

MARCH 2006 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - A couple were shot dead in their flat in Upper Norwood (south London) and two men were killed and two others injured outside a pub in a shooting in Salford. A man was shot dead when he opened the door of a house in Point Clear (Essex). Another victim died in Drumchapel (Glasgow) a few months after he had apparently been the intended target of an earlier shooting in Glasgow.
- In the West Midlands two stewards were shot and one was seriously injured during a concert at the NEC, a man was shot in the car park of a pub in Streetly, a man was shot in the street in Wolverhampton and two men were injured in a shooting incident in Chelmsley Wood. A doorman was shot in the neck at a pub in Widnes, a man was shot when two men entered a house in Great Horton (West Yorkshire) and two men were shot at point-blank range in Greenock. A gunman was injured when the pistol he produced in a Hexham pub went off.
- A blank cartridge was fired at the chest of a pensioner during a robbery in Crosland Moor (West Yorkshire).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - In March there were reports of armed robberies and attempted robberies on shops in Frodsham (Cheshire), Charlton (south east London), Stapleford (Nottinghamshire) and Hastings (Sussex), an off licence in Redlam (Lancashire), post offices in Wereham (Norfolk) and Lewes (Sussex), banks in Hull (two separate raids, probably by the same man), betting shops in Hatfield (Hertfordshire) and Bourne End (Buckinghamshire), a travel agents in Luton, petrol stations in Coleshill and Corley (West Midlands) and Bacup (Lancashire) and a scrap dealers in Nechells (West Midlands).
- A couple were robbed whilst sitting on the top deck of a bus in Norbury (south London) and three separate armed robberies have taken place on streets in south Buckinghamshire (Beaconsfield, Flackwell Heath, Hazlemere).
- Three roadside hold-ups involving men armed with guns were reported: ovens were stolen from a lorry parked in a lay-by near South Witham (Lincolnshire), a couple resting in their camper at Detting Hill (Kent) were threatened by an armed gang and a snack bar was robbed near Taunton.
- Members of two households were held at gunpoint in separate attacks in Leeds (Bramhope, Alwoodley).
- **Other Incidents** - Two men were arrested after a gun was fired outside a pub in Blackburn. A man was hit with a Taser gun and arrested by armed

- police in Glasgow after reports that he had a gun. A gunman attacked a house in Wishaw and a car parked in the driveway burst into flames.
- A pub in East Grinstead has been closed after a string of incidents including one involving a firearm.
 - A firearm and ammunition were recovered by police from a property in Wisbech (Cambridgeshire), a man was arrested and a suspected illegal shotgun recovered after a domestic incident in Shildon (County Durham) and eleven people were being questioned by police in Northampton after a handgun was recovered.
 - Ram-raiders stole a number of weapons believed to be shotguns from a gun shop in St Albans (Hertfordshire).
 - **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - Men were jailed for shooting offences that occurred in Wimbledon (12 years for shooting a man in the groin) and Wolverhampton (7 years for shooting two victims in the legs). A man was jailed for ten years for carrying out six armed robberies on banks and a post office in the Glasgow area. A woman caught with two loaded guns in a child's pushchair in Brixton received a two year jail sentence.
 - **Imitation Guns** - A pupil was suspended after threatening a teacher with a toy gun at a school near Norwich, an imitation gun was used during an attempted robbery in Burnley and man with a ball-bearing gun was arrested in Milford Haven when police investigated reports of a man brandishing a gun in a minibus.
 - A man was jailed for a year after threatening police officers with an imitation firearm when attempting to rescue his wife and dog from a house fire in Cheltenham and another for three-and-a-half years after he threatened a driver in Bolton and then hit him with an imitation gun. A film director was fined after armed police had been called to an unauthorised film set in Borough which involved a replica weapon. A woman was sentenced to an 18-month community order after being spotted with an imitation gun in Morden.
 - **Airgun Incidents** - A number of people were hit by airgun pellets during March. A police officer was shot with an airgun in Sheffield, a teenage boy was lucky to escape serious injury after being hit in Old Tupton (Derbyshire), a man suffered a fractured cheekbone when he was shot in South Shields (Tyneside), a woman needed surgery to remove a pellet from her neck after four people were shot at in Taunton, a teenage girl was injured in the leg in Upavon (Wiltshire) (the shot may have been fired from an airgun), three people were hit by an airgun sniper in Ibrox (Glasgow) and a goalkeeper was shot at during a soccer game in Holbrooks (West Midlands).
 - It was reported that an airgun had been fired by a boy at a couple in Strood at the start of a long running campaign of racist abuse.

- A classroom window was smashed by a shot at a school in Bruton, damage has been caused to windows in a number of attacks in Hurstpierpoint (Sussex) and an air rifle has been used during a spate of vandalism in Kintbury (Berkshire).
- Airguns were seized when police raided homes in Merseyside in a campaign against teenage gun gangs.
- Men appeared in court after incidents in Carlisle (firing at a street sign; bound over to keep the peace for 12 months) and Lochore (Fife) (shooting a teenage girl; six years jail). A man convicted last month of shooting a woman with an air rifle in Edinburgh was jailed for 32 months.

MARCH 2006 - INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

Bucks Free Press, 31 March 2006

Three armed robberies have occurred in south Buckinghamshire in two weeks. On each occasion robbers frightened their victims by pulling out handguns. A woman in **Beaconsfield** was robbed of her handbag, and on the same evening three teenagers had mobile phones, wallets and driving licences stolen in **Flackwell Heath**. Two weeks earlier a teenage boy had been robbed at gunpoint in **Hazlemere**.

Bolton Evening News, 30 March 2006

Michael Rollinson was jailed for three-and-a-half years after an incident in which he threatened a car driver with a handgun and then hit him with the weapon. The incident happened in **Bolton** after the victim had flashed his headlights and sounded his horn at another car, in which Rollinson was a passenger. He pleaded guilty to having an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear and other offences.

Newbury Today, 29 March 2006

An **air rifle** and golf clubs have been used to smash windows and lights during a spate of vandalism in **Kintbury**.

Lewes Today, 29 March 2006

A man carrying an automatic type black metal handgun robbed a post office in **Lewes**. He demanded money from staff.

Lancashire Evening Telegraph, 29 March 2006

A robber made off with cash after holding up an off-licence in **Redlam**, Blackburn, at gunpoint. Police believe he fled on a mountain bike after forcing a cashier to hand over around £100.

East London Advertiser, 29 March 2006

A teenager is on trial for false imprisonment and possessing a firearm. It is alleged that he lured a cleaner back to his flat in **Poplar** and made her strip at gunpoint.

Croydon Guardian, 29 March 2006

A couple who were sitting on the top deck of a bus in **Norbury** were robbed by two youths, one of whom produced a handgun.

BBC, 29 March 2006

A roadside snack van parked by the A358 near **Taunton** was robbed at gunpoint. A woman was threatened by a man in a balaclava and carrying what was thought to be a shotgun.

Yorkshire Post, 28 March 2006

A man was shot in the stomach and leg after two men entered a house in **Great Horton**, Bradford. He was released from hospital after being treated for his injuries.

BBC, 28 March 2006

A man threatened workers at a scrap dealers in **Nechells**, West Midlands, with a handgun before fleeing with an unknown amount of money.

BBC, 27 March 2006

Armed police officers recovered a handgun when they arrested two men in **Northampton**. Shortly after a further nine men and women were arrested nearby. They are all being questioned on suspicion of possession of firearms.

BBC, 26 March 2006

A couple who were resting in their camper in a lay-by on the A249 at **Detting Hill** in Kent were threatened by an armed gang of three or four men, one of whom had a firearm.

BBC, 25 March 2006

Two men were injured during a shooting incident in **Chelmsley Wood**, Birmingham. A teenager was taken to hospital with an eye injury after suffering pellet shots to the face. The other victim suffered facial wounds but did not need hospital treatment.

BBC, 25 March 2006

A man was shot in a street in **Wolverhampton** when a fight broke out between about 50 people close to a nightclub. The victim was hit in the arm and was taken to hospital.

BBC, 25 March 2006

A man has been charged with the murder of man whose body was found in **Pattingham**, Staffordshire, in September 2002. The victim had suffered multiple gunshot wounds.

Herts Advertiser, 24 March 2006

Ram-raiders smashed their way into a gun shop in **St Albans** and stole a number of weapons believed to be shotguns.

Hastings Today, 24 March 2006

A **Hastings** shop was robbed by a man brandishing a handgun. The teenage shop assistant was threatened and was left in shock after the man got away with around £250.

Grantham Today, 24 March 2006

A lorry driver delivering ovens from Italy to County Durham was threatened at gunpoint in a lay-by on the A1 near **South Witham**. The gang of five or six men made off with 25 ovens.

This is Wiltshire, 23 March 2006

A teenage girl was injured in the leg in an attack in **Upavon**. Police are trying to establish whether a pellet fired from an **airgun** or **BB gun** was responsible or if the shot had been fired from a catapult.

BBC, 23 March 2006

A woman needed surgery to remove an **airgun pellet** from her neck after she was shot in **Taunton**. Two other women and a man were also shot at. Three men were being held by the police in connection with the incidents.

This is Lancashire, 20 March 2006

Masked raiders believed to have been armed with a sawn-off shotgun held up security guards at a garage in **Bacup** and escaped with £40,000.

BBC, 22 March 2006

A man was shot dead when he opened the door to a house in **Point Clear**, St Osyth in Essex. The victim had recently been released from prison following a drug dealing conviction. Police do not think it was a random attack. The police have since suggested that the victim may not have been the intended target (*BBC*, 24 March 2006).

This is Lancashire, 20 March 2006

Two men were arrested after a gun was fired outside a pub in **Blackburn**.

Bucks Free Press, 20 March 2006

A betting shop in **Bourne End** was held up by a man with a handgun. He took the whole day's takings, believed to be around £2700.

Sunday Sun, 19 March 2006

A man was arrested and a suspected illegal shotgun recovered by armed police following reports of a domestic incident at a house in **Sildon**. The man has since appeared in court charged with firearms related offences. A police tactical firearms squad had initially targeted the house next door.

Times, 17 March 2006

David Cameron produced what looked like a handgun and pointed it at police officers when he was attempting to go back into his **Cheltenham** flat to rescue his wife and dog from a fire in December. He later apologised to the officer. Police found two guns, a BB gun and an air pistol. He was jailed for one year after admitting possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

Cambs Times, 17 March 2006

A firearm and ammunition were recovered from a property in **Wisbech** after police officers attended the address. The raid followed the launch of an operation to crack down on crime across Cambridgeshire.

Mid Sussex Today, 16 March 2006

Shots hit and shattered windows in two houses and a college kitchen in **Hurstpierpoint** in the latest of a number of attacks in the area involving **airguns**.

Ilkeston Today, 16 March 2006

The cashier of a movie rental shop in **Stapleford** was shut in a back room by a gunman who escaped with the contents of the till.

ic South London, 16 March 2006

A girl was allegedly raped at gunpoint by two men after she had been picked up in a car in **Streatham**, a court has heard. The trial continues.

ic South London, 16 March 2006

Charlotte Miller who was caught with two loaded guns, a military revolver and a keyring pistol, in her baby daughter's pushchair has been jailed for two years. Police made the find at her home in **Brixton** in July 2005.

News Shopper, 14 March 2006

Two men, one armed with a small handgun, forced their way into a shop in **Charlton**. The men forced staff to open and empty the safe and took the money.

ic South London, 14 March 2006

A woman was surrounded by an armed police squad after she had been spotted with what appeared to be a handgun tucked in her waistband. She had been trying to glimpse a car accident in **Morden** at the time. Celia Young admitted possessing an **imitation gun** and was sentenced to an 18-month community order.

ic Coventry, 14 March 2006

Two men armed with a baseball bat and a shotgun took cash and mobile phones during a raid on a petrol station in **Coleshill**. The police are not linking the incident to another raid on a service station, at **Corley** on the M6, which had occurred the day before. There a woman had been threatened by two robbers, one armed with a handgun.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 14 March 2006

A man suffered a fractured cheekbone when he was shot by youths with an **airgun** pellet. He was walking his dog along a street in **South Shields** when the incident happened.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 14 March 2006

A man has been accused of attempted murder after producing a pistol in a pub in **Hexham**. Customers had wrestled the man to the ground and during the struggle the gun went off injuring the gunman's hand.

Burnley News, 14 March 2006

A takeaway delivery man was threatened with a gun during an attempted robbery in **Burnley**. He pushed a pizza box into the attacker's chest and to avoid trouble offered the man a curry. An **imitation toy firearm** was found later near the scene.

Kent Online, 13 March 2006

A couple have described being attacked following a long running campaign of racist abuse. The abuse started when a boy aged about 12 fired an **airgun** into their garden in **Strood**.

Daily Post, 13 March 2006

A doorman was shot in the neck by a man he had thrown out of a pub in **Widnes**. The attacker, who was accompanied by another man, had produced a handgun. The doorman had been enforcing the pub's dress code which required customers to remove hoods (*BBC*, 14 March 2006).

BBC, 12 March 2006

Two men were killed and two others injured in a shooting at a pub in **Salford**.

ic South London, 10 March 2006

A couple were shot dead in their flat in **Upper Norwood**. The man's twin brother was also shot and remains in hospital where his condition is described as serious but stable. His girlfriend escaped uninjured but is traumatised. Police are hunting two men who came to the address.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 10 March 2006

A pensioner had a handgun fired at his chest during a robbery at his **Crosland Moor** home. The gun fired a **blank cartridge**. Three men demanded cash from the victim.

Birmingham Mail, 10 March 2006

Police are hunting for a car used by a gunman who repeatedly shot a man in the car park of a pub in **Streetly**. The victim had been surrounded by a gang of men as he stood in the car park and became embroiled in an argument.

BBC, 10 March 2006

A man was arrested following a siege involving armed officers at an isolated farmhouse between **Huish Episcopi** and **Langport** in Somerset. There were concerns that the man had become a "danger to himself", although it was not known if a firearm was involved.

Sun, 9 March 2006

Nathan McIntosh was jailed for seven years and his brother Jordan for 18 months after an incident outside a **Wolverhampton** night club in July 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Two club workers were shot in the legs with a handgun after the brothers had been banned from the venue earlier that night.

Luton Today, 9 March 2006

Workers in a **Luton** travel agents were threatened with a handgun by a man who escaped with cash.

Liverpool Echo, 9 March 2006

Airguns were seized when police raided homes in **Croxteth** and **Norris Green** in a fight against North Liverpool's teen gun gangs. Gang members were arrested and drugs were also seized. One so-called "librarian" is believed to be holding and lending weapons to youngsters from the age of 13.

Chesterfield Today, 9 March 2006

A teenage boy escaped serious injury when an airgun pellet lodged above his left ear. He was hit as he and two friends were on their way back to school in **Old Tupton**. They were followed by two young men with an **air rifle**. He was rushed to hospital covered in blood. A police spokesman said he could have been killed or lost an eye.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 8 March 2006

A gunman burst into a betting shop in **Hatfield** and demanded cash from staff. He pointed a black gun at them before stuffing cash into a carrier bag and making his escape.

ic Surrey, 8 March 2006

A pub in **East Grinstead** has been closed temporarily after a string of alleged illegal activities including a firearm incident.

ic South London, 8 March 2006

Colin Harmes, who shot a man in the groin in a **Wimbledon** nightclub in April 2005 (see [Incidents](#)), has been sentenced to 12 years in jail. The incident occurred after an argument over a spilt drink.

ic Coventry, 8 March 2006

A goalkeeper was fortunate not to have been seriously injured when an **air pistol** pellet whistled past his left leg during a match in **Holbrooks**. Two youths who had been shouting and heckling were probably responsible.

Bexley Times, 8 March 2006

Appeal judges upheld the sentences conferred on Stephen Carroll of **Bexleyheath**. He had admitted conspiring to supply class A drugs (four years sentence) and was given an extra five years for possession of a prohibited weapon, a live pistol.

BBC, 8 March 2006

One man is suspected of carrying out two armed robberies at banks in **Hull**. At both he produced a black handgun. He escaped with cash from the first raid but empty-handed from the second.

ic South London, 7 March 2006

Armed police swooped on a film set in **Borough**, believing it to be the scene of a double shooting. They had been alerted by a 999 call. The film shoot was unauthorised and involved a **replica weapon**. The director was fined £80.

Eastern Daily Press, 7 March 2006

Two people were hurt when masked men, armed with a shotgun and metal bar, raided a post office in **Wereham**, Norfolk. One victim was hit a number of times with a metal bar. The robbers escaped with an elderly woman's purse.

BBC, 6 March 2006

A man believed to have been armed with a handgun tried to rob a shop in **Frodsham**, Cheshire. He threatened a female assistant before stealing a quantity of cash.

BBC, 3 March 2006

A police officer was hit with a shot from an **airgun** whilst investigating a road accident in **Sheffield**. He escaped serious injury because he was wearing body protection. A 16-year-old boy and a man have been arrested (*Sheffield Today*, 14 March 2006).

BBC, 3 March 2006

A classroom window was shot with what is thought to have been an **air rifle** spraying the room with glass. The room at the school in **Bruton** was being used at the time, but no one was injured.

BBC, 3 March 2006

A verdict of suicide was recorded after a coroner heard details of how a man died in **East Malling** in September 2005. He was found in his car with his finger on the trigger of a shotgun.

BBC, 3 March 2006

A pupil at a school in **Hethersett** near Norwich has been suspended two days after a teacher was threatened with a **toy gun** in a maths class. Although the school described the incident as a "minor prank" a teachers union believes it was potentially very serious.

BBC, 2 March 2006

Six people were being questioned after a man was found shot and set alight on the banks of the River Mersey in **Speke**. Five men have been arrested on suspicion of murder, a woman has been arrested on suspicion of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

News & Star, 1 March 2006

Melvin Earl was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after firing an **air rifle** at a street sign in **Carlisle**.

Leeds Today, 1 March 2006

Two families were held at gunpoint by masked raider in separate attacks in Leeds. A shot was fired in the first raid in **Bramhope**. The householder's son twice rammed the attackers' getaway car before they drove off. Nothing was stolen. In the second raid armed masked men robbed a family at gunpoint in **Alwoodley**.

BBC, 1 March 2006

Two stewards were shot during a concert held by rapper Kanye West at the NEC near **Birmingham**. One of the victims was seriously injured and was being treated in hospital. The shooting happened after a man, who had no ticket, was ejected. Two people were arrested and later released (*BBC*, 3 March 2006).

SCOTLAND

Sunday Mail, 12 March 2006

A gunman shot two men at point-blank range in **Greenock**. The shooting may have been a gangland vendetta. One victim was released from hospital after treatment whilst the other man in a serious condition but stable. A man has been arrested over the shooting (*ic Scotland*, 22 March 2006).

Daily Record, 10 March 2006

An **airgun** sniper is being hunted after he shot at three people in **Ibrox**, Glasgow. One victim was pushing a wheelchair-bound relative. A man and a woman were each treated in hospital.

Herald, 9 March 2006

A gunman attacked the **Wishaw** home of a security firm owner while he and his family slept. A car parked in the driveway burst into flames. No one was harmed but the family was severely shaken.

Evening Times, 9 March 2006

Kenneth McLarrie, who robbed five banks and a post office at gunpoint and stole almost £50,000, was jailed for 10 years. He raided the **Kilbarchan** post office in July 2003, following which he robbed banks in **Glasgow** (three branches), **Motherwell** and **Milngavie** between April and December 2005.

Press Association, 8 March 2006

Firearms officers used a Taser gun during a stand-off with an armed man in the east end of **Glasgow**. There had been reports of a man with a gun.

Press Association, 4 March 2006

A man has died of his injuries in hospital following a shooting incident in **Drumchapel**, Glasgow. Later it was reported that the victim had been the target of a drive-by shooting on the M8 motorway in September (see [Incidents](#)) (*Press Association*, 5 March 2006).

BBC, 1 March 2006

James Dow was jailed for six years for shooting a teenage girl with an **air rifle** after a stone was thrown at his window in **Lochore**, Fife, in August 2005. He had been freed on bail two days earlier. His defence solicitor said that his judgment was clouded by a combination of alcohol and Valium.

WALES

BBC, 25 March 2006

Armed police arrested a man and a woman after an **air rifle** was fired at the back of a property in **Llanelli**. An airgun and ammunition were recovered.

Pembrokeshire TV, 6 March 2006

A street in **Milford Haven** was closed off to the public as police investigated reports of a man brandishing a gun in a minibus. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm. The gun turned out to be a replica **ball-bearing gun**.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Sutton Guardian, 16 March 2006

A cat was shot in the leg with an **airgun**, leaving a mother and her young children in **Sutton** distraught. The cat had to be fitted with a metal brace around his leg.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs 2.5 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.5/).