

JULY 2005 - SUMMARY

We were unable to undertake as detailed a survey of gun incidents as usual during July 2005.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - During a month in which the news was dominated by acts of terrorism, the most widely reported and discussed shooting incident was the death of Jean Charles de Menezes, shot by police at Stockwell underground station. A man, alleged to be armed, was also shot dead by police at a house in Stocksfield (Tyneside). A man was found shot dead in the grounds of his home near Welshpool, but police said they were not looking for anyone else in connection with his death. Another man, found at a house in Willoughby (Lincolnshire), died of gunshot wounds, and although another injured man was found by the police he was not arrested and no one else was sought in connection with the incident. The body of a man who had been shot in the head was found in Epping Forest (Essex). A man and a woman were injured outside a nightclub in Wolverhampton and a teenager was shot at a rap concert in Kentish Town (North London). A man was shot in the leg by burglars at his home in Basford (Nottingham) and a teenager was shot at his home in Addiscombe (Surrey). Two men were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a gun was fired in Solihull (west Midlands).
- **Armed Hold-Ups** - A car was stolen at gunpoint in Bilton (Rugby) and was probably used in a raid on a security van outside a Cheylesmore (Coventry) building society. A bank was robbed at gunpoint in Whitby and supermarkets raided by gunmen in North Weald (Essex) and Hertford.
- **Armed Sieges** - There were gun sieges in Currock (Carlisle), after which a man was arrested, and in Upton-upon-Severn (Worcestershire), when a man barricaded himself into a pub with a shotgun for six hours.
- **Police Raid** - Twenty-one people were arrested in Smethwick in connection with gun crime offences.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Air Rifles**) - A man who shot a doorman outside a club on the Isle of Dogs (East London) was jailed for 12 years. Men responsible for armed robberies in West London received sentences of nine years and six years. A man was jailed for two years for chasing a gang of youths in Stepney (East London) with a shotgun and knife.

- **Imitation Guns** - There were two incidents in Pentre (Rhondda) in which teenagers were spotted with guns which turned out to be imitations, two incidents in Camden (North London) involving schoolchildren with imitation guns and another incident in Camden in which a BB gun was apparently used in a robbery. The town centre of Cannock (Staffordshire) had to be sealed off because a man was brandishing a gun, believed to be a BB gun. Three people were warned after being spotted with a blank-firing pistol in March (Lincolnshire) and a man was arrested after allegedly threatening a neighbour with a BB gun in Camborne (Cornwall). Police held an 11-year-old boy for 3 hours after he brandished an imitation gun in a school playground in Sheerness.
- A man who threatened to shoot his wife with what was believed to have been a sawn-off shotgun was convicted of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (sentenced to three years in jail). Another man was jailed for eight years after using an imitation gun during a rape in Norwich. Two youths spotted playing with a BB gun in Colliers Wood (south London) were fined.
- **Airgun Attacks** - Innocent members of the public were hit by airgun pellets in incidents in Pontcanna and Leckwith (both in Cardiff), Knightswood (Glasgow - the victim was a 10-year-old boy), Peterhead (another boy was the victim), Bishop's Stortford (an 11-year-old girl was hit). In two other incidents motorists were targeted and had to swerve after their car windows were hit: the incidents occurred in Livingston (West Lothian) and at Downham (Norfolk).
- A teenager was convicted of shooting a boy in the back in an incident in Rumney (he received a 120 community service order), another of shooting a woman in Linwood (sentence deferred), and a man who shot at a group of teenagers from a Lincoln flat was bound over to keep the peace.

GUN INCIDENTS - JULY 2005

ENGLAND

Life Style Extra, 29 July 2005

Dwayne Eversley fired a .38 bullet through his own thigh when he pulled a gun on a doorman outside a club on the **Isle of Dogs** in October 2004. The doorman was also shot in the leg. Eversley was arrested after his cousin took him to hospital. He was jailed for 12 years for wounding with intent and firearms charges.

Eastern Daily Press, 28 July 2005

A motorist careered across the A10 at **Downham** after youths shot an **air rifle** at his car window. He said the perpetrators were as young as 14.

BBC, 28 July 2005

A man was arrested in **Camborne** after allegedly threatening a neighbour with a **BB gun**.

Express and Star, 25 July 2005

Young snipers are firing **air rifles** at Puxton Marsh in **Kidderminster**. The shots are aimed towards houses. In one attack a car windscreen was hit.

icCroydon, 22 July 2005

A model collector jailed after buying a replica handgun on the internet has had his sentence reduced by an appeal court. The gun had been discovered during a raid on his house in **Thornton Heath** in November 2004 after a tip off. Zakir Rehman had been sentenced after pleading guilty to owning an illegal weapon.

Cheshunt and Waltham Mercury, 22 July 2005

The body of a heavily tattooed man was found shot in the head at **High Beach** in Epping Forest.

National Newspapers, 22 July 2005 onwards

In an anti-terrorist operation plain clothes police shot dead a Brazilian electrician, Jean Charles de Menezes, just after he had boarded a train at **Stockwell** underground station. It was subsequently admitted that the victim had no connection with terrorist activities and was unarmed. The incident is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Observer News, 21 July 2005

An 11-year-old girl has been left terrified after being shot with an **air rifle** on a secondary school induction day in **Bishop's Stortford**. She was hit in the back by a pellet fired from a property which abuts the school's playing field as she played rounders. A 15-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy were arrested.

icBirmingham, 21 July 2005

The town of **Upton-upon-Severn** was brought to a standstill when a man was involved in a stand off with armed police for six hours. He had barricaded himself into a pub with a shotgun. A man pleaded guilty to various charges in September 2005 (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 21 July 2005

Two men were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a gun was fired in a house in **Solihull**. A group of up to four men entered the house and threatened the occupier before firing a handgun.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 20 July 2005

A shop assistant was forced to hand over cash at gunpoint in a hold-up at a supermarket in **Hertford**. The robber had produced a handgun and threatened her.

icSouth London, 20 July 2005

A teenager was recovering in hospital after being shot at his home in **Addiscombe**.

This is Local London, 19 July 2005

Mark Williams was sentenced to nine years in prison after being charged with seven armed robberies in the **Ealing** area. Alexander Woods was sentenced to six years for armed robberies in **Northolt** and **Isleworth**. Both were convicted of robbery and of possession of a firearm with intent.

Telegraph, 19 July 2005

An 11-year-old boy was held by the police for 3 hours after brandishing an **imitation gun** in the playground of a school in **Sheerness**. A police spokeswoman said that the boy was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm in a public place and that "the officers acted appropriately and in the public's interest".

Journal (Newcastle), 19 July 2005

A man was shot dead by police in **Stocksfield**. He had barricaded himself in his house after his estranged wife was injured in a street attack, and according to police appeared to be carrying a gun. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is carrying out an inquiry into the death.

BBC, 19 July 2005

Gavin Long admitted firing an **air rifle** at a group of eight teenagers from a first-floor flat in **Lincoln** in August 2004 but denied possessing an air rifle with intent to endanger life. One girl was hit in the back by a pellet. However, the case collapsed because Long had not been properly cautioned by police. He was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after it was revealed that he had also admitted to firing the gun from a window on an earlier occasion. The father of the victim has criticised the police and intends to raise his concerns with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Wimbledon Guardian, 15 July 2005

William Sharman and Jamie Brennan appeared in court after they were spotted playing with a **BB gun** by an off-duty police officer in **Colliers Wood**. One of them fired the gun out of a car window all the way from North Cheam to Wimbledon. Both pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm and were fined.

Louth Today, 15 July 2005

The body of a man who had died from gunshot wounds was found by police at a house in **Willoughby**, near Alford. Another man found at the scene had suffered serious, but not life-threatening injuries: he was not under arrest and the police were not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

Mirror, 12 July 2005

Terrence Zelkin of **Stepney** was jailed for two years for chasing a gang of youths with a shotgun and knife.

Express & Star, 12 July 2005

Armed police sealed off a street in **Cannock** town centre following reports of a man brandishing a gun. Four people gave themselves up and were being interviewed in connection with a firearms matter. A weapon, believed to be a **ball bearing gun**, had been recovered.

BBC, 10 July 2005

West Midlands Police have arrested 21 people, fifteen men and six women aged between 13 and 35, in connection with gun crime offences. The raids took place in **Rowley Regis**, Smethwick.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 8 July 2005

Two men and a woman were given a stern warning after armed police swooped after they were spotted in **Marsh** with a gun. They were found to have a 9 mm **blank firing pistol** in their possession.

Eastern Daily Press, 8 July 2005

Duncan Smith threatened a prostitute, whom he'd picked up in **Norwich**, with a toy gun before raping her. Smith was arrested the following day and police recovered the **imitation gun**. He was jailed for eight years.

Epping Forest Guardian, 7 July 2005

A masked gunman stole hundreds of pounds from a supermarket in **North Weald**. The man grabbed a female member of staff, took her inside and locked the door behind him. He forced her to open the safe while pointing a small black handgun at her head. The incident was captured on CCTV.

BBC, 7 July 2005

A man was shot in the leg when he disturbed burglars who broke into his home in **Basford**, Nottingham, and stole his car.

Camden Gazette, 6 July 2005

Armed police in Camden were called twice in two days to incidents involving schoolchildren carrying imitation guns. In the more serious incident police drew their guns on two teenagers robbing a man at gunpoint in **Camden Town** and recovered a **BB gun** and stolen goods.

News & Star, 4 July 2005

A man was arrested after a gun siege in **Currock**, Carlisle, during which a shot was fired. The shot was not directed at anyone. Police had been called out after reports of a man in the street in possession of a shotgun and discovered him in a house with a woman believed to be his wife.

Scarborough Today, 1 July 2005

A man demanded money from a cashier in a **Whitby** bank and pointed what appeared to be a handgun in a bag. Armed police later stopped a man in Scarborough but the suspect had been wrongly identified.

icCoventry, 1 July 2005

A car stolen at gunpoint in **Bilton**, Rugby, is believed to have been the getaway vehicle in an armed robbery in Coventry a day later. The armed robbers held up a security van outside a building society in **Cheylesmore** and threatened one of the guards with a handgun.

Hampstead and Highgate Express, 1 July 2005

A teenager was shot in the leg at a rap concert in **Kentish Town**. Despite this and other incidents Camden's Borough Commander said that there is not a major firearms problem in the area, but that any increase is treated seriously.

Evening Mail (Birmingham), 1 July 2005

A man and woman were hurt in a drive-by shooting as they stood outside a nightclub in **Wolverhampton**. Both received gunshot wounds to their legs and both were taken to hospital.

Cambridge Express, 1 July 2005

Grant Bidwell who warned his wife he would shoot her, then himself if she went through with a divorce has been jailed for three years. He had terrified his wife and children in their **Soham** home with what is believed to have been a sawn-off shotgun and was convicted of possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

SCOTLAND

Evening Times, 28 July 2005

David Wynd, 17, shot a woman with an **air rifle** as he fired at a phone box in **Linwood** in November 2004. The victim felt a sharp pain in her buttock and turned to see a man at the window of a top flat nearby. Sentence was deferred.

Buchan Observer, 23 July 2005

A boy was drenched in blood after he was shot in the head in a **Peterhead** street which his family say has become a "shooting range" in the last year. An **airgun** shot had been fired from an upstairs window.

Edinburgh Evening News, 22 July 2005

A motorist had to swerve and mount a pavement after snipers as young as ten fired an **airgun** at the windscreen of her car, leaving two holes in the car. The incident, which occurred in **Livingston**, could have caused a serious road accident. The victim described how she realised a pair of boys were pointing what looked like guns at passing vehicles.

Evening Times, 21 July 2005

A 10-year-old boy was shot in the face with an **airgun** as he played in a friend's garden in **Knightswood**, Glasgow.

WALES

BBC, 28 July 2005

Four teenagers have been charged after three men and two women were shot with an **airgun** in the **Pontcanna** district of Cardiff. In an unlinked incident a motorist was shot in the head with an **airgun** in the **Leckwith** area.

South Wales Echo, 28 July 2005

A teenage boy and girl were caught putting together a **replica rifle** on a street corner in **Pentre**, Rhondda. The gun looked exactly like the semi-automatic rifle issued to armed police officers. In another incident a teenager was spotted carrying a replica gun in the same area two days earlier.

Mirror, 12 July 2005

Peter Murdle, 19, shot a boy in the back with an **airgun** which he took from his car after the boy had squirted him with a water pistol. Murdle of **Rumney** was given 120 hour community service and ordered to pay £300 compensation. The judge said he had "seriously considered" jail.

BBC, 7 July 2005

The body of a man who had been shot was found in the grounds of his home at **Llanfyllin**, near Welshpool. Although a woman was arrested she was released without charge and police said they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the death.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

King's Lynn Today, 5 July 2005

A Siamese cat from **Foulden** may have to have a leg amputated after he was shot with an **air rifle**. A pellet punctured the cat's chest, going through nerves before ricocheting off a rib.



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