



MARCH 2007 - SUMMARY

The fatal shootings last month of three teenagers in south London prompted a wave of discussion about gun crime in the UK and its link with teenage gangs. We commented in the February summary that, following its promise of increased measures to deal with these crimes, we hoped that the Government would not dilute its efforts to tackle other types of gun crime. This month's incidents and convictions have shown yet again that much of the gun crime most likely to affect members of the public involves airguns, which have been used to target people and pets and to cause damage to property, and imitation guns. Indeed March saw a disturbing number of incidents in which imitation guns were fired at pupils at schools reflecting the total disregard that some youths and, it must be said, their parents still have for the real dangers posed by such weapons.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Four people were fatally injured in shooting incidents during March, three in London (one in Harlesden, west London, and two in Abbey Wood, south east London). The other victim was a taxi driver in Pitsmoor (Sheffield).
- Two fatal shootings from earlier in the year were also reported. The inquest opened into the death in January of a woman in Lowfield Heath (Surrey) who was shot dead with a shotgun in her home: her husband has been arrested. A man appeared in court charged with the murder of a man who was shot dead near Halifax in February.
- A policeman was shot by a youth in Peckham (south London) but escaped unhurt.
- In a second shooting in Harlesden (west London) a man was seriously injured after being hit a number of times in the car park of a club: he may have been left paralysed. A gunman pulled out a firearm during a fight outside another London nightclub (in Forest Gate, east London) and shot a man from a distance of less than 4 ft - a man was arrested. A 21-year-old student was shot and injured at a hip hop concert at Loughborough University.
- There were a number of serious shootings in or outside pubs. A man was shot a number of times with a shotgun as he stood outside a pub in Clermiston (Edinburgh): a man has been charged with attempted murder. Another victim of a pub shooting was injured in the leg in an incident in Bloxwich (West Midlands), and two men also suffered injuries to their legs when they were shot at a pub in Leicester. In another pub shooting in Nechells (Birmingham) three men were injured, one critically.
- A man suffered leg injuries when he was shot at a house in Padgate (Warrington) in what police believe was a targeted attack, while another was shot in the leg at a house party in Brackenhall (Huddersfield). A man was shot in the hand in a street in Hillfields (Coventry).
- A 16-year-old was arrested in connection with the shooting of another teenager in Croxteth (Merseyside): a 19-year-old and a 17-year-old will also appear before magistrates charged with

firearms offences. A 17-year-old boy was shot in the foot in Camberwell Road (south east London).

- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A woman who had been awarded a record divorce payout was tied up and robbed of £300,000 worth of jewellery at gunpoint in an armed raid on her home in Sevenoaks (Kent). Tobacco was stolen from a house in Penhill (Swindon) by a gunman who entered the house demanding money.
- A dog was shot during an armed raid on a farm in Quornford (Staffordshire) in which two men were tied up and £3000 stolen.
- A security guard was robbed by two armed men in a raid in South Woodford (north east London) and another security guard was targeted by one man who stole a case of money at Little Sutton (Cheshire). Two armed raiders robbed a bank in the West End of Glasgow.
- A teenage assistant manager was threatened during a robbery in a store in Jarrow (Tyneside). A shop in Burtonwood (near Warrington) was raided by two men who pushed a gun into the back of a 15-year-old girl. Two men attempted to rob a store in Farnborough (Hampshire) and one man robbed a shop in Ashford (Kent).
- Two armed robbers raided a service station near Bristol.
- A man attempted to rob a Chinese takeaway waving a gun in New Bradwell (Buckinghamshire) but left empty handed. A man robbed a fast food restaurant in Portsmouth of £1,500 - the police are investigating whether this may be linked to two similar recent robberies in the city.
- Five schoolgirls were involved in an attempted carjacking near Maxwell Park on the south side of Glasgow but were able to escape by driving away.

- **Other Incidents** - A 15-year-old was shot with a Taser gun by armed police during a raid on a property in Moss Side (Manchester) - another man was detained in the raid and charged in connection with a shooting in Rusholme. Eight people were arrested after police raids on 21 other properties in the Manchester area as part of an ongoing crackdown on gun crime.
- A man was arrested in Bexhill (Sussex) after police used a Taser gun following reports that a gun had allegedly been pulled on a motorist. A man was arrested in Worthing (Sussex) after a report that he was waving a gun in the street. A 17-year-old was arrested after allegedly waving a handgun at motorists in Guisborough (Teesside).
- A man was arrested and a firearm recovered after shots were fired in Shelton (Derby).
- Eight shots were fired at a house in Longsight (Greater Manchester). A gun was also fired at a house in Gorton (Greater Manchester) and a bullet shot through a window - a couple and three young children were inside. Damage was caused to a house in West Bowling (Bradford) when a firearm was discharged.
- A 14-year-old and a 15-year-old were arrested after a gun was recovered from a house in Great Barr (West Midlands). An 18-year-old was charged after a gun was found at a hostel in Croydon.
- Police are looking for a man captured on CCTV who was believed to be carrying a gun in Luton after two windows of a pub were broken.

- A vehicle parked in a driveway in Weybourne (Surrey) was damaged when a gun was fired into the back of it.
- A man was arrested after he dropped a gun in a pub in Renfrew.
- There were unconfirmed reports of a firearm being used during a domestic incident in Kidderminster. A shotgun and another gun were recovered by police following a disturbance in Huddersfield.
- **Smuggling, Gun Finds, Thefts and Losses** - One of two men convicted of possessing prohibited weaponry (18 converted gas pistols, 18 silencers) and ammunition without a licence was found hanged in prison before he was sentenced. The other man, said to be at the heart of smuggling the weapons from Eastern Europe, had been given a ten and a half year sentence (see [May 2006 Incidents](#)).
- Twenty guns, described as imitation ball-bearing guns, were stolen from a shop in Cannock. The guns are reported to be for use in airsoft, and it will be interesting to see whether one of the shop owners proves to be correct in saying that the guns were unlikely to be used for illegal purposes but were more likely to be sold back into the airsoft community.
- Police recovered a cache of weapons and ammunition from a park in Merseyside after a tip-off from local residents. In a separate incident police found a shotgun and ammunition at a house in Kirkby and arrested a woman. A substantial quantity of illegal firearms was found by police during a raid on a Denbighshire farm in which cannabis plants were also recovered (two people were arrested).
- Ammunition including shotgun cartridges, bullets and several artillery shells was found at a recycling facility in Peterborough.
- Doncaster police appealed for information after a shotgun (needing a licence) and two air rifles were stolen from Askern.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A man will serve a minimum of 30 years for the murder of a man who was fatally wounded in a car in Streatham, south London, in January 2006. His accomplice received a 12-year-sentence for manslaughter.
- Four men were convicted for offences relating to death of a man at a nightclub in Dewsbury (West Yorkshire). One was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years another admitted murder and was sentenced to 18 years.
- An 18-year-old was found guilty of murdering a man in Canning Town (east London) last year. The court heard that the weapon used to kill his victim was probably a converted self-loading blank firing pistol.
- A petrol station cashier in Horley (Surrey) survived a shooting when a man attempted to rob him but was left with a bullet in his head. The gunman was found guilty of attempted murder. Sentencing was adjourned. Two men were sentenced to at least 11 years and at least 5 years after pleading guilty following their arrest for an attempted robbery on a security van delivering cash to a petrol station in Sidcup (Kent).
- A man admitted affray and possessing a firearm without a certificate and was given an 11 month suspended jail sentence after threatening a woman with a 12-bore shotgun after his sheep and lambs had been attacked by out of control dogs in Haslingden (Lancashire).

- A Devon man has been jailed for 5 years for possession of a prohibited revolver and possession of a sports rifle without a licence. A man from Glasgow was also jailed for 5 years after a prohibited pistol had been found at his house.
- A Hartlepool man who was banned from owning firearms was caught with a shotgun and ammunition and pleaded guilty to a number of offences.
- **Airguns** - Two refuse workers were fired on by a man armed with an airgun in Kettering (Northants). A man was arrested in Shrewsbury after allegedly shooting at people with an air rifle.
- Two teenage boys fired two shots from an airgun at an elderly man in Warndon (Worcester).
- A youth, possibly armed with an air rifle, caused thousands of pounds worth of damage in Welham Green (Hertfordshire): cars and windows were damaged.
- A shoplifter was found to have an air pistol stuffed in his sock when he was arrested at Marble Arch for the theft of a scarf.
- **Convictions** - A 17-year-old from Dunfermline who shot a young woman with an air rifle causing her to lose the sight of one eye, admitted culpably and recklessly firing the gun. A 21-year-old man from Muirhouse (Edinburgh) was ordered to do 240 hours of community service after hitting a pregnant woman when he fired an air rifle from his bedroom window.
- A man who fired an airgun through a letter box in Barrow, hitting a woman in the hand, was given a 30 month prison sentence.
- A man admitted pulling an airgun out of a bag during a raid on an Edinburgh shop.
- A 19-year-old received an 18 month custodial sentence and a 14-year-old a two year supervision order after they had caused thousands of pounds worth of damage as they drove through Hampshire and Wiltshire firing a semi-automatic airgun out of the car window.
- A man from Bevendean (Brighton) took pot shots at a neighbour's chimney and peppered the cover with 17 shots: he admitted criminal damage and possessing cannabis resin and ecstasy but denied possessing a firearm. A Huntingdon man admitted criminal damage after taking potshots at a neighbour's satellite dish.
- A court heard how a teenager who brutally stabbed two of his friends to death owned an airgun and enjoyed killing animals with it.
- **Imitation Guns - In spite of measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Act which will ban the sale of imitation guns there is still plenty of evidence that these weapons remain too readily available. In particular there were a worrying number of instances in which they are being used in incidents at schools.**
- Seventeen primary school children in Rugeley (Staffordshire) were hit when three 12-year-olds opened fire with BB guns. Three schoolgirls were hit by BB gun pellets whilst walking to a class at a school in Falkirk: three pupils have been suspended and two youths will be the subject of a report to the Children's Reporter. A ball-bearing gun was fired at a school in Didsbury (south Manchester): one 13-year-old pupil has been excluded. A black market in imitation firearms has been uncovered at a Brighton school after a boy fired a gun in a classroom: a 12-year-old pupil is believed to

have brought in four BB guns and a number of pupils have been suspended.

- A 19-year-old had to be taken to hospital after being shot in the stomach with what was apparently a BB gun by a group of younger children in Trentham (Staffordshire).
- A 15-year-old was caught with a BB gun at a school in Methil (Fife) and was immediately banned.
- A 16-year-old was disarmed of an imitation gun by police in the centre of Andover (Hampshire).
- A driver stopped during an operation in Acton (west London) had an extremely life-like imitation shotgun in his car and was arrested. Another man was arrested in Bromley (south west London) charged with possession of an imitation firearm after reports of a man armed with a gun following a domestic incident.
- Armed police were called to the centre of Reigate (Surrey) after reports of a man with a gun, but it appears that students were filming: police warned of the dangers of having imitation firearms in a public place.
- A church in Northenden (Greater Manchester) has come under fire from youths with ball-bearing guns.
- TA soldiers from York University used a plastic airgun in the filming a mock terror execution that was placed on YouTube. A Galashiels man has been traced after another video was placed on YouTube showing men in balaclavas firing guns: imitation guns were recovered.
- **Imitation Guns - Convictions - Each month there are a number of reports of convictions of offenders who have used imitation guns. Many of the incidents were serious offences which contribute significantly to the level of gun crime in Britain.**
- A man who admitted assaulting a 12-year-old boy by shooting him with a ball-bearing gun in Stenhousemuir (Stirlingshire), amongst other offences, was sentenced to 250 hours community service.
- Two 17-year-olds will serve at least four and a half years in detention following a series of attacks on streets in the Birmingham area in which three victims were shot at point blank range with BB guns.
- A man who robbed betting shops in Trafford Park and Old Trafford admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. A 20-year-old has been sent to a young offenders institution for four and a half years after a robbery at a shop in Gorleston (Norfolk) in which he used a ball-bearing gun.
- Another offender was given an indefinite sentence after using an imitation gun during a street robbery on an 18-year-old victim close to North Shields Metro station on Tyneside.
- A man who confronted three schoolgirls in South Wales and threatened other children was jailed for two and a half years after admitting robbery offences and possessing an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence.
- A 21-year-old who fired shots from an imitation gun outside his old school in Purley (Surrey) was given a five year jail term - he had later been found in possession of a sawn-off shotgun as well as the imitation gun.
- A man held a doctor and two nurses at gunpoint in a hospital in Birmingham whilst armed with an imitation gun and will be sentenced next month.

- A 14-year-old was given three years detention following two hold ups on shops in Pontypool in which he used a ball-bearing gun. Two teenagers were convicted after holding up a shop in Barking (east London) whilst armed with a loaded ball-bearing gun (sentences of five and a half and four years). A 19-year-old was sentenced to two-and-a-half years after he and others attempted to hold up a bookmaker's in Chelmsley Wood (Birmingham): one of the men was armed with an imitation gun.
- A man who claimed that he had only pointed an imitation gun at the staff of a Chinese takeaway in Blackpool for a bet has been given a two years community order.
- A man was jailed for 18 month after threatening a woman with a paintball gun in a road rage incident in Bracknell (Berkshire).
- A man found with three imitation guns and a machete following a domestic incident in Redditch (Worcestershire) was ordered to do 150 hours unpaid work.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There was more evidence that airguns are being misused to shoot pets, especially cats. Incidents involving cats, some of which proved fatal, were reported from localities around the country: Cheshire (Runcorn - an 18-year-old was arrested), Cumbria (Workington), Gloucestershire (Stow, Cheltenham), Kent (Chatham) and central Scotland (Bishopbriggs, Stenhousemuir). A dog was shot with an airgun whilst walking with her owner in Denholm in the Scottish Borders.
- Swans and other birds are still being targeted by killers armed with airguns. This month there were reports of swans being shot dead in Northamptonshire (Wellingborough) and Teesside and of a mallard duck that died after being badly injured at Nuneaton.

Gun Incidents – March 2007

ENGLAND

BBC, 31 March 2007

A 19-year-old was in hospital after being shot in the stomach with what is thought to be a **BB gun**. The victim was walking with friends when he was confronted by a gang of younger youths in **Trentham**, Stoke-on-Trent. Shots were fired and the gang ran off in different directions. The victim's injuries were not thought to be life threatening.

BBC, 31 March 2007

Three people were taken to hospital after a shooting at a pub in **Nechells**, Birmingham. One of the victims was described as critically ill.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 30 March 2007

Shane Thomas was convicted of murder and given a 25 year sentence, Darren Foley admitted murder and was given an 18 year sentence, and two other men, Jamie Hislop and Igor Simic, got five year sentences for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice following the death of man in Dewsbury in December 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot dead at a nightclub. The weapon used had been **reactivated** and the judge urged the Government to cut gun crime by ensuring weapons which are deactivated are immediately destroyed rather than risk them being brought back into working order. Thomas was later sentenced to four years for drug offences, the sentence to run concurrently with the life sentence (*Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 4 April 2007).

Croydon Guardian, 30 March 2007

An 18-year-old has been charged with possession of a firearm and prohibited weapons after a handgun was found wrapped in a sock in a bag at a YMCA hostel in **Croydon**. He was also charged with possession of cannabis.

BBC, 30 March 2007

Kevin Brown and Jonathan McAvoy will serve at least 11 years and at least 5 years in jail, respectively, after pleading guilty to two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery and firearms offences. The pair were seen approaching a cash transit vehicle making a delivery to a petrol station in **Sidcup** in September 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). They were stopped by armed police officers. Two loaded firearms, ammunition and a stun gun were found. Both had a history of violence and use of firearms.

BBC, 30 March 2007

Two robbers wielding a handgun threatened a woman cashier at a service station near **Bristol** before making off with cigarettes and cash. The victim was left in shock by uninjured.

Manchester Evening News, 29 March 2007

Police believe that a gunman who fired eight shots at a front door in **Longsight** may have been targeting the wrong house. A woman was woken by the sound of a loud bang and then breaking glass.

BBC, 29 March 2007

A teenage boy was shot in the foot by an armed gang in **Camberwell Road**, south east London. The 17-year-old victim had been with a friend when they were approached by four men.

BBC, 29 March 2007

Two men who threatened a shop assistant with a handgun at a store in **Farnborough** demanded she hand over the takings but ran away empty handed.

Barking & Dagenham Post, 29 March 2007

Gary Gibbons, 19, and David Parson, 18, robbed an off-licence in **Barking** in August 2006 armed with a loaded **ball-bearing gun**. They stole a packet of cigarettes after pointing the gun at the head of the shopkeeper. Gibbons was sentenced to a total of five-and-a-half-years, and Pearson to four years.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 28 March 2007

A man was shot by a masked gunman shortly after turning up at a house party in **Brackenhall**, Huddersfield. The victim was shot once in the leg by a man armed with a handgun.

Redditch Advertiser, 28 March 2007

David McDonald has been ordered to do 150 hours unpaid work for the community after being found with a machete and three **imitation guns** in his car. Police had been called to a domestic disturbance in **Redditch** in July 2006. It was claimed that he had no intention of using the weapons in a criminal way.

Kent News, 28 March 2007

A gunman held up a store at a retail park in **Ashford**. He ordered a shop worker to hand over money and warned that he if complied he would not get hurt. A large quantity of cash was taken.

ic Berkshire, 28 March 2007

Julian Freeman threatened a woman after a road rage confrontation in **Bracknell** in April 2006. After she tackled him about his persistent tailgating, he pulled out a **paintball gun** which his victim though was a real firearm. His defence counsel described the incident as a prank ("to Mr Freeman it wasn't a serious matter"). His victim thought otherwise: "He wanted to kill me. Why? The fact that the weapon turned out to be a replica wasn't even a relief". Freeman was jailed for 18 months.

Hunts Post, 28 March 2007

Daniel Youthed took pot-shots with an **air rifle** at a neighbour's satellite dish in **Huntingdon** because he was bored. He has admitted criminal damage. In addition to damaging the dish damage was caused to a window frame and a window. Sentencing will take place in April.

BBC, 28 March 2007

A murder investigation was launched after two people were found shot at a house in **Abbey Wood**, south east London. Both were declared dead at the scene. Police were keeping an open mind regarding the circumstances of the deaths.

West Yorkshire Police, 27 March 2007

Cash, a shotgun and another gun were recovered and six men arrested following a report of a disturbance in **Huddersfield**. Police had found a car which is believed to have been damaged by a shotgun while unoccupied. The guns were recovered from addresses in the Fixby and Newsome areas.

ic Surrey, 27 March 2007

Jamie Lane is facing a long jail sentence after a bungled hold-up in which he left a bullet lodged in a petrol station cashier's skull. He had tried to get the victim to open the till at a garage in **Horley** in July 2006 and ended up with less money than he started with after handing over a £5 note. He denied attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm but was convicted of the latter. He had pleaded guilty to attempted robbery, possession of a firearm with intent to commit robbery and possession of ammunition. Sentencing was adjourned. Miraculously the victim was not killed. The bullet was removed by surgeons.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 27 March 2007

A street in **Hillfields**, Coventry, was sealed off for hours after a man was shot in the hand following a lunchtime dispute. The injuries were described as very minor.

Birmingham Mail, 27 March 2007

Arron Alston Rowe, 19, pleaded guilty to charges of attempted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** following an incident at a bookmakers in **Chelmsley Wood** in April 2006. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half years detention. Rowe was one of three young men involved. One of the robbers pointed an airgun at two female members of staff but the robbers appeared to have been disturbed and ran from the shop. An air pistol was found in a nearby alley along with other items which were linked to Rowe.

BBC, 27 March 2007

Bradley Tucker, 18, has been found guilty of murdering a man outside his home in **Canning Town** (east London) in August 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The shooting came seven months after another incident in which the victim was stabbed. During the trial it was revealed that the weapon used, which has not been recovered by police, was likely to have been a converted self-loading **blank-firing pistol** (BBC, 7 March 2007). Tucker had admitted manslaughter, saying that he only meant to scare his victim, but had denied murder. He will be sentenced at a later date. An unnamed 17-year-old was cleared of murder.

BBC, 26 March 2007

A 17-year-old man has been arrested after allegedly waving a handgun at motorists in **Guisborough**, Teeside. It is suspected that the gun was used to threaten a woman moments earlier.

The News (Portsmouth), 26 March 2007

A KFC restaurant in **Portsmouth** was held up by an armed robber as staff counted the takings. After forcing staff into an upstairs room the gunman stole £1,500. Police are now looking to see if the raid is linked to two other similar robberies that occurred in Portsmouth in January and February 2007.

Ealing Times, 26 March 2007

Police have released a picture of a man who beat a woman with a handgun before stealing jewellery from her home in **Kingston** in December 2006.

BBC, 25 March 2007

A man is being questioned by police after a shooting at a pub in **Leicester** in which two men suffered gunshot wounds to their legs. Two other men sustained stab wounds in the incident. The victims were taken to hospital where they are all "stable". The man arrested has been released pending further inquiries by police (*BBC*, 26 March 2007).

Gazette & Herald, 24 March 2007

A gunman burst into a house in **Penhill**, Swindon, and demanded money before escaping with tobacco.

Eastern Daily Press, 24 March 2007

Scott Watkins, 20, pointed a **ball-bearing gun** at the head of a customer when he robbed a convenience store in **Gorleston** in September 2006 with an accomplice. He was handed £370 from the till and some lottery scratch cards by a member of staff. He admitted the robbery and being in possession of the weapon and was sent to a young offenders institution for four years and nine months.

This is Wiltshire, 22 March 2007

Simon Ling, 19, has been given an 18-month custodial sentence for his part in a rampage of destruction and vandalism through a number of Hampshire and Wiltshire villages in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The shooting spree resulted in more than 80 reports of criminal damage from people in **New Milton, Fordingbridge, Ringwood, Hale, Woodfalls, Downton and Redlynch**. The cost of the damages was estimated at more than £9000. Ling owned a **gas-powered semi-automatic 15-shot airgun** that fired 4.5mm metal pellets, a weapon which he kept in his car. Ling drove his car home from a party from New Milton to Redlynch while the 14-year-old fired the gun from the car window. Ling was sentenced for possessing a firearm while committing an offence, with concurrent sentences for 11 counts of criminal damage. His airguns and car were confiscated. His younger accomplice was given a two-year supervision order including community work and a three-month curfew.

Argus (Brighton), 22 March 2007

A black market in **imitation firearms** has been uncovered in a school playground. A 12-year-old pupil is believed to have brought in four BB guns which were circulated among his classmates at a school in **Brighton**. The racket was discovered after one boy fired a gun in a classroom. A number of pupils have been suspended.

This is South Devon, 21 March 2007

A revolver and rifle found at the home of Lewis Parker at **Denbury Cross**, Devon, could easily have been used to kill someone according to a firearms expert. Parker was jailed for five years after pleading guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon, possessing a sports rifle without a certificate and possessing ammunition. Police went to his house following a row between Parker and his estranged wife. He argued that the weapons were to defend his home from intruders.

Liverpool Echo, 21 March 2007

Police found a cache of weapons and ammunition hidden in undergrowth in the grounds of **Halewood Country Park**. They had received a tip-off from local residents. The weapons included two pistols, a shotgun, a machine pistol and a revolver. In a separate incident police found a shotgun and ammunition at a house in **Kirkby** and a local woman was arrested at the scene on suspicion of possession of a shotgun.

Bexley Times, 21 March 2007

An off-licence manager who was held at gunpoint during a robbery in **Sidcup** in December 2006 has described it as "disheartening" that no one from the police had been in touch to say how the case was going. The two robbers stole £4000 in cash and £3198 in cigarettes.

BBC, 19 March 2007

A man is feared paralysed after being shot several times in a car park outside a club in **Harlesden**, west London. He had suffered "life-changing injuries". He was attacked by up to six men, one of whom then shot him with a handgun.

The Argus (Brighton), 19 March 2007

Armed police from Sussex were dispatched to deal with two gun-toting men in two separate incidents. In **Worthing** a man was reported to be waving a gun around as he walked along a street. He was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm but was later released on police bail. At the recreation ground in **Bexhill** police subdued a man with a Taser stun gun. He was one of two men in their 20s arrested after one of the duo was alleged to have pulled a gun on a motorist.

BBC, 18 March 2007

A man was shot in the leg in a pub in **Bloxwich**, in the Black Country. A number of people were taken into police custody. One man was being treated in hospital for gunshot wounds, another was treated by ambulance crews at the scene for head injuries.

Bedford Today, 17 March 2007

Detectives in **Luton** are appealing for help in identifying a man caught in a CCTV picture. The man is wanted in connection with an incident in which he broke two pub windows before leaving with a group of people. He had what appeared to be a small silver gun in his hand.

This is Hampshire, 16 March 2007

Police disarmed a 16-year-old youth who had an **imitation firearm** in **Andover** town centre. Officers were called after receiving reports that a youth was carrying a gun.

MK News, 16 March 2007

A man stormed into a Chinese takeaway in **New Bradwell** waving a gun and demanding cash but left empty handed.

Hartlepool Mail, 16 March 2007

Peter Jenkins, who was banned from owning firearms for life, was found with a stolen gun and ammunition. Police officers found a Browning shotgun, along with 200 cartridges in a car belonging to Jenkins. The shotgun and ammunition had been taken from a property during a burglary in **Hartlepool**. Jenkins pleaded guilty to a number of offences including possessing a firearm and ammunition in public and possessing of a firearm while being prohibited from possessing such a weapon for life. Sentencing has been deferred.

ic Croydon, 16 March 2007

Daniel Brady, 21, has been given a five-year prison term for a number of crimes, including an incident in **Purley** in which he fired shots outside his old school in front of terrified pupils. The incident occurred in June 2006 when Brady was still on parole. His father revealed that the reason his son ended up firing two blanks from an **imitation gun** was because he was standing up for his sister who was being hassled by school friends. The imitation gun was found two months later in the boot of his car, along with a sawn-off shotgun, ammunition and a balaclava. His father said "He has always been very fond of guns". Brady pleaded guilty to firing an imitation gun and to possessing a sawn-off shotgun and was also found guilty of possessing a gun with intent to rob and intent to cause fear.

Worcester News, 15 March 2007

George Cowley, a regular correspondent to *Worcester News*, has spoken out after being shot at by two teenagers with an **airgun** last month. He was outside his neighbour's flat in **Warndon** when, after someone shouted his name, two teenage boys fired two shots at him. Fortunately they missed, but he says they could have blinded or killed him. Police are investigating the incident.

This is Cheshire, 15 March 2007

A man was shot in the leg when he answered the door at a house in **Padgate**, Warrington. The victim was being treated in hospital but was not believed to be in a serious condition. Police believe that the shooting was a targeted attack.

North-West Evening Mail, 15 March 2007

Jason Froggart fired an **airgun** through a letter box at his friend's mother's home after he suspected him of burgling his flat in **Barrow**. The shot hit a woman in the hand which she had in her pocket and the pellet was later found in the pocket. It was one of a series of incidents between Froggart and the other man during one night in January. Police arrested Froggart at his home and found the gun and pellets. The gun had been placed on a tripod and was facing the front door of the flat. Froggart was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

ic Surrey, 15 March 2007

Armed police were called to the centre of **Reigate** after reports of a man brandishing a gun. It turned out to be students filming. Two local colleges said that, as far as they knew, none of their students were involved in any filming as part of their college activities. A police spokesman said that "People should not have **imitation firearms** in a public place. Not only will it cause unnecessary alarm and concern among the public, but will result in a very positive police response."

The Gazette (Blackpool), 15 March 2007

Hugh Kilday claimed that pointing a handgun at shocked staff at a takeaway in **Blackpool** was a prank following a £100 bet. Kilday was kicked and pushed out of the shop by staff as customers fled. He pleaded guilty to charges of attempted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit an indictable offence in August 2006. He was given a community order, which will involve two years of supervision and two years' drug rehabilitation.

BBC, 15 March 2007

Dozens of shotgun cartridges, bullets and several artillery shells, some of them live, were found inside recycled material bins at a recycling facility in **Fengate**, Peterborough. The production line had to be closed down each time shells were found. Police said that ammunition, whether spent or live, should be handed into police or a registered firearms dealer.

BBC, 15 March 2007

A man has been arrested after gun shots were heard in **Shelton**, Derby. Police found a firearm after a search.

BBC, 15 March 2007

Seventeen primary school children were shot with plastic pellets at a school in **Rugeley**, Staffordshire. A **BB gun** was fired at them in the playground. It is thought that three boys from a different school had fired on the pupils from nearby bushes. The victims, aged between seven and 11 suffered bruising. Three 12-year-old boys have now been arrested and a total of four BB guns recovered (*In the News*, 16 March 2007). A fourth boy has now been arrested (*Express & Star*, 19 March 2007). Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council is writing to Home Secretary John Reid to call for a change in the law, so that ball-bearing guns are completely banned (*Express & Star*, 6 April 2007).

Wimbledon Guardian, 14 March 2007

Police were threatened by a gang at gunpoint after concerned residents called officers to **Barnes** after a group of men were seen acting suspiciously. The three made off as soon as police arrived and were chased on foot where one aimed a single-barrel sawn-off shotgun at officers and threatened them. No shots were fired.

BBC, 14 March 2007

A 15-year-old boy was shot with a Taser gun during an armed police raid in **Moss Side**, Manchester. The boy began threatening officers during the search of a property. Another man was detained in the raid and charged in connection with a shooting in **Rusholme**. A number of arrests were made after a firearm was found at the property.

BBC, 14 March 2007

A taxi driver has been shot dead in the **Pitsmoor** area of Sheffield. He was found with gunshot wounds after police responded to reports of a road crash and shots being fired. The death follows two other gunpoint robberies in the city last month.

BBC, 13 March 2007

Two refuse collectors were injured after they were fired on by a man wielding what police believe was an **airgun**. The incident took place in **Kettering**, Northants. One man was hit in the neck, the other in the back and both suffered bruising. Officers later searched a house and seized a weapon and ammunition. A 28-year-old man was bailed pending further investigations (*BBC*, 14 March 2007).

This is London, 12 March 2007

A teenager obsessed with violent horror films butchered two friends with a knife in an attack in Wokingham. 18-year-old Thomas Palmer had been drinking alcohol with his two friends when an argument broke out about his mother and in a savage and brutal attack with a hunting knife he killed the two boys. The court heard he had a collection of weapons and enjoyed killing animals with his **airgun**. He was a keen member of the army cadets.

News Shopper, 12 March 2007

A man will appear in court charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent. Police were called to a domestic incident at an apartment in **Bromley** after reports of a man armed with a gun.

The Argus (Brighton), 12 March 2007

Residents called police after Martin Skinner took pot shots at a chimney cover or cowl from his home in **Bevendean**. The cover had been peppered by 17 shots from an **air rifle** during the attack in July 2006. Officers noticed items connected with cannabis in the room as Skinner signed documents to say he did not want the gun any more. Skinner admitted criminal damage and possessing cannabis resin and ecstasy but denied possessing a firearm and the charge was ordered to lie on file. Skinner was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 compensation and £350 towards prosecution costs.

This is London, 11 March 2007

A 21-year-old student was shot in front of his horrified friends after trouble flared at a hip hop concert held at **Loughborough University** in Leicestershire. Six other people were taken to hospital suffering from injuries and the effects of CS gas. The shooting victim was recovering in hospital. A 22-year-old Nottingham man was arrested and has been released on police bail (*BBC*, 15th March 2007).

This is London, 10 March 2007

A woman who had been awarded a record divorce payout has been tied up and robbed of jewellery worth £300,000 in an armed raid on her home on the outskirts of **Sevenoaks**, Kent. She was discovered and released 20 minutes later when one of her sons returned home. The intruder was brandishing a gun but there were no obvious signs of a break-in and neighbours in the street said they knew nothing about the robbery.

This is Lancashire, 10 March 2007

James Mason threatened a woman with a 12-bore shotgun after his sheep and lambs had been attacked by out-of-control dogs at his hill farm in **Haslingden**. An armed response unit was called and found four shotguns, a .22 rifle and more than 2,500 rounds of ammunition at his property and Mason made menacing comments as police arrested him. His gun licence had lapsed, but his elderly father had a certificate. Mason admitted affray and possessing a firearm without a certificate in October 2005 and was given 11 months in jail, suspended for two years with supervision, and the weapon was confiscated.

The Star (Sheffield), 10 March 2007

A man is due to appear before magistrates charged with the murder of a man who was shot dead at an isolated spot near **Halifax** in February 11. He died from multiple gunshot wounds shortly after arriving at hospital.

BBC, 10 March 2007

Detectives were trying to trace a person who fired a gun at a house in **Gorton**, Greater Manchester. A couple and three young children were in the property when a bullet was shot through a window and embedded itself in a wall.

Sun, 9 March 2007

Trainee officers with the TA from **York University** filmed a mock terror execution while on an exercise and then placed the film on YouTube under the title York Cowboys 4. The video has now been removed. A senior Army spokesman said "The weapon used was some sort of **plastic airgun**".

Hucknall Today, 9 March 2007

Adam Fett held a doctor and two nurses at gunpoint in a hospital in **Birmingham** in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He robbed one of the nurses of morphine while holding an **imitation gun**. He admitted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and will be sentenced next month.

Ealing Times, 9 March 2007

A driver who was stopped during an operation by Ealing Council in **Acton** had an "extremely life-like" **imitation shotgun** in full view. Police were called to the scene and arrested the man. Cannabis was also found in his car.

BBC, 9 March 2007

A 16-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with the shooting of another teenager in **Croxteth**, Merseyside. The victim suffered pellet injuries to his thigh and calf in what police said was a "targeted" attack. A 19-year-old and a 17-year-old will appear before magistrates charged with firearms offences. The 17-year-old has been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and the 19-year-old has been charged with possession of a firearm. The 16-year-old and another 19-year-old were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm and possession of cannabis and have been released on police bail (*BBC*, 12 March 2007).

South Manchester Reporter, 8 March 2007

A church in **Northenden**, Greater Manchester, has come under fire from youths using **ball-bearing guns**. Windows have been smashed by youngsters taking pot shots.

South Manchester Reporter, 8 March 2007

An investigation is being carried out at a **Didsbury** school after a **ball-bearing gun** was fired. The gun was found in a school car park after the incident in January. One 13-year-old pupil has been permanently excluded. The boy's mother has claimed his innocence though says that he does admit that he held the gun.

Express & Star, 8 March 2007

Raiders stole more than 20 **imitation** "ball-bearing guns" from a shop in **Cannock**. They were taken from the walls of the store and were worth a total of up to £10,000. The report said that the guns were intended for use in **airsoft**. One of the store's owners is quoted as saying: "There is a slim chance they will be used for illegal purposes but I think it is more likely they will be sold back into the airsoft community".

South Yorkshire Police, 7 March 2007

Doncaster police are appealing for information following an alleged burglary in **Askern** in which three firearms were stolen, a Baikal shotgun with a cherry walnut stock (which needs a licence), a Wierach spring powered **air rifle** and a Thoben Fenman gas ram **air rifle**.

Shields Gazette, 7 March 2007

A teenage assistant manager of a store in **Jarrow** has told how he still suffers flashbacks after being robbed at gunpoint at the shop. The robber was brandishing what is thought to be a double-barrelled shotgun and leapt over the counter, demanding cash from the victim. Two members of the public came to his aid and the robber made his escape with less than £100. The store owners are offering a £2000 reward for any information which leads to arrest and conviction. One man has been arrested and bailed pending further inquiries.

ic Surrey, 7 March 2007

An inquest into the death of a mother-of-two who was shot dead at her home in **Lowfield Heath**, West Sussex, in January, has been opened and adjourned. She was found dead in an armchair with a large gunshot wound to her throat. The provisional cause of death has been given as being a shotgun injury to the neck and chest. Her husband has been arrested and charged with murder.

Herts24, 7 March 2007

A youth, believed to have been armed with an **air rifle**, caused thousands of pounds worth of damage in **Welham Green**, Hertfordshire. He took pot shots at cars and windows. His attacks finally came to an end when a resident saw him take aim at a shop window and made a phone call to the police. The police said that they knew a number of people had heard something in the night but never called the police. Further investigations have, however, failed to identify the actual weapon used in the attacks (*Herts 24*, 14 March 2007).

East London Advertiser, 7 March 2007

Ali Karlim, who was caught stealing a scarf at a West End store in London, had an **air pistol** stuffed into his sock when he was arrested at **Marble Arch** in September 2006. He was told by the judge that "Carrying a loaded air gun in public, in the current climate in our country, is extremely serious" and was jailed for 2 years.

This is Cheshire, 6 March 2007

Joseph Powell has admitted robbery, possessing an **imitation firearm** and attempted robbery. He had raided betting shops in **Trafford Park** and **Old Trafford** over a six-day period in May and June 2006. He threatened to shoot one of the bookmakers. Powell turned to robbery to pay off drug dealers who were going to harm him, according to his defence counsel. He has been jailed indefinitely.

Iford Recorder, 6 March 2007

Two armed robbers threatened guards with a handgun before snatching a cashbox in a raid in **South Woodford**, north east London.

Shropshire Star, 5 March 2007

A man was arrested in **Shrewsbury** after allegedly shooting at people with an **air rifle**. Armed police were sent after reports of a gun being fired from the window of a terraced house. One victim, aged 19, felt a sharp pain in his back but was unaware he had been shot until police informed people what was going on.

Scotsman, 5 March 2007

A 21-year-old was shot dead in **Harlesden**, north west London. He had suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Metro, 5 March 2007

A gunman pulled out a firearm during a fight outside a nightclub in **Forest Gate**, east London, and shot a man from a distance of less than 4 ft. The victim managed to escape when the gun misfired. A 21-year-old man was arrested and later charged.

BBC, 5 March 2007

Jason Campbell will serve a minimum of 30 years for the murder of a man who was fatally wounded as he sat in his car with friends in a car park in **Streatham**, south London, in January 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Campbell was one of three men who tried to rob the men in the car. The victim was shot as he tried to escape and later died from a gunshot wound to the chest. Daniel Springer was also jailed for 12 years for manslaughter. Both men were convicted of three counts of robbery and Campbell pleaded guilty to firearms offences.

BBC, 4 March 2007

A police officer was shot by a youth in **Peckham**, south London, but was unhurt. No one had been arrested and police would not say what type of firearm was used.

BBC, 3 March 2007

A van parked in a driveway in **Weybourne**, Surrey, was damaged when someone fired a gun into the back of it. There were three gunshot holes which will cost about £2,000 to repair.

BBC, 3 March 2007

Two men entered a shop in **Burtonwood**, near Warrington, and threatened shoppers and staff with a gun. They made off on foot with a quantity of cash. No one was injured in the robbery, but some people have been left traumatised. A 15-year-old girl had a gun pushed into her back (*Daily Post*, 5 March 2007).

This is Hampshire, 2 March 2007

Three men are on trial accused of robbery, conspiracy to rob and having a 9 mm pistol after a robbery at warehouse premises at **Heathrow Airport** in February 2004 when £1.75m was stolen.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 2 March 2007

Tommy Laws has been given an indefinite sentence with a minimum of five years in jail for staging a terrifying hold-up at gunpoint. His 18-year-old victim had a small **imitation pistol** held to his head while Laws threatened to kill him and stole an MP3 player, bank card and silver chain during the attack near **North Shields** Metro station in September 2006. He admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.

BBC, 2 March 2007

Two teenagers, aged 14 and 15, were arrested after a handgun was recovered from a house in **Great Barr**, Birmingham. It was not clear whether the find was related to a report of shots being fired in the same road.

Worcester News, 1 March 2007

Staff and children at a school in **Kidderminster** were warned to stay in after police went to a domestic incident. There were unconfirmed reports that a firearm may have been involved.

West Yorkshire Police, 1 March 2007

Police are appealing for witnesses following an incident in **West Bowling**, Bradford, in which a firearm was discharged at a house. No one was injured but damage was caused to the house.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 1 March 2007

A security guard was threatened with a gun during a raid in **Little Sutton**. A robber pressed a black pistol into the man's side before escaping with a case of money.

Birmingham Mail, 1 March 2007

Two 17-year-olds, Jerome Scully and Dominic Waite, shot three victims in the face at point blank range with **ball-bearing guns** during a three-hour orgy of robbery and violence in Birmingham. The two fronted a five-strong gang which cruised the city indiscriminately attacking passers-by. The offences occurred in **Handsworth, Winson Green, Bearwood, Aston, Ward End** and **Dudley Road**. The pair were told they must serve at least four-and-a-half years for 19 counts of firearms offences, robbery, GBH and attempted robbery.

BBC, 1 March 2007

Two masked raiders burst into a farm in **Quornford** near Leek. They tied up the occupant and his friend before turning a shotgun on a dog and escaping with £3,000 in cash. The dog received serious head injuries and is being treated by a local vet.

BBC, 1 March 2007

Eight people have been arrested and firearms seized after police raided 21 houses in **Manchester** as part of an ongoing crackdown on gun crime. Two were arrested on suspicion of possessing ammunition, three for attempted murder, one for possession of a firearm, and two for drugs offences. Two handguns, components and a quantity of ammunition were recovered.

SCOTLAND

Record, 29 March 2007

John Young threatened to shoot a shop assistant in **Edinburgh** before he fled with an empty till drawer. He had gone into the shop and pulled an **airgun** out of a bag in December 2006. He admitted carrying out the raid. Sentencing was deferred for reports.

ic Renfrewshire, 28 March 2007

A man drinking in a pub in **Renfrew** dropped a pistol on the floor, then quickly picked it up and walked out. Police received an anonymous call about the incident and the armed man was found sitting outside a tenement close with a firearm lying on the ground beside him. The man was arrested and was charged under the Firearms Act.

BBC, 28 March 2007

Police have traced a man from **Galashiels** after videos of people wearing balaclavas and pretending to fire weapons were posted on YouTube. Police have described his actions as an "ill-judged publicity stunt". **Imitation guns** have been recovered. The videos have been condemned as "offensive".

BBC, 28 March 2007

Police were tipped off that there were weapons at the house of Hamilton Fisher in **Knightswood**, Glasgow. Fisher pleaded guilty to possessing a PA-63 self-loading pistol without a firearms certificate and admitted a breach of the Firearms Act by having a "prohibited weapon" with a barrel less than 30cm long. He also admitted possessing a stun gun without a firearms certificate. He was jailed for five years.

Falkirk Herald, 22 March 2007

Three terrified schoolgirls were shot at as they walked to classes in **Falkirk**. They were peppered with pellets from a **BB gun** outside the school. Although not seriously hurt they were marked where the pellets had hit. Two youths will be the subject of a report to the Children's Reporter in connection with culpable and reckless conduct. In an apparently connected incident three pupils brought offensive weapons to school and have been suspended until the end of term. BB guns are still available in Falkirk shops for as little as £2.

Daily Record, 20 March 2007

A man was blasted with a shotgun as he celebrated Hibernian FC's CIS Cup triumph. The victim was sprayed with pellets while he smoked a cigarette outside a pub in **Clermiston**, Edinburgh. He was taken to hospital and will be transferred to a hospital in Livingston for plastic surgery. A 20-year-old man has been charged with the attempted murder (*Record*, 21 March 2007).

Daily Record, 16 March 2007

Nicholas Campbell, 21, admitted shooting a pregnant woman with an **air rifle**. The victim was sitting in her car when she was struck on the hand by a pellet fired whilst Campbell was taking random shot from his bedroom window in **Muirhouse**, Edinburgh, in July 2006. Campbell was ordered to do 240 hours of community service.

Evening Times, 14 March 2007

Two armed robbers are being hunted after a bank raid in **Byres Road** in Glasgow's West End. Masked men burst into the bank and made off with around £5000. Staff were threatened with what appeared to be a gun.

Daily Record, 10 March 2007

A schoolboy has been charged after being caught with an airgun in a class in **Methil**, Fife. The 15-year-old had showed the **BB gun** to a classmate who then told a teacher. The boy was immediately banned from school. The headteacher said the school had a zero-tolerance approach to weapons. The boy has been charged with breach of the peace and has been reported to the children's panel.

Evening Times, 8 March 2007

Five schoolgirls were subjected to an attempted carjacking ordeal when a gang of three men smashed their way into their car which was parked near **Maxwell Park** on Glasgow's South Side. One of the gang was carrying a handgun which was used to smash the window. The gang tried to steal the car but the driver managed to drive off and called police immediately.

BBC, 8 March 2007

Peter Craig admitted assaulting a 12-year-old diabetic boy and exposing him to unnecessary suffering by preventing him from getting access to essential medication. In the incident, which happened at Craig's former home in **Stenhousemuir**, Stirlingshire, in August 2005, Craig delayed taking the boy home for five hours and shot him with a **ball bearing gun**. The boy was hit on the lower body and sustained several bruises. Craig was ordered to carry out 250 hours community service.

Daily Record, 7 March 2007

Scott Pratt, 17, from **Dunfermline** shot a young mother with an **air rifle** for a "joke". His victim, who had taken her son to visit Pratt's sister, lost an eye as a result of the attack. He admitted culpably and recklessly firing the gun in August 2006. Sentencing has been deferred. The victim has joined demands for immediate action to get airguns out of circulation (*Daily Record*, 8 March 2007).

WALES

BBC, 30 March 2007

A man and a woman have been bailed by after police found a "substantial quantity" of illegal firearms and cannabis plants on a farm in **Gwyddelwern**, near Corwen in Denbighshire.

South Wales Echo, 26 March 2007

Daniel Lee Ellis from **Porth** confronted three 14-year-old schoolgirls with a **BB air pistol** in November 2006 and threatened to shoot one of them when holding the weapon a foot from her face. He then fired the gun at the ground in the direction of a group of boys and waved it at another girl. He was arrested within five minutes. He claimed that it was a joke and didn't think his actions would be taken seriously. He was jailed for two and a half years after admitting two offences of attempted robbery and three offences of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Western Mail, 2 March 2007

Luke Steele, 14, pointed a **ball-bearing gun** at a shopkeeper in **Pontypool** and demanded 20 cigarettes. He had earlier held up another corner store in the town by pointing a gun at the ceiling. He was sentenced to three years detention.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

The Star (Sheffield), 30 March 2007

A cat which survived being shot with an **airgun** on the streets of **Ecclesfield**, despite being left bloodied, bruised and blind in one eye, has been awarded the PDSA Pet Survivor of the Year Award.

BBC, 25 March 2007

A cat has suffered severe leg injuries after being shot by an **air rifle** in an attack in **Ashfield**, Workington. Like other pets we have reported on recently, the cat may have to have its leg amputated. Its owner reported seeing youths carrying air weapons in the area days before the attack.

Runcorn Weekly News, 22 March 2007

An **air rifle** and ammunition were seized from a **Runcorn** address following the shooting of two cats. Residents had reported seeing the barrel of a weapon protruding from an upstairs bedroom window of the house. Two pet cats had been shot and injured in the area. An 18-year-old man was arrested and cautioned for criminal damage. The weapon and pellets were destroyed.

Falkirk Herald, 22 March 2007

A family's pet cat has been hit with an **airgun** in **Stenhousemuir**, Stirlingshire. His owner thought he had been knocked over by a car but the vet discovered he had been shot. The pellet cannot be removed and remains lodged between the cat's jaw bone and brain.

Cotswold Journal, 22 March 2007

Pet owners in **Stow** have been put on the alert after a second cat in the town was put down after being shot. She had crawled home in agony, and veterinary staff found she had been shot in the back with a .22 **airgun** pellet that had gone right through her body. The shooting is being linked to a similar incident in **Withington** when a cat was shot and had to have a leg amputated. Three weeks earlier another cat in Stow had been shot in the back with an airgun and the pellet had badly damaged her back leg.

Borders Today, 22 March 2007

Police are investigating the shooting of a Border collie with an airgun in **Denholm**. The dog required an operation to remove a .22 **airgun** pellet from her leg. Her owner was walking her by the river when he heard a crack and she yelped and came bounding back to him.

BBC, 22 March 2007

A cormorant was found dead with gunshot wounds in a street in **Filey**, North Yorkshire. Police are investigating the shooting, which was carried out at close range with a shotgun. An RSPB spokeswoman said any culling of the fishing birds had to be carried out by a nominated person.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 20 March 2007

A mallard duck was found badly injured on the footpath of the Coventry Canal in **Nuneaton**. It had been shot in the head with an **air rifle** pellet and died when it was picked it by staff from Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary.

BBC, 15 March 2007

A cat was shot with an **air weapon** in **Chatham**. The animal returned home injured and was found to have been shot with two pellets when it was taken to a vet.

BBC, 14 March 2007

The body of a swan believed to have suffered **airgun** wounds was discovered at a wildlife facility in **Stillington Forest Park** on the outskirts of Stockton. RSPCA officers have been following recent reports that youths had been taking pot-shots at the local wildlife with airguns.

BBC, 12 March 2007

Police in Cheltenham have warned people about a growing number of cat shootings and have told people with pellet guns or **air weapons** that they can be traced by ammunition. There have been a number of reports of cats being shot in the **Leckhampton** and **Prestbury** areas.

BBC, 12 March 2007

Two swans have been shot and killed by three men with **air rifles** who enticed the birds to the bank of the River Nene in **Wellingborough**, Northamptonshire. They shot the birds and dragged them out of the water.

Kirkintilloch Today, 6 March 2007

Another cat has had to have a leg amputated following an **airgun** attack in **Bishopbriggs**, East Dunbartonshire.



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