



JUNE 2008 - SUMMARY

There have been some indications that a grip has been taken on gun crime in Great Britain. For the third month running the number of homicides in England and Wales was significantly less than the previous average of four to five per month, and there have been no gun homicides in Scotland since August 2007. There were also a number of important convictions of those involved in serious gun crime.

Nevertheless, it is obvious from the incidents reported here that, despite the implementation of new measures to deal with air weapons and imitation guns in the Violent Crime Reduction Act last October those measures must be viewed as having closed the stable door too long after the horse had bolted. Too many imitation guns and air weapons continue to be held by people who use them for crime and anti-social behaviour. No matter what restrictions are now placed on their sale, these weapons remain in many hands which misuse them. This month, for example, Cheshire Police reported that four out of every five times the county's police are called to a school to deal with a weapon, a gun is involved. Last year air rifles, ball bearing guns and several "unidentified firearms" were found at 10 Cheshire schools. Innocent victims are still being targeted by airgun snipers. Attacks on animals continue to take place with nauseating frequency. These matters require urgent attention.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were three fatal shootings in June. Two men were killed in deliberate attacks: a cyclist died after he was shot while riding in Kirkdale (Liverpool) (a man has been arrested), and a man died after he was shot at his sister's home in Harehills (Leeds). The other fatality was a police officer who died after being hit with a dummy CS gas cartridge during a training exercise in Newton Heath (Manchester).
- Shooting incidents that resulted in injury (other than fatal attacks (*)) occurred in:
 - Edinburgh: a victim was shot outside a casino - two men have been charged with attempted murder
 - Leeds*: one victim was reported to be seriously ill after a shooting in Chapeltown, and a man was injured with a shotgun at his home in Wortley
 - Huddersfield: eleven people were arrested after a man was shot outside a nightclub
 - Lincolnshire: a man and a woman were shot with a shotgun in South Ormsby, the man receiving serious facial injuries - a man has been charged with attempted murder
 - Liverpool*: a male victim was shot in the leg in a street in Garston, and a man was shot outside his home in Kensington
 - Manchester: a man has been charged with the attempted murder of another man in Partington, and a 19-year-old has also been charged with attempted murder after a 16-year-old girl was shot in the head in Gorton

- South London: there were two shootings, one in New Cross and one in Peckham, in which the victims sustained life-threatening injuries - two men were arrested after the Peckham shooting
 - West Midlands: a man was shot in the leg in a street in Smethwick - his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening
- A man found wandering around fields near Pathhead (Midlothian) was found to have a gunshot wound to his leg.
- A man was injured by flying glass after a gun was fired at a window of a house in Ardwick (Greater Manchester).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on stores in Fareham (Hampshire), Poole (Dorset) (man armed with fake gun), Hurn (Dorset) (a blank-firing pistol was used), Stockport (Greater Manchester), and Cleckheaton (West Yorkshire), on a bookmakers in Langley (Berkshire) and at takeaways in Bolton (Greater Manchester) and Banbury (Oxfordshire).
- An armed man stole an undisclosed quantity of cash from a building society branch in Burgess Hill (Sussex), another stole money from a cheque cashing company in Spenborough (West Yorkshire) and two men robbed a bank in Lymm (Cheshire).
- An armed man stole cash from a petrol station in Haverhill (Suffolk).
- A teenager pulled a handgun on a man in Banbury (Oxfordshire) and stole a mobile phone and cash.
- **Other Incidents** - A gunman opened fire on a police officer in Debden (Essex) - he was arrested in Hornchurch after a high-speed chase.
- A bullet was fired through a kitchen window at a house in Derby. A gunman was being hunted after reports of a shot being fired at a house in Walton (Merseyside). A shotgun was fired at a house in West Bowling (Bradford) after street gang clashes in the area. Residents in East Craigs (Edinburgh) reported hearing gunfire.
- A suspected gunman was on the run after an armed siege in Blackpool. There was one arrest following an armed siege in Fawdon (Newcastle) sparked by a man brandishing a paint gun
- A farmer in Benwick (Cambridgeshire) has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after an incident at his home.
- A man was arrested after being seen with a gun outside a pub in Saffron Waldon (Essex).
- A youth threw a gun into a front garden in Huyton (Merseyside) after being spotted acting suspiciously by police.
- Armed police patrolled the Shelton area of Stoke-on-Trent after information was received that people were carrying weapons including guns.
- **Gun Thefts and Finds** - Two men were arrested for possession of a firearm during a police crackdown aimed at knife crime in Dagenham (east London). A man was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon after a shotgun and ammunition were recovered in Oldham (Greater Manchester).
- A gun was seized by police during an operation to catch rogue motorists in Portsmouth. Police seized five guns when they stopped a car in Hindley (Lancashire) - two men were arrested.
- Three men, including one aged 17, were in court in connection with drug and firearm offences after a series of police raids in East Ham (east

London). Four young men spotted by CCTV operators were arrested after drugs, an air rifle and ammunition for clay pigeon shooting were seized by police in Consett (County Durham). Police officers also found drugs and an air rifle at a property in Leadgate (County Durham) - a man was arrested.

- A cache of weapons was apparently found in a car in St Rollox (Glasgow)
- Two air rifles were among items stolen from a shed in Neath (South Wales), and two guns were among items stolen during a burglary in Birchgrove (Cardiff).
- A shotgun was discovered when a lake in Stevenage (Hertfordshire) was drained.
- **Airguns** - More people were hurt, some seriously, after being targeted by airgun snipers:
 - Two people required treatment after being shot in Drumchapel (Glasgow)
 - An 18-month-old girl was shot in the leg while out with her mother in St Helens (Merseyside)
 - Two people were hit by air rifle pellets in separate incidents in Barnoldswick (Lancashire) (see Court Cases below)
 - A woman was shot in the leg in Bradley (Huddersfield) and has a pellet embedded deep in her leg
 - Another woman was shot in the head by an airgun sniper in Camden (north London)
 - A council worker in Loughborough was hospitalised after he was shot in the leg with an air rifle in a park
- A teenager has been charged after schoolchildren saw a man holding a gun in an area close to their school - an air rifle was recovered near the scene.
- Armed police called to a nightclub in Stowmarket (Suffolk) arrested a man and seized an air rifle.
- Damage by airguns was caused to property in the following incidents:
 - A car was sprayed with airgun pellets in a car park at a school in Bassett (Southampton)
 - Three airgun attacks have taken place in the last month in Bishop's Cleeve (Gloucestershire)
 - Windows in the village hall in Sedbury (Gloucestershire) have been smashed with an airgun and lumps of rock
 - Shop windows have been smashed by airguns for a third time in Tettenhall (Wolverhampton) - three teenage boys have been arrested
 - In the third airgun attack on the seafront in Morecambe (Lancashire) this year the glass door of a new cafe was damaged
 - A man from Winlaton (Tyneside) described how he was shot at by two youths who caused damage to his vehicle: he then caught the culprits but was unhappy that they had only been reprimanded
 - A house in Gateshead was reported to have been peppered with airgun pellets
 - The windows of the rugby club at Guisborough (Cleveland) have been shattered by airgun pellets
 - An airgun is believed to have damaged several windows in Barry (South Wales)
- A 90-year-old man from Teignmouth (Devon) has appeared in court on firearms charges accused of possessing a .22 air rifle without holding the required firearms certificate.

- **Imitation Guns** - A 12-year-old was being questioned after an eight-year-old boy was shot five times with a BB gun in Matlock (Derbyshire).
 - The men involved in two raids on stores in Dorset were armed with imitation guns (Poole, fake gun - Hurn, a blank-firing pistol) (see above).
 - A man involved in a stand-off with armed police in Forfar (Angus) faces a number of charges including possession of an imitation gun. A man detained under the Mental Health Act after a siege in Sefton Park (Liverpool) was in possession of a blank-firing starter pistol.
 - A man has been charged with possessing an imitation firearm after a couple were threatened with a gun in Llandudno (Conwy). Another man faced the same charge after he had taken refuge in a house in Maidstone.
 - Two men were arrested in Stoke after being spotted in the street with a replica gun.
 - A home in Southampton was shot at with a pellet gun. Four people have been arrested for criminal damage on buses in Calderdale (West Yorkshire) - ball-bearing guns have been fired at windscreens. In Plymouth three windows on a moving bus were smashed, apparently with a ball-bearing gun.
 - Children in a street in Mortlake (south west London) were seen waving a gun, described as an AK47, which apparently turned out to be a toy airgun. An 18-year-old received a police caution after a man was seen loading a handgun in Torquay (Devon) - police recovered two BB guns.
 - Plastic pellets from ball bearing guns have been blocking jets in a fountain in Clacton (Essex).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Many cats were again targeted with airguns and ball-bearing guns. This month there were reports of cats being seriously injured or killed in Cheshire, Dorset, County Durham, East Lothian, Lancashire, Lincolnshire (two incidents), Northumberland, Surrey, Sussex, West London and the West Midlands.
 - Other animals targeted by shooters were a goat (shot in North Wales), ten sheep (killed in Stroud, Gloucestershire), a deer (shot in Axbridge, Somerset: her fawn was saved by a walker) and a pony (injured in Stanley, County Durham).
 - Birds continue to be victims of attacks by gunmen. This month's victims included a swan (Telford, Shropshire), various birds in the Sleaford and Ruskington area of Lincolnshire, two oyster catchers (Perth), a seagull in Torpoint (Cornwall), a buzzard (Northamptonshire) and a red kite (Berwickshire).
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- **Convictions** - A number of men charged with murder were convicted and/or sentenced this month:
 - A serving soldier has been found guilty of murdering a waiter in Kirkwall (Orkney) - he was aged 15 at the time: he will be sentenced later
 - A man has been jailed for a minimum of 20 years for killing a man in Cumbernauld (North Lanarkshire)
 - Two men have been found guilty of murdering a 15-year-old boy who was shot dead as he slept at his home in Peckham (south London) - they will each serve a minimum of 30 years in prison
 - The 17-year-old found guilty of murdering a woman in New Cross (south London), even though he did not fire the fatal bullet, has been jailed for at least 20 years (see [May 2008 Incidents](#))

- Another 17-year-old found guilty of killing a youth worker in Brixton (south London) will serve 21 years in jail (see [May 2008 Incidents](#))
 - A man who admitted killing a man in Cardonald (Glasgow) has been jailed for a minimum of 20 years (see [May 2008 Incidents](#))
- A number of other men were convicted for shootings that resulted in injury to the victims:
 - A man who shot a man with a sawn-off shotgun in Blantyre (Lanarkshire) has admitted a charge of attempted murder and a firearms offence and been jailed for nine years
 - A man who wounded his victim in the face and body after shooting him with a double-barrelled 0.410 shot pistol in Mayhill (Swansea) has admitted a number of offences and been told he can expect a jail term of at least five years
 - A man will serve a minimum of five years for shooting his former boss with a sawn-off shotgun in Kirkby (Nottinghamshire): he admitted wounding with intent and possession of a firearm
 - A man was jailed for a minimum of 13 years after being convicted of the attempted murder of a man in Deptford (south London)
 - A 15-year-old who shot a man in a revenge attack in Peckham (south London) has been given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum term of six years
 - Two men have been jailed for 12 years and eight years for their involvement in a pub shooting in Willenhall (West Midlands)
- The gunman who pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent to cause fear after firing a shotgun into the home of his landlord in Raunds (Northamptonshire) has been sentenced to six years in prison (see [May 2008 Incidents](#)).
- A gunman who fired a shotgun during a fight in Burslem (Staffordshire) has been jailed for five years.
- A man already sentenced for the attempted murder of a police officer in Wolverhampton was jailed for a further five years after pleading guilty to possessing a Mauser pistol.
- The Attorney General has lost an appeal against the leniency of a sentence given to an American who fired a gun at police in Ardwick (Manchester): he had been jailed for five years.
- A man has admitted five charges of robbery and five of possessing a prohibited weapon: the robberies were committed in England and Wales and included raids on post offices in Cymmer and Dyffryn Afan (South Wales).
- Two men were sentenced to six years and eight years for robbing a woman of her car at gunpoint in Accrington (Lancashire).
- Three men have been jailed for their involvement in a disturbance at a party in Luton when a semi-automatic weapon was fired randomly on a street.
- A teenager from Nelson (Lancashire), whose father called the police after finding bullets in his room, has been jailed for 3 years after being convicted of possessing a firearm and ammunition. A Carlisle man was sent to prison for three years for keeping a loaded sawn-off shotgun beside his bed: he also had a blank-firing imitation pistol.
- A man whose shotgun went off in Basildon (Essex) when it was stuffed down his trousers has been sentenced to three-and-a-half years in jail for possessing an altered firearm, and two years to run concurrently for possessing a prohibited gun. A man from Nottingham who shot himself in the arm with a shotgun was jailed for two-and-a-half years after he pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited gun.

- An 18-year-old pleaded guilty to possessing a shotgun which he claimed he was asked to keep for a gang in Croxteth (Liverpool).
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - Two men who fired an air rifle from a window in Dundee and shot a 14-year-old boy in the head were each given 240 hours community service. A 17-year-old was ordered to complete 60 hours of community work after taking potshots with an air rifle from his family's home in Gloucester - four people were hit with pellets. A man from Barnoldswick (Lancashire) has admitted two counts of assault and one of discharging a firearm within 50 feet of a highway after he shot two people while repeatedly firing an air rifle from his window (see Airguns above).
- A man from Swansea who pointed an air rifle at a friend and hit her at a party was given a six month suspended prison sentence and ordered to complete 200 hours community work. A man from Padiham (Lancashire) has admitted assaulting his mother and threatening to shoot her with an air rifle.
- A 17-year-old has been fined £208 for firing pellets into a neighbour's garden in Winsford (Cheshire).
- A man is awaiting sentence after admitting trespassing on land with a firearm and possessing a loaded air rifle in a public place, a tow path at Salterforth (Lancashire). A man from Stonehouse (Gloucestershire) has pleaded guilty to having an air rifle with intent to cause people to fear that unlawful violence would be used against them.
- A man was given a 12 month conditional discharge after firing an air rifle on a beach in Plymouth when he was banned for life from possessing any firearm. Another man, from Portobello (Leeds), has been jailed for eight months for keeping firearms while banned: he was found with three air rifle and an air pistol at his home. A market trader from Cleethorpes was given a six-month suspended prison sentence and 100 hours unpaid work for possessing firearms while banned: he was found with air rifles, air pistols, a ball bearing gun and an imitation gun.
- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man has been jailed for five years for an attempted armed robbery at a post office in Inverkip (Inverclyde) where he threatened staff with a fake gun.
- Another man has admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm, and been jailed for five-and-a-half years, for his part in a raid on a house in Seacroft (Leeds).
- A man who was seen playing with a handgun at a tenement block in Paisley has admitted unlawful possession of a pistol (a replica of an 8 mm police pistol) and blank cartridges.
- A teenager has been admonished after he was seen leaning out of a car and pointing a ball-bearing gun in Inverness and on the A9 to the south of the city.

GUN INCIDENTS – JUNE 2008

ENGLAND

BBC, 30 June 2008

A man was shot outside his home in **Kensington**, Liverpool, in what police say was a "targeted" attack. The victim and offender had left when officers arrived but the victim later attended hospital where he was treated for a bullet wound. Police want to speak to the driver of the car who took the victim to hospital (*BBC*, 1 July 2008).

BBC, 30 June 2008

An 18-year-old has been cautioned by police after he and another teenager were arrested in **Torquay**, Devon, after police received reports of a man being seen loading a handgun. Officers recovered two **BB guns**.

BBC, 30 June 2008

Eleven people were arrested by police investigating a shooting of a man outside a nightclub in **Huddersfield**. The victim's injuries are not thought to be serious.

Banbury Guardian, 30 June 2008

A teenager pulled a handgun on a man in **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, before assaulting him. The incident followed an earlier assault. A mobile phone and cash were stolen. A 17-year-old girl and two men, aged 19 and 20, have been arrested on suspicion of GBH.

Lakeland Echo, 28 June 2008

An **air pistol** was possibly used to cause damage to a new cafe on the promenade at **Morecambe**, Lancashire. A glass door was damaged and will cost £500 to repair. This was the third attack this year on new property on the seafront.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 28 June 2008

Two masked men, one armed with a sawn-off shot gun and the other with a machete-style knife held a bank clerk at gunpoint as they robbed a branch in **Lymm**, near Warrington in Cheshire. Other employees handed over a large amount of cash.

East London and West Essex Guardian, 28 June 2008

A man has been charged with the attempted murder of a police officer, grievous bodily harm and possession of a firearm after he fired at the officer in **Debden**, Essex. He was arrested in Hornchurch, Essex, after police used a stun gun following a high-speed chase in which two police patrol cars crashed. The man has appeared in court and remanded in custody (*BBC*, 1 July 2008).

Banbury Guardian, 28 June 2008

A gang armed with a gun threatened staff at a Chinese takeaway in **Hanwell Fields**, Banbury in Oxfordshire. They stole £60 from the till.

Spensorough Guardian, 27 June 2008

A man robbed a cheque cashing company in **Spensorough**, West Yorkshire, of a substantial haul of cash. He threatened a female member of staff with a handgun.

East Anglian Daily Times, 27 June 2008

A man robbed a petrol station in **Haverhill**, Suffolk. He claimed he had a gun and showed a gun-shaped object in a carrier bag. He was given cash by the staff.

This is Plymouth, 26 June 2008

Yobs shot out three windows of a moving bus in **Plymouth** with what is believed to be a **ball bearing gun**. The windows were worth around £700. A number of ball bearings were found on the vehicle.

BBC, 26 June 2008

Eighteen-year-old Paul Carroll has pleaded guilty to possessing a shotgun which he claimed he was asked to keep for the Croxteth Crew gang. The gun was found in a meter cupboard in **Croxteth**, Liverpool, in January 2008. He has been sentenced to three years detention.

BBC, 26 June 2008

A 20-year-old man has died after he was shot in the head by masked gunmen at his sister's home in **Harehills**, Leeds. Three men and a woman stormed into the property after knocking on several doors in the area. Police have suggested that the incident was a case of mistaken identity (*BBC*, 1 July 2008).

Yorkshire Evening Post, 25 June 2008

A masked gunman is being hunted after he broke into a house in **Wortley**, Leeds, and shot one of the occupants with a shotgun. The victim was shot in his left upper thigh. He was rushed to hospital where he underwent surgery and was still being detained.

Wakefield Express, 25 June 2008

Nigel Tolley from **Portobello**, Leeds, has been jailed for eight months for keeping firearms while banned. When police searched his home they found three air rifles and an air pistol despite his being barred after receiving a jail sentence. He did not think that the bar covered air weapons.

This is Grimsby, 25 June 2008

A market trader, John Goodhand, showed "arrogant disregard for the law" when he sold firearms on his stalls. He admitted three offences of possessing firearms while banned in June and July last year. He was banned for life from possessing firearms or imitation firearms but he was found with a **ball bearing gun** and an **imitation gun** in his vehicle, **air rifles** were found in the boot and other **air rifles** and **air pistols** were found in his home in **Cleethorpes**. He has been given a six-month suspended prison sentence and must do 100 hours' unpaid work. The firearms will be destroyed.

Telegraph & Argus, 25 June 2008

A shotgun was fired at a house in **West Bowling**, Bradford, following street gang clashes involving up to 20 people. No one was injured.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 25 June 2008

Police officers who carried out a raid on a home following an arson attack on a car in **Leadgate**, near Consett in County Durham, found drugs and an **air rifle**. A man was arrested.

Liverpool Echo, 24 June 2008

A youth threw a gun into a front garden in **Huyton** after being spotted acting suspiciously by police.

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 24 June 2008

The windows at the rugby club in **Guisborough** have been shattered by **airgun** pellets.

Telegraph, 23 June 2008

An American visitor, Bruce Lee, who fired a handgun in Manchester in December 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) has persuaded a court that he was carrying the weapon because "the city was more dangerous than his native New York". He claimed he found the gun in a bush and fired it towards a police officer who was chasing him through the **Ardwick** housing estate. He had been jailed for five years but the Attorney General had criticised the sentence as unduly lenient. However, the application was refused after Lee's barrister pointed out the dangers in Manchester.

Liverpool Daily Post, 23 June 2008

Last year **air rifles**, **ball bearing guns** and several "unidentified firearms" were found at 10 **Cheshire** schools. Four out of every five times the county's police are called to a school to deal with a weapon, a gun is involved.

Cambs Times, 23 June 2008

A farmer has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after an incident at his home in **Benwick** involving a prisoner on weekend leave. The prisoner has been charged with criminal damage. It is reported that a gun was fired and that a stray pellet hit one of the occupants of a people carrier.

Birmingham Mail, 23 June 2008

Anthony Hamilton, 20, and Michael Straker, 20, have been jailed for 12 years and eight years after a pub shooting in **Willenhall** in July 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) which left three people injured. Hamilton pleaded guilty to taking a gun to the pub, attempting to murder two men, wounding with intent and having a firearm with intent to commit murder. Straker was convicted of three counts of wounding with intent and having a firearm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

BBC, 23 June 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences following an armed siege in **Fawdon**, Newcastle, sparked by a man later found to be brandishing a paint gun.

Express & Star, 21 June 2008

A man was shot in a residential street in **Smethwick**, West Midlands. The victim was shot in the leg and taken to hospital, but his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 21 June 2008

A man who was injured when a gun was fired randomly on a street in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, in November 2006, has been jailed after admitting affray. David O'Sadebay is already serving a sentence for possessing a firearm. He was one of 11 men who had travelled from London and became involved in trouble at a party. Two other men, Brenton Dias and George Booth, were convicted over the shooting and sentenced to minimum sentences of seven-and-a-quarter years and six-and-a-half-years, respectively. The gunman who fired the semi-automatic weapon into a crowd has not been traced. Nobody suffered life-threatening injuries.

BBC, 21 June 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after another man and a woman were taken to hospital with shotgun wounds. Police had been called to an address in **South Ormsby**, Lincolnshire. The male victim has serious facial injuries and was undergoing surgery, the woman's injuries were non-life threatening. A weapon was found on farmland in the **Brinkhill** area where the suspect was arrested. The man has been charged with attempted murder (*BBC*, 22 June 2008).

BBC, 21 June 2008

Armed police officers surrounded a flat in **Sefton Park**, Liverpool, during a 90-minute siege after a man brandished what was thought to be a handgun at police. He was later detained under the Mental Health Act. The gun was found to be a **blank-firing starter pistol**.

Herald Express, 20 June 2008

A 90-year-old man appeared in court on firearms charges accused of possessing a **.22 air rifle** without holding the required firearms certificate at Shaldon, **Teignmouth** in Devon. It is also alleged that he had 13 .22 rimfire cartridges without being a firearms certificate holder. The case was adjourned until July.

BBC, 20 June 2008

A man was shot in the leg while on a street in **Garston**, Liverpool. He is being treated in hospital.

BBC, 20 June 2008

Jesse Williams, 15, was part of a gang which robbed a man who then tracked him down, and he was made to return the stolen goods. Williams later shot the man through a car window in revenge in **Peckham**, south London, in October 2007. He has been found guilty of attempted murder and having a gun with intent to endanger life. He has been given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum term of six years. Another teenager was cleared of all charges.

Spennorth Guardian, 19 June 2008

An armed robber held up a store in **Cleckheaton**, West Yorkshire. He was apparently armed with a small gun. It is not known what was taken.

The News (Portsmouth), 19 June 2008

A firearm was seized by police during an operation to catch rogue motorists in **Portsmouth**.

Loughborough Echo, 19 June 2008

A council grass cutter was hospitalised after he was shot in the leg by an **air rifle** at a park in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire. He fell to the ground in pain and was carried back to the team van where a deep wound was discovered in his thigh. The pellet was buried six inches into his leg.

Evening Post (Bristol), 19 June 2008

Six people were seriously hurt by **ball-bearing guns** and **airguns** across the **Avon and Somerset** police force area last year according to figures revealed by the Home Secretary.

Camden New Journal, 19 June 2008

A woman was shot in the head by an **airgun** sniper as she sat on a doorstep in **Camden**, north London. She believes she may have been targeted because she is homeless. Her canvas hat helped deflect the pellet which bruised her head.

Bognor Regis Observer, 19 June 2008

A man stole an undisclosed quantity of cash from a building society branch in **Burgess Hill**, Sussex. He threatened staff with a handgun.

The Sentinel, 18 June 2008

Armed police patrolled the **Shelton** area of Stoke-on-Trent after information was received that people were carrying weapons including guns. No arrests were made and no weapons seized.

Express & Star, 18 June 2008

Airgun-wielding yobs have smashed shop windows in the village of **Tettenhall**, Wolverhampton, for the third time. Three teenage boys have been arrested and bailed on suspicion of criminal damage.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 18 June 2008

Four young men spotted by CCTV operators in **Consett**, County Durham, were arrested after drugs, an **air rifle** and ammunition for clay pigeon shooting were seized by police.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 17 June 2008

Ashley Jeffers was one of three men who raided a house in **Seacroft**, Leeds. A man was struck on the head with a gun after charging at the gang as his children slept upstairs. Jeffers admitted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** and has been jailed for five-and-a-half-years.

Lancashire Telegraph, 17 June 2008

John Clark of **Padiham** pointed a gun in his mother's face and threatened to shoot her. He struck her in the mouth with the butt of the **air rifle**, took her bank card and withdrew about £200. He admitted the assault and has been bailed for a pre-sentence report.

Express & Star, 17 June 2008

Four men are on trial in connection with an alleged kidnap which started in **Wolverhampton**. The victim escaped but he was chased and caught and driven away to a country lane close to **Wombourne**. He feared he would be shot after one of the defendants allegedly told another to take the gun from the car. He fled and walked to a police station. The case continues.

Evening Courier, 17 June 2008

Four people were arrested for criminal damage in Operation Focus, an operation which involved police, transport police and bus company staff riding on buses around **Calderdale**, West Yorkshire. The operation was a response to several attacks on buses including some in which high-powered **ball-bearing guns** have been fired at bus windscreens.

BBC, 17 June 2008

Two men, Mohammed Sannoh and Abdi Omar Noor, have been found guilty of murdering a 15-year-old boy who was shot dead with a Mac-10 machine pistol as he slept at his home in **Peckham**, south London, in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). It was the victim's brother's links to a robbery gang and the murder of one of their members that led the gunmen to the family home. Both men have been sentenced to life imprisonment and will serve a minimum of 30 years in prison (*BBC*, 18 June 2008).

Gazette (Essex), 16 June 2008

Plastic pellets from **ball bearing guns** have been blocking jets in a fountain in **Clacton**. They have been washed into the grills and block the jets.

East Anglian Daily Times, 16 June 2008

Armed police were called to a nightclub in **Stowmarket**, Suffolk, when a man was seen brandishing a gun outside the club. Staff saw a man pointing the gun at them. No shots were discharged and nobody was harmed. A man was arrested and an **air rifle** was seized. The man, a gamekeeper, faces a total of five charges including carrying an offensive weapon.

The Comet, 16 June 2008

Workmen draining a lake in a park in **Stevenage**, Hertfordshire, discovered a shotgun. Officers are looking into whether the gun is of police interest.

Barking & Dagenham Post, 16 June 2008

Two men were arrested during a police crackdown on knife crime at **Dagenham Heathway** station, east London, for possession of a firearm, a bladed article and a small amount of cannabis.

Bolton News, 15 June 2008

A gunman threatened staff at a takeaway during an attempted armed robbery in Daisy Hill, **Bolton**. The man was armed with a small black pistol-type gun. He was told by staff that there was no cash to give and he ran away when someone screamed at him.

BBC, 15 June 2008

A man has died after he was shot while riding his bicycle through the **Kirkdale** area of Liverpool. Police believe it was a targeted attack. A post-mortem confirmed that the victim died as the result of a gunshot wound to the left side of his upper torso (*BBC*, 16 June 2008). A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder (*BBC*, 17 June 2008).

This is Derbyshire, 14 June 2008

A bullet was fired through the kitchen window of a house in **Derby**. This latest incident is the eighth involving a gun being fired in the city since December.

Liverpool Daily Post, 14 June 2008

Detectives are hunting a gunman after receiving reports of a shot being fired at a house in **Walton**. No-one was injured during the shooting.

BBC, 14 June 2008

A 16-year-old girl has been shot in the head in **Gorton**, Manchester, and is in a critical condition in hospital. A 19-year-old man has been arrested nearby on suspicion of attempted murder. He has appeared in court and charged (*BBC*, 16 June 2008).

The Sentinel, 13 June 2008

Mark Miller has been jailed for five years after he fired a shotgun during a fight in **Burslem**, Staffordshire, narrowly missing an innocent woman. He hit a man with the butt of the gun and during the fight the gun discharged. The incident occurred in May 2008. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 13 June 2008

A woman was shot in the leg as she and her partner walked their dog in **Bradley**. An **airgun** pellet embedded deep in her left leg just behind her knee, and surgeons fear that if it were removed there would be severe nerve damage. Two teenagers were seen nearby.

BBC, 13 June 2008

Two men have sustained life-threatening injuries in two shootings in south London. One was shot in the back in **New Cross**, the other was targeted in **Peckham**. Two men have been arrested over the latter incident.

The Sentinel, 12 June 2008

Two men have been arrested after they were spotted carrying what appeared to be a handgun in a street in **Stoke**. The weapon was recovered by police officers and was found to be a **replica**.

Mid Cheshire Chronicle, 12 June 2008

A 17-year-old has been fined £208 for firing **airgun** pellets into a neighbour's garden in **Winsford**. He admitted firing an air weapon in a public place. He started shooting at birds, and ten or 11 pellets rebounded off a tree and into the neighbouring garden.

The Citizen (Gloucester), 12 June 2008

Darren Ring from **Stonehouse** has been bailed after he admitted possessing an **air rifle** with intent to cause fear. He pleaded guilty to having the .177 firearm with intent to cause people to fear that unlawful violence would be used against them.

BBC, 12 June 2008

Two men believed to be armed with guns stole several hundred pounds from a bookmakers in **Langley**, Slough in Berkshire. They threatened staff and demanded money. No-one was injured in the incident.

BBC, 12 June 2008

A man was shot several times in the stomach on a street in **Chapeltown**, Leeds. He underwent emergency surgery and is reported to be seriously ill.

BBC, 12 June 2008

Three men have been charged in connection with the murder of 16-year-old Brendon Lawrence who was shot three times in the **St Ann's** area of Nottingham in February 2002.

South London Press, 11 June 2008

Mukhtar Musse, 20, was jailed for life for shooting a **Deptford** man in August 2007. Musse was convicted of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and ordered to serve a minimum term of 13 years.

Pendle Today, 11 June 2008

Police have arrested a man after two people were hit by **air rifle** pellets in separate incidents in **Barnoldswick**, Lancashire. The victims were a male cyclist and a female teenage pedestrian. The pellets had been fired from a house in the road. Ryan Kavanagh has appeared before magistrates and admitted two counts of assault by beating and one charge of discharging a firearm within 50 feet of a highway. He claimed he did not aim the weapon at anybody. He will be sentenced in August. Kavanagh was subject to a suspended jail sentence for assault and possessing a weapon (*Lancashire Telegraph*, 25 June 2008).

Evening Post (Nottingham), 11 June 2008

A **Nottingham** man shot himself in the arm with a shotgun. Investigators concluded two shots were fired and there were two spent cartridges in the gun. Ryan Blacknell pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited gun and has been jailed for two-and-a-half years (*Sunday Mirror*, 15 June 2008).

Bolton News, 11 June 2008

A man was injured after a gun was shot at a window of a house in **Ardwick**. The 19-year-old man was injured with shattered glass.

News & Star, 10 June 2008

Michael Charlton has been sent to prison for three years for keeping a loaded sawn-off shotgun beside his bed at his pub in **Carlisle**. He claimed he was frightened of intruders after a masked gang nearly killed him six years ago. He also had an **imitation pistol**, which fired blanks, in a holster on his bedpost. He pleaded guilty to possessing the shotgun with intent to endanger life, possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause belief that unlawful violence would be used and possessing an altered firearm without a certificate.

Leigh Journal, 10 June 2008

A man has been charged with possession of a prohibited weapon after a shotgun was recovered along with ammunition in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester.

Kent News, 10 June 2008

Police negotiators were talking to a gunman who had taken refuge in a house in **Maidstone**. A man has been remanded in custody after he was charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** (*Kent Online*, 12 June 2008).

Birmingham Mail, 10 June 2008

Marcus Bailey was jailed for a further five years after pleading guilty to possessing a firearm, a Mauser pistol. Bailey was already serving a life sentence for the attempted murder of a police officer in **Wolverhampton** in November 2006 (see [June 2007 Incidents](#)).

107 The Bee, 10 June 2008

Barry Kirk and James Hurst were sentenced to six years and eight months and eight years, respectively, for robbing a woman in **Accrington**, Lancashire, at gunpoint. She took them on a text drive when she believed they wanted to buy her car when the one of the men produced a pistol and threatened her before driving off in her car. They both pleaded guilty. Kirk had already admitted being involved in carjackings in **Bolton** and **Warrington** (see [January 2008 Incidents](#)).

Evening Chronicle, 9 June 2008

A correspondent to the newspaper from **Winlaton**, Tyne & Wear, has described how he was shot at four or five times by two youths causing hundreds of pounds to his vehicle. He caught the two culprits and handed them over with the gun, presumably an **airgun**. The two were reprimanded by the police but no further action was taken. The victim has been left to claim through his car insurance for the damage.

BBC, 9 June 2008

Two raiders threatened staff and stole several hundred pounds during a robbery at a post office at **Hurn**, near Christchurch in Dorset. A **blank-firing pistol** was fired during the raid. No-one was hurt in the incident.

BBC, 9 June 2008

A police officer has died after suffering a gunshot wound to his chest in a training exercise in **Newton Heath**, Manchester. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead. The Independent Police Complaints Commission has been notified. The victim was apparently hit with a dummy CS gas cartridge fired at his car as he played the part of a criminal (*Daily Mirror*, 13 June 2008).

BBC, 9 June 2008

An 18-month-old girl was shot in the leg while out walking with her mother in **St Helens**, Merseyside. She was taken to hospital where it was confirmed that the injury was consistent with a pellet fired from an **airgun**.

BBC, 8 June 2008

A man is seriously ill in hospital after he was shot in **Partington**, Manchester. He suffered bullet wounds to the chest. A 20-year-old man has been charged with attempted murder (*BBC*, 19 June 2008).

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 7 June 2008

Children were seen waving a gun around in a street in **Mortlake**, south west London. The gun, described by one witness as an AK47, turned out to be a toy **airgun**. The road has been plagued by antisocial youths.

Leigh Journal, 6 June 2008

A robber held up a supermarket in **Stockport**, Greater Manchester. He pointed a black handgun at a cashier and demanded money from the till. He took cash before running from the shop.

Leigh Journal, 6 June 2008

Two men were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences after five guns were seized when police stopped a car in **Hindley**, Lancashire. The police officers were from the Xcalibre Organised Crime Unit.

Gloucestershire Echo, 6 June 2008

A spate of shootings has been carried out in **Bishop's Cleeve**. Three **airgun** attacks have taken place in the past month. In the most recent incident two windows at the library were damaged. Earlier a man was seen pointing a weapon at passing vehicles, and two holes were made in a window of an estate agents.

BBC, 6 June 2008

A man fled empty handed after trying to rob a convenience store in **Poole**, Dorset. He was armed with a **fake gun**. He fled after seeing that the till was empty.

This is Gloucestershire, 5 June 2008

Lumps of rock and an **airgun** have been used to smash windows in the village hall in **Sedbury** for the fourth time this year.

Pendle Today, 5 June 2008

Dean Kendall has admitted trespassing on land with a firearm and possessing a loaded **air rifle** in a public place, a tow path at **Salterforth**, Lancashire. He has been bailed for pre-sentence reports.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 5 June 2008

A suspected gunman was on the run after a four-hour armed siege in a **Blackpool** street. Police raided a home, but the man responsible for the stand-off was not in the building. Neighbours said they had seen one man attacked with an axe and called police after seeing what they believed to be a gun in another man's hand.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 5 June 2008

Police were called after families reported a house in a neighbourhood in **Gateshead** being peppered with **airgun** pellets. A local man was arrested.

This is Hampshire, 4 June 2008

A car was sprayed with shots while it was parked in a car park at a school in **Bassett**, Southampton. **Airgun** pellets were retrieved from the car. Police say the damage was so severe that they believe the rifle used is of high performance and illegal in the UK without a firearms certificate. They confirmed they had received a call to report someone seen using an air rifle. Although gun club members have questions whether an air rifle could have been responsible because of the severe damage, police chiefs have revealed that ballistic experts had been consulted and that it is highly likely that an air rifle was used (*This is Hampshire*, 16 June 2008).

Southern Daily Echo, 4 June 2008

A home in **Southampton** was shot at with a **pellet gun**. The owner called the police after hearing a noise and seeing damage to an upstairs window.

The News (Portsmouth), 4 June 2008

A man entered a convenience store in **Fareham**, Hampshire, brandishing what is believed to have been a gun. He demanded money but fled empty-handed.

Chad (Mansfield), 4 June 2008

Paul Millward has been jailed indefinitely (minimum term of five years) for shooting his former boss twice with a sawn-off shot gun in **Kirkby** in September 2007 following a dispute over a debt. He was cleared of attempting to kill his victim but admitted wounding with intent and possession of a firearm.

Bakewell Today, 4 June 2008

A 12-year-old boy was being questioned by police after an eight-year-old was shot five times with a **BB gun** in **Matlock**, Derbyshire. It is alleged that the boy held the gun a foot away from his victim before firing at his face, body and legs.

Newham Recorder, 3 June 2008

Three men, one aged 17, have appeared in court in connection with drugs and firearms offences after a series of police raids on homes and vehicles in **East Ham**, east London. A fourth man is still being questioned.

Evening Herald (Plymouth), 3 June 2008

A man seen shooting an **air rifle** from a beach in **Plymouth** had served a prison sentence for culpable homicide in Glasgow. Robert O'Neil was banned for life from possessing any firearm. He pleaded guilty to breaching an order by possessing an air rifle. He has been given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the air rifle.

Echo (Essex), 3 June 2008

Jeremy Keeble caused mayhem in December 2007 when a shotgun stuffed down his trousers went off as he tried to flee from the police in **Basildon** on a bike. He had been drinking prior to the incident. He was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in jail for possessing an altered firearm without a certificate and two years to run concurrently for possessing a prohibited gun.

This is Gloucestershire, 2 June 2008

A 17-year-old has been sentenced on 12 charges including four of common assault, one of assault causing actual bodily harm and three of using an **air rifle**. He sat in his family's home in **Gloucester** in March 2008 using the rifle to take potshots at members of the public. He hit a jogger, a postman, a builder and a motorcyclist. The jogger was hit in the back of the head and needed hospital treatment. He admitted that he bought the gun for £30 while drunk and had used it while under the influence of cannabis. He was ordered to complete 60 hours of community work over the coming year and to attend programmes or training at the request of the Probation Service.

Saffron Walden Reporter, 2 June 2008

A gunman was spotted outside a pub in **Saffron Walden**, Essex. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm.

Daily Mirror, 2 June 2008

A father turned in his son for hiding a gun and 11 live bullets in his room. Paul Metcalfe from **Nelson**, Lancashire, faces up to five years' jail after being convicted of possessing a firearm. His father called the police after finding 11 live bullets and armed officers found a modified 8mm Vendetta **starting pistol** under his bed. He was jailed for three years (*BBC*, 20 June 2008).

Chad (Mansfield), 2 June 2008

Four people are on trial facing charges relating to conspiracy to supply drugs. The two male defendants and one of the female defendants, from **Mansfield** and **Kirkby** in Nottinghamshire, are also accused of possessing a firearm with ammunition, a shotgun and criminal property.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 30 June 2008

A cache of weapons was allegedly found in a car near a supermarket at **St Rollox**, Glasgow. The car park and store were evacuated and cordoned off. The find has been linked to Michael Ross convicted earlier in the month with a murder in Orkney in June 1994 (see below).

Evening News, 21 June 2008

The investigation by police of a man who had ordered a stun gun from the US over the internet led to the finding of child pornography images on his computer. Ryan O'Donnell from **Loanhead**, Midlothian, was given a two-year probation order after admitting downloading the images.

BBC, 20 June 2008

Michael Ross has been found guilty of murdering a waiter at an Indian restaurant in **Kirkwall**, Orkney, in 1994. The victim was shot once by a man with a mask and a hood as he was serving a family. Ross, who was 15 when the murder occurred, was a serving soldier at the time of his arrest. A woman who was in the Army Cadets with Ross claimed he had said "Blacks should be shot and guns put to their heard." He will be sentenced later.

BBC, 19 June 2008

Eighteen-year-old Rhuairidh Duncan has been admonished after he was seen leaning out of a car and pointing a **ball-bearing gun** in **Inverness** and on the A9 between Inverness and **Aviemore**.

BBC, 18 June 2008

Michael Glancy has been jailed for five years over an armed robbery attempt at a post office in **Inverkip**, Inverclyde, in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to threatening staff with a **fake gun**. He had been caught after being filmed preparing for the raid and returning to his car empty-handed.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 12 June 2008

Residents in **East Craigs**, Edinburgh, reported hearing gunfire in the early hours of the morning.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 11 June 2008

A man who was found wandering around fields in a country estate near **Pathhead**, Midlothian, had a gunshot wound to the leg. He originally claimed to have been stabbed. It is understood that the victim has been unwilling to co-operate with police. He was released from hospital 24 hours after being admitted. Detectives will be carrying out road checks in the area (*BBC*, 23 June 2008).

ic Renfrewshire, 10 June 2008

Anthony Gallagher was seen playing with a handgun in a close at a tenement block in **Renfrew** in March 2008. He had reportedly been seen with the gun at a pub earlier in the evening. Armed police officers disarmed him and seized what appeared to be a **replica** of an 8mm police pistol. He admitted unlawful possession of a pistol and blank cartridges, being in possession of a replica handgun which had been converted and brought within the terms of the Firearms Act. Sentencing was deferred.

Sunday Mail, 7 June 2008

Ronald Paterson has been given a jail sentence of at least 20 years for killing a man who was shot dead in the street in **Cumbernauld** in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The shooting followed an argument at a mutual acquaintance's house.

BBC, 6 June 2008

Gary McFadyen has admitted shooting a man with a sawn-off shotgun on his own doorstep in **Blantyre**, Lanarkshire, in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He admitted a charge of attempted murder and a firearms offence. He has been jailed for nine years (*BBC*, 4 July 2008).

Evening Times, 4 June 2008

Two people were treated by paramedics after being shot and injured by **airgun** snipers in **Drumchapel**, Glasgow. Both had injuries to their arm, and one of them, a woman, was also injured in the head. Men were spotted by neighbours on land close by. Three men have been charged with firearms offences, assault and breach of the peace.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 4 June 2008

A man sustained head injuries in a shooting incident outside a casino in **Edinburgh**. He was rushed to hospital but his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. The shooting has been described as an execution-style attack (*Scotsman*, 5 June 2008). Two men have been charged with attempted murder (*BBC*, 27 June 2008).

BBC, 4 June 2008

Simon Anderson and Michael Brankine took turns to fire an **air rifle** from a flat window in **Dundee** after a drinking session in January 2008. A 14-year-old boy was shot in the head. They were each given 240 hours of community service. Brankine, who fired the pellet which hit the boy, was also ordered to pay £500 compensation. The two claimed they never intended to hurt anyone and were firing at lampposts, chimneys and a phone box.

BBC, 3 June 2008

A man has appeared in court in connection with a stand-off with armed police officers in **Forfar**. He faced six charges including possession of an **imitation firearm**, police assault and theft.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 28 June 2008

An **airgun** is believed to have damaged several windows in **Barry**.

South Wales Echo, 28 June 2008

Two guns and a stash of expensive property have been stolen during a burglary in **Birchgrove**, Cardiff. The guns taken were a BSA **air rifle** and a Smith and Wesson pistol.

South Wales Evening Post, 21 June 2008

A teenager has appeared in court charged with a firearm offence in **Gowerton**. He is alleged to have brandished an **air rifle** with the intention of causing other people to fear unlawful violence would be used. He has been remanded in custody and proceedings have been adjourned until September.

This is South Wales, 18 June 2008

Adrian Jones has admitted five charges of robbery and five of possessing a prohibited weapon and has been remanded in custody until sentencing. In February 2008 he robbed a post office in **Cymmer** in the Afan Valley, threatening the postmaster with a shotgun, and in March he threatened an assistant at the **Dyffryn Afan** post office with a gun (see [Incidents](#)). He committed three other robberies in Wales and England before being arrested in Brentwood, Essex. He stole in excess of £29,000 in cash and a large quantity of electricity tokens.

This is South Wales, 17 June 2008

Paul Leonard has admitted having a double-barrelled 0.410 shot pistol with the intention of committing an indictable offence and also wounding a man with the intention of causing him grievous bodily harm. He shot a man in **Mayhill**, Swansea, in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was left with injuries to his face and body. The judge warned Leonard that he was facing an inevitable sentence of imprisonment and could expect a term of at least five years.

Western Mail, 12 June 2008

Two men and a woman were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences after armed police officers were called to a school in **Swansea**. Pupils getting off their school buses saw a man holding the gun in an area of parkland. A firearm was recovered near the scene. An 18-year-old has been charged with a firearm offence relating to an **air rifle**. The woman has been released without charge (*South Wales Evening Post*, 13 June 2008).

Neath Guardian, 12 June 2008

Two **air rifles** were among items stolen from a shed in **Neath**. One air rifle is a Falcon 19RS .22 calibre 8 shot including telescopic sights and silencer and rifle case. The other is an S 410 classic .22 10 shot including sights and silencer and case.

BBC, 9 June 2008

A man threatened a couple with a firearm in **Llandudno**, Conwy. Armed officers and the force helicopter were called and following a sighting on CCTV a man was arrested. He has been charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause a man to believe unlawful violence would be used against him or another person.

Evening Post (Swansea), 3 June 2008

John Garnett from **Swansea** pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm after an incident which took place during a party in March 2008. He pointed an **air rifle** at a friend before hitting her in a fight over it. He was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years with a supervision requirement for 12 months. He was ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Newton News, 30 June 2008

A correspondent in **Newton Aycliffe**, County Durham, has written about the shooting of her cat with a high powered **air rifle** using .22 pointed hunting pellets which she has as evidence. The cat was fortunate that the pellet missed vital organs and she survived after having surgery. The woman also described how her front door window has been shot out and attempts have been made to shoot her CCTV cameras. She is appealing for witnesses.

Horncastle News, 30 June 2008

A young cat has been shot and wounded with an **air rifle** in **Horncastle**, Lincolnshire. She returned home with a wound to her side and a vet found a pellet had entered one side of her body.

Wimbledon Guardian, 27 June 2008

A pet cat in **Wallington**, Surrey, has died after being shot at five times with a **ball-bearing gun**. X-rays revealed pellets lodged in her back.

Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News, 26 June 2008

A cat may need to have its leg amputating after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Widnes**. A vet found a pellet lodged in the cat's leg.

Hexham Courant, 26 June 2008

A cat has been killed and another left blind in one eye after being shot with an **air rifle** in the village of **Acomb**, Northumberland.

Skegness Standard, 25 June 2008

A kitten belonging to a family in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire, has been shot with a metal pellet which is believed to have been fired from an **air rifle**.

Northern Echo, 24 June 2008

A pony has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Stanley**, County Durham. A vet had to remove a pellet.

Birmingham Mail, 24 June 2008

A pet cat was left seriously hurt after being shot four times with a **pellet gun** in **Kingswinford**, West Midlands. The cat was found bleeding in the garden shed of his home.

Evening Herald (Plymouth), 23 June 2008

A seagull was shot dead in **Torpoint**, Cornwall. Police say that the bird was probably shot with an **air rifle**.

BBC, 23 June 2008

A rare red kite has died after being shot out of the sky in **Berwickshire**. The bird was found injured but died three days later of massive internal injuries.

Burnham & Highbridge Weekly, 21 June 2008

A fawn has been saved by a man out walking through fields in **Axbridge**, Somerset. He heard a shot and went to investigate and saw a deer had been killed. The gunman was about to shoot the faun but he put himself in front of the fawn and shouted at the person not to shoot. The faun is not being cared for at a wildlife rescue centre in **West Huntspill**.

Lincolnshire Echo, 20 June 2008

A spate of illegal bird shooting in the **Sleaford** and **Ruskington** area of Lincolnshire has seen the slaughter of sparrows, blue tits and pigeons. A pigeon shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in Ruskington has survived, however.

This is Gloucestershire, 18 June 2008

Ten sheep have been shot dead by a rifleman near **Stroud**. Three were shot and killed on one occasion and then a further seven were killed the following day.

Daily Echo, 16 June 2008

A six-month-old tabby cat has been injured in an **airgun** shooting in **Upton**, Dorset. The cat was found in the family garden covered in blood with a round hole in his side. A vet operated on the cat but there is only a "50-50" chance that he will survive.

Hounslow Chronicle, 12 June 2008

A cat has been shot with a **BB gun** in **Feltham**, west London. The pet came home with a limp but no apparent wound but an X-ray showed a ball bearing pellet lodged in the cat's left hind leg.

BBC, 12 June 2008

A swan was found in **Telford**, Shropshire, unable to stand after being shot with an **airgun**. It has been operated on and is recovering at a wildlife rescue centre.

BBC, 10 June 2008

Two oyster catchers have been shot dead on an industrial estate in **Perth**. Both had been shot with **airgun** pellets. A third bird was found squashed on the road.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 9 June 2008

A pet cat has lost an eye after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Tranent**, East Lothian. Vets said she was lucky to be alive after the pellet lodged in her skull.

Lancashire Evening Post, 7 June 2008

A cat belonging to a pensioner was shot at and had its leg broken in an **air rifle** attack in **Brookfield**. The shattered leg may now have to be amputated.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 7 June 2008

A buzzard has died after being illegally shot in a field near **Great Addington**. The landowner found the bird and noticed it had a gunshot wound and reported it to animal charity Safewings. It died despite receiving treatment.

Daily Post, 6 June 2008

A young goat was shot in the neck with an **airgun**. She and another young goat were found wandering in a quarry at **Nantlle**, near Caemarfon in North Wales. A pellet was removed by a vet.

Argus Lite, 4 June 2008

A cat has been injured in an **airgun** attack in **Hove**, Sussex. The attack has been reported to police. It is the latest in a spate of shootings. In one vets reported treating a cat with six pellet wounds.

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