crooks and Michael Osbourne, who were all involved in exporting drugs from the West Midlands and selling them in Aberdeen, were all found guilty of murder. Walker had already been jailed for the murder of a soldier who was shot in Smethwick in September 2004 (see [Incidents](#)) whilst he was home on leave. They all face life sentences.

**Tameside Advertiser**, 10 January 2008

A 17-year-old was left terrified when gunmen stole his motorbike in **Droylsden**. The men wielded a black handgun and forced the teenager to hand over his bike. They rode off on the bike followed by a white van.

**Liverpool Echo**, 10 January 2008

Nathan McGrail, 18, who is on bail after he was arrested on suspicion of discharging a firearm in **Huyton** in December 2007 has been banned from acting in a violent or threatening manner in a network of streets in Huyton.

**BBC**, 10 January 2008

A man from **Darlington** has been charged four months after police raided his home and seized a haul of replica, deactivated and component parts of military weapons and ammunition.

**BBC**, 10 January 2008

A gunman targeted and robbed three women, one aged 18, in separate attacks in **Buckhurst Hill**, Essex. The teenager was pistol-whipped by her assailant and was left with a head injury. The gunman, armed with a small black gun, escaped with a handbag and two purses.

**BBC**, 10 January 2008

A firearm and ammunition were seized by police during raids in **Croxteth** and **Norris Green** in Merseyside targeted at drug activity by two gangs, the Croxteth Crew and Strand Gang. Twenty eight people were arrested.

**The Press (York)**, 9 January 2008

Michael Simpson threatened a student with an **air pistol** during an attempted robbery in **York** in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He was caught after a DNA sample left on the gun used in the robbery was matched to him after he had been stopped for a motoring offence. He has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to attempted robbery.

**Metro**, 9 January 2008

Carl Bridson terrorised his neighbour in **Farnworth**, near Bolton, for five years allegedly firing an **air rifle** at his house and playing loud music through the night. A CCTV was shot out with a rifle. Bridson has now been banned from living in his own home after he is released from prison where he is serving a six months sentence for harassment.

**Manchester Evening News**, 9 January 2008

A man was threatened at gunpoint during an armed robbery at a New Year's Eve house party in **Gorton**. Three men burst into the house carrying an iron bar, a hammer and a black handgun. The gang stole a mobile phone and a handbag containing keys to a car which they used to flee the scene.

**Maidenhead Advertiser**, 9 January 2008

Armed police surrounded a packed commuter train after reports that a teenager had boarded the train at **Bourne End** station with a handgun. An 18-year-old was stopped and searched but no weapon was found.

**Liverpool Echo**, 9 January 2008

A robber held a handgun to the neck of an elderly man during an incident in **St Helens** in August 2007. Peter Waite, who admitted two firearms offences, was jailed for five years and seven months for threatening the victim and another man during a robbery on a bus in the town. Lee Smith, his accomplice in the second incident which involved the theft of a bottle of wine and six cans of beer, was jailed for four years.

**Argus (Brighton)**, 9 January 2008

Armed burglars left behind their gun, a **.22 air rifle**, when they stole a scramble bike worth around £800 from a shed in the back garden of a house in **Portslade**.

**Newham Recorder**, 8 January 2008

A man was shot in the back in **Stratford**, east London, after he had just got out of his car. It is thought that the victim and gunman knew each other.

**The Herald (Plymouth)**, 8 January 2008

A man's body was found by police at an address in **Lipson**. The man, a licensed firearms-holder, had died of gunshot wounds. Two firearms and ammunition were recovered from the house. Police are not treating the matter as suspicious.

**Guardian**, 8 January 2008

An gang of teenagers armed with an **imitation Beretta pistol** forced their way into a house in **Northaw**, Hertfordshire, after claiming to be estate agents, where they threatened to shoot a woman. Her 14-year-old son, who raised the alarm after hiding his younger brother in a cupboard, was also threatened. Chloe Doltis and Tristan Harriette were found guilty and four others, Jake McLean, Dalton Lawal, Courtney Mitchell and Dario Wokora, pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary. They received sentences of between three years seven months and five years.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 7 January 2008

A 15-year-old has been robbed at gunpoint whilst he was walking home in **Weston-super-Mare**. It was not clear whether the weapon used was a real gun, an **imitation** or a **toy** according to police. The robbers, also believed to be teenagers, ran off with the victim's mobile phone.

**Manchester Evening News**, 7 January 2008

Five masked men threatened a couple with a gun during an incident at a flat in **Moss Side**. After a brief verbal altercation the gang left. The gun was not fired and no-one was injured.

**Liverpool Echo**, 7 January 2008

A man who was shot in the stomach in a street in **Anfield**, Liverpool, was one of three arrests after police raided a house near Liverpool city centre. The men were charged with drug offences.

**Herald Express**, 7 January 2008

An **airgun** sniper who damaged windows at a shop, a house and a takeaway in **Totnes**, Devon, may have been responsible for damage at the Civic Hall where a second floor window has been cracked.

**Chester & District Standard**, 7 January 2008

A man was shot in the leg in a "targeted attack" at a house in **Kensington**, Merseyside. Several men forced their way into the property. The victim required hospital treatment but his injuries were not life-threatening.

**BBC**, 6 January 2008

A man was shot dead as he was driving in **Halewood**, Merseyside. He was killed by a bullet through the windscreen in what police believe to be a targeted attack. The man's car crashed into another vehicle following the attack. A local man has been arrested on suspicion of murder and is being questioned by police (*BBC*, 10 January 2008).

**BBC**, 6 January 2008

A man was reported carrying a pistol in a pub in **Swindon**. A man was arrested on suspicion of the possession of a firearm and is on bail while the gun is checked to see if it is an **imitation**.

**Argus (Brighton)**, 6 January 2008

Two women workers in a **Hastings** off licence were confronted by a man pointing a handgun at them. They were so frightened they were unable to work the till and the would-be robber fled empty-handed.

**Times**, 5 January 2008

The wife of a man who died after being found with gunshot wounds in their bedroom in **Fenstanton**, near Cambridge, was being questioned by police. The man has been described as a gun enthusiast and is believed to have suffered wounds from a shotgun. The woman has been granted bail to be answered in March (*BBC*, 1 February 2008).

**Press Association**, 5 January 2008

Police arrested two men in London's **Trafalgar Square** on suspicion of possessing an **imitation firearm**. Armed response officers had stopped and searched a group of four youths.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 5 January 2008

A group of three teenagers fired a **ball-bearing gun** at a bus as it waited at a stop in **Bamber Bridge**. The blast of the pellet made a hole in a window. Several passengers were on the bus but escaped uninjured.

**This is Slough**, 4 January 2008

Three people were held at gunpoint when a masked robber, armed with a shotgun, forced his way into a pub in **Slough**. Staff were ordered to open the safe and hand over two days worth of takings, thought to be thousands of pounds.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 4 January 2008

A group of new age travellers camped on the edge of **Highworth**, Wiltshire, were subjected to an attack with what they believe was an **air rifle**. The shooting happened when they set up camp last month.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 4 January 2008

Damage estimated at £5000 has been caused to new street lights in **Heysham** by vandals firing **air rifles**.

**Express & Star**, 4 January 2008

A gunman opened fire in a residential street in **Woodsetton** in Dudley in the West Midlands, leaving a man with head and stomach injuries. The injuries are not thought to be life threatening. The victim was threatened by two men who demanded his briefcase.

**BBC**, 4 January 2008

Five people were arrested by police investigating gang crime in London. Two guns were seized, one after a handgun was found near a car in **Greenwich**, south east London, and two men and two women (all aged 19 or 20) were arrested after another handgun was found in a car in **Lewisham**, south London.

**BBC**, 4 January 2008

Three robbers held a semi-automatic handgun to a takeaway worker's head in **Atherton**, Greater Manchester. A colleague grabbed a broom and ran towards the gang who then ran off, empty-handed.

**Argus (Brighton)**, 4 January 2008

**Pulborough** Parish Council has used its newsletter to highlight the potential risk of **ball bearing guns** following a series of shootings of people, homes and vehicles in and around the village last year.

**Bolton News**, 3 January 2008

Barry Kirk was among a gang who took a man's car in **Bolton** after threatening him with a gun in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He also admitted being involved in other carjackings in **Warrington** and **Accrington**. He pleaded guilty to three offences of blackmail and three offences of possession of an **imitation firearm**. Kirk will next appear in court in February.

**Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News**, 2 January 2008

An apparent argument over a girl ended with a teenager being shot with an **air rifle** in **Calne**. An 18-year-old man was arrested on firearms offences.

**Watford Observer**, 2 January 2008

Four men were arrested when armed police went to a stretch of canal in **Rickmansworth**, Hertfordshire, following reports of an assault. One man was arrested on suspicion of assault and possession of an **imitation firearm** in a public place and another was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm (an **air weapon**).

**Rochdale Observer**, 2 January 2008

A man has been charged with a firearms offence after an **air rifle** was pointed at staff at **Rochdale Infirmary**. The incident occurred at the hospital's accident and emergency department. No-one was injured and the weapon was not fired.

**BBC**, 1 January 2008

A murder inquiry is under way after a triple shooting in **Crumpsall**, Greater Manchester. One of the victims died and the other two were injured, one seriously. A fourth man who was in a car with the other three escaped uninjured. The victims were shot at by at least one gunman on foot.

**BBC**, 1 January 2008

A man was in a serious condition in hospital after being shot in the back in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester. A few hours later police officers stopped a car in **Fallowfield** and arrested four men on suspicion of attempted murder.

## SCOTLAND

**Daily Record**, 29 January 2008

Pupils were evacuated from a primary school in **Easterhouse**, Glasgow, after two holdalls containing 10 pistols and rifles were found in a gym cupboard along with balaclavas, ski masks, camouflage gear and white gloves. Police inquiries are continuing. Police have confirmed that the guns were children's **toys**.

**Scotland on Sunday**, 27 January 2008

A gunman is being hunted after he fled empty-handed after attempting rob a newsagents in **Pollok**, Glasgow.

**Evening News**, 26 January 2008

An 18-year-old girl was shot in the face with a **pellet gun** during a drive-by shooting in **Portobello**. The shot hit her on the lip. She was left in shock.

**Evening News**, 26 January 2008

A soldier who couldn't keep up with his colleagues whilst training sparked a police alert when he was spotted walking past house in the **Juniper Green** area of Edinburgh carrying a rifle. He had decided to walk back to the barracks taking a short cut. The incident was described by the Army as "an error of judgement".

**BBC**, 24 January 2008

A man has appeared in court on a charge of being in possession of a handgun on the A74(M) motorway in **Dumfriesshire**.

**Greenock Telegraph**, 23 January 2008

A 14-year-old girl was hit in the arm when an **airgun** sniper shot at her near Coves Reservoir in **Gourock**. Two teenage boys who were with her were also targeted but were unhurt.

**BBC**, 23 January 2008

A man was being treated for gunshot wounds after he was shot following a disturbance in **Blantyre**, Lanarkshire. His condition is described as stable. The attack is being treated as attempted murder.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 22 January 2008

A "high-spirited" man who was believed to be brandishing a pistol and threatened to shoot armed police was paralysed with a stun gun during a showdown in a housing scheme in **Ferguslie Park**, Paisley. A man is due to appear in court in connection with the incident. The firearm appears to have been a **blank-firing pistol** (*ic Renfrewshire*, 25 January 2008).

**Evening Express (Aberdeen)**, 19 January 2008

An **airgun** pellet may have cause almost £100 worth of damage to the window of a house in **Peterhead**.

**BBC**, 18 January 2008

James Kerr, 18, will serve at least 13 years in jail for the murder of a grandfather whom he repeatedly shot in the head with his **airgun**. The murder took place at the home of the victim, a pensioner aged 72, in **Winchburgh**, West Lothian in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Barrhead News**, 17 January 2008

The paper has launched a campaign to rid the streets of **Barrhead** of **airguns** after a number of incidents in the town. Residents have claimed that a local shop is still selling **BB guns** to children under the age of 14.

**Evening Times**, 16 January 2008

A number of men have been jailed for their part in the murder of a man who was killed with a sawn-off shotgun in **Rigside**, Lanarkshire, in January 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). John Graham, who pulled the trigger, was given a minimum sentence of 18 years. James Duncan, who ordered the murder, was jailed for 17 and a half years and Russell Dewar, who supplied the gun, for at least 12 years. A fourth man, Scott Percy, who gave an account of the execution was jailed for four years and eight months for culpable homicide. The reason for the murder may have related to disputes over lucrative "cannabis farms".

**Dumbarton & Vale of Leven Reporter**, 15 January 2008

Gordon Brown pulled out an **imitation gun** in the grounds of a hospital in **Dumbarton** after being confronted by two police officers in October 2007. He was drunk at the time and refused to put down the weapon when requested even when told that the officers would use CS gas. Brown admitted having a firearm or imitation firearm in his possession with intent to cause the officers to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. Sentencing was deferred.

**BBC**, 12 January 2008

A property was searched in **Easterhouse**, Glasgow, after reports that an **airgun** had been fired from a window.

**East Lothian Courier**, 11 January 2008

A children's play room window was fired at in one of two airgun attacks on homes in **North Berwick**. A high-powered **air rifle**, thought to be of .22 calibre, was used in the attacks. The properties appear to have been randomly targeted by the suspects who were possibly travelling in a car.

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## WALES

**Daily Post**, 29 January 2008

David Smith was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence after admitting assault causing actual bodily harm. There will be a two years supervision requirement and he must attend a domestic violence programme. Smith, from **Kinmel Bay** near Rhyl, shot his wife in the shoulder with an **airgun** after a row in September 2007 (see [October 2007 Incidents](#)). He claimed he had been aiming at a magpie.

**Daily Post**, 25 January 2008

A former head of a police firearms unit is claiming he was unfairly sacked by North Wales Police after he pleaded guilty in January 2007 to having ammunition he was not licensed to keep. Neil Smith, who had held a gun licence since 1974, was given a 12-month conditional discharge after the professional standards unit found 40 rounds of .22-calibre "stinger" ammunition designed to expand on impact at his home in **Rhuddlan**.

**South Wales Evening Post**, 21 January 2008

A gun-toting youth has caused residents of **Gwendraeth**, Carmarthenshire, to fear for their safety after firing an **airgun** in a park. A bulb has been smashed after a shot was fired at a lamp post.

**South Wales Echo**, 17 January 2008

A taxi driver narrowly escaped injury when someone took a potshot at his cab as he was driving between **Aberfan** and **Troedyrhiw**. He was showered in the shattered glass of the driver's window. He believes an **air rifle** was used.

**Glamorgan Gazette**, 17 January 2008

Vandals shot at a car with a **pellet gun** as a woman drove home from work near **Pencoed**. The victim says she was terrified by the attack.

**South Wales Echo**, 15 January 2008

A man armed with an **imitation gun** attempted to steal cash from a bookmaker in **Whitchurch**, Cardiff. He was foiled by an assistant who spotted it was not a real gun.

**Evening Leader**, 7 January 2008

A man was arrested after police received a report that he had entered a pub in **Bagillt** with a firearm. He apparently made threats and then left the pub.

**Daily Post**, 5 January 2008

David Davies from **Rhyl** admitted having two .22 rifles and ammunition without the proper documentation in July 2007 as well as the illegal possession of an **air rifle**. The case was adjourned for sentence.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Rhondda Leader**, 31 January 2008

An **airgun** attack has left a family cat from **Tylorstown** needing surgery after a pellet was lodged in his spine. It was not possible to remove the pellet but the cat is making a reasonable recovery.

**Sunderland Echo**, 30 January 2008

A £500 reward is being offered for any information leading to a successful prosecution of the person responsible for the death of a swan in **Hetton Lyons Country Park** in Wearside. The swan was floating in a lake. A vet's report showed that the fatal head wound was consistent with a pellet from a **ball bearing gun**.

**Scunthorpe Telegraph**, 28 January 2008

A family's pet cat has died after being shot through the spine with an **air rifle** in **Scunthorpe**. One pellet became lodged in her back and another in her stomach.

**Evening News (Norwich)**, 19 January 2008

Treatment for a cat who was left for dead after being shot with an **airgun** close to **Mousehold Heath** in Norwich in July 2007 has cost the RSPCA £1,500. He is now on the road to recovery. Mousehold Heath has been the site of youngsters spotted playing war games with imitation guns.

**Worcester News**, 17 January 2008

Gary Childe shot his dog four times with an **air rifle** after hitting it with a saucepan. He has been given four months in jail for causing 'incredible cruelty' to his pet. The incident occurred in May 2007 in his garden in **Stourport-on-Severn** when Childe got home from the pub to find his pet having a fit in the back garden. The dog was put to sleep at a vets when Childe claimed it had been attacked by his other dog.

**Malvern Gazette**, 17 January 2008

A kitten was found lying injured in a box in the garden of his home in **Malvern**. She had been shot with an **airgun** leaving a pellet lodged near her spine. It is thought that someone may simply have used the kitten for target practice. The kitten is slowly recovering.

**Mansfield Chad**, 15 January 2008

A cat is recovering after being shot in an **airgun** attack in the area of its home in **Mansfield**. Vets removed a pellet from its flank.

**Bucks Free Press**, 10 January 2008

A cat was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in **Chalfont St Peter**. The pellet became lodged on the opposite side of her chest, and vets said that it was "a miracle" the pellet missed all of her major organs.

**This is Cheshire**, 4 January 2008

A cat sustained a wound at the base of his tail after being shot with a high powered gun in **Great Sankey**.

**This is Wiltshire**, 3 January 2008

A pet cat from **Trowbridge** has been shot in the neck with an **air rifle**. It is the second time in the last few months that she has been targeted.



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