

## JUNE 2005 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Fatal shooting incidents occurred in Crayford and Yorkhill (Glasgow). A victim has also died several months after being shot in Dagenham (his death is now being treated as murder). Three men have been charged with the murder of a man in Nottingham in March. Victims were injured in a number of shooting incidents in London: Streatham (during a raid), Elephant & Castle (outside a club), New Cross Road (victim found in a crashed car), Brixton (two incidents) and Archway (victim shot from a scooter). Other incidents which resulted in injuries took place in Robertsbridge, Fallowfield (Manchester), Nottingham, Wooton (Shropshire), Swansea and Butetown. In Manchester a woman bystander was injured when a gunman apparently accidentally dropped his weapon outside a jewellery shop.
- **Armed Hold-ups** - This month the number of reported armed hold-ups appears to have risen. A man was seriously injured during a raid on a roofing business in Streatham and there were armed raids on betting shops in Arnold, Warwick and Islington, on security guards at a building society in Holbrooks (Coventry), on shops in Holbrooks, Wokingham and Earley, a sandwich bar in Camden Town, on filling stations in Witham and near Bicester, on a dog racing stadium in Harlow, as well as street robberies in Caterham (two separate incidents) and Ealing (in which a dog was taken), an attack on a taxi in Willenhall (Coventry) and armed abductions in Stockport and Neasden. There were also armed attacks on homes in South Woodham Ferrers and Purley. Seven gunpoint robberies were reported to have taken place in a single park in Wembley. Shots were fired in a street in Highfields (Leicester) and at revellers at a wedding reception in Timworth (Bury St Edmunds). A gun, possibly a blank-firing weapon, was fired on the doorstep of a house in Bradley Mills (Huddersfield).
- **Police Raids** - Firearms were recovered in police raids linked to drugs in Cuxton and Ipswich, and a man was questioned after a shotgun was found following a lengthy stand-off with police in Paston (Peterborough).
- **Imitation Guns** - Youngsters are still not heeding messages about the dangers of carrying imitation guns (including BB guns) in public. Incidents were reported from Woodhatch (Surrey), Loughborough, Burnley (two incidents), Sunderland, Barkingside (involving students filming an A-level project) and three in Blackpool, in one of which a bus driver was shot in the face. In Fenny Stratford a drunken man fired an imitation gun in a pub

- car park. In view of the public concern about this type of incident it is difficult to have any sympathy with the Salisbury parent who complained that the police had threatened to arrest his son for using a cap gun in the street or with the traders in Bathgate Market who sold an imitation automatic rifle to a 15-year-old.
- In yet another incident at a school, a pupil in Carlisle was shot in the head with an imitation gun. Three boys were struck with plastic pellets fired by two teenagers in Dunfermline. In Stoke (Bromsgrove) a 12-year-old was reported to have been shot with one, a teenager was shot at a bus stop in Solihull and a man attacked in an Isleworth street. A pellet gun was used by a driver in Oswestry to threaten two men, BB guns were fired at RSPCA inspectors at Appleby Horse Fair, a man brandished one at door staff at a Peterborough nightclub, a youth threatened a teenager in Sheffield, a Cambridge man was remanded after holding his landlord captive whilst armed with one, and a man has been charged with smashing car windows using one. A restaurant window in West Didsbury was damaged after a shot from a BB gun was fired through it
  - The following cases came to court in June. A man was convicted of rape - he terrorised his victim with a black plastic toy gun. A man was convicted of robbing two Shropshire post offices whilst armed with an imitation gun. A man was jailed after threatening to shoot a 12-year-old girl in Kentish Town: he was armed with a replica gun. A Norwich man has been made homeless after being convicted for causing alarm in the city centre by waving an imitation gun, and an Oxford man, who although he had his sentence reduced, failed to have his conviction for waving a toy gun at two youths overturned.
  - **Injuries from Airguns** - There were a number of incidents in which victims were hit by airgun pellets. These included an attack on a firefighter in Borehamwood and a workman in West Rainton, but the majority of the reported attacks were on young people. In Leigh a 12-year-old girl required surgery after being hit in the back of the head, in Wortley a teenage girl victim required hospital treatment for two days, in Little Hallingbury a 13-year-old boy was hit in the leg, in Norwich a 17-year-old victim was hit whilst walking in the street, in Roystonhill in Glasgow the victim was a teenage boy playing football and in Alloa the 14-year-old victim was hit in the face. In the majority of cases the perpetrators appear to have been youths.
  - Following a trial two men have been jailed after their nephew was hit and seriously injured during a lamping expedition with air rifles in Castleford in September 2004.
  - **Airgun Attacks and Vandalism** - Airgun attacks were also responsible for damage to vehicles and property, each one of which caused alarm but could also have caused injury. Cars were targeted in the Huntingdon/Hartford area and in Grove Hill (Middlesbrough), buses were

hit in Islington and Orton Goldhay (Peterborough) (the latter attack has prompted CCTV cameras to be installed on buses), and a Bellshill youth was fined after he had fired at a school bus "to scare someone". Airguns have also damaged church windows in Coventry. The reckless disregard for the safety of others was demonstrated by the firing of an airgun next to a school in Fairwater, Cardiff, and a man has been fined after causing alarm by firing an air rifle at rabbits in Mold. Police officers were commended for their courage in facing a man who threatened them with a loaded air rifle in Livingstone. Two brothers aged 12 and 10 from Newport were placed under Asbos for offences including shooting at people with airguns.

- **Animals** - This month there was another sickening list of incidents in which pets and other animals had been shot with airguns: many were killed. Cats are a frequent target, but the list also included a dog who was killed in its own back garden and a number of birds including ducks, swans, pigeons, a jackdaw and a goose and its gosling. In another incident a farmer found nine six-week-old lambs shot dead with a rifle.

## JUNE 2005 – INCIDENTS

### ENGLAND

*Streatham Guardian*, 30 June 2005

Two men who stormed a roofing business in **Streatham** demanding cash left a victim for dead after shooting him in the stomach. The men left empty handed but the victim is in hospital in a serious condition.

*icSurrey*, 30 June 2005

A CCTV operator spotted a group of teenagers in **Woodhatch** with what appeared to be a gun. Armed police officers were quickly on the scene and a **ball-bearing gun** was seized from a 14-year-old boy.

*Huntingdon Today*, 30 June 2005

The rear near-side window of a car was smashed by an **air rifle pellet** in an incident on the A141 at **Hartford**. In an earlier incident the window of another car was cracked near the Hartford roundabout. The driver stopped and saw two youths, aged between 13 and 15. Police say there may be a possible link to another attack on a car in **Huntingdon** in February 2005.

*BBC*, 30 June 2005

Sussex Police have recovered guns after a double shooting at a travellers' site in **Robertsbridge**. One man was shot in the arm and the other in the neck. One victim underwent surgery and was in a hospital under armed guard. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

*BBC*, 30 June 2005

A woman bystander was shot in the back of the leg outside a jewellery shop in **Manchester**. It is thought that the gunman accidentally dropped the gun and a shot went off. It has been suggested that the gunman was having difficulty walking because he was wearing sandals and that was the reason for the weapon being discharged (*PA News*, 30 June 2005).

*BBC*, 30 June 2005

Police raids at a travellers' site in **Cuxton**, near Strood, led to guns, cash and drugs being seized. A total of 32 guns, including two machine-gun type weapons, were recovered. Eighteen people were arrested and released on bail pending inquiries.

*Shropshire Star*, 29 June 2005

Two men were threatened with a handgun by a driver in a supermarket car park in **Oswestry**. The incident appeared to follow an earlier road rage incident. Police said they went to an address where they found a **BB gun**, and a man was arrested.

*Islington Gazette*, 29 June 2005

A 476 bus travelling past the New River Green Estate, **Islington**, came under attack from an **air rifle** sniper. A window on the upper deck was shattered.

*Evening News (Norwich)*, 29 June 2005

Richard Squires, a physically and mentally disabled man, has been made homeless by **Norwich** City Council after being convicted for possessing a firearm. Families living near him have said he had been a nightmare neighbour. He had been sentenced to six weeks in jail for causing alarm in the city centre by waving an **imitation firearm**.

*Cambridge Evening News*, 29 June 2005

Samuel Heatlie has been remanded in custody after being accused of holding his landlord captive whilst armed with a **plastic pellet gun**. The incident occurred in **Cambridge**.

*BBC*, 29 June 2005

A dog owner was forced to hand over his pet to a man armed with a handgun in **Ealing**, west London. The dog was reunited with its owner after it was spotted in a nearby street days later.

*PA News*, 28 June 2005

Two brothers who delayed taking their seriously ill nephew to hospital after he was shot in the head during a "lamping" expedition near **Castleford** were jailed for 15 and 12 months. John Norton and Stephen Norton made a series of "disastrous decisions" to try to cover up the shooting. The victim, now 13, has been left permanently brain damaged with the pellet from a **gas-powered air rifle** still lodged in his brain. The shot was accidentally fired by a family friend who is due to appear before magistrates next month. (See [September 2004 Incidents](#)).

*icCoventry*, 28 June 2005

One window is being broken at a **Coventry** church about every month, sometimes by **airgun pellets** being fired through glass.

*BBC*, 28 June 2005

A man carrying a handgun stole £4000 from a betting shop in **Warwick**. The manager was alone inside when the robbery took place.

*BBC*, 28 June 2005

Two gun crimes on the same day in **Caterham-on-the-Hill** were probably not linked according to police. In the first a silver handgun was pointed at the victim by a man who asked him for a cigarette. In the second three men threatened five teenagers with a black handgun and stole their mobile phones.

*Peterborough Today*, 27 June 2005

Police swooped on a house in **Paston** following calls about a disturbance and reports that a man had a gun. After a stand-off for several hours the door was opened and police found a shotgun downstairs and then questioned a man on suspicion of firearms offences.

*BBC*, 27 June 2005

A taxi driver and his two passengers were robbed at gunpoint in the **Willenhall** area of Coventry. A man brandishing two handguns approached the taxi and stole a quantity of cash before escaping on foot.

*BBC*, 27 June 2005

A man has died three days after being shot from a passing car as he stood outside a property in **Crayford**, south east London.

*BBC*, 27 June 2005

A man was abducted by two robbers in **Stockport** town centre when threatened with a handgun and chopping knife. He managed to escape by jumping from his car on the M6 motorway. The victim is in hospital with a broken shoulder.

*PA News*, 26 June 2005

Armed robbers attacked staff at a dog racing stadium in **Harlow** making off with a five figure sum. One man suffered a head injury after being hit with a shotgun.

*This is Local London*, 26 June 2005

Sabu Singh Suwali from **Colnbrook** was jailed for ten years for conspiring to smuggle illegal immigrants into the country and having a small arsenal at his home. He had earlier been found guilty of possession of a sawn-off shotgun.

*BBC*, 26 June 2005

A man was shot in the leg outside a nightclub at the **Elephant & Castle**, south London, after a group of 10 youths had been refused entry. Police think the group fired more shots later.

*BBC*, 25 June 2005

Robbers armed with handguns broke into a home in **South Woodham Ferrers**, tied up a couple and then escaped with a large amount of money. One of the victims was struck in the face.

*BBC*, 25 June 2005

A man was found in a crashed car in New Cross Road, **south-east London**, with a gunshot wound.

*Peterborough Today*, 24 June 2005

A Peterborough councillor was instrumental in securing £13000 funds to put CCTV on buses after she and fellow passengers were terrified when an **air rifle** was fired at the bus in which they were travelling through **Orton Goldhay**.

*Bromsgrove Standard*, 23 June 2005

The Chair of **Stoke** Parish Council has spoken of her fears about residents' safety after reports of a 12-year-old girl being shot with a **pellet gun**. Two teenagers dressed in camouflage were seen in a nearby field.

*BBC*, 23 June 2005

A full scale police firearms response unit was deployed after five youngsters were reported to have weapons in **Loughborough**. The youths were found to have **BB guns**.

*Reading Evening Post*, 22 June 2005

Police have issued an appeal to the public to look out for a grey Honda Civic (OE54 JPU) which was used by an armed gang who raided supermarkets in **Wokingham** and **Earley**. Police officers were later threatened with a shotgun in **Bray**.

*Islington Gazette*, 22 June 2005

A gunman robbed a bookmakers in **Islington** as staff were preparing to close. He ran off with £850. A £10,000 reward has been offered for information.

*PA News*, 22 June 2005

Richard Bottley, who was jailed for six months for waving his son's **toy gun** at two youths in **Oxford**, had his sentence reduced to three months on appeal. He had pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence in April.

*Evening Standard*, 21 June 2005

Daniel Turvey, who killed a student with a single shot to the head in **Earls Court**, was jailed for life with a minimum of 30 years for murder and attempted murder. Police believe that he may have killed his victim on the orders of two drug dealers, but as the victim had no known criminal links it may have been a random killing. Turvey had also chased and shot the dead man's friend in the thigh and buttock. See [April 2004 Incidents](#).

*Evening Standard*, 21 June 2005

In the article on Daniel Turvey (see above) a second conviction for a fatal shooting was reported. Neil Jones was jailed for life after he shot his victim dead with a **converted imitation gun** in **Chelsea**.

*BBC*, 21 June 2005

Spent gun cartridges were found in a street in **Highfields**, Leicester, after shot were heard in the area. Two cars were seen in the area at the time of the incident and one was later found abandoned. Three people have been arrested (*BBC*, 30 June 2005).

*BBC*, 20 June 2005

A teenager was shot in the face with a **pellet gun** whilst waiting at a bus stop in **Solihull**. The pellet went through the side of his face and he was being treated in hospital. The gun was fired by one of two men who got out of a car and approached the boy.

*Sun*, 18 June 2005

Michael Carroll was charged with smashing the windows of cars with a **ball-bearing gun**. Last year he had been arrested and questioned in connection with the discovery of firearms and ammunition at a house in **Downham Market** (see [April 2004 Incidents](#)).

*Richmond & Twickenham Times*, 17 June 2005

Farid Taran was found guilty of raping a girl he picked up at a bus stop in **Kingston**. He used a black **plastic toy gun** to terrorise the girl after refusing to let her get out of the car. The victim told police that throughout she was worried about being shot.

*Leigh Today*, 17 June 2005

A schoolgirl needed surgery to remove an **airgun** pellet from her skull after the 12-year-old was hit in the back of the head whilst with friends on wasteland in **Leigh**.

*Hounslow Guardian*, 17 June 2005

A man was shot at and then hit about the head with a baton in an **Isleworth** street. The victim had been walking with his girlfriend when he saw another man staring at him. The man pulled out a **ball-bearing gun** and shot at his victim four times but failed to hit him. He then attacked him with a baton.

*Hampstead & Highgate Gazette*, 17 June 2005

A man brandishing a revolver burst into a sandwich bar in **Camden Town** and ordered staff to hand over cash.

*Bury St Edmonds Today*, 17 June 2005

Shotgun rounds were fired at a small group of revellers at a wedding reception in **Timworth**. Young children were asleep in the house where it was being held. The police confirmed that up to 15 shotgun shells were fired: it is thought that the gunman may have been angry at the party's music.

*BBC*, 17 June 2005

A man was abducted for seven hours by three armed robbers who stole his jewellery and two Rolex watches. He was bundled into the back of his own van in **Neasden** and threatened with a gun and knife.

*BBC*, 17 June 2005

Sheila Eccleston, a supporter of Manchester's Mothers Against Violence, contacted the police to say she had a pump-action shotgun that had been given in by a gang member. She had apparently kept the gun at her home in **Longsight** for six months waiting for a police guns amnesty. She had asked the police to collect the gun after reporting an attempted burglary at a friend's home. She was arrested by armed officers on suspicion of possessing a firearm and has been bailed.

*Weekly News (Cheshire)*, 16 June 2005

A gun enthusiast from **Runcorn** killed himself with a high-powered rifle, an inquest has been told. He had kept weapons at his home for many years and had threatened to commit suicide using his gun collection a number of times. On a previous occasion his wife had been forced to disarm him by grabbing a loaded handgun which he had been waving around in a rage. His wife described how the man's mood swings became too much to deal with.

*Shropshire Star*, 16 June 2005

A man is on trial accused of using an **imitation gun** to threaten workers as he allegedly robbed Post Office branches in **Horsehay** and **Admaston**. He denied all charges. Paulo Antonio was convicted of carrying out the armed raids and could now face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment (*Shropshire Star*, 27 June 2005).

*Mirror*, 16 June 2005

Robert Smith was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act following a series of incidents after he had stolen a gun from a friend's flat. He broke into a house and kidnapped three people, forcing them to drive at gunpoint and using their credit cards, and had held a toddler and father hostage in **Trowbridge** during what the report describes as an 18-hour shootout with police.

*Milton Keynes Today*, 16 June 2005

A drunken man fired an **imitation gun** in the car park of a pub in **Fenny Stratford**. A police armed response team went to his house in Bletchley where he was arrested. The gun was never found. Troy Curran was given a four month prison sentence, suspended for one year.

*icSurrey*, 15 June 2005

Lee Darcy, who had been sentenced to two-and-a-half years for possessing a firearm without a certificate (a shotgun he found in a bin liner in his shed in **Three Bridges**), a prohibited weapon (a CS canister) and cocaine, failed in his attempt to get his jail term reduced.

*icSouth London*, 15 June 2005

A mother and her teenage children were violently robbed at gunpoint in their home in **Purley**. Three men forced their way into the house and demanded cash.

*Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 15 June 2005

Police were called to an estate in **Bradley Mills** after a man who lives there opened the door and was threatened with a silver handgun. There was a scuffle and then the gun went off. Two masked men escaped. Police said there was no sign of a bullet: "It may be the handgun was a **blank firing weapon**."

*Evening Star*, 15 June 2005

An 18-year-old man arrested in one of a series of police raids in **Ipswich** has been charged with drug offences and is accused of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and theft.

*Blackpool Today*, 14 June 2005

Two teenagers were spotted travelling on a bus waving a **BB gun**. The police were called after the driver alerted his depot and the bus was intercepted in **Lytham**. The teenagers were arrested for possession of an imitation firearm in a public place.

*BBC*, 14 June 2005

A man threatened a garage worker with a gun when his credit card payment was refused at a filling station near **Bicester**. Up to three men returned with the gunman and stole items including cash, cigarettes, food and drink.

*PA News*, 13 June 2005

Another firefighter has been shot with an **air rifle** after answering a call for help. He and another man were hit outside a pizza store in **Borehamwood**. The firefighter was shot in the head.

*BBC*, 12 June 2005

A gunman riding a scooter shot another man in the leg outside a fish and chip shop in **Archway**, north London. It is understood that a handgun was used. The victim's condition in hospital was described as stable.

*Peterborough Today*, 11 June 2005

When Shyquri Hasaj returned to a **Peterborough** nightclub after he was refused entry he was brandishing a **ball-bearing gun** which he pointed at door staff. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and driving with excess alcohol. He will be sentenced later.

*Life Style Extra*, 11 June 2005

Seven gunpoint robberies have occurred in One Tree Hill Park in **Wembley** during two months. Police believe that an **imitation gun** is being used.

*Telegraph*, 10 June 2005

A boy was allegedly threatened with arrest by armed police officers for using a cap gun in a street in **Salisbury**. A neighbour mistook his **replica flintlock**, bought at a car boot sale, for a real weapon. The boy's father complained "I know we have to be concerned these days about guns but I would have thought it was obvious the boys were just playing". The article described the incident as "the latest example of police nervousness over replica weapons". Another incident is reported in which a North Yorkshire Police armed response team was summoned after a man was seen taking a **replica flintlock** from his car. The man, who is a member of **Whitby** International Pirate Society, said he understood the police point of view.

*News & Star*, 10 June 2005

Ten RSPCA inspectors on duty throughout the week-long **Appleby** horse fair were reportedly shot at by youngsters with **BB guns**.

*Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)*, 10 June 2005

A new Jaguar car parked outside a house in **Grove Hill** was shot at with an **air weapon**. The car door was dented and the windscreen cracked. The owner was concerned that the police had done nothing to catch the culprits. "A gun is a gun no matter what.... It frightens me that these weapons are so readily available."

*Burnley Today*, 10 June 2005

The police seized **ball-bearing guns** from two 10-year-old boys in a shopping centre in **Burnley**. One of the guns had a red light on it to help the shooter aim the gun. In another incident in **Burnley** a youth was arrested after walking into a post office carrying a **ball-bearing gun**. An armed response team were called.

*Sheffield Today*, 9 June 2005

A gun-toting youth terrified a 13-year-old and threatened to shoot him near his grandmother's **Sheffield** home. The victim thought the gun was real but the police believed it was a **BB gun** or an **air rifle** and did not deploy an armed response unit. A youth has been arrested and questioned.

*PA News*, 9 June 2005

Leighton Bennett was jailed for 11 years after admitting attempted murder. Bennett shot a man at point blank range outside a nightclub in **Chapeltown**, Leeds. The shooting, which the victim was lucky to survive after a .38 calibre bullet hit him in the neck and passed through his jugular vein, was captured on CCTV. (See [January 2005 Incidents](#))

*Leeds Today*, 8 June 2005

A teenage girl was shot in the leg at close range with a high powered **air rifle** whilst the perpetrators friend photographed her injuries using his mobile phone in a so-called 'happy slap' attack in **Wortley**. The victim was kept in hospital for two days. The men were both described as being in their late teens.

*Border News*, 8 June 2005

An investigation is underway after a pupil at a **Carlisle** school was shot in the head with a **replica gun**. Two boys who had the gun have been permanently excluded.

*BBC*, 8 June 2005

A workman was shot in the face with an **airgun** whilst he was working at **West Rainton**, near Durham. The man declined medical treatment but was left shaken. Police are trying to track youths thought to be responsible.

*BBC*, 8 June 2005

Three men have been charged with the murder of a man in **Hyson Green**, Nottingham, in March. The victim was shot outside a pub.

*Manchester Evening News*, 7 June 2005

A woman was being treated for gunshot wounds after being shot in the stomach in her home in **Fallowfield**. The police said they were keeping an open mind about the incident.

*Evening Post (Nottingham)*, 7 June 2005

A man was shot in the leg at the Marcus Garvey Centre in **Nottingham**. He is recovering in hospital.

*BBC*, 7 June 2005

A unique shotgun was stolen from a home in **Priorslee**, Telford. The gun had been modified with its stock extended to 17 inches, probably the longest in the UK.

*BBC*, 7 June 2005

A **Blackpool** bus driver was saved from serious injury by his spectacles when he was shot in the face by a ball bearing fired from a **BB gun** by a youth after a dispute over a fare. The youth was one of three, aged between 12 and 14.

*Sun*, 6 June 2005

A reporter from the newspaper was threatened with a gun and a shot was fired whilst he was exposing a plot by two **Kettering** men to sell the forthcoming Harry Potter book. Arun Lambert was charged with theft and possessing an **imitation gun** intending to cause fear of violence. Another man has been charged with possessing an offensive weapon and with handling a stolen book.

*Camden Gazette*, 6 June 2005

Carlos Santos threatened to shoot a 12-year-old girl in the face after he had beaten his lover and dragged her into the streets of **Kentish Town**. The gun turned out to be a **replica**, but the girl has had trouble sleeping since the incident. Santos was jailed for three years. PC Ashley Walker who tackled the gunman as he pointed the pistol at another police officer, has been praised for his bravery (*Hampstead and Highgate Express*, 10 June 2005).

*Sunderland Today*, 4 June 2005

An adapted **ball-bearing gun** caused shoppers in **Sunderland** to flee in terror because they thought they were coming under fire when they spotted a red laser sight dot being aimed at them. Police arrested and cautioned a man and are now working with trading standards investigators to get the imitation handguns pulled from the shelves.

*Greater Manchester Police*, 4 June 2005

Detectives are investigating the discovery of a loaded firearm in a garden in **Royal Oak**.

*Blackpool Today*, 4 June 2005

Four armed police officers tackled a teenager seen with a firearm inside a **Blackpool** takeaway. The weapon was a replica **ball-bearing gun**. The 16-year-old was arrested for possession of an imitation firearm in a public place and the weapon has been confiscated and destroyed.

*South Manchester Reporter*, 3 June 2005

A shot from a **ball-bearing gun** was fired through the window of a restaurant in **West Didsbury**, damaging a picture of Elvis Presley.

*South London Press*, 3 June 2005

In one of two shootings in **Brixton**, not linked by police, a man was cornered by four men, one of whom pulled a handgun and shot him in the leg. The victim has since been discharged from hospital after treatment. In the second attack two men armed with a gun climbed out of a car and fired shots at another car. There were no reports of injuries.

*Shropshire Star*, 3 June 2005

Bobby Arnold of Brookside, **Telford**, has been made subject of a two-year anti-social behaviour order (Asbo). The court heard of regular patterns of intimidation, abuse and threats and that on one occasion he was found in possession of a **replica gun**.

*Guardian*, 3 June 2005

A group of A-level students using three **toy guns** whilst videoing a film about gangsters for their media studies coursework in an alleyway in **Barkingside** were confronted by 30 armed police of SO19, Scotland Yard's firearms unit. The guns had been purchased at a sweet shop.

*Coventry Evening Telegraph*, 3 June 2005

Two armed robberies took place in the **Holbrooks** area of Coventry. In the first a man armed with a gun forced a security guard to hand over money during a delivery to a building society, in the second three men carrying what was believed to have been a gun robbed an off-licence of cash and cigarettes. The raids are not connected. No shots were fired in either incident and police said they did not know whether real or fake guns were used.

*BBC*, 3 June 2005

A man who was shot in the leg near a pub in **Wooton**, near Bridgnorth, was said to be in a comfortable condition in hospital. Police believe that a handgun was used.

*BBC*, 2 June 2005

A 13-year-old boy was shot in the left calf in a street in **Little Hallingbury** near Bishop Stortford. The victim was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable. The shot is believed to have come from an **airgun**. Two men have been arrested in connection with the incident.

*BBC*, 2 June 2005

A 17-year-old boy was injured after being shot with an **airgun** as he walked along a road with friends in **Norwich**. Police believe the shot may have come from a block of flats.

*Journal (Newcastle)*, 2 June 2005

More than 3500 homes and offices in **Murton** and **Seaham** lost their electricity after a high-voltage line was damaged by what was reported to be rifle fire. This was the third time that damage has been caused in the area: a few days earlier insulators in the **Murton** area had been shot at and in April 2004 insulators were fired at near **Ryhope**.

*Mirror*, 1 June 2005

A gunman broke into a filling station in **Witham**, Essex, and waited overnight for staff to arrive when he held the gun to one man's head while forcing his female colleague to give him cash.

*Evening Post (Nottingham)*, 1 June 2005

Two men, one brandishing a gun, demanded cash from a member of staff in a bookmakers in **Arnold**. One man got away in a car, the other on a moped.

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## SCOTLAND

*Evening Times*, 30 June 2005

Christopher Reddin, 19, has been fined £4000 after firing an **air pistol** at a school bus with 70 children on board in **Bellshill**. The pellet smashed a window. Reddin was in a car at the time and laughed as he drove off. He is reported to have said that he "just wanted to scare someone on the bus".

*Evening Times*, 20 June 2005

A teenage boy suffered head injuries after being shot three times with an **airgun**. He had been playing football in a street in **Roystonhill**, Glasgow. He was rushed to hospital for emergency treatment to remove a pellet embedded in his head.

*icWest Lothian*, 17 June 2005

Police were again warning parents about the dangers of letting children buy imitation guns after they seized a toy rifle from a 15-year-old who had purchased it from a stall at **Bathgate** Market. It was an **imitation replica** of a Heckler and Koch G36C automatic rifle.

*PA News*, 12 June 2005

A man was killed when he was gunned down in an antiques showroom in the **Yorkhill** area of Glasgow. Police believe the victim could have know his killer.

*icWest Lothian*, 10 June 2005

Three police officers have been given special awards for their courage after facing a man who threatened them with a loaded **air rifle**. The incident happened after the police received an anonymous call about bottles being thrown from a window in Craigshill, **Livingston**. When the officers arrived they saw a man carrying an air rifle which, after requests were made for him to drop the weapon, he pointed towards them. At one point he made as if to fire. The officers eventually used CS spray on the gunman.

*Evening Times*, 8 June 2005

Two 13-year-old boys have been detained by police over an incident in **Dunfermline** in which three boys aged 8 and 10 were allegedly struck by plastic pellets from a **ball-bearing gun**.

*Mirror*, 1 June 2005

Hans Becker, from Germany, was charged with contravening the Firearms Act and held in prison for eight days after being caught with a revolver in his luggage at **Prestwick Airport**. He claimed to have forgotten the revolver was in his bag when he came in to Britain by ferry. He was released on bail after diplomatic moves.

*Mirror*, 1 June 2005

A teenager has been charged after a 14-year-old boy was hit in the face with an **airgun** pellet during an incident in wood in **Alloa**. Surgeons removed a pellet from just a centimetre away from the victim's left eye.

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## WALES

*BBC*, 22 June 2005

A man was being treated in hospital after a shooting in **Cwmrhydceirw**, Swansea, which may have followed a car chase. Four men have been arrested in connection with the incident.

*Daily Post*, 17 June 2005

Armed police were called in and the force helicopter scrambled to track down a man who had been seen firing an **air rifle**. He was shooting rabbits near the law courts in **Mold** and was arrested in the car park of a supermarket. Peter David Jones was fined £100 and his air rifle was destroyed.

*BBC*, 8 June 2005

Two brothers, aged 12 and 10, from **Newport** have been placed under Asbos for five years. Among the forty-four incidents recorded in 14 months was shooting at people with an **airgun**.

*Western Mail*, 7 June 2005

A 19-year-old man was shot in the leg in **Butetown**, Cardiff. Police were uncertain of the circumstances of the incident. The victim was taken to hospital but later released.

*BBC*, 7 June 2005

A primary school playground had to be evacuated after shots were fired from an **air rifle**, possibly aimed at rabbits, in a nearby garden. The incident took place in **Fairwater**, Cardiff. A 17-year-old was questioned by police and an air rifle recovered.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

*Hoddesdon and Broxbourne Mercury*, 24 June 2005

A pet cat was shot with an **air rifle** on a **Hoddesdon** housing estate, and residents fear that children could also be at risk. A metal pellet was found embedded in the cat's leg bone.

*Blackpool Today*, 24 June 2005

Five ducks were shot with an **airgun** when they congregated around a garden pond in **Thornton**. The house where the attack took place is currently empty and those responsible could be charged with trespass with a firearm. Four ducks were found dead, the fifth died after being rescued.

*This is Local London*, 20 June 2005

A woman warned pet owners to keep their cats in at night after her own cat was shot in the spine with an **airgun** in **Hanwell**. The cat's hind legs and front-right paw are now paralysed. The cat may have to be put down.

*icWales*, 16 June 2005

The RSPCA has appealed to **airgun** owners to stop shooting animals after a nesting swan was killed on the banks of the river Ely, near **Ely Bridge**. An X-ray revealed it had been shot eight times.

*Evening Post (Nottingham)*, 15 June 2005

Two of a family's cats were left injured after an **airgun** attack in **Stapleford**. One had a pellet in its chest and the other had a shattered hip.

*Daily Post*, 15 June 2005

Animal welfare officers were investigating an **airgun** shooting which left two pigeons and a jackdaw dead and dying in **Llanfairfechan**. An animal collection officer said "It is illegal to cause animals unnecessary suffering".

*Evening Star*, 14 June 2005

A cat was shot in the spine with an **airgun** leaving her to drag herself across the road to safety using just her front legs. It is likely the cat will have to be put down. This was the second time a cat had been targeted in **Ipswich** in as many weeks.

*Evening Times*, 8 June 2005

A farmer found nine six-week-old lambs shot dead in a field in **Cardross**. Each had been shot once behind the left ear with a .22 rifle.

*icSurrey*, 7 June 2005

An **air rifle** attack resulted in two swans being shot in the neck after the perpetrators stole their eggs. The attack took place at River Gardens, **Carshalton**, where the pair had nested. The pellets had missed the swans' heads by inches.

*BBC*, 7 June 2005

Four cats have been shot, one of them twice, on a housing estate in **Wootton Bassett**. One of the cats is being rehomed because its owners are worried it will be targeted again by the gunman.

*BBC*, 2 June 2005

A pet dog has died after being hit by a pellet from an **air weapon** in the garden of its home in **Wellingborough**. The dog's owner returned home to find her pet injured. It later died after she had taken it to the vets.

*BBC*, 1 June 2005

A goose and gosling found dead beside a pond in **Tredegar** are believed to have been shot. An RSPCA spokesman said "There has been a spate of these attacks and there does seem to be a slight trend involving air rifles injuring and killing animals".



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