



JULY 2007 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - During July five male victims died in shooting attacks in London and Manchester. Four of the fatal shootings occurred in London: a 16-year-old was shot dead by a gang on bicycles in Stockwell, a man was shot in the street in Woolwich and two men died after attacks at clubs, one in Wandsworth, in which a bouncer was also injured, the other in which the murdered man was a bouncer in the Fulham Road. In Manchester, a drive-by shooting in Chorlton-in-Medlock claimed the life of one man and another man was injured: they were at the wake of a shooting victim who was killed in Manchester in June.
- A teenager died after being shot in the head by a friend whilst they were out shooting on farmland in Southease (East Sussex).
- There were a number of other incidents in which victims were injured by gunfire. Two men were injured in double shootings in which the other victim was killed (in Wandsworth and Chorlton-in-Medlock, see above). There were other shootings which resulted in injury.
 - In Manchester there were three more teenage shooting victims, two aged 16 and another aged 14: two of the incidents occurred in Hulme and one in Moss Side. Another teenager escaped injury when shots were fired at him in Old Trafford. A man was hit in the leg in Blackley.
 - A man and a woman were injured when they were shot in a probable targeted attack in Toxteth (Liverpool).
 - In two drive-by shootings in east London (Bow and Millharbour) two men were injured, one was aged 16. Another man was injured in a drive-by shooting in Stockport.
 - Two men were shot and injured in an altercation outside a pub in Willenhall (West Midlands) during which another man was stabbed. One man was shot in the leg when a group of youths attacked a house in Huddersfield. In Lancashire a man was found with a leg injury after being shot in Fishwick (Preston).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were reports of armed robberies and attempted armed robberies involving guns on a bank in Paisley, a post office in Newbury (Berkshire), on shops in Filton (Bristol), Wolverhampton and Hungerford (Berkshire) (alleged to have involved a BB gun), at jewellery stores in London and Coulsdon (Surrey), on a takeaway in South Shore (Lancashire), at a bookmakers in Englefield Green (Surrey) and a petrol station in Hazlemere (Buckinghamshire).
- Security guards delivering cash were robbed by armed men in Colchester (Essex) and Worthing (West Sussex).
- A man was robbed of his car after armed men stole his car keys and mobile phone at gunpoint in an attack in Dudley (West Midlands). An assortment of valuable goods was stolen from a house in Epping (Essex) by two men armed with a handgun.
- A teenager was robbed of headphones in a street in Preston, and in another street robbery a man was held up in Scunthorpe and made to hand over his wallet. In an incident that took place last month a man and a woman were robbed of various items when they were attacked by a group of men brandishing a silver handgun on the Isle of Dogs (east London). A woman was forced to hand over her purse by a teenager

armed with a black handgun in Orford (Cheshire), although the purse was returned shortly afterwards.

- **Other Incidents** - Two men were arrested after shots were fired at plain-clothes police officers in Neasden (north west London).
- Information was being sought by police after reports of a gun fight in Harlesden (north west London), and shots were fired at a club in Brixton (south London). A man was arrested after a gun was fired in Hazelwood near Selby.
- Police were hunting a gunman who attacked a flat in Milton Keynes.
- A search was made for a man seen with a gun outside a bank in Corwen (Denbighshire).
- Two men have been charged with firearms offences after police raids on a number of properties in Mid Craigie (Dundee).
- Armed police cordoned off a street in Cannock (Staffordshire) in response to reports of a man with a gun (a man was arrested but no firearm was recovered).
- Two men have been charged with firearms offences after police stopped a car full of guns in Burnage (Manchester).
- A woman was arrested and then released without charge after reports of a man entering a property in Hayle (Cornwall) with a firearm.

- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - A sawn-off shotgun, two high powered air rifles and a ball-bearing gun were part of an arsenal of weapons found with drugs by police in a lock-up garage in Immingham. A cache of weapons, including a powerful air rifle and parts of a sawn-off shotgun, was found by police in a flat in Renfrew.
- At least 20 decommissioned guns, including shotguns and machine guns, were stolen from a locked van in Paddock Wood (Kent) but recovered by police from the River Cray in Crayford the next day.
- Replica guns were stolen from a house in Northampton along with knives and cowboy clothes.

- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - Three men were convicted of murder after a contract shooting in Castlemilk (Glasgow), two were given minimum 25 years sentences. A fourth man pleaded guilty to culpable homicide and was given a 10 year sentence.
- A man has been jailed for a minimum of 33 years after a gun attack on a club in Park Royal (north-west London) in which one man was killed.
- A 19-year-old has been jailed for a minimum of 30 years for the murder of another teenager in The Meadows (Nottingham).
- A man who shot and injured his love rival with a double-barrelled shotgun at an allotment in Orsett (Essex) has been jailed for eight years (see [January 2007 Incidents](#)). A 20-year-old has been jailed for ten years for the "attempted assassination" of a man whom he injured by firing a sawn-off shotgun outside a pub in Edinburgh.
- A gunman who shot and paralysed a man in Stonebridge (north west London) has been given a minimum 12 year jail sentence.
- Two men have been jailed for 12 years each for smuggling firearms after they were caught at Dover Docks.
- A man will serve a five year sentence for possession a shotgun after an arsenal of weapons and ammunition was found in a flat in Elephant and Castle (south London). A man from Walker (Tyneside) was jailed for four years after police found a shotgun in a wardrobe at his house, and a woman from South Shields faces a five year sentence after pleading guilty to possessing a self loading shotgun.

- A man has pleaded guilty of possessing a firearm and seven rounds of ammunition. Police had found a converted handgun between his buttocks after they had stopped his car in Tooting (south London)
- A man admitted charges of assault, grievous bodily harm and possession of a weapon following an incident in Bristol in which he paralysed a man with a stun gun.
- **Airguns** - The latest victims to be hit in airgun attacks were:
 - A widow in a wheelchair tending her husband's grave in Newark (Nottinghamshire)
 - A teenager in St Ann's (Nottingham) who was shot whilst walking a dog and required hospital treatment
 - Another teenager at work on scaffolding in Eaton Socon (Cambridgeshire)
 - Two people, one of them a 13-year-old, hit by air rifle pellets in Holbrooks (Coventry) (two 14-year-olds were arrested)
 - A man who suffered a minor injury when he was shot in the stomach in Bridlington (East Yorkshire), in one of two air rifle incidents in the town
 - A 14-year-old who had to recover in hospital after being shot in the face with an airgun in Witley (Surrey)
 - A man hit in the leg with an air rifle pellet whilst out jogging in Redditch (Worcestershire)
 - A bus driver who had a shard of glass in his eye after the windscreen of his vehicle was shattered in Walsgrave (Coventry)
 - A teacher shot in the head in the playground of a Nuneaton junior school and needed surgery to remove the pellet from her scalp
 - A teenage girl who had a finger broken in an incident in Wingate (County Durham)
 - A cyclist riding on the Taff Trail towards Merthyr Tydfil
- A man armed with an air weapon took random potshots at pedestrians in the High Road in Streatham (south London)
- The window of a police car parked in Latchford (Cheshire) was shattered by an air rifle pellet which flew past the officer inside.
- A window cleaner escaped injury when an air rifle or ball-bearing gun was fired at him in York.
- A mother and her baby son witnessed two airgun incidents in Wyke Regis (Dorset), one in which a seagull was killed and landed close to the baby and another when a window on their bus was shattered.
- Two teenagers armed with an air rifle stole a mobile phone from another youth in Chorley (Lancashire).
- A youth with an air rifle caused damage to lights outside a house in Wilmcote (Coventry).
- A woman was arrested and cautioned after threatening a group of children with an airgun in Feltwell (Norfolk).
- A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing firearms after a gun was brandished at a party in Eastington (Gloucestershire): an air rifle and a pellet-firing handgun were recovered.
- A man and three boys were warned after a police helicopter and armed police were called out after they were seen firing air rifles in a field in Peterborough: they had no permission to shoot.
- **Airguns (Convictions - see also Imitation Guns)** - A woman who used a high-powered air pistol to shoot into several buildings in Perth has been made the subject of a hospital order after admitting two charges including recklessly discharging a firearm and possessing the weapon without lawful authority.

- One teenager involved in a drive-by shooting with an air rifle in Runcorn (Cheshire) was given a £500 fine and two others were given referral orders: the gang hit three cyclists.
- Police found an air rifle in the wardrobe of a man in Swansea who had threatened to harm himself: he was prohibited from keeping the weapon because of a previous conviction. He was placed under supervision for a year and ordered to do community service.
- **Imitation Guns** - A 16-year-old was shot in the eye with a pellet fired from a BB gun in Deeping St James (Lincolnshire).
- A teenager who held up a shop assistant in Hungerford (Berkshire) was allegedly armed with a BB gun.
- Two BB guns were seized by police when a man was arrested following reports of someone being threatened with a gun in Exeter.
- A man was charged with a number of offences, including two counts of possession of an imitation firearm, following two armed robberies in Somerset (Minehead, Weston-super-Mare).
- Police cautioned an 18-year-old who was spotted leaning out of a car window and shooting at members of the public in New Brighton (Merseyside) with a BB gun. Two men were arrested for possessing an imitation firearm after causing fear to the public in Spalding (Lincolnshire). Two arrests have been made in Hambleton (North Yorkshire) where youths carrying imitation firearms have been spreading panic.
- A man was arrested after neighbours in Earlham (Norfolk) spotted him firing a gun, believed later to be a BB gun, in his back garden.
- Police arrested a car seen with an imitation gun in his car at a location close to Downing Street in Westminster. Two Royal Marines were chastised by police after being spotted with a BB gun in their car in Plymouth. Three teenagers were given a final warning after being spotted with a ball-bearing firing air rifle in Lyndhurst (Hampshire).
- Police searched outbuildings in Three Mile Cross (Berkshire) over fears that they were being used to convert imitation guns into firearms.
- **Imitation Guns (Convictions)** -A man who ran amok with an imitation handgun and threatened two police officers when drunk after a party in Bolton has been jailed for two years.
- An 18-year-old from Swindon who had pointed an air weapon at a woman's face and admitted a charge of possessing an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence has also been jailed for two years (see [June 2007 Incidents](#)).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More birds and animals have been killed and injured as a result of airgun attacks. Moorhens were killed in County Durham, seagulls in Hartlepool and Dorset and a swan in Nottingham. Cats were shot in incidents in Edinburgh (two reported incidents), Birchington (Kent) and Amesbury (Wiltshire) and four captive fox cubs died after being shot at a release scheme in Somerset. There were also reports of ducks and a dog being shot at with BB guns by youths in Bourne (Lincolnshire).

ENGLAND

BBC, 31 July 2007

A man hit in the leg in **Blackley** was the fifth person to be shot in a five day period in Manchester.

Somerset County Gazette, 30 July 2007

Following two armed robberies in **Minehead** and **Weston-super-Mare** a man has appeared before magistrates charged with six counts of robbery, six of possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and two counts of possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence and threats to kill.

Manchester Evening News, 30 July 2007

A 16-year-old suffered a grazed leg when he was shot in **Moss Side**, a week after a 14-year-old was hit in the arm after two gunmen on bicycles shot into a house in the same area of Manchester. A man was shot in the hip while walking in the street in **South Manchester**.

BBC, 29 July 2007

Two men were arrested after shots were fired at a plain-clothes police patrol at a recreation ground in **Neasden**, north west London. The officers were chasing a man when he turned and fired a number of shots at them.

Hartlepool Mail, 28 July 2007

An **air rifle** pellet lodged in a girl's finger when she was shot as she played with friends in woods near **Wingate**. The 15-year-old was walking her dog, and the group heard the "click" of an air rifle being discharged. She was taken to hospital and the pellet was removed and her broken finger strapped.

BBC, 28 July 2007

A man has been killed and two others, including a teenager, have been injured in two shooting incidents in Manchester. A man died in hospital after police were called to a drive-by shooting in **Chorlton-on-Medlock**. Another man admitted himself to hospital with gunshot wounds. The victims were drinking with more than 100 other friends of a man who was killed in a drive-by shooting in Manchester last month (see [Incidents](#)) (*Guardian*, 30 July 2007). A 14-year-old boy was taken to hospital after another shooting near **Hulme Park**. Police are not saying if the shootings are linked or not.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 27 July 2007

Police scrambled a helicopter after reports of a gang of people brandishing a gun in a field in **Peterborough**. Armed police found a man shooting at cans with two teenage boys and a young boy. They had **air rifles** but should not have been on the land. The group were sent on their way with a strong warning about being more careful when using air rifles.

Eastern Daily Press, 27 July 2007

A woman was arrested by armed police and held overnight after complaints she had threatened a group of children with an **airgun**. She was arrested on suspicion of a firearms offence at her home in **Feltwell**, Norfolk. She was released after accepting a police caution.

BBC, 27 July 2007

Shaun Brown will serve a minimum of 12 years in jail after he left another man paralysed from the neck down after shooting him at close range on the **Stonebridge** estate, north west London, in June 2006. It was suggested that the motive may have been revenge for the fatal shooting in Harlesden of his cousin.

ic South London, 26 July 2007

A man armed with an **air weapon** has been taking random potshots at pedestrians in **Streatham** High Road and nearby streets. Men and women were targeted over a four day period.

Bexley Times, 26 July 2007

A stash of firearms was pulled from the River Cray in **Crayford** by police. There were about 20 weapons, including shotguns and rifles such as AK47s. The decommissioned guns had been stolen from a locked van belonging to organisers of the War and Peace show held at a farm at **Paddock Wood** the previous day. The owners have been given crime prevention advice by the police.

BBC, 26 July 2007

Marvin Wallace has been jailed for five years after a "lethal" arsenal of weapons was found under a toddler's bed during a raid on a flat in **Elephant and Castle**, south London, in October 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Police found a sawn-off shotgun, four handguns, a silencer and 97 rounds of ammunition. Wallace was found guilty of possessing the shotgun but cleared of any connection with the other weaponry.

BBC, 26 July 2007

A 16-year-old was shot dead after being chased by youths on bicycles in the latest fatal shooting in south London. Police were called to reports of shots in **Stockwell** and found the teenager. He was pronounced dead at the scene. A man has been charged with murder (*Press Association*, 28 July 2007).

This is Cheshire, 25 July 2007

An 18-year-old has been fined £500 and two 17-year-olds given six month referral orders for their part in a drive-by-style shooting with an **air rifle**. The three-strong gang, two boys and a girl, shot at three cyclists in **Runcorn** in April 2007. One of the cyclists was shot in the back of the head, and the other two were hit in the knee and chest respectively. All three offenders pleaded guilty to three counts of assault and possession of an imitation firearm with intent.

Newbury Today, 25 July 2007

A man held up a postmistress in **Newbury** at gunpoint and ordered her to hand over bundles of cash.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 25 July 2007

James Hearons has been jailed for four years after police found a shotgun hidden inside a wardrobe in his home in **Walker**. He admitted possessing the weapon while prohibited, possessing ammunition and possession without a firearm certificate.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 25 July 2007

Kirsty Laing pleaded guilty to possessing a self loading shotgun. The charge of possessing the small bore 12 gauge gun carries a mandatory minimum five year jail term. Sentencing was adjourned for probation and psychiatric reports and Laing was remanded on bail to live with her parents in **South Shields**.

ic South London, 24 July 2007

Kujtim Spahiu murdered a rival in a turf war over the right to steal from London's parking metres. He was one of two gunmen who burst into a club in **Park Royal**, north-west London, in October 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). They sent drinkers diving for cover as they sprayed the hall with bullets. One man died when he was shot through the head but two other men escaped with their lives. Spahiu was found guilty of murder and the attempted murders of three other men. Two men were cleared of all charges. A fourth man, said to be the lead gunman, has never been traced by police. Spahiu will serve at least 33 years in jail.

ic South London, 24 July 2007

Shots have been fired at a bar in **Brixton**. There were no reports of any gun shot injuries. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm. He had been wrestled to the ground by partygoers. Another suspect got away and is now being hunted by police (*ic South London*, 26 July 2007).

ic Coventry, 24 July 2007

Two people, one a 13-year-old boy, were shot with an **air rifle** in **Holbrooks**. Both victims were hit in the leg and needed hospital treatment. Two 14-year-old boys have been arrested on suspicion of assault and released on police bail.

Grimsby Telegraph, 24 July 2007

Police found an arsenal of weapons and drugs in a lock-up in a privately-rented garage in **Immingham**. They seized a sawn-off shotgun, two high powered **air rifles**, a **ball-bearing gun** and a machete. A man has been arrested.

BBC, 24 July 2007

A man is critically ill after he was shot at a club in **Fulham Road**, south west London, where he worked as a bouncer. He was involved in an altercation after asking customers to stop smoking and was shot in the rear garden area. The victim has died after his life support machine was switched off (**BBC**, 27 July 2007).

BBC, 24 July 2007

A man was found with a leg injury after reports of a gunshot in **Fishwick**, Preston. He was taken to hospital, although his injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

The Press (York), 23 July 2007

Youths carrying imitation firearms are spreading panic in **Hambleton**. Police have warned that offenders are putting their own lives in danger by wielding the weapons. They have made two arrests and have seized three **ball-bearing guns**.

BBC, 23 July 2007

A teenager escaped injury when he was shot at during a drive-by shooting in **Old Trafford**, Manchester. He was not hit by the bullet but a shop window was damaged.

BBC, 23 July 2007

A man and a woman were shot in an attack in **Toxteth**, Liverpool. A man suffered gunshot wounds to his back and a woman was shot in the hand. Police believe the attack was targeted.

BBC, 23 July 2007

Three people have been arrested in **Bridlington** after two incidents involving an **airgun**. A man was shot in the stomach but did not need treatment for a blister caused by a pellet and the upstairs window of a house was damaged by two pellet holes. Two of those arrested were later released without charge and a 20-year-old man was given police bail.

Sunday Mail, 22 July 2007

A 14-year-old was recovering in hospital after being shot in the face with an **airgun** by a gang of youths in **Witley**, Surrey. He had a pellet removed from his neck.

BBC, 22 July 2007

A gun was fired in an incident in **Hazelwood**, near Selby in Yorkshire. No one is thought to have been injured by the shot. A man has been arrested and is being questioned by police.

This is Hampshire, 21 July 2007

Armed police went to a car park in **Lyndhurst** after three teenagers were spotted carrying what appeared to be a larger rifle before getting into a car. A **ball-bearing firing air rifle** was found in the boot when the car was stopped. Three 17-year-olds were arrested and later released having received a final warning.

This is Cheshire, 19 July 2007

An elderly woman walking home in **Orford** was forced to hand over her purse by a teenager who apparently pointed a black handgun at her. A second teenager asked her if she wanted her belongings back and both youths returned, handed back the purse and said it had just been a joke.

Newbury Today, 19 July 2007

A teenager allegedly held up a shop assistant in **Hungerford**, Berkshire, with a **BB gun** before making his getaway on a bicycle. A 15-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm but police later released him without charge. Police are now seeking another youth.

ic South London, 19 July 2007

A man, aged about 20, was shot in the abdomen in a street in **Woolwich**, south east London, died in hospital the following evening. It is unknown whether the killing involved rival gangs but recent weeks have seen a dramatic increase in gang violence in Greenwich.

BBC, 19 July 2007

The mother of a 12-year-old girl who died after being shot at her home in **Gorton**, Manchester in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) has been charged with possession of a gun.

Wirral Globe, 18 July 2007

An 18-year-old was spotted leaning out of a car window and shooting at members of the public in **New Brighton**. He was arrested and issued with a caution. The police seized the **BB gun**. The 17-year-old driver was also arrested but was not charged.

This is Cheshire, 18 July 2007

The window of a police car was shattered after what was believed to have been an **air rifle** pellet flew past the policeman inside the vehicle. The car was parked on a road in **Latchford**.

Redditch Standard, 18 July 2007

A man who was out jogging in **Redditch** was hit in the leg with a pellet, believed to be from an **air rifle**. A group of youths, including three boys and a girl, was seen in the area shortly after the jogger was hit. One of the boys was said to be carrying an air rifle.

Nottingham Evening Post, 18 July 2007

Courtney Hunt has been jailed for a minimum of 30 years for the murder of a 17-year-old who was shot dead in **The Meadows**, Nottingham, in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). His victim was once his friend but was in competition with Hunt, an established drug dealer, and was alleged to have insulted him just before the shooting. Hunt was also given a 12 year concurrent sentence for possession of a firearm.

ic Coventry, 18 July 2007

An **airgun** was fired at a bus in **Walsgrave** shattering the windscreen and sending a shard of glass into the driver's eye. He was treated in hospital, and police said he had been lucky not to lose the sight in his eye.

East London and West Essex Guardian, 18 July 2007

Two men armed with a handgun burst into a home in **Epping**, Essex, and fled with an assortment of valuable goods, including watches, a camera and a computer. The victim answered the door at his home, was knocked to the ground and threatened with the gun. He was left very shaken.

Citizen (Chorley), 18 July 2007

Two teenagers approached a youth in **Chorley**, Lancashire, and produced an **air rifle** before taking his mobile phone. Two teenagers were arrested and charged with robbery and an air rifle was recovered.

BBC, 18 July 2007

A teenager died after he was accidentally shot in the head by a friend while out shooting on farmland in **Southease**, East Sussex. The group had been aiming at birds from a hide when he was shot.

BBC, 18 July 2007

A man has been accused of shooting dead another man in **Birmingham** in April 2003. The victim died of multiple gunshot wounds to his head and chest. Another was is also due in court accused of possession of firearms.

BBC, 18 July 2007

A 16-year-old has been shot in the eye with a pellet fired from a **BB gun**. He was one of a group of people on playing fields in **Deeping St James**, Lincolnshire. The victim was taken to hospital for treatment and was lucky not to lose his eye. Another 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of actual bodily harm.

BBC, 18 July 2007

Replica guns, knives and cowboy clothes have been stolen by burglars who broke into a house in **Standens Barn**, Northampton. The guns were two replica Colt revolvers in brown and black holsters and a Smith and Wesson single-action gun.

BBC, 18 July 2007

Jaromir Kubanik and Vito Bertone have been jailed for 12 years each for smuggling firearms and ammunition into the UK. They were arrested in October 2006 when customs officers found firearms components, knives and ammunition while searching a car at **Dover** docks (see [Incidents](#)). Both men were found guilty of two counts of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life.

Reuters, 17 July 2007

Two men have been charged with firearms offences after officers stopped a car full of guns in the **Burnage** area of Manchester. Both are charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and conspiracy to possess a firearm with intent to endanger life.

ic Coventry, 17 July 2007

A teacher was shot in the head at the end of a sports coaching session in a school playground in **Nuneaton**. She was hit by an **airgun** pellet minutes after junior school pupils had concluded an after-school cricket session. The pellet was embedded in her scalp and she had to have it surgically removed in hospital.

BBC, 17 July 2007

A 16-year-old was hit in the chest in a drive-by shooting in **Millharbour**, east London. He was with a group of people when a single shot was fired from a vehicle. The victim is in a stable condition in hospital.

BBC, 17 July 2007

Police were called to a property in **Hayle**, Cornwall, after reports that a man had been seen entering with a firearm. A woman was arrested but released without charge.

Wimbledon Guardian, 16 July 2007

A man died in hospital after a double shooting in **Wandsworth**. The shooting took place outside a bar. The second victim, believed to be one of the club's bouncers, was in a stable condition. It is thought that a gunman had opened fire with a sub-machine gun.

The Press (York), 16 July 2007

A window cleaner was fired at by a youth leaning out of a nearby attic window in **York**. The man described how there was an almighty smack on the glass of the window he was cleaning and he saw a lad firing from a window opposite with either an **air rifle** or a **ball bearing gun**. He was left feeling shaken and comments that "if the pellet had come through the glass [which was toughened] it could have blinded me".

ic South London, 16 July 2007

Three thieves, aged about 20, threatened staff at a jewellers in **Coulsdon** with a gun. Although they smashed cabinets with hammers they only ran off with earrings worth just £100. The robbers fled before police arrived in response to the panic button being pressed.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 16 July 2007

Terrified members of the public in **Spalding**, Lincolnshire, called police after seeing two men brandishing what looked like a gun in a threatening manner. Two men were arrested for possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

Daily Mail, 16 July 2007

Marvin Airey has admitted charges of assault, grievous bodily harm and possession of a weapon following an incident outside a school in **Bristol** in October 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He paralysed a male teacher after electrocuting him with a 950,000 volt stun gun, an illegal weapon, and then punched a female teacher as she tried to help. He will be sentenced following psychiatric reports.

BBC, 15 July 2007

Police officers cordoned off an area of land in **Three Mile Cross**, near Reading in Berkshire, whilst searching rural outbuildings over fears that they were being used to convert **imitation weapons** into firearms.

Express & Star, 14 July 2007

Armed police swooped on a residential street in **Bridgtown** in Cannock, Staffordshire, in response to reports of a man with a gun. They surrounded a car, smashed its windows and removed items from the vehicle. A man was arrested but not firearm was recovered.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 13 July 2007

A man was shot in the leg in a late-night incident in **Thornton Lodge**, Huddersfield. The shooting is believed to have been part of a continuing dispute between gangs and happened when a group of about 10 youths smashed a back window at the house. The shot man was taken to hospital.

This is Cheshire, 12 July 2007

Police are hunting for Craig Dodd, formerly from **Longford**, days after he was released from Risley Prison. He is wanted for breaking the terms of his release and breaching his licence. Dodd had been jailed last year after being sentenced to two years for possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear and violence. It is reported that he has a history of violence.

ic The Wharf, 12 July 2007

Two people, a man and a woman, were forced to hand over several items by a group of men brandishing a silver handgun in **Mudchute Park** on the Isle of Dogs in east London. The weapon had a slide and was not a revolver. This incident, which occurred last month, happened a day before another armed robbery in the area in which a silver handgun was used at **Limehouse** DLR station (see [June 2007 Incidents](#)).

BBC, 12 July 2007

An armed gang attacked a man with a hammer and robbed him at gunpoint in an incident in **Dudley**, West Midlands. The victim had his car keys, car and mobile phone stolen. The police said that he had been threatened with a handgun by seven offenders who demanded money.

Reuters, 11 July 2007

A man was arrested near Downing Street in **London** in possession of an **imitation gun**. A police officer spotted what he believed to be a gun in the man's car. There had been no security breach.

The Herald (Plymouth), 11 July 2007

Two Royal Marines have been chastised by police after they were spotted with a **BB gun** whilst sitting in their car at a car park in **Plymouth**. A woman believed that one of the men was holding an automatic pistol on his lap. Her husband saw a magazine being pulled from the gun and then replaced. Plymouth police said that the two men were 'given advice' and told not to carry the recently purchased gun in public view again.

BBC, 10 July 2007

An armed man walked into a convenience store in **Lanesfield**, Wolverhampton, and stole cash from the till. No shots were fired and no-one was injured.

BBC, 10 July 2007

Police have released a CCTV image of two men alleged to have carried out a multi-million pound jewellery theft in **West London**. The suspects arrived in a Bentley, entered the shop and spoke to staff and then pulled out guns.

Argus (Brighton), 10 July 2007

A gunman escaped with a cash box after holding up a security van delivering money to a bank in **Worthing**. Police said that the raider threatened the two guards using a "small handgun".

Norwich Evening News, 9 July 2007

A seven-hour stand off took place between an man and police after neighbours spotted him in his back garden in **Earlham**, Norfolk, firing a gun and wielding a machete. They feared the firearm was dangerous. Officers finally stormed the property, arrested the man and seized the machete and what is believed to have been a **BB gun**. He was being questioned on suspicion of possession of a firearm.

MK News, 9 July 2007

Police are hunting a gunman who attacked a flat in **Milton Keynes**. The residents were woken by a bang and the sound of broken glass. No one was injured.

BBC, 9 July 2007

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing firearms with intent to cause fear after police received reports of a gun being brandished at a party in **Eastington**, Gloucestershire. An **air rifle** and a **handgun which fires pellets** were recovered at the address where the man was arrested.

BBC, 9 July 2007

In a drive-by shooting in the **Heaton Mersey** area of Stockport, Cheshire, a man was shot in the chest. He was being treated in hospital where he was in a stable condition.

BBC, 9 July 2007

Police are appealing for information following reports of a gun fight in **Harlesden**, north west London.

BBC, 9 July 2007

A man was in a serious condition after suffering suspected gunshot wounds when he was attacked by two men on a motorcycle in **Bow**, east London. His condition is not believed to be life threatening.

BBC, 9 July 2007

Two men were shot outside a pub in **Willenhall**, West Midlands, after an altercation between two groups of men. A man was also stabbed during the incident. One shooting victim, who was hit in the neck, is in a critical but stable condition, the other who was shot in the leg and stomach has since been discharged from hospital. Two 19-year-olds have been charged with attempted murder and one of them has been charged with possessing a firearm (*BBC*, 14 July 2007).

This is Nottingham, 7 July 2007

A teenager says he is lucky to be alive after being shot with an **airgun**. He was walking a dog with a friend through a part in **St Ann's**, Nottingham, when he was hit in the arm. He was taken to hospital for treatment, is still off school and will not be allowed to play sports until he is fully recovered.

BBC, 7 July 2007

A 16-year-old boy has been injured in a shooting in **Hulme**, Greater Manchester. He was hit in the buttock by one of a number of shots fired from a group of people. The victim is in hospital and his condition is described as stable.

BBC, 7 July 2007

A man was arrested after an armed response team was called to a property in **Exeter** following reports of a man threatening someone with a gun. Armed officers seized two **BB guns**.

BBC, 7 July 2007

An armed man held up a petrol station in **Hazlemere**, Buckinghamshire. He pointed a gun at the cashier and cash was handed over in distinctive plastic canisters which the robber put in a white plastic carrier bag.

Bolton News, 6 July 2007

Oliver Kettle ran amok with a **blank firing imitation Glock handgun**, firing four rounds into the air when he was drunk after a party in **Bolton** in March 2007. Two plain clothes police officers who were called to the scene were threatened by Kettle. He refused to drop the gun but was pinned to the ground and arrested. He pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm and was jailed for two years.

Scunthorpe Telegraph, 5 July 2007

A man was held at gunpoint in a street in **Scunthorpe** and made to hand over his wallet. The victim was beckoned over to a car as he walked along the road and the passenger then pulled a gun and demanded the wallet.

ic Coventry, 5 July 2007

A youth with an **air rifle** shot out decorative lights mounted in the gates of a house in **Wilmcote**. Pellets shattered the bulbs and the lamps' plastic casing.

BBC, 5 July 2007

A woman in a wheelchair was shot in the chest with an **airgun** while she tended her husband's grave at the cemetery in **Newark**, Nottinghamshire. She heard a popping sound before feeling a burning sensation in her chest. She was treated for shock at the scene.

This is Lancashire, 4 July 2007

An armed robber escaped with around £500 in cash after terrorising staff at a takeaway in **South Shore**. He demanded money from the till while pointing a gun at staff.

ic South London, 4 July 2007

After Reggie Sackey had been stopped for not wearing a seat belt whilst driving in **Tooting**, police found a handgun wrapped in a sock and wedged between his buttocks. The 8mm pistol was a converted firearm. Officers had found a small bag of marijuana in his car and arrested him. He pleaded guilty of possessing a firearm, seven rounds of ammunition and herbal cannabis. He also admitted a charge of possessing a firearm within a prohibited period after leaving prison. Sentencing was adjourned.

East Anglian Daily Times, 4 July 2007

A teenager has told how she watched in horror as two gunmen fled after robbing a security guard and firing a warning shot. She was working at a pharmacy in **Colchester** when she and her colleagues heard a gunshot. The gunmen had confronted the guard as he delivered cash to a bank and snatched a cash box.

Daily Echo, 4 July 2007

A mother and her eight-week-old son were at the scene of two **airgun** shootings in **Wyke Regis**, Dorset. In the first incident a seagull was shot and fell near the baby as he played. In the other incident they were on a bus when shots from an air weapon broke two nearby windows.

BBC, 3 July 2007

A former Royal protection officer has denied charges of dangerous driving, possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear and false imprisonment. The charges follow an incident in November 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) when a photographer is alleged to have been held at gunpoint after he took photos of the man at his home in Chafford Hundred, Essex, and was then chased by car to a roundabout near the Lakeside shopping centre in **Thurrock** where the incident took place. The man has been cleared of threatening the photographer with a gun (*Times*, 28 July 2007).

BBC, 3 July 2007

A bookmakers in **Englefield Green**, Surrey, was robbed by two men. Staff were threatened with a gun by the men who demanded money from the safe. They fled with £800 in a plastic bag.

Cambs24, 2 July 2007

An 18-year-old man received minor injuries after being shot with what is believed to have been an **air rifle** as he worked at an industrial estate in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire. The man was working with a colleague on scaffolding at the site when several shots were fired.

BBC, 2 July 2007

Two men, one carrying a handgun and the other a knife, walked into a shop in **Filton**, Bristol, and demanded the shopkeeper handed over cash. Money and beer were stolen, but the beer together with clothing was dropped close by.

BBC, 2 July 2007

A court has heard how ball bearings, and a hoard of weapons including an **airgun** and several **BB guns** were found during a two-day search of a house in **Colne**, Lancashire, belonging to one of two men accused of conspiracy to cause an explosion with chemicals ordered over the internet. The man admits possessing explosives, a charge denied by the other defendant. The trial continues.

BBC, 1 July 2007

A teenager was robbed of headphones at gunpoint when he was approached by a group of teenagers in **Preston**. The victim was treated in hospital for minor injuries.

SCOTLAND

ic Renfrewshire, 23 July 2007

A masked robber escaped with £7000 after holding up staff at a bank in **Paisley**. Staff were threatened at gunpoint during the robbery but no shots were fired. The money will be so badly damaged with dye that it will be worthless.

ic Renfrewshire, 18 July 2007

A cache of weapons was found by police searching a flat in **Renfrew**. Police were called after neighbours claimed to have seen two men hanging out of a window brandishing a rifle. Officers found a powerful **air rifle**, a machete, a baseball bat and parts of a sawn-off shotgun. Two men have been arrested under the Firearms Act and also face breach of the peace offences.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 11 July 2007

Nicky Robertson, 20, who shot a man with a sawn-off shotgun as he celebrated Hibernian FC's CIS Cup Final victory outside a pub in **Edinburgh** in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)), has been jailed for ten years for the "attempted assassination". He later told police that he had been "trying to kill" his victim in the mistaken belief that he was planning to attack him.

BBC, 6 July 2007

Two men have been charged with firearms offences after police raided a number of homes in **Mid Craigie**, Dundee, acting on a tip-off. Several streets were cordoned off during the operation.

BBC, 5 July 2007

Three men face life sentences for the murder of a man in **Castlemilk**, Glasgow, in August 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot in a contract killing at his home which was thought to have been targeted at the victim's father. John Smith and Thomas Campling were found guilty of murder and Marcello Pacitti admitted the shooting. A fourth man, Alan Burns, was cleared of murder but convicted of culpable homicide. Smith and Campling have been told they must spend at least 25 years behind bars, Burns was jailed for 10 years (*BBC*, 2 August 2007).

BBC, 5 July 2007

Susan Halley fired shots into several buildings near a children's play park in **Perth** in March 2007. A court heard that she suffered from bi-polar disorder and was suffering from a manic episode at the time. She was formally acquitted on the grounds of insanity and has been made the subject of a hospital order. Halley produced a high-powered **air pistol** from her pocket when police found her. Two pellets were also found. She admitted two charges, including recklessly discharging a firearm and possessing the weapon without lawful authority.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 26 July 2007

A cyclist was shot in the face with an **airgun** as he rode towards Merthyr Tydfil along the Taff Trail at **Rhydyfelin**. The pellet narrowly missed his right eye.

South Wales Evening Post, 12 July 2007

Police found an **air rifle** in a wardrobe when they searched a man's bedroom after his parents became concerned he might harm himself. Steven Whyte was in the room in **Winch Wen**, Swansea, at the time. As Whyte had served a prison term for robbery he was prohibited from possessing the weapon. He has been placed under supervision for a year and ordered to do 240 hours of unpaid work for the community.

BBC, 5 July 2007

Police are trying to trace a man who was reportedly seen carrying a gun outside a bank in **Corwen**, Denbighshire. Armed officers and the police helicopter were scrambled after the man was spotted.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

BBC, 31 July 2007

Two four-week-old moorhen chicks have been shot dead with **airguns** at a nature reserve at **Wingate Quarry** in County Durham. Wildlife officers found evidence of drinking parties by groups of youths, with property damaged and wildlife affected.

BBC, 20 July 2007

Two seagulls were killed and another four were so severely injured they had to be put down after they were shot with an **air rifle** in **Hartlepool**. The RSPCA described the case as shocking.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 19 July 2007

Two incidents have been reported from **Bourne**, Lincolnshire. A **BB gun** was seized from a 12-year-old boy who was reportedly firing pellets at his neighbour's dog. There were also reports of youths firing **BB guns** at ducks in Wellhead Park.

Somerset County Gazette, 12 July 2007

Three captive fox cubs were killed and a fourth had to be put to sleep after being shot in the head by a trespasser at **Wellisford**, near Wellington. They were being cared for by the landowner in a pen as part of an RSPCA soft release scheme. They had all been shot in the head twice with an **air rifle**.

This is Nottingham, 11 July 2007

A swan has died after being shot with an **air rifle** at **Rushcliffe Country Park**. It was rescued by rangers who planned to send the bird to Yorkshire Swan Rescue but it died 45 minutes into the journey.

Herald, 11 July 2007

A second cat has been reported to have been shot with an **airgun** in Edinburgh. The cat was shot in the back in the **Craigievar Square** area of the city.

BBC, 11 July 2007

A petition has been set up calling for further legislation to control the use of **air weapons** after reports of a spate of incidents in **Birchington**, near Margate in Kent, which have injured animals. Police are aware of the problems and are investigating.

BBC, 10 July 2007

A father whose cat was shot with an **airgun** in **Edinburgh** told how his young daughter found their pet and thought it was covered in ketchup. The cat had been shot in the back of the left leg. Vets had to operate to remove the pellet that was left behind.

Salisbury Journal, 9 July 2007

A family in **Amesbury** have been left angry and upset after someone shot their pet cat with an **air rifle**. The cat was found with a wound just above one of his eyes and an airgun pellet was found embedded in his head.

Daily Echo, 4 July 2007

See Incident in **ENGLAND**

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