



JULY 2008 - SUMMARY

It was widely reported this month that the latest statistics for England and Wales had shown an increase in gun crime, up by 2% over the corresponding period in 2006-07 (see [Data](#)). However, few reports emphasised that the number of incidents which resulted in death and serious injury had actually decreased. The incidents collected by Gun Control Network for July reflect this continuing trend. There are still too many serious problems relating to guns but these are not always the ones depicted by the national media.

For the fourth successive month the number of homicides was less than the recent average of approximately one per week. The number of serious injuries reported was also comparatively low. There were, however, a significant number of armed hold-ups and assaults, at least some of which are known to have involved imitation weapons (their widespread use in armed robberies was confirmed in a number of court cases), and it seems likely that many other robberies that we report here were also carried out by men who found it easy to obtain a fake weapon. Airguns remain a threat, with victims, both human and animal, targeted at locations around the country.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were reports of three fatal shootings in July.
- A 17-year-old died when he was shot in Spital Hill (Sheffield): a number of people have been questioned by the police about this apparent gang-related shooting. A man was shot dead outside a nightclub in Limehouse (east London).
- The other death, from a shotgun wound, occurred in Chapel St Leonards (Lincolnshire) and appears to have been a suicide. At inquests held in July coroners recorded verdicts of suicide after two other men shot themselves in Upper Gornal (West Midlands) and in Orwell Park (Suffolk) earlier this year, also with shotguns.
- Shooting incidents that resulted in injury occurred in:
 - Buckinghamshire: the victim was found with a gunshot to the stomach in Totteridge, near High Wycombe
 - Merseyside: a man was shot in a targeted attack in Kensington, and another was critically ill after being shot in Everton
 - North London: police found a teenager who had been shot in Camden Town
 - West Midlands: a man was shot in the stomach in Dudley
- Injuries were also sustained by victims of shooting incidents involving airguns and imitation guns (see Below).

- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on banks in Oxted (Surrey) and Hull, a post office in Northampton and a takeaway in Goole (East Yorkshire) (involving a teenager with an imitation firearm - see Imitation Guns below). There were a large number of raids on betting shops reported in July - these occurred in Glasgow, Swaythling and Bassett (both

in Southampton), Broadfield Barton (Sussex), Ingoldmells (Lincolnshire), Leicester and Caversham (Berkshire).

- A security guard delivering cash to a bank in Clydebank (West Dunbartonshire) was threatened by a gunman who fled with an empty cash box, and a masked robber waved a pistol at a security guard during a robbery at a building society in Hove (Sussex). A security guard was robbed at gunpoint at a service station in Digbeth (Birmingham).
- A pub landlord was robbed at gunpoint in Knitsley (County Durham).
- Taxi drivers were robbed of their takings during armed hold ups in Clayton Bank and Fishwick (both in Lancashire) and in Wythenshawe (Greater Manchester). Two other cabbies have been robbed at gunpoint while waiting for their fares in Crawley (Sussex). Armed robbers stole a few pounds in loose change from a bus driver in Waltham Abbey (Essex).
- A man had his Bentley car stolen in Standish (Lancashire) after three men pointed a handgun at him.
- A man was threatened at gunpoint by two men who stole goods from his home in Oxley (Wolverhampton). In Barton (Devon) in another robbery at a family home a man and his sons were tied up and robbed of over £400,000 worth of stamps by gunmen armed with ball-bearing guns (see Imitation Guns below).
- A man had a handgun held to his head when his mobile phone was stolen in Manchester. A teenage girl was robbed of a small amount of cash by a man who threatened her with a gun at a bus stop in Newport (Gwent).
- Five teenagers were arrested after a man was threatened with what police believed was a gun at a shopping centre in Basingstoke (Hampshire).
- Three men were arrested after two men were kidnapped at gunpoint in Southwark (south London) and taken to a house in Kingston (south west London).

- **Other Incidents** - A window at Aberdeen Town House was smashed with what appeared to be a bullet. A single shotgun round was fired through a house window in Northampton: a man was arrested. A teenager has appeared in court after an incident in June in which a shot was fired at a house in Winsford (Cheshire).
- On Merseyside police cordoned off part of an estate in Norris Green after reports of a shooting, and bullets were fired at a car in Bebington. Streets in Birmingham were sealed off after reports that shots were fired, possibly from two vehicles.
- Following an armed siege in Consett (County Durham) a man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill and possessing a firearm. A man thought to be brandishing a gun in Kenton (Newcastle upon Tyne) was shot by police with a plastic bullet and stun gun. A man who claimed to have a gun and was threatening to harm himself and others was taken into custody in Norwich. A man arrested for firearms offences after reports of a man brandishing a firearm in Blacon (Chester) was released without charge. Five men were arrested and then released after police were called to a firearms incident in Desborough (Northamptonshire).
- Armed police arrived at a primary school in Dumbarton after reports of an assault involving a shotgun: no gun was found.

- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - A man was arrested for allegedly being in possession of a firearm and a quantity of drugs following an incident in Berwick (Northumberland). A shotgun, ammunition and a quantity of drugs were recovered by police from a house in Northern Moor (Manchester).
- A man from Burnley (Lancashire) was expected to appear in court charged with two counts of battery and possession of a firearm and ammunition.

- One man was being questioned after a gun was found at a house in Blackpool (Lancashire). Two men were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences when a bag containing a shotgun and cartridges was pulled from a car involved in a crash in Pelaw (Tyneside). A teenager was arrested and then released without charge after a gun was found at a house in Ribblesdale (Lancashire).
- A woman who tried to hand in a gun belonging to her late ex-husband to the police in Leyland (Lancashire) was told she had risked arrest.
- A shotgun was stolen during a house burglary in Alington (Devon) and an airgun was among items taken from a business park in Paddock (West Yorkshire).
- **Airguns** - The following airgun incidents resulted in injury to the victims:
 - A cyclist was hit in the body with an airgun pellet in Corby (Northampton): two teenagers were arrested
 - A quad biker was hospitalised after being shot with an air rifle pellet in Rolleston (Staffordshire)
 - A 16-year-old was taken to hospital with a pellet embedded in his forehead following an incident in a pub in Eighton Banks (Tyneside)
 - A man was shot in the stomach whilst walking across a field in Chorley (Lancashire)
- Two firearms were seized and a man arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after a man allegedly threatened youths with an air rifle in Newent (Gloucestershire).
- An air pistol was fired during an argument at a petrol station in Batley (West Yorkshire): six people including a number of teenagers were arrested. An airgun was among weapons recovered by police after a fight between schoolchildren at a restaurant in Crownhill (Plymouth).
- There were airgun attacks on a tram in Rossall (Blackpool) on successive nights. Armed police were called after reports of an air rifle being fired at a car in Gainsborough (Lincolnshire). Armed police surrounded a property in Teignmouth (Devon) after a man was reported to be firing shots from an air rifle in the area. Two men were charged with firearm offences after they were seen driving around Newquay (Cornwall) wielding an air pistol.
- A house in Derby was damaged after shots, apparently from an airgun, were fired. The village of Pewsey in Wiltshire has been suffering from a spate of criminal damage caused by pellets from an airgun or ball-bearing gun. Elderly residents in an area of Grove (Oxfordshire) have suffered threatening behaviour including airguns being fired at windows. A teenager has been charged after a window was damaged in Slatyford (Newcastle) allegedly with an air rifle.
- Two air rifles have been seized by police in Moresby Parks (Cumbria) following concerns about their use and the associated risks to pet animals.
- **Imitation Guns** - A man has been charged with selling realistic imitation firearms in Salford, but this necessary action by police and trading standards officers has not yet stopped those guns already in circulation from continuing to be misused. More people were hit with BB gun pellets.
 - Another boy has required surgery after being shot with a ball-bearing gun: he was hit in the eye whilst fishing in Northampton
 - A homeowner having a party in Hatfield (South Yorkshire) was hit when ball bearings were fired at the garden: a bedroom window was also smashed
 - A 10-year-old girl was hit in the face with a BB gun pellet in Astley Bridge (Bolton): a 10-year-old boy has been cautioned
- A man was arrested on suspicion of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm after he pulled a handgun on a teenager and a woman in a park in

Long Ashton (Bristol). A 12-year-old girl was chased by boys wielding knives and BB guns in Laindon (Essex).

- A ball-bearing gun was discovered after three teenagers were arrested in Formby (Lancashire) for allegedly threatening a train inspector with a gun. Two 17-year-olds in Chorley (Lancashire) were being questioned by police after separate incidents involving BB guns: in one a gun was held to the head of another teenager.
- A teenager was charged with possession of an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence, possession of an imitation firearm in a public place and attempted robbery after an incident in Goole (East Yorkshire). Two men who tied up a man and his two sons and stole over £400,000 worth of stamps from their home in Barton (Devon) were probably armed with BB guns (see Above).
- Part of Woking (Surrey) was closed off by police after shots had been fired: a ball bearing gun and pellets were found. A street in Exeter was also closed off following reports of a ball-bearing gun being aimed at seagulls: a man was arrested.
- A teenager spotted carrying a machine gun in Creswell (Sheffield) was found to have a ball-bearing gun which was destroyed.
- **Incidents Involving Animals - Gun attacks on animals continued unabated in July, apparently unaffected by recent legislation on sales of airguns. The gratuitous cruelty of these incidents is beyond belief. More must be done to take the guns away from those who are misusing them to cause such harm.**
- One of two horses killed on a farm in South Wales had been hit by airgun pellets. Another horse was lucky to be alive after being shot with an airgun in Whitehill Mains (East Lothian).
- There were airgun attacks on cats in Cardiff, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Devon (three cats shot in the same area of Honiton and one in Axminster), Essex, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire (three incidents reported including two in Horncastle), Moray, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, South Wales and Suffolk.
- A dog was shot twice whilst playing in a back garden in Highgate (North London). A rabbit was shot dead in the back garden of a house in Rushden (Northamptonshire) - the perpetrator went into the garden through a side gate and shot the pet at close range in the head.
- Herring gulls have been shot with an airgun in Newquay (Cornwall) and a baby seagull was killed with an air weapon in Lowestoft (Suffolk).
- Swans have recently been shot with airguns in Peterborough, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. A pair of swans were shot in Iver (Buckinghamshire): the male died and the female has had to have a wing amputated.
- Ball-bearing gun pellets were found near the scene of an attack on a donkey sanctuary in Scarborough (North Yorkshire).

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- **Convictions** - More men were convicted of serious offences involving firearms:
 - A man will serve a minimum of thirty years in prison for murdering a man at a party in Carshalton (Surrey)
 - A man, who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of a man who was shot in a car in Halewood (Merseyside), has been jailed for twelve and a half years
 - A man who shot a nightclub doorman in Bristol has been sentenced to a minimum of three years in jail

- A man who shot the brother of a landlord after he had been thrown out of his pub in Kensington (Liverpool) has been jailed for 12 years
- A man who shot a fellow clubber with a mini four-inch keyring gun in the City of London was found guilty of unlawful wounding and two firearms offences
- Two men were cleared of murder and manslaughter but one admitted holding the gun which killed a man in Woolwich (south east London).
- A drug dealer from Radford (Nottingham) faces a long prison term after he admitted two counts of possessing firearms and drug offences - he was reaching for a loaded handgun when he was arrested. Two men have been sentenced to 10 years and 8 years for drugs and firearms offences following a police raid in Wigan (Greater Manchester): they had previously been sentenced for drug offences in Tayside.
- A man who fired a sawn-off shotgun through a neighbour's window in Rushden (Northamptonshire) has been given an indeterminate jail sentence. Another from Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire) has been given a five year jail sentence for possessing a sawn-off shotgun: the weapon was fired in a field behind his home. A man who threatened youths with a sawn-off shotgun in Luton (Bedfordshire) has been warned that the minimum jail sentence for having a prohibited firearm is five years. A man has admitted a string of firearms offences after police seized a shotgun and rounds of ammunition following raids in Bury (Greater Manchester).
- An offender has pleaded guilty to taking a revolver with cartridges to his mother's house in Childwall (Merseyside) and attacking another man.
- A man has admitted holding up a pub in East Kilbride whilst armed with a Taser gun. Another faces a lengthy jail sentence after pleading guilty to possessing a stun gun when he was found following a domestic incident in Wellingborough (Northamptonshire).
- An Army quartermaster has been found guilty of seven offences after a cache of illegal firearms was found at his parents' home in Dunoon (Argyll) - he faces a heavy jail term.
- An air passenger has pleaded guilty to putting cabin crew and passengers in a state of fear and alarm after claiming he had a gun on a flight from Edinburgh Airport.
- A father who escaped trial after his daughter retracted her statement had apparently allowed a loaded shotgun to go off in his home in Mickle Trafford (Cheshire) after he had argued with her.
- A man who was caught with a prohibited pistol at his home in Kirkby Stephen (Cumbria) has been given a suspended jail sentence and order to do 200 hours unpaid work.
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - One of five men who pleaded guilty to common assault after an incident in Plymouth was given two 16 month terms at a young offenders institution after returning with an airgun in an attempt to terrify the victim into dropping charges: he shot at the house repeatedly.
- A man who threatened to kill someone with an air rifle in Bathgate (West Lothian) has been given a supervised attendance order after pleading guilty to a breach of the peace.
- A man who held an air weapon to his head after he had been ejected from a hotel in Dunster (Somerset) has pleaded guilty to carrying an air weapon in public.
- A teenager was given 80 hours community service after pleading guilty to brandishing an air rifle in a street in Cheltenham (Gloucestershire).
- A 90-year-old from Shandon (Devon) was fined after admitting possessing a .22 air rifle without the required firearms certificate

- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A number of offenders were convicted for robberies involving imitation firearms:
 - A man has been jailed for three years after trying to rob a Glasgow post office whilst armed with an imitation firearm
 - Another man was sentenced to two years for the attempted robbery of a store in Plains (Lanarkshire): he was armed with a knife, a noose and a fake gun
 - A man has admitted carrying out a robbery on a bookmakers in Glenrothes (Fife) whilst armed with an imitation firearm
 - Three men have admitted conspiracy to steal and possessing an imitation gun following a staged armed robbery on a supermarket in Malmesbury (Wiltshire)
 - An ex-soldier was jailed for three-and-a-half years after threatening a petrol station cashier in Northampton with a ball-bearing gun
 - Two men, aged 19 and 20, have been jailed for four-and-a-half and two-and-a-half years respectively after threatening staff at a shop in Willenhall (Coventry) with a knife and an imitation gun
- Two men were given suspended custodial sentences and 120 hours community service after firing a ball-bearing gun at members of the public in Worthing (Sussex): a 12-year-old boy was nearly blinded when he was hit.
- A man who was arrested at Blackpool Airport attempting to bring a replica pistol and blank-firing ammunition into the country from Spain has been given a suspended 28 day prison sentence.
- A man is awaiting sentence after admitting taking an imitation firearm back to a nightclub in Exmouth (Devon) after he had been asked to leave
- A protester has admitted having an imitation firearm near 10 Downing Street (London) and at a service station on the M1 motorway: he will be sentenced later.
- A man from Shilbottle (Northumberland) was given a 12-month community order after he was caught with an imitation firearm on the A1.
- A court heard that a paedophile from Billingham (Teesside) convicted of the rape and sexual assault of a young girl engaged children to play with BB guns.

GUN INCIDENTS – JULY 2008

ENGLAND

West Sussex County Times, 31 July 2008

Two men, Charles Carman and Nathan French, shot at men, women and children with a **ball-bearing gun** "for a laugh". Carman drove his white van around **Worthing** while high on cannabis as French took random shots at people. A 12-year-old boy was nearly blinded after being shot in the face and a man was shot in the shoulder in **Tarring**. The men have received suspended jail sentences, Carman a 16 week sentence in a young offenders' institution and French a 26-week sentence. Both have been given 120 hours' unpaid work.

This is Wiltshire, 31 July 2008

The village of **Pewsey** has been plagued by a six-month spate of criminal damage caused by pellets from an **airgun** or **ball-bearing gun**. Windows and lights have been smashed and villagers are worried that it is only a matter of time before someone is injured.

Echo (Essex), 31 July 2008

A 12-year-old schoolgirl was chased by boys wielding knives and **BB guns** in **Laindon**, Essex. The boys were aged around 11 or 12 and all three had BB guns.

Chorley Guardian, 31 July 2008

A man has been shot with an **air rifle** while walking across a field in **Chorley**, Lancashire. The victim had a pellet embedded in his stomach and suffered minor injuries.

Bucks Free Press, 31 July 2008

A man was discovered shot in the stomach by a member of the public in **Totteridge**, Buckinghamshire. He was taken to hospital with serious but not life threatening injuries. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and remains in custody.

Oxford Mail, 30 July 2008

Residents in homes in **Grove**, Oxfordshire, say yobs have plagued them with threatening behaviour for almost two years. Homes and gardens have been vandalised, bricks and eggs thrown and **airgun** shots fired at windows. The pensioner residents want a path rerouted around the outside of the site.

Evening Chronicle, 30 July 2008

An 18-year-old is claimed to have opened fire with an **air rifle** in **Slatyford**, Newcastle. A property was allegedly damaged. He has been charged with possession of a firearm.

BBC, 30 July 2008

Stanley Wilkinson and Simon Dawber have been sentenced to 8 years and 10 years in prison, respectively. Both men had previously been sentenced to 11 years for drug offences in Tayside, Scotland. The latest sentences follow a police raid in which guns (a sawn off shotgun and a converted **air rifle** and ammunition), heroin, amphetamine and ammunition were found in a lock-up garage in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester, in 2006. Dawber pleaded guilty to three firearm offences as drug offences. Wilkinson pleaded guilty to drug offences.

BBC, 30 July 2008

Two men who are alleged to have run an illegal gun factory to turn **replica guns** into live weapons, later used in 51 shootings including eight murders, have denied nine charges of firearms offences. The case follows the discovery of weapons and ammunition at **Three Mile Cross**, near Reading in Berkshire in July 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). One man is alleged to have bought 90 replica guns which he told the dealer were for a James Bond film. The pair converted the replicas into real Mac 10 sub-machine guns.

Burnley Express, 29 July 2008

A man from **Burnley** was expected to appear in court charged with two counts of battery and possession of a firearm and ammunition.

BBC, 29 July 2008

Five men arrested after officers were called to a firearms incident in **Desborough**, Northamptonshire, have been released. The police had found a man with facial injuries.

Henley Standard, 28 July 2008

A robber held up staff at a bookmakers in **Caversham**, Berkshire, at gunpoint and stole cash.

Evening Gazette, 28 July 2008

Sean Diggle from **Billingham**, Teesside, has been jailed indefinitely for the rape and sexual assault of a young girl. He had engaged children to play strip poker and with **BB guns** and knives.

BBC, 28 July 2008

Three men, one armed with a handgun robbed a post office in **Camp Hill**, Northampton. They forced a member of staff to let them into the counter area and stole cash.

Citizen (Preston), 27 July 2008

A 17-year-old is being questioned after a taxi driver was robbed of his takings at gunpoint. The driver was ambushed by three youths in **Fishwick** who demanded cash from him.

BBC, 27 July 2008

A man has been shot and killed outside a nightclub in **Limehouse**, east London. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by ambulance staff. A man has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 31 July 2008).

Somerset County Gazette, 26 July 2008

Henry Hayes was ejected from a hotel in **Dunster**, went home and picked up an **air weapon**. He was then seen holding the weapon up to his head as he crossed a road. He was arrested later after he had been persuaded to leave the gun at a friend's house. He pleaded guilty to carrying an air weapon in public. The case has been adjourned for a pre-sentence report.

Herald Express, 26 July 2008

John Loud, a 90-year-old RAF veteran from **Shaldon**, Devon, has pleaded guilty to possessing a **.22 air rifle** without the required firearms certificate in February 2008. He also pleaded guilty to possessing 13 .22 rimfire cartridges without a firearms certificate. In mitigation it was stated that Loud had always been interested in guns and that when he was a child "guns weren't taken as seriously as they are today". He was given a 12-month conditional discharge. The magistrates ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the firearm and ammunition.

Evening Star, 26 July 2008

A man shot himself in the head with a shotgun at the side of a fishing pond on **Orwell Park** estate in Suffolk in June 2008. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

Bolton News, 26 July 2008

Wayne Catterall has pleaded guilty to selling or transferring ammunition without a certificate and possession of a firearm. The charges followed the seizure by police of a shotgun and rounds of ammunition following raids in **Bury** in January 2008. Police found a sawn-off shotgun and eight loose cartridges. Two other men were later arrested. In May Michell Metcalf was jailed for two years after pleading guilty to possessing and supplying ammunition. The other man is awaiting trial.

BBC, 26 July 2008

Streets at **Belgrave Middleway**, Birmingham, were sealed off after reports that shots were fired, possibly from two vehicles. There was no evidence of anyone being hurt.

Guardian, 25 July 2008

Marcus Henry has been jailed for nine years for shooting a fellow clubber in **Central London** with a tiny key fob gun. His victim was lucky to survive being shot from close range in December 2007. He was found guilty of unlawful wounding and two firearms charges. Police believe around a hundred of the four-inch Bulgarian-made weapons are currently in circulation and have warned that they are highly dangerous.

Gazette (Blackpool), 25 July 2008

Karl Crookall was caught with a gun and ammunition in his luggage on a flight through **Blackpool** airport in September 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He had bought the F92-self loading **replica pistol** back after buying it from a shop in Spain. Security officers found the gun and 49 rounds of blank cartridges in his hand luggage. Crookall who held a firearms licence and was said to be fascinated by firearms claimed he did not realise he could not bring the weapon into Britain and did not think he had done anything wrong. He was sentenced to 28 days in prison, suspended for 12 months. He has voluntarily surrendered his firearms licence.

Bolton News, 25 July 2008

A 10-year-old girl was hit in the face by a plastic pellet fired from a **BB gun**, possibly by a boy as young as eight. She was playing in a park in **Astley Bridge** at the time. The girl was from Glasgow and was targeted by a group of boys who were abusing her because she was Scottish. The girl suffered bruising but escaped serious injury. A 10-year-old boy has been cautioned (*Evening Times* (Glasgow), 6 August 2008). The shopkeeper who sold the weapons has taken them off his shelves (*Bolton News*, 5 August 2008).

BBC, 25 July 2008

A drug dealer had been told that he faces a long prison term after he admitted two counts of possessing firearms and drugs offences. Simeon Moffatt reached for a loaded handgun during a raid at his former home in **Radford**, Nottingham, in February 2008. An identical gun was found in a search of his girlfriend's house.

Evening Leader, 24 July 2008

Several people were detained after police were called to a street in **Blacon**, Chester, following reports of a man brandishing a firearm. The siege was brought to a peaceful end. A man arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm has been released without charge. A woman was arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis. It is unclear if a firearm was actually involved.

Camden New Journal, 24 July 2008

A teenager was found bleeding from a bullet wound in **Camden Town**, north London. He flagged down a passing police car and told officers "I've been shot". A member of the same gang, The Money Squad, was the victim of a fatal shooting in the same area in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 24 July 2008

A man has been charged after more than 80 **imitation guns** were allegedly seized at a toy shop in **Salford**. He was charged with selling realistic imitation firearms.

Wigan Evening Post, 23 July 2008

Two Wigan men have been charged with firearm offences after two men were seen driving around **Newquay**, Cornwall, wielding an **air pistol**. The gun and a lock knife were seized when police stopped a car.

Mid Cheshire Chronicle, 23 July 2008

A 17-year-old boy will appear in court later this year charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. He is accused of firing a shot at a house in **Winsford** in June 2008.

Dudley News, 23 July 2008

A man from **Upper Gornal**, West Midlands, shot himself in the chest with his own shotgun an inquest has heard. A work colleague found him in the back garden of his home in March 2008. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

Birkenhead News, 23 July 2008

Bullets were fired at a car in what appears to have been a targeted shooting outside an apartment block in **Bebington**, Wirral. No one appears to have been injured in the incident.

BBC, 23 July 2008

Carl Fury, who was involved in the fatal shooting of a man in **Halewood**, Merseyside, in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)), has pleaded guilty to manslaughter and been jailed for twelve and a half years. He knew that the passenger in the car he was driving had a loaded gun with which they intended to intimidate the victim but did not intend to kill him.

BBC, 23 July 2008

A teenager was arrested and then released without charge after an incident involving a firearm in **Ribbleton**, Lancashire. A gun was found at a house.

BBC, 23 July 2008

A man armed with a gun stole money from a bank in **Hull**. No shots were fired and the offender made off on foot.

This is South Devon, 22 July 2008

Two gunmen tied up a father, a stamp dealer, and his sons during a robbery which took place at the family home in **Barton**, Devon. A shot is believed to have been fired accidentally. No one was badly injured, except one son who hurt his leg slightly in a jump from an upstairs window to escape. The raiders are reported to have posed as armed police and were carrying **ball-bearing guns**. Their haul of stamps was worth more than £400,000 (*Herald Express*, 23 July 2008).

The Citizen (Chorley), 22 July 2008

Police in **Chorley**, Lancashire, have sent out a stark warning following two incidents involving **BB guns**. A 15-year-old boy had a gun put to his head by a youngster, and although the gun was not loaded the victim was very distressed. A 17-year-old has been arrested. The second incident happened outside a high school when youngsters fired a BB gun. Another 17-year-old was arrested and charged with firearms offences.

BBC, 21 July 2008

A man was in custody after being arrested in **Norwich** following reports of a man claiming to have a gun and threatening to harm himself and others.

This is South Devon, 19 July 2008

Armed police surrounded a property in **Teignmouth** after a man was reported to be firing shots from the address. No one was hurt in the stand-off which lasted two hours. It was confirmed that an **air rifle** was being fired at buildings in the area.

Liverpool Echo, 19 July 2008

Christopher McGhee has been jailed for 12 years after shooting a landlord's brother in the leg. McGhee had been thrown out of a pub in **Kensington**, Liverpool, in November 2007. He returned later with a handgun and confronted his victim. Five bullet casings were found at the scene. McGhee was convicted of wounding with intent and two offences of possessing a handgun with intent to endanger life.

BBC, 18 July 2008

A man went into a bookmakers in **Leicester** and threatened a worker with what was thought to be a gun. The offender escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

BBC, 18 July 2008

Two men were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences at the scene of a car crash in **Pelaw**, Tyneside. A bag, pulled from a car which pulled into the path of another vehicle, was found to contain a shotgun and cartridges.

Thorne and District Gazette, 17 July 2008

Ball bearings were fired at a party being held in the garden of a property in **Hatfield**, South Yorkshire. One of the homeowners was hit. Two bearings also smashed a bedroom of the house.

Lincolnshire Echo, 17 July 2008

Armed police were called out after reports of an **air rifle** fired at a car in **Gainsborough**. No arrests were made.

BBC, 17 July 2008

A 16-year-old was taken to hospital with a pellet embedded in his forehead following an incident at a pub in **Eighton Banks**, Gateshead on Tyneside. Two men, aged 17 and 20, were questioned, but the police have concluded that the **airgun** was not deliberately discharged.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 16 July 2008

James Chittock has been sentenced to jail for five years having admitted possession of a prohibited weapon, a sawn-off shotgun. He purchased the gun from a man in **Welwyn Garden City**, Hertfordshire, for £400. He and another man were involved in an incident in the town in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) when two gunshots were fired in a field behind his home.

This is Plymouth, 16 July 2008

Police recovered three dangerous weapons, a gun and two knives, after being called to an 'organised fight' between schoolchildren at a restaurant in **Crownhill**, Plymouth. The gun was a G2000 Repeater 1.77-calibre **air pistol**. Two teenagers were arrested and were being questioned by police.

This is Local London, 16 July 2008

Two men were kidnapped by a gang armed with a gun and a baseball bat and were seen being dragged into a house in **Kingston**, south west London, last month. The kidnappers left the property and the victims smashed windows to escape. Three men have been arrested. A police spokesman said the hostages had been kidnapped from **Southwark**, south London.

Champion, 16 July 2008

Three teenagers were arrested in **Formby**, Lancashire, after allegedly threatening a train inspector with a gun. The incident happened when they were escorted off the train after they were unable to present valid tickets. A **ball-bearing gun** was later discovered.

Skegness Standard, 15 July 2008

A gunman entered a betting shop at Butlins in **Ingoldmells**, Lincolnshire, and demanded the staff hand over cash.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 15 July 2008

Shots have been fired at a tram in **Rossall**, Blackpool, on successive nights. In one of the **airgun** attacks an elderly couple were covered in shards of glass.

Evening Telegraph (Northamptonshire), 15 July 2008

Patrick Kenrick was caught hiding in a cupboard with a stun gun after fleeing the scene of a domestic dispute in **Wellingborough**. He pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon and could face a lengthy jail sentence.

Burton Mail, 15 July 2008

A quad biker was hospitalised after being shot with an **air rifle** pellet in **Rolleston**, Staffordshire. The female victim suffered a wound three millimetres deep. The shot was fired from vegetation at the bottom of gardens at the back of houses. A man wearing a military styled jacket was seen acting suspiciously after the shooting. As part of their house to house enquiries police seized an air rifle, which will now be destroyed, however there is no suggestion that the weapon was used in the attack.

BBC, 15 July 2008

Lance Hasdell has been found guilty of possessing a prohibited firearm and using it to cause fear of violence. He was arrested in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, after an incident in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, in April 2007 in which he threatened some youths with a sawn-off shotgun. The gun was found in October 2007 in a laundry basket in Luton. He has been warned by the judge that the minimum jail term for having a prohibited firearm was five years.

Banbury Guardian, 15 July 2008

At the trial of a man from **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, who is charged with attempted murder and grievous bodily harm his former partner described how he had become violent and controlling, even threatening her with an **airgun**.

Gazette & Herald, 14 July 2008

Jamie Antal, 19, has admitted having an **imitation firearm** during a staged armed robbery at the supermarket where he worked in **Malmesbury**, Wiltshire. He also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal and perverting the course of justice. Two other men, David Locke-Wheaton and Brian Jones, also admitted conspiracy to steal and possessing an imitation firearm. A fourth man has pleaded not guilty and will face trial. In April 2008 Antal claimed to have been the victim of an armed robbery but it was later found the whole event had been staged and a metal cigarette lighter shaped like an automatic pistol was recovered.

BBC, 14 July 2008

A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill and possessing a firearm following an armed siege in **Consett**, County Durham. A street was sealed off after reports that a man had a gun in a flat. Three men, a woman and two children were able to leave and a man surrendered five hours later. He was bailed pending further inquiries.

The Argus, 14 July 2008

Cab drivers have been warned by detectives to be on their guard after a spate of armed robberies. Two cabbies in **Crawley**, Sussex, have been robbed at gunpoint while waiting for their fares. In the latest incident the driver was threatened by a man with a handgun who stole a small quantity of cash. Forty-eight hours earlier there had been a similar robbery.

This is Hampshire, 13 July 2008

A man brandishing a gun pointed it at staff in a bookmakers in **Bassett**, Southampton, and demanded cash. The staff confronted the man and gave chase out of the shop.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 12 July 2008

An **airgun** was among items stolen from a portable cabin at a business park in **Paddock**.

This is Lancashire, 11 July 2008

A man in **Standish** had a handgun pointed at him by three men as they assaulted him and stole his Bentley car. He had been warned by his wife that three men were acting suspiciously near their home.

Northumberland Gazette, 11 July 2008

Matthew Johnson from **Shilbottle** was given a 12-month community order for possessing an **imitation firearm** and failing to comply with a direction order. He was caught with it when a car he was travelling in was stopped by police on the A1. The gun, which he admitted to buying from a friend that day, was found in the back of the car.

Citizen (Gloucestershire), 11 July 2008

Armed police stormed a home in **Newent** after a man allegedly threatened youths with an **air rifle**. A firearms warrant was executed at the cottage following the incident five days earlier. The police seized two firearms and arrested a man on suspicion of being in possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

BBC, 11 July 2008

A young man has been shot dead in **Spital Hill**, Sheffield, in what is believed to have been a targeted attack. The 17-year-old victim was shot in a barber's shop. The police believe he was carrying a firearm and that the shooting may be gang-related (*BBC*, 12 July 2008). Six people have been held and released on bail and a 19-year-old has also been arrested (*BBC*, 24 July 2008).

This is Total Essex, 10 July 2008

Armed robbers fled with just a few pounds in loose change after holding a bus driver at gunpoint in **Waltham Abbey**. One of the men said he had a gun, but the driver only saw something that he thought might have been a handgun.

Lancashire Evening Post, 10 July 2008

A taxi driver was robbed of his takings during an armed hold up in **Clayton Brook**. The offender, who was carrying a gun, demanded he handed over all his cash.

Goole & Howden Courier, 10 July 2008

An 18-year-old has appeared before magistrates charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear or violence, possession of an imitation firearm in a public place and attempted robbery. The charges follow an incident at a takeaway in **Goole**, East Yorkshire.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 10 July 2008

A shotgun, ammunition and a quantity of drugs were recovered by police when they executed a search warrant on a house in **Northern Moor**, south Manchester.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 10 July 2008

A man is critically ill in hospital after he was shot in **Everton**, Liverpool. Police officers found the victim with a gunshot wound to his chest. His condition is critical by stable.

Devon 24, 10 July 2008

A Falco single barrel .410 calibre shotgun was stolen during a house burglary in **Alfington**, Devon.

Whitehaven News, 9 July 2008

Warnings have gone out from police about the use of **air rifles** in and around the village of **Moresby Parks**, Cumbria, where two have already been seized. The police action was taken in response to concern from some members of the public about the use of air rifles and the associated risk to pet animals.

The Star (Sheffield), 9 July 2008

A 16-year-old boy was taken home by police after he was spotted carrying what officer thought was a machine gun in **Creswell**. The gun turned out to be a **ball bearing gun**. The weapon was later destroyed. The dangers of carrying imitation weapons in public were discussed with the teenager and his parents.

Northern Echo, 9 July 2008

A man has been found not guilty of carrying out a gunpoint raid at a shop in **Seaham**, County Durham, in January 2007. The man had been arrested and an **imitation handgun** found under his bed, but the court heard that the imitation Taurus-type handgun had been given to his 4-year-old son by an uncle.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 9 July 2008

A man was arrested in **Lavendon**, Buckinghamshire, following an incident in which a single shotgun round was fired through the window of a house in **Northampton**. Two people were inside but were uninjured.

News & Star, 9 July 2008

Adam Hoyle was caught with a 1917 Luger pistol which he had taken to his home in **Kirkby Stephen**, Cumbria, after finding it in a skip. He was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work. He admitted possessing the pistol without a licence.

Lancashire Evening Post, 9 July 2008

A woman who visited the police station in **Leyland** to try and hand over a gun, a Colt 45, has been told that she risked arrest for possessing a firearm. The weapon belonged to her late ex-husband and she had found it when clearing out a shed: he had collected firearms as part of his passion for cowboy films. The police have advised anyone in a similar situation not to handle a firearm or take it into a public area, but instead to call police who will deploy suitably-skilled officers to the incident".

BBC, 9 July 2008

A security guard was robbed at gunpoint at a service station in **Digbeth**, Birmingham. The gunman threatened the guard before taking a money bag and escaping.

Batley News, 9 July 2008

Six people were arrested after an **air pistol** was fired during an argument at a petrol station in **Batley**, West Yorkshire. Those arrested included three 15-year-old girls and a 17-year-old man.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 8 July 2008

Thieves put a gun to the head of a taxi driver in **Wythenshawe**, Manchester, before robbing him. The doors of his vehicle were pulled open and he was confronted by three men. The men stole a quantity of cash and other items before running off.

Express & Echo, 8 July 2008

A street in **Exeter** was cordoned off as police arrested a man following an offence involving a **ball-bearing gun**. He was reported to police after allegedly aiming the gun at nearby seagulls.

BBC, 8 July 2008

Five teenagers were arrested after a person was threatened with what police believe was a gun at a shopping centre in **Basingstoke**, Hampshire. The youths were detained on suspicion of offences including affray and possessing an offensive weapon and assault.

BBC, 8 July 2008

Part of **Woking**, Surrey, was closed off after residents reported that gun shots were being fired from a building. The police said a **ball bearing gun** and pellets were found at the scene.

Argus Lite, 8 July 2008

A masked robber waved a pistol in a security guard's face as he delivered cash to a building society branch in **Hove**, Sussex. The gunman grabbed the cashbox and ran off.

West Sussex County Times, 7 July 2008

A masked gunman robbed a bookies in **Broadfield Barton**. He entered the shop and threatened staff with what has been described as a handgun. He took an undisclosed sum of cash before fleeing on foot.

This is Exeter, 7 July 2008

Christopher Gibbons has admitted taking an **imitation firearm** back to a nightclub in **Exmouth**, Devon, after he was ordered to leave in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He also wandered the streets with a samurai sword. He will be sentenced later.

Evening Post (Bristol), 7 July 2008

A teenager was threatened by a man who pulled a handgun on him and a woman in a park in **Long Ashton**. The gun was later found to be an imitation. A man was arrested on suspicion of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm**.

Evening Herald (Plymouth), 7 July 2008

Five men have pleaded guilty to common assault, and one of them has also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent and to attempting to intimidate a witness. The men burst into a home in **Plymouth** and viciously attacked a middle-aged man and his stepson. They also threatened to petrol-bomb the house. Curtis Peacock returned several months later in December 2007 and shot at the house repeatedly with an **airgun** in a bid to terrify the victim into dropping charges. Peacock was given two 16-month terms in a young offenders' institution for the firearms and witness intimidation offences plus two months for assault. The other men were also given custodial sentences.

Daily Echo, 7 July 2008

Dorset Police have apologised to a man who was pinned to **Bournemouth** railway station platform by armed police in a case of mistaken identity. He was ordered at gunpoint to lie on the ground following an alleged armed incident in **Basingstoke**, Hampshire. The IPPC has told Dorset police to investigate the case (*This is Hampshire*, 9 July 2008).

Coventry Telegraph, 7 July 2008

Paul Heath, 20, and Deke Hogan, 19, have been jailed for threatening staff at a shop in **Willenhall**, Coventry, with a knife and an **imitation gun** during a raid in September 2007. They stole a jar of cash containing £17. They were given custodial sentences of two-and-a-half years and a minimum of four-and-a-half-years, respectively. Hogan was in breach of a suspended sentence imposed for assaulting a police officer.

BBC, 7 July 2008

A teenage girl and two men have been arrested after a gun was found at a house in **Blackpool**, Lancashire. Police are trying to establish what type of gun was recovered. One man is still being questioned but the other two have been released (*The Gazette* (Blackpool), 8 July 2008).

Northern Echo, 6 July 2008

A man will appear in court following his arrest for allegedly being in possession of a firearm and a quantity of drugs. It follows a previous incident in which a firearm was discharged at a house in the **Berwick** area.

BBC, 6 July 2008

A man was shot during an incident in **Dudley**, West Midlands. Emergency services found a man with stomach injuries. He was taken to hospital where his condition is described as stable.

Gloucestershire Echo, 5 July 2008

Joseph Rose, 19, has been fined £250 and given 80 hours' community service after pleading guilty to brandishing an **air rifle** in public. He was spotted by police carrying the gun along a street in **Cheltenham**. He was seen to cock the empty gun and fire it four times. At the time of the incident he was under a community order after being convicted for his part in handling stolen property.

BBC, 5 July 2008

A man was threatened at gunpoint by two men who stole goods from his home in **Oxley**, Wolverhampton.

BBC, 5 July 2008

Joseph Greenland has been told that he would serve a minimum of 30 years in prison after being convicted of murdering a man at a party in **Carshalton**, Surrey, in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He fired six shots at his victim.

Evening Post (Bristol), 4 July 2008

Rangano Powell, who shot a **Bristol** nightclub doorman after being barred, has been sentenced to a minimum of three years in jail. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and attempting to cause grievous bodily harm.

Skegness Standard, 3 July 2008

A man was discovered with a shotgun wound to his head in a lane at **Chapel St Leonards**, Lincolnshire. The death has been reported to HM Coroner and an inquest is due to be opened.

Cheshire Chronicle, 3 July 2008

John Chiotis pleaded not guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear after his shotgun went off at his home in **Mickle Trafford** after he argued with his daughter. He has escaped trial after his daughter retracted a statement to police. The judge said that "It was an accident that should never have been allowed to happen. Having a loaded firearm in the house is wholly inappropriate whatever the circumstances". Chiotis was bound over to keep the peace for two years and his licence was revoked.

BBC, 3 July 2008

A gunman has held up a bank in **Oxted**, Surrey. He shouted at customers and threatened staff with a small gun. He escaped with a second man who waited outside the bank.

BBC, 3 July 2008

A man thought to be brandishing a gun was shot with a plastic bullet and stun gun in an armed stand-off with police. The incident occurred in the **Kenton** area of Newcastle and is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

BBC, 3 July 2008

A third man has been shot in a targeted shooting in Liverpool in five days. The victim was shot in **Kensington** and was being treated for a gunshot wound to his right leg. The police say that the shooting is not linked to the other shootings.

Sussex Express, 2 July 2008

Two men are on trial both charged with blackmailing and threatening two men in August 2007. They are alleged to have held a businessman hostage at gun point at an address in **Crawley**.

Liverpool Daily Post, 2 July 2008

Police cordoned off part of an estate in **Norris Green** after several reports of a shooting.

Liverpool Daily Post, 2 July 2008

Neil Delacruz has pleaded guilty to taking a revolver with cartridges to his mother's house in **Childwall**, Merseyside, and attacking another man in April 2008. The gun was fired and a bullet was later found in the room. He denied further charges including possessing a firearm and ammunition. A woman accused with him denied possessing a prohibited weapon and ammunition and making threats to kill and unlawfully wounding the victim.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 2 July 2008

A man had a handgun held to his head by masked robbers in **Manchester**. His mobile phone was stolen.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 2 July 2008

Two 17-year-olds have been arrested after an incident involving an **airgun** in **Corby**. A cyclist was struck in the body with an airgun pellet causing him to swerve into the road.

Bexley Telegraph, 2 July 2008

Two men are on trial accused of murdering a man who died after being shot in the stomach during a stand-off between two groups of young men in **Woolwich**, south east London, in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Both were cleared of murder and manslaughter after claiming that the pistol went off by accident. One of the defendants claimed he found a gun lying on the ground and picked it up fearing he might be attacked, but he did not deliberately fire it. Musa Ibrahim admitted holding the gun (*This is Local London*, 25 July 2008).

BBC, 2 July 2008

A house in **Derby** was damaged after shots, apparently from a replica **airgun**, were fired. A window was smashed and a car was damaged during the incident. A man was arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage.

This is Hampshire, 1 July 2008

Armed robbers threatened staff with a handgun in a raid on a betting shop in **Swaythling**, Southampton. A handgun was pointed at staff. The gang of three men escaped with cash in excess of £1,000.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 1 July 2008

Andrew Heron, a former soldier, has been jailed for three-and-a-half years after threatening a cashier at a petrol station in **Northampton** with a **ball-bearing gun**. The incident took place in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)).

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 1 July 2008

A teenage boy was recovering from surgery to his left eye after being shot with a **ball-bearing gun** as he was fishing in **Northampton**. A 17-year-old boy was arrested and released on police bail following the incident. The victim's father has revealed that his son could have the pellet in his eye for the rest of his life (*Evening Telegraph*, 7 July 2008).

Fleetwood Weekly News, 1 July 2008

Paul Farnhill was arrested near **10 Downing Street** with an **imitation firearm** in January 2008. He had also been found with the weapon at **Watford Gap** service station. He admitted having an imitation firearm on both occasions and will be sentenced later.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 1 July 2008

Ross Peters fired a sawn-off shotgun through the window of his neighbour in **Rushden**. It followed a long-running feud. He has been given an indeterminate prison sentence after he admitted three counts of possessing a firearm and threatening his neighbour in January 2008. He apparently acquired the gun from a farmer and kept it in the hope of going clay pigeon shooting.

Evening Chronicle, 1 July 2008

A pub landlord in **Knitsley** near Consett, County Durham, has been robbed at gunpoint. The robber took over more than £3000 in cash and rode off on a motorcycle. A man and a woman have been arrested and police have seized a firearm (*BBC*, 4 July 2008).

SCOTLAND

BBC, 31 July 2008

Nayden Zhelyazkov has admitted carrying out an armed robbery at a betting shop in **Glenrothes**, Fife. He was carrying what seemed to be a gun at the time. He escaped with about £6000 following the raid in April 2008. He admitted robbing staff by presenting an **imitation gun** at them. Sentencing was deferred.

Sunday Mail, 20 July 2008

A cache of illegal weapons was found at the home of the parents of an army sergeant, Duncan MacGillivray. He took the guns after tours in Iraq, Northern Ireland, the Falklands and Germany. They included an AK-47 rifle, a Browning Hi-power sidearm a SPAS-12 shotgun and an MK4 submachine gun. As a quartermaster he had access to weapons and ammunition, and were found during a raid on the house in **Dunoon**, Argyll. Although deactivated they could all have been used as firearms. Some were covered by MacGillivray's firearms certificate but five guns and 2500 bullets found were illegal. He has found guilty of seven offences including the possession of illegal firearms and ammunition and faces a heavy jail term.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 19 July 2008

Vytautas Gulbinavicius has pleaded guilty to putting cabin crew and passengers in a state of fear and alarm after telling a member of the cabin crew of a flight from **Edinburgh** to Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt) that he had a gun. The flight was halted on the runway. Sentence was deferred.

West Lothian Courier, 17 July 2008

Christopher Dunbar, 20, threatened to kill someone with an **air rifle** he was carrying in **Bathgate** in May 2007. He pleaded guilty to breach of the peace, being in possession of the gun and to causing his victim to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him. He has been given a supervised attendance order.

Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser, 16 July 2008

James Kerr has been sentenced to two years in jail for an attempted robbery on a store in **Plains**, Lanarkshire, in March 2008. He had been armed with a knife, a noose and a **fake gun**. The shopkeeper tussled with him and gave him money from his pocket, but was able to grab the knife and gun. Kerr had been drinking at the time.

Sunday Mail, 13 July 2008

A suspect wanted for a shooting outside a **Glasgow** nightclub in July 2004 was arrested in during a raid by police on a block of flats in Glasgow's west end. A man and a woman were injured when a sawn-off shotgun was discharged in the 2004 incident.

Evening Times, 9 July 2008

A masked gunman threatened a security guard delivering cash to a bank in **Clydebank**. The thief fled empty-handed after grabbing an empty cash box.

Evening Times, 7 July 2008

A gunman threatened staff and stole cash during a robbery at a **Glasgow** betting shop. He threatened two male members of staff with a gun and demanded money.

Press & Journal, 5 July 2008

A window at **Aberdeen** Town House has been smashed with what appears to have been a "bullet". More than £1000 of damage was caused.

Evening Times, 4 July 2008

Stewart Edwards has been jailed for three years for carrying out an assault with intent to rob with an **imitation firearm** after trying to rob a post office in **Glasgow** in January 2006.

BBC, 3 July 2008

James Cryans held up a pub in **East Kilbride** in September 2007 whilst armed with a Taser gun. He stole £6000. He was caught after he left his glasses at the scene. He has admitted the robbery.

Dumbarton Reporter, 1 July 2008

Armed police arrived at a primary school in **Dumbarton** after reports that an assault involving a shotgun had occurred. No gun was found, but a man was arrested for the alleged possession of drugs with intent to supply.

WALES

News Wales, 22 July 2008

An 18-year-old girl who was at a bus stop in **Newport** was approached by a man who demanded money and threatened her with what appeared to be a short-barrelled handgun. The assailant ran off with a small amount of cash.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Midweek Herald, 30 July 2008

A teenager from **Axminster**, Devon, has been left devastated by the amputation of her cat's leg. The wound appeared to have been caused by a bullet which had shattered the bone, though it seems likely that an **airgun** was used.

BBC, 28 July 2008

Someone went into a garden in **Rushden**, Northamptonshire, and shot a pet rabbit at close range in the head with an **air weapon**. The rabbit, which was running free in a pen, was killed.

Lowestoft Journal, 26 July 2008

Police are appealing for information after a baby seagull was killed by an **air weapon** in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. It was found still alive but with severe injuries to a wing and had to be put to sleep.

Western Mail, 24 July 2008

A cat has been shot dead in what the RSPCA has described as a "brutal" attack. The animal was shot in the neck using an **air rifle** in **Varteg**, Pontypool. The incident follows a number of attacks against birds in the same area.

East Lothian Courier, 24 July 2008

A vet says that a horse is "very lucky" to be alive after it was shot in the neck with an **airgun** at a farm at **Whitehill Mains**. The pellet lodged in his throat narrowly missing the main artery.

Horncastle News, 23 July 2008

A third **air rifle** attack in a month in **Horncastle**, Lincolnshire, has left another cat dead. The pet was discovered in a field at the bottom of her owner's garden. She had been shot in the back of the neck.

Maidenhead Advertiser, 22 July 2008

Two swans have been shot with an **airgun** in **Iver**, Buckinghamshire. The male was dead after being shot in the neck and the female, who was nursing seven cygnets with her partner, was shot under the wing and has had to have the wing amputated. She and the cygnets were taken to a rescue centre.

Devon 24, 22 July 2008

Police in **Honiton** are urging the public to be aware of the seriousness of using air weapons in a public place following three cat shootings. Two of the animals died, the third sustained serious injuries.

South Wales Echo, 18 July 2008

A cat was left in agony after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Canton**, Cardiff. The pellet had gone almost all the way through his body, grazing his stomach and kidneys. His owner has now had to spend almost £1000 on vets' bills to help the cat recover.

Scarborough Evening News, 18 July 2008

Pellets from a **ball bearing gun** were found near the scene of a donkey shelter in **Scarborough**, North Yorkshire, which had been attacked by vandals. There were no signs, however, that the donkeys had been harmed.

Manchester Evening News, 18 July 2008

A vet has appealed for an end to gun attacks on animals after another cat was shot. The pet was shot in the back near his home in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester. The **airgun** pellet smashed into his spine narrowly missing vital organs.

Evening Leader, 18 July 2008

A cat has been shot with a pellet gun on a street in **Blacon**, Chester. A vet discovered that a pellet had smashed the animal's femur and had become lodged in the leg muscle. The pellet must have been fired at close range or come from a high powered **air rifle**, according to a vet.

Great Yarmouth Mercury, 17 July 2008

Another cat was the target of an **airgun** sniper in **Bradwell**, Norfolk. He was shot in the side, piercing his diaphragm and damaging his kidneys and liver.

Camden New Journal, 17 July 2008

A dog was shot by an **air rifle** sniper whilst he was playing in a back garden in **Highgate**, north London. It was the second time he had been shot in six months. His owner found him with blood pouring from his side. She says she won't let her children go out in the garden alone.

BBC, 17 July 2008

A young pet cat has lost an eye after being shot with an **airgun** in **Bishopmill**, Elgin in Moray. A vet found a pellet and removed the eye.

Horncastle News, 15 July 2008

A second cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Horncastle**, Lincolnshire, in two weeks. The injury was so severe that the vet could not do anything to save him.

Sunday People, 13 July 2008

Two cats belonging to the same family have been shot in **Scunthorpe**, Lincolnshire. One had to be put to sleep after an **airgun** pellet shattered her spine. Another cat was shot at close range between the eyes in **Polebrook**, Northamptonshire. The same article reports the recent shooting of swans with airguns in **Peterborough** (one bird found riddled with pellets), **Northamptonshire** (two birds shot at point-blank range after being lured by three youths waving bread) and **Hickling** in Leicestershire (three birds shot in the head and neck).

Pontypridd Observer, 10 July 2008

Two pet horses have been killed inside 48 hours on the same farm in **Efail Isaf**, South Wales. One died of a heart attack, but the second horse died after being hit by **airgun** pellets.

This is Derbyshire, 8 July 2008

A cat has been blinded in one eye after being shot twice with an **airgun** in **Long Eaton**. It is believed that the culprit has used an air weapon to attack other animals in the area.

BBC, 8 July 2008

Two nests of herring gull chicks have been orphaned after the death of three adult birds who were illegally shot with an **airgun** in **Newquay**, Cornwall.

Gazette, 7 July 2008

A cat was fighting for its life after being shot for a second time. He had to have major surgery after being hit with an **air rifle** pellet in **Colchester**, Essex.

Eastern Daily Press, 2 July 2008

A cat owner in **Brandon**, Suffolk, who thought her cat had been hit by a car, discovered, after an x-ray at her vets, that her pet had an **air rifle** pellet lodged in his spinal cord. The cat had to be put to sleep.