



## **MARCH 2008 - SUMMARY**

**The majority of the shooting incidents that resulted in fatal or serious injuries occurred in London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. However, other types of gun incident reported in March, including most of the armed hold-ups, most airgun incidents and most of those involving imitation guns, occurred outside the main metropolitan areas of England.**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were a number of shooting deaths in March. Seven, all of male victims, were being treated as murder: these occurred in Lydden (Kent), Ilford (east London), Brixton (south London) (the victim was a teenager), Tipton, Whitmore Reans and Newtown (all in the West Midlands) and Blyth (Northumberland).
- Two men died from gunshot wounds in apparent suicides in Bremhill (Wiltshire) and Eastbourne (Sussex).
- In London other victims were injured in shooting incidents in Harlesden (victim critically hurt by a shot to the head), Ilford (a double shooting in which the other victim was fatally wounded), Hackney (a teenage victim who was critically injured), Camberwell (the victim was also a teenager), Streatham (on a bus) and Wandsworth (at a bus stop). In Greater Manchester victims received gun injuries in attacks in Tyldesley, Baguley and Salford (where two people were injured in a pub). Other victims received gunshot injuries in incidents in Blyth (Northumberland) (a double shooting in which the other victim was fatally wounded), Gateacre (Liverpool), Aston (Birmingham) (another double shooting) and in Swansea. All the victims were male except for two women victims who were injured in the double shootings in Blyth and Salford.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - Robberies and attempted robberies on banks in which a gun was likely to have been involved occurred in Ledbury (Herefordshire), Worcester, Mildenhall (Suffolk - the robbers were armed with a stun gun) and East Horsley and Ashted (both in Surrey - the raids may be linked). A robbery on a bank in Brighton was stopped by an off-duty police officer. Post offices were robbed at gunpoint in Brentwood (Essex), Sunderland and Dyffryn Rhondda (South Wales).
- Three raids by armed men on bookmakers in Dorking, Thames Ditton and Ewell (all in Surrey) may be linked. A bookmakers in Kitts Green (Birmingham) was robbed by two men with a handgun, and two female staff at a bookmakers in Glasgow were left shaken after another robbery. A man from Borehamwood (Hertfordshire) has been charged in connection with a series of armed robberies on bookmakers across the South East.
- A travel agents in Consett (County Durham) was robbed by two men with a firearm. A garage in Melton (Suffolk) was raided by a man armed with a silver revolver, and another man tried to rob a garage in Northampton whilst armed with an imitation firearm (see below).
- Robbery attempts were made by gunmen on shops in Hellesdon (Norfolk), Shenstone (Staffordshire), St Ann's (Nottingham - two teenagers have been charged with armed robbery and possession of an imitation firearm (see below)) and Portsmouth.

- Delivery drivers were threatened in Ormesby (Middlesbrough) (robbers were armed with a stun gun), Preston, Scotter (Lincolnshire) (a post office driver was kidnapped) and St Mellons (Cardiff). A taxi driver was robbed of his takings at gunpoint in Whiteley (Hampshire).
- A hotel in St Albans (Hertfordshire) was robbed by an armed man. Staff at a bingo hall in Feltham (west London) were held up at gunpoint. A club steward was assaulted by a gunman during an attempted robbery in Platt Bridge (Lancashire).
- A man was held up and robbed at gunpoint in a street in St Albans (Hertfordshire) and a teenager was robbed in a park in Portsmouth.
- **Other Incidents** - A man was charged with three counts of attempted murder of police officers after shots had been fired at them in Manor House (north London)
- An 11-year-old fired a loaded handgun at a car in Smethwick (West Midlands) after his three-year-old brother had found the gun in the family's garden.
- Four men were arrested after a fully loaded handgun was discovered in a pub in Manchester. Three men were arrested in Lincoln in connection with drugs and firearms offences. A man was arrested in Carlisle on suspicion of possessing a firearm. Another man was arrested regarding firearms and other offences in a high-security operation in Ponteland (Northumberland).
- A man fired a gun outside a nightclub in Milton Keynes, a gun may have been discharged after a fight outside a community club in Skelmersdale (Lancashire) and a gun was fired at the back of a nightclub in Glasgow. Shots were reported to have been fired in a street in East End Park (Leeds). A man was charged after reports of gunshots being fired in Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire) and three men were arrested after an incident in Derby when a flat window was broken. There were unconfirmed reports that a train was shot at near Marks Tey (Essex). A firearm was set off and smashed a window in Burnley (Lancashire).
- A driver in Yalding (Kent) had a large handgun pointed in his face by the driver of another vehicle.
- Firearms were recovered from a house in Hamworthy (Dorset) after a woman's body was found after a fire.
- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - Three firearms and a quantity of ammunition were seized in Bradford during a drug operation. Drugs and a number of imitation guns and an air rifle were seized at a site in Neasden (north west London): two men were arrested.
- A shotgun was found at the bottom of a canal in Bude (Cornwall) during engineering work.
- Two shotguns and cartridges have been stolen from a house in Meols (Wirral).
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A man found guilty of murdering a pregnant woman in Battersea (south London) by shooting her in the head has been given a minimum sentence of 30 years in jail.
- A coroner ruled that a man who in January 2008 shot his mother-in-law dead in Gustard Wood (Hertfordshire) and then committed suicide in Markyate (also in Hertfordshire) used a shotgun he stole from the gun club where his body was found.

- Two men have been given minimum sentences of 16 years after a teenager was left with a bullet lodged in his brain after a shooting in Canning Town (east London).
- Two men have been jailed for 15 and eight years after police found a number of guns at a house in Haydock (Lancashire).
- A student caught with a loaded revolver in Hackney (east London) was jailed for 5 years.
- A husband who attacked his wife with a stun gun in Edinburgh has pleaded guilty and been fined £660.
- A man has been jailed for eight years and six months after armed raids on a money exchange in Glasgow and a bank in Troon (Ayrshire).
- A man who had been armed with a silver revolver (it is still to be confirmed whether the gun was real or an imitation) when he attempted to rob a woman driver in Linthorpe (Middlesbrough) has pleaded guilty.
- After being arrested in Childwall (Liverpool) during a targeted gun crime day last year a man has admitted drugs and firearms charges. A man from Wilburton (Cambridgeshire) is likely to receive a long jail sentence after he admitted possessing a sawn-off shotgun without a licence. A man from Jedburgh (Scottish Borders) was jailed for three years after a handgun was found at his home. A former police officer from Chatham (Kent) was convicted of a number of offences including possession of a firearm and has been jailed for seven years.
- **Airguns** - Too many people are still being targeted by airgun snipers. The following attacks were reported in March:
  - A man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a teenager was shot with a pellet gun in Broomhall (Sheffield)
  - A 15-year-old was hit in the eye with an airgun pellet in Calne (Wiltshire)
  - A woman was apparently shot with an airgun while walking in Whitby (North Yorkshire)
  - Two people were hit with shots from an air rifle outside a leisure centre in Newton Abbot (Devon): another victim later revealed she too had been hit at the same location in December 2007
  - A man was hit in the head by an air rifle shot fired from a passing car in Ironbridge (Shropshire)
  - A teenager was hit in the leg with an air rifle pellet in Wombourne (Staffordshire)
  - A fireman was hit in the back with an airgun pellet in Hartlepool
  - A parking warden was shot in the hand in Edinburgh
- A postbox was closed after a postman was shot at with an airgun in Hartlepool.
- An 18-year-old was arrested on suspicion of threats to kill after an incident in Shipham (Somerset) where an air weapon was recovered.
- A member of the public was threatened in a street in Watford (Hertfordshire) with an air pistol. A teenager was grabbed around the throat and threatened with what appeared to be an airgun in a park in Redditch (Worcestershire).
- Advertising hoardings were damaged by airgun pellets in Market Harborough (Leicestershire). Windows were broken, probably by air rifle pellets in Exmouth (Devon). A woman in Lydiate (Lancashire) has described how a pellet from an air rifle or BB gun shattered her living room window. A 19-year-old was arrested for firing an airgun at a neighbour's window in Ipswich. A gunman shot out windows in three houses and a church in Alloa and Tullibody (Clackmannanshire).
- Air rifles were seized in two separate incidents in Kent, one after men were seen carrying a weapon in woods in Tovil, the other after a man was

spotted shooting birds near a children's play area in Gillingham. A man was arrested on an airgun charge after a raid on a hostel in Inverness.

- **Convictions** - An 18-year-old from Chesterton (Staffordshire) who aimed an air rifle at a 14-year-old and shot him between the eyebrows pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm. A 20-year-old who hit a pregnant woman when he fired air rifle pellets from his bedroom window in Sneinton (Nottingham) has been sentenced to four years in youth custody. A man who admitted his part in a melee in Bacup (Lancashire) in which a girl was hit with an air pistol pellet was given a six month suspended jail sentence.
- A man who threatened a girl he had dated briefly with an air rifle and a sword in High Green (Sheffield) was given a 12-month sentence in a young offenders' institute. Another man has been put on two years' probation for pointing an air rifle at a woman in Strathaven (Lanarkshire).
- A man from Dudley (West Midlands) has admitted drug offences and possessing an air rifle.
- **Imitation Guns** - Police and trading standards officers continue to try and enforce the measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Act which ban the sale of imitations guns. Imitation guns were recovered from traders in Salford and Bolton. A newspaper reported how a 12-year-old schoolboy was still able to buy a replica gun from a stall in the MetroCentre in Gateshead.
- A three-year-old boy was shot in the face with a BB gun as he was walking home with his mother in Birch Green (Lancashire).
- A man who approached people in Paddington (central London) brandishing a firearm has been charged with attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.
- Two teenagers have been charged following an armed robbery in St Ann's (Nottingham) in which it appears an imitation firearm was involved. A man was charged after attempting to rob a garage in Northampton whilst armed with an imitation gun.
- A 17-year-old was arrested after brandishing a handgun-shaped cigarette lighter in a burger bar in Southend (Essex), and a man was charged after he brandished an imitation firearm on a bus in Ipswich. Four suspects were arrested in Kirkdale (Liverpool) when a ball bearing gun and other weapons were found at a house after teenagers were seen with a gun. A 15-year-old was arrested at East Grinstead (Sussex) and an imitation firearm recovered after a passenger was spotted with a gun on a train.
- Police in Hyson Green (Nottingham) seized a stun gun disguised as a mobile phone: two men have been charged with various offences including possessing an imitation firearm.
- A four-year-old's toy gun sparked a major armed police operation in Worle (Somerset).
- A Dunblane man had his replica guns removed by police after a minor disturbance at his home.
- A gun, probably a BB gun, was found in a hedge in Northampton.
- Imitation guns were found during a police operation in Dundee flat, although no one was arrested.
- Two ball bearing guns were discovered in Avonmouth in waste paper collected from Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
- **Convictions** - A man who tried to rob a store in Splott (Cardiff) whilst armed with a BB gun has been jailed for two and a half years. Two teenagers, members of a gang of drug dealers, were detained for three and four years for taking part in a robbery in Newsome (Huddersfield) when armed with an imitation gun.

- An 18-year-old is waiting to be sentenced after threatening a woman in Guisborough (Cleveland) with a ball-bearing gun. One of two teenage boys who robbed a group of friends in Queensbury (Bradford) was probably armed with a ball-bearing gun: the two have been given custodial sentences of two and a half and two years. Two of three teenage robbers (aged 14 and 15) who used ball-bearing guns and a knife to terrorize holidaymakers and rob in Southwold (Suffolk) have been given 12-month referral orders.
- A man who aimed an imitation firearm (an antique shotgun) at police called to a domestic incident in Coleview (Wiltshire) has admitted actual bodily harm and common assault. In another incident involving the police, a man who pointed a ball-bearing gun at an officer's face in Darwen (Lancashire) has pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- A 17-year-old was given an absolute discharge after pleading guilty to offences relating to his firing a ball-bearing gun in the direction of a park in Gourrock (Renfrewshire). Another 17-year-old was ordered to be of good behaviour after being caught with a BB gun and ammunition in Greenock.
- A man who pulled out an imitation gun in the grounds of a hospital in Dumbarton after being confronted by two police officers was placed on probation for a year and order to carry out 120 hours of community service (see [January 2008 Incidents](#)).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - The catalogue of shootings of animals and birds got even longer in March with attacks on cats being the most frequently reported.
- Airgun injuries to cats, some of them fatal, were reported from Aberdeenshire, Gwent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Surrey, Tyneside and Wearside.
- A show horse was shot with an airgun in his stables in Radcliffe (Lancashire). A lamb was killed with an airgun in Clyst St Mary (Devon).
- Attacks on swans continue to occur frequently. An injured swan that was found in the Dulais Valley (South Wales) had air rifle pellets in its neck. Three men have appeared in court charged with shooting and killing 29 swans whose bodies were found buried in a pit in Bedfordshire. Geese were also the victims of air rifle attacks in Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire) and Moston (Greater Manchester).
- A rare peregrine falcon found in St Lawrence (Isle of Wight) had been shot with an airgun and also had earlier shotgun wounds. A buzzard died after being shot with a shotgun in Potcote (Northamptonshire).

## INCIDENTS – MARCH 2008

### ENGLAND

***This is Hampshire***, 31 March 2008

A taxi driver was robbed of his takings at gunpoint when he dropped off two passengers in **Whiteley**. The passengers had been picked up outside a Portsmouth nightclub.

***Burnley Express***, 31 March 2008

A firearm was set off in an incident in **Burnley** smashing a house window. No-one was hurt in the incident.

***BBC***, 31 March 2008

A man will appear in court after an attempted armed robbery at a garage in **Northampton**. He has been charged with attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

***BBC***, 31 March 2008

A gun may have been discharged after a number of people returned to the scene of a fight next to a community club in **Skelmersdale**, Lancashire.

***BBC***, 29 March 2008

Two men were found with gunshot wounds at a property in **Aston**, West Midlands. Their injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

***Surrey Advertiser***, 28 March 2008

Armed robbers threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Ewell** before stealing more than £300. The two men were armed with handguns. Police are investigating possible links with an armed robbery in **Thames Ditton** and an attempted robbery in **Dorking** earlier in the month (see below).

***Crawley Observer***, 28 March 2008

Zak Owen, a former police officer has been convicted of theft, false imprisonment and possession of a firearm and has been jailed for seven years. Owen of **Chatham**, Kent, was arrested in August 2007.

***Cambridge News***, 28 March 2008

Graham Peters has been told by magistrates that he could expect to face a long jail sentence after he admitted possessing a sawn-off shotgun without a licence. Peters kept the gun in his truck before retiring as a lorry driver but then stashed it underneath the bed of his mobile home in **Wilburton**, Cambridgeshire.

***BBC***, 28 March 2008

A man has been charged in connection with a series of armed robberies carried out on bookmakers across the South East during the last two years. The man from **Borehamwood**, Hertfordshire, faces 22 counts of armed robbery and 22 counts of possession of a firearm.

**West Sussex County Times**, 27 March 2008

A man was arrested and an **imitation firearm** recovered after police officers boarded and searched a train at **East Grinstead** railway station. A member of the public had raised the alarm after a passenger was spotted with a handgun. The suspect is a 15-year-old boy (*BBC*, 27 March 2008).

**Mirror**, 27 March 2008

A fireman was hit in the back with a pellet from an **airgun** fired in an estate in **Hartlepool**.

**Liverpool Echo**, 27 March 2008

Andrew Tyrer of **Childwall**, Liverpool, has pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing a prohibited firearm and a further charge of having ammunition without a licence. He also admitted drugs charges. He was arrested in November 2007 following a targeted gun crime day when officers found two self-loading pistols.

**Bolton News**, 27 March 2008

Police discovered a fully loaded short barrel 9mm semi-automatic Glock handgun when they went to a pub in the centre of **Manchester**. Four men, one aged 18, were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

**Birmingham Mail**, 27 March 2008

A teenager has been shot in the leg with an **air rifle**. The attack took place near a brook in **Wombourne**, Staffordshire. The victim suffered minor injuries to his calf.

**BBC**, 27 March 2008

Two men hijacked and robbed a post office van driver just after he had made a delivery in **Scotter**, Lincolnshire. One of the men was possibly holding a gun. The driver managed to escape as the robbers tried to open cash boxes in nearby woods.

**Wimbledon Guardian**, 26 March 2008

A married couple who were held at gunpoint by two men who ransacked their home in **Banstead**, Surrey, in January 2008 will speak about the incident on BBC's Crimewatch. The man was restrained with handcuffs and thumbcuffs were used on his wife. The burglars stole many valuable possessions.

**Newham Recorder**, 26 March 2008

Perry Nathaniel has been given a life sentence after a teenager was left with a bullet lodged in his brain. He shot his victim in the head at point blank range in a row over a car. The incident took place in **Canning Town**, east London, in July 2006. Nathaniel had denied attempted murder. Both he and Robert Dorey, the driver who took him to the scene, were ordered to serve a minimum of 16 years. The victim, Amadou Drammeh, was sentenced to 45 days for contempt because he refused to complete his evidence against the defendants.

**MK News**, 26 March 2008

A gunman fired his weapon outside a nightclub in **Milton Keynes**. Earlier that night a group of 10 to 12 men, including the gang member who discharged the firearm, were refused entry to the club.

**Evening Leader (Chester)**, 26 March 2008

A man has been arrested in **Carlisle** on suspicion of possessing a firearm. Armed response officers entered a property in the city and recovered a weapon.

**BBC**, 26 March 2008

A man who failed to report back to prison was arrested when a car was pulled over in **Sunderland**. An electrical stun gun and other items were found. Another man was arrested on suspicion of possessing dangerous weapons.

**BBC**, 26 March 2008

A man is on trial accused of conspiracy to murder a man who was shot outside his home in **Dormanstown**, near Redcar in Teesside, in September 1996. He had been extradited from Spain to face trial. Four men have previously been convicted in the case, two with murder.

**This is Hampshire**, 25 March 2008

A gunman walked into a store in **Portsmouth** and made off with £11,000. The forced members of staff into a room at the rear of the shop and, after repeatedly punching one man, forced him to open the safe whilst pointing the gun at him.

**Redditch Advertiser**, 25 March 2008

A teenager was grabbed around the throat and threatened with what appeared to be an **airgun** as he was leaving a park in **Church Hill**. He was approached by a male who had been with another group of males and a girl who ordered him to hand over his mobile phone. The phone was recovered nearby.

**Sheffield Telegraph**, 25 March 2008

Samuel Sorsby, 20, turned up outside the **High Green** home of a 14-year-old girl he had dated for just a week or two armed with an **air rifle** and a sword. He was drunk and threatened to slit her throat and burn her house down. He was tackled by neighbours. He pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was given a 12-month sentence in a young offenders' institute.

**Liverpool Echo**, 25 March 2008

Armed police sealed off a road in **Kirkdale**, Liverpool, after reports that four teenagers who were setting off fire hydrants might have a gun. Four suspects were arrested as they came out of a house and taken away for questioning. Police found a **ball bearing gun**, a machete and an extendable baton in the house.

**BBC**, 25 March 2008

Two men with a handgun robbed a bookmakers in **Kitts Green**, Birmingham. They forced the store manager to open the safe and stole an undisclosed amount of money.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 24 March 2008

A four-year-old's **toy gun** sparked a major armed police operation in **Worle**, Somerset. The police were alerted by a member of the public who spotted what was thought to be a handgun on the parcel shelf of a car. The police say that this is exactly the type of problem caused by fake guns and that anyone who has a toy gun is putting themselves at serious risk of being shot by police because they are almost impossible to distinguish from real guns.

**BBC**, 23 March 2008

An 18-year-old was shot while he was waiting at a bus stop with a friend in **Wandsworth**, south London. The victim was shot in the shoulder and remains in hospital in a comfortable condition.

**Evening Star**, 22 March 2008

A 19-year-old man was arrested for firing an **airgun** at a neighbour's window in **Ipswich**. Two shots were fired at a kitchen window. No-one was hurt.

**BBC**, 22 March 2008

A police sergeant from **Downham Market**, Norfolk, has pleaded not guilty to charges of harassment, possessing a knife in a public place and entered no plea to further charges including possession of firearm ammunition without a certificate.

**BBC**, 22 March 2008

Two people, a woman and a man, were injured when two masked gunmen fired shots into a pub in **Salford**. Both victims were taken to hospital, the woman with a gunshot wound to her ankle and the man with an injury to his thigh. Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

**BBC**, 22 March 2008

A man thought to be wearing a burka threatened a security driver outside a supermarket in **Birmingham** with what was believed to be a firearm wrapped in a black plastic bag. The driver managed to get back into his van and shut the sliding door trapping the weapon in the door for a few seconds. A second robbery at a jewellers in Smethwick, where an armed robber in a burka was joined by four other men may be linked to the earlier incident.

**BBC**, 22 March 2008

A teenager has been shot during an incident in a flat in **Baguley**, Manchester. The victim was due to undergo surgery.

**BBC**, 22 March 2008

Police are investigating the death a man who was shot in the head in **Blyth**, Northumberland. He was found above a takeaway along with a seriously injured woman. Police recovered a firearm from the scene which they think was involved in the killing. Two men have been arrested and bailed, a third remains in custody. A man has now been charged with murder. The injured woman remains in a critical condition (*BBC*, 24 March 2008).

**Watford Observer**, 21 March 2008

Police are asking for help in catching the perpetrator of an **air pistol** incident in **Watford** which occurred earlier in the month. A member of the public was threatened with the gun, and police suspect that the man responsible may have been involved in other incidents that day. The gun was later recovered.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 21 March 2008

Two men have been charged with possessing a shotgun without holding a licence in **Huddersfield** in March 2007. One of the men, aged 19, is also charged with drug offences and possessing a weapon which would be likely to discharge liquid gas and to receiving a car knowing or believing it to be stolen. The case against the two men was adjourned until April.

**Shropshire Star**, 20 March 2008

A man has been charged with possessing an **air rifle** in public after a drinker in a pub in **Ironbridge** was shot in the head. The shot was fired from a passing car.

**Ormskirk Advertiser**, 20 March 2008

A woman in **Lydiate**, Ormskirk, has described how a pellet was fired from an **air rifle** or **BB gun** at her living room window shattering the glass.

**Hackney Gazette**, 20 March 2008

A teenager was left fighting for his life after being shot in the face in a drive-by shooting in **Hackney**, east London. The 18-year-old was driving with his girlfriend when a vehicle pulled alongside their car and shots were fired at point-blank range. The victim's car swerved and crashed into a lamppost.

**Eastern Daily Press**, 20 March 2008

Three teenage robbers, one aged 14 and two aged 15, who used **ball bearing guns** and a knife to terrorise holidaymakers in attacks in **Southwold**, Suffolk, have been sentenced for robbery, attempted robbery and conspiracy to rob after three attacks in August 2007. The three stole a digital camera from a man and his son and had attempted to rob another man walking alone along the promenade. One 15-year-old was given a 12 month referral order and the other avoided custody only because he was 14 when he committed the offence. The 14-year-old was also given a 12 month referral order.

**The Citizen (Blackburn)**, 20 March 2008

David Rowlands has pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He had pointed a gun at a police officer's face who tackled him after Rowlands had chased children with the weapon near a supermarket in **Darwen** in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The gun was a **plastic ball-bearing gun**, although the officer was not aware of this until he grabbed Rowlands' hand. When his holdall was searched another imitation ball bearing type pump action shotgun was found. PC Alan Hurst has been praised by the judge, his boss and a councillor for his courage.

**Wigan Today**, 19 March 2008

A steward of a club in **Platt Bridge** was brutally assaulted by a gunman who dragged him back to work and forced him to open up the club and hand over the takings. But the gunman fled empty-handed after another man rushed into the club and wrestled the attacker to the ground. The gun was levelled and fired in his direction.

**Rye & Battle Observer**, 19 March 2008

A man died after a firearms incident at a house in **Eastbourne**, Sussex. The police are not treating incident as suspicious.

**Birmingham Mail**, 19 March 2008

Two police officers, PCs Garry Barton and Martin Bradley, were presented with Chief Constable's Commendations for their heroic actions in tackling an armed man in June 2007. They were on patrol in **Kitts Green** when they saw a man aiming what later turned out to be a **ball-bearing gun** at a house. They gave chase and arrested the man.

**BBC**, 19 March 2008

Staff at a **Sunderland** post office were threatened with a handgun when three men demanded money. The gun was not discharged but the men fled with a large sum of money.

**Kent Online**, 18 March 2008

A driver who was driving along a street in **Yalding** had a large handgun pointed in his face by the driver of another vehicle, thought to be aged around 18. The man had pulled over to let the other car.

**ic South London**, 18 March 2008

A 14-year-old schoolboy has confessed to shooting a man in the back but claims he panicked in fear for his life. He believed he had been threatened by the victim, whom the boy and his friends had robbed of his mobile phone a few months earlier. The man was shot in **Peckham** in October 2007. The boy has denied being given the gun by a 17-year-old and both teenagers deny attempted murder, wounding with intent and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The trial continues.

**BBC**, 18 March 2008

Two shotguns and more than 100 cartridges have been stolen from a house in **Meols**, Wirral. Both firearms had been lawfully held in a secure cabinet in the premises.

**BBC**, 18 March 2008

A coroner has ruled that Garry Weddell unlawfully killed his wife and her mother, before taking his own life. Weddell, who had been accused of murdering his wife in January 2007, shot his mother-in-law at her home in **Gustard Wood**, Hertfordshire, in January 2008 before shooting himself in the grounds of a shooting club in **Markyate** (see [Incidents](#)). The shotgun he used to kill his mother-in-law and himself had been stolen from the club after he had undertaken clay pigeon shooting lessons. The coroner said he might write to the government with observations on the safeguards controlling weapons held by gun clubs after reviewing the case.

**This is Wiltshire**, 17 March 2008

Karol Hanicki aimed an antique shotgun at police called to a domestic incident in **Coleview**. He pleaded guilty to possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. He also admitted an offence of actual bodily harm on his wife and common assault on his son.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 17 March 2008

Adrian Bird admitted his part in a street melee in **Bacup** in which a girl was hit by a pellet from an **air pistol**. He admitted affray and possessing a firearm when prohibited. He was given six months in jail, suspended for 12 months, with supervision and 200 hours unpaid work.

**Evening Star**, 17 March 2008

A cashier at a garage in **Melton**, Suffolk, has spoken as police hunted for a robber who burst into petrol station and seized £350 in notes. He said the robber had lifted his jumper to show a gun, believed to be a silver revolver with a wooden handle.

**BBC**, 17 March 2008

Three teenagers have been charged in connection with an armed robbery on a store in **St Ann's**, Nottingham. The youths, two aged 14 and one 15, were charged with armed robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

**BBC**, 17 March 2008

Three masked men armed with a handgun robbed a convenience store in **Shenstone**, near Lichfield in Staffordshire. They stole a small quantity of cash from the till before leaving.

**BBC**, 17 March 2008

Three men have been arrested after an incident in which a window was broken and a gun fired at flats in **Derby**. It is unclear what type of gun was used.

**BBC**, 17 March 2008

A man has been shot and killed in the **Newtown** area of Birmingham. The man was found by police officers and was taken to hospital but subsequently died. It is believed that he was shot as he fled along an alleyway after being attacked as he drove through area (*Birmingham Mail*, 21 March 2008).

**BBC**, 17 March 2008

A man was shot on a bus in **Streatham**, south London. He was taken to a hospital where his condition was described as stable.

**Sunday Mercury**, 16 March 2008

Simon Charity, 20, fired pellets from an **air rifle** from his bedroom window in **Sneinton**, Nottingham, and hit a pregnant woman and an 11-year-old boy. He has been sentenced to four years in youth custody.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 15 March 2008

Two teenage boys who robbed a group of friends of their mobile phones in **Queensbury**, Bradford, in December 2007 have been sentenced to two-and-a-half years and two years in custody. During the robbery the 14-year-old pulled out a knife and the 17-year-old produced a handgun, later suggested to be a **ball-bearing gun**. The younger boy also admitted another robbery in which a sword or large knife was used.

**The Sentinel**, 15 March 2008

A 14-year-old who was shot with an **air rifle** between the eyebrows by another teenager was very lucky not to be blinded. The pellet had to be removed in hospital. Jacob Sinclair, 18, from **Chesterton**, Staffordshire, had aimed the rifle at the boy as he was walking down a footpath. Sinclair had pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He will be sentenced at a later date.

**Richmond & Twickenham Times**, 15 March 2008

Bingo hall staff were held at gunpoint during an attempted robbery in **Feltham**, west London. Three men armed with a pistol demanded money before carrying out a search behind the till but left empty-handed.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 15 March 2008

Two members of a gang of five drug dealers were given custodial sentences for robbery and attempted robbery following two armed raids at shops in the **Newsome** area of Huddersfield. Marcus Osbourne, 19, and an unnamed 17-year-old took part in the robbery when armed with an **imitation gun** in July 2007. Osbourne, who pleaded guilty to a number of drug offences admitted robbery, attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He was given three years in a young offenders' institute for the drug offences and four years for the other offences. The other teenager received four years detention and a further two years for drug offences.

**BBC**, 15 March 2008

A teenager who was found in **Brixton**, south London, with gunshot wounds has died in hospital. The 19-year-old was found in a street after police and ambulance were called. Police have arrested two males, aged 16 and 17, in connection with the murder (*Press Association*, 21 March 2008).

**BBC**, 15 March 2008

A man died after being shot in a pub in **Whitmore Reans**, Wolverhampton. The victim was taken to hospital where he was later pronounced dead. The murder followed an argument at another pub about an hour earlier (*Birmingham Mail*, 17 March 2008).

**Willesden & Brent Times**, 14 March 2008

Two men have been arrested after police seized drugs, four **replica guns**, one **ball-bearing gun**, an **air rifle** and a number of other weapons during a dawn raid on a travellers' site in **Neasden**, north west London.

**Herald Express**, 14 March 2008

An **air rifle** sniper shot two people, one a nine-year-old boy the other a woman, outside a leisure centre in **Newton Abbot**, Devon. The woman, a care support worker was shot as she helped students with learning difficulties into a waiting car. The boy was waiting to cross the road when he suffered what he described to police as a 'really bad sting' to his left upper arm. A third person later revealed that she too had fallen victim to a similar attack when she was hit in the back outside the leisure centre in December 2007 (*Herald Express*, 18 March 2008).

**Crawley Observer**, 14 March 2008

Police officers seized an **air rifle** from four men seen carrying the weapon in woods in **Tovil**, Kent. Two of the men were given a summons to court for possession of a firearm. In another incident in Kent a man had his **air rifle** confiscated and destroyed after being spotted shooting birds in **Gillingham**. He was firing the gun near a children's play area.

**BBC**, 14 March 2008

Two men, one carrying a firearm threatened staff at a travel agents in **Consett**, County Durham. They made off with an amount of currency.

**BBC**, 14 March 2008

Three men are being sought after a robbery at a betting shop in **Dorking**, Surrey. Two of the men, one carrying a black handgun, ordered staff to "get down" while they stole cash from a till. Police believe the incident may be linked to an attempted robbery in **Thames Ditton** earlier in the day. A handgun was also brandished in that robbery (*BBC*, 20 March 2008).

**BBC**, 14 March 2008

A man has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. He is accused of brandishing the gun on a bus in **Ipswich**.

**Skelmersdale Advertiser**, 13 March 2008

A three-year-old boy was shot in the face as he was walking home with his mother on a public footpath in **Birch Green**, West Lancashire. His mother had seen a group of teenagers apparently shooting **BB guns** at birds. The teenagers then pointed the guns in their direction and the boy was hit.

**Exmouth Journal**, 13 March 2008

The police were investigating damage to property in The Colony area of **Exmouth** thought to have been caused by **air rifle** pellets. Windows were broken.

**BBC**, 13 March 2008

Thomas Hughes has been found guilty of murder and possessing a firearm with intent and has been sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in jail. Hughes shot a pregnant woman in the head twice in **Battersea**, south London, in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The killing was described as a "ruthless execution" after a long-running dispute between neighbours.

**BBC**, 13 March 2008

A man has been arrested after he was seen with a firearm approaching people in **Paddington**, central London. He has been charged with two counts of attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** (*BBC*, 14 March 2008).

**BBC**, 12 March 2008

Three firearms and a quantity of ammunition were seized during a drugs operation by police in **Bradford** which resulted in 59 people being charged with a total of 287 offences of supplying Class A drugs.

**BBC**, 12 March 2008

A shotgun was among items found in the mud at the bottom of the **Bude** Canal in Cornwall during engineering work. The weapon was taken away by the police.

**BBC**, 12 March 2008

Two **ball-bearing guns** were discovered in a delivery of waste paper sent for disposal at a recycling plant in **Avonmouth**. The paper had been collected from several police stations.

**BBC**, 12 March 2008

Police believe that two attempted armed robberies at different branches of the same bank in Surrey are linked. The first in **East Horsley** took place during a cash delivery: staff told them they did not have access to the safe. A day later two men entered the **Ashted** branch but the robbers again left empty handed after a worker managed to press an alarm button.

**Whitby Gazette**, 11 March 2008

A woman visitor was apparently shot with an **airgun** as she was walking along Lifeboat Quay in **Whitby**. She was not injured but was shocked. The shooting caused £60 of damage to the jacket she was wearing.

**Welwyn & Hatfield Times**, 11 March 2008

A man has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possessing a firearm. This followed reports of gunshots being fired in an area in **Welwyn Garden City**, Hertfordshire. Twenty police officers were called to the scene.

**Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)**, 11 March 2008

In January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) Adam Greener was armed with a silver revolver when he got into a woman's car in **Linthorpe**, Middlesbrough, and tried to snatch her handbag. He was under the influence of drugs at the time. He pleaded guilty to attempting to rob and possessing a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit robbery. It has still to be confirmed whether the weapon was an imitation or a real firearm. He faces five years in prison if he was in possession of a prohibited weapon.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 11 March 2008

Armed police mounted a high-security operation which involved surrounding a car on the A696 near **Ponteland**, Northumberland. A man was arrested and remains in custody helping the police with their inquiries regarding firearms and other offences.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 11 March 2008

A **pellet-firing replica gun** was among weapons bought by a 12-year-old schoolboy at a market stall in the MetroCentre shopping centre in **Gateshead**. His shocked family have complained, and bosses of the centre have confirmed that the stallholder will be kicked-out of the mall.

**Daily Express**, 11 March 2008

One of the police bodyguards to the Duchess of Cornwall is understood to have shot and killed himself with his own shotgun. He was found dead at his cottage in **Bremhill**, Wiltshire.

**BBC**, 11 March 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a 19-year-old man was shot with a **pellet gun** in the **Broomhall** area of Sheffield.

**BBC**, 11 March 2008

Four masked raiders armed with a Taser gun smashed windows in a bank in **Mildenhall**, Suffolk, and threatened two security guards before stealing a quantity of cash.

**BBC**, 11 March 2008

Police seized a stun gun disguised as a mobile phone in the **Hyson Green** area of Nottingham. Two men have been charged in connection with the incident, one with aggravated burglary of a business and possessing an offensive weapon, the other with burglary, possessing an **imitation firearm**, dangerous driving, possessing drugs and driving without insurance.

**Norwich Evening News**, 10 March 2008

A cashier in a supermarket in **Hellesdon** was threatened by an armed robber who pointed a gun in her face. She was ordered to hand over cash from the till but managed to get away and the robber escaped empty-handed.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 10 March 2008

A gardener found a gun in a hedge outside the newspapers' building in **Northampton**. The weapon was believed to be a **BB gun**.

**BBC**, 10 March 2008

A three-year-old boy found a loaded handgun in his garden in **Smethwick**, West Midlands, and then his 11-year-old brother fired it at a car. The boys' mother said the people who had dumped the gun in her flat's garden were "evil and selfish".

**inthenews**, 9 March 2008

An 18-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of threats to kill after an incident in **Shipham**, Somerset. Police negotiators and firearm units were deployed after officers were alerted with reports that a man in a house could harm himself. An **air weapon** was recovered from the property.

**BBC**, 9 March 2008

A youth, aged 17, has been arrested and charged after brandishing a cigarette lighter shaped like a handgun at a burger bar in **Southend**. He was charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear or harassment.

**BBC**, 9 March 2008

A man has been charged with three counts of attempted murder of police officers and possession of a firearm following an incident in which shots were fired at four officers who had approached two men in **Manor House**, north London. No one was injured.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 8 March 2008

A pizza delivery driver was ambushed and robbed at gunpoint by three men in **Preston**. The robbers escaped on foot with cash, jewellery and credit cards.

**Crawley Observer**, 8 March 2008

A 15-year-old was robbed at gunpoint in a park in **Portsmouth** whilst walking home with his girlfriend. Three men prodded him with a black handgun and demanded cash.

**Times**, 7 March 2008

Two men have been jailed for firearm offences after police raided a house in **Haydock**, Lancashire, and found a number of guns. Mark Watts was found guilty of 13 offences and was jailed for 15 years, Neil Johnston was jailed for eight years after admitting four firearm offences. Police believe the pair were supplying Liverpool gangs. Among the weapons found was a handgun with four barrels capable of firing at once.

**Press Association**, 7 March 2008

Marvin Davidson was caught with a loaded revolver at **Hackney** station in East London when he tried to avoid a police metal detector. He has been jailed for 5 years.

**Herts Advertiser**, 7 March 2008

A man was held up at gunpoint in the second firearm robbery in **St Albans** in a week. Three men approached him from behind and pushed him into a side street where he was threatened. The thieves stole his music player, wallet and mobile phone.

**Harborough Mail**, 6 March 2008

Advertising hoardings at a sports ground in **Market Harborough**, Leicestershire, have been peppered with **airgun** pellets.

**Birmingham Mail**, 6 March 2008

David Bowater has admitted producing cannabis, possessing the drug and possessing an **air rifle** without holding a firearms certificate at his home in **Dudley**.

**BBC**, 6 March 2008

A 19-year-old man was shot twice with a sawn-off shotgun outside a house in **Tyldesley**, Greater Manchester. He suffered injuries to his leg and hip and was left with pellets lodged in his thigh.

**BBC**, 6 March 2008

A man carrying a handgun demanded cash from a cashier in a bank in **St John's**, Worcester. He was given money before he fled.

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 5 March 2008

Police sealed off several streets in East End Park in **Leeds** after reports of a gunshot. One local resident described hearing a "very loud bang".

**Bolton News**, 5 March 2008

One shop owner in **Bolton** surrendered 48 **imitation weapons**, including a fake MP5 machine gun with laser sights, when police raided the shop following a tip off from a member of the public. At another premises six **ball bearing guns** were removed. The raids were part of Operation Peregrine which aims to ensure that traders are complying with the legislation implemented in October 2007 which made it illegal to sell imitation or BB guns.

**BBC**, 5 March 2008

Staff at a post office in **Brentwood**, Essex, were held at gunpoint by a robber armed with a small gun. The staff handed over what police described as a "four-figure sum".

**BBC**, 5 March 2008

A man carrying what appeared to be a handgun attempted to rob a bank in the centre of **Ledbury**, Herefordshire. The cashier managed to raise the alarm and the man escaped without any cash.

**BBC**, 5 March 2008

An off-duty police officer foiled a robber who held up a bank in **Brighton** with what he said was a gun. The man was taken into custody after the policewoman spotted him about to get on a bus with dye leaking out of his pocket.

**This is Wiltshire**, 4 March 2008

A 15-year-old was shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet as he was walking with his girlfriend in **Calne**. He was allowed to return home after surgery in hospital.

**Manchester Evening News**, 4 March 2008

Trading standards officers and police recovered a large arsenal of **imitation guns** from traders in **Salford**. The hauls included replicas of ME38 and Beretta pistols and realistic copies of police-issue semi automatics. One owner claimed he didn't realise they were illegal and that the guns "sell well in the school holidays".

**Hartlepool Mail**, 4 March 2008

A postbox in **Hartlepool** has been closed by Royal Mail after a postman was shot at with an **airgun**.

**BBC**, 4 March 2008

A man has died after a shooting in **Tipton**, West Midlands. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident.

**Iford Recorder**, 3 March 2008

Two men were gunned down at a bar in **Iford**. One suffered wounds to the front of his body and the other sustained injuries to the back of his body. Both men's conditions have been described as stable by police. One of the men has since died in hospital (*East London & West Essex Guardian*, 5 March 2008).

**Herts Advertiser**, 3 March 2008

An armed robber held up staff of a **St Albans** hotel at gunpoint and made off with a sum of money.

**Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)**, 3 March 2008

Eighteen-year-old Bradley Moralee threatened a woman in a street in **Guisborough** with an imitation gun in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He said "give me your purse or I'll put a bullet in your head". He was also seen to point the **ball bearing gun** (a realistic replica of a Desert Eagle handgun) at two passing cars. He will be sentenced at a Crown Court for possession of an imitation firearm and a public order act of affray.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 3 March 2008

Claims that a shot broke a windscreen on a train near **Marks Tey** in Essex have not been confirmed by the police of Network Rail. A passenger had reported seeing a hole in the window and being told by the driver that the train had been shot at.

**BBC**, 3 March 2008

Firearms were recovered from a house in **Hamworthy**, Poole, where a woman's body was found after a fire. A man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder.

**BBC**, 3 March 2008

Three men have been arrested in connection with drugs and firearms offences. Police searched a house in **Lincoln** after a member of the public reported having a gun waved in his face.

**BBC**, 3 March 2008

A man was shot in the head and critically hurt outside a nightclub in **Harlesden**, north-west London. He and a friend had become involved in an argument with another man close to the club. Two teenagers face two counts of possession of a firearm with intent to danger life and have also been charged with one count of causing grievous bodily harm and taking and driving away a vehicle (*BBC*, 9 March 2008).

**BBC**, 2 March 2008

Two men fled with £1000 after threatening a delivery driver with a stun gun in **Ormesby**, Middlesbrough. The driver dropped his cash bag when one of the men brandished the weapon.

**BBC**, 2 March 2008

A man has been shot in what was described as a targeted attack in **Gateacre**, Liverpool. His injuries have been described as serious.

**BBC**, 1 March 2008

A teenager was seriously hurt after being shot at a sports centre in **Camberwell**, south east London. It is being investigated by Operation Trident.

**BBC**, 1 March 2008

A man has died in a shooting incident in **Lydden**, Margate in Kent which police say they are treating as suspicious. The police also said that there was no danger to the public.

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## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 31 March 2008

Police are investigating a shooting incident at the back of a nightclub in **Glasgow** where a gun was fired. No-one was injured.

**Sunday Mail**, 30 March 2008

A man who was deported from Australia for threatening to kill a policeman has been arrested on an **airgun** charge after a raid on a hostel in **Inverness**.

**Hamilton Advertiser**, 27 March 2008

Adrian Young has been put on two years' probation for pointing a **.22 air rifle** with telescopic sights at a shop assistant in **Strathaven**, Lanarkshire. He had admitted a charge of possessing a firearm with intent to cause the woman to believe unlawful violence would be used against her. The offence occurred when he went to the flat of a friend in August 2006. Young had pointed the gun at her whilst the woman had a cigarette outside the shop. The next day he met her and told her that next time there would be "bullet" in the weapon. She contacted the police who subsequently detained Young.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 26 March 2008

A woman whose husband attacked her with a stun gun said she is concerned he may try to contact her again. Marek Ilves pleaded guilty to the attack, during which the stun gun failed to activate, which happened in December 2007, and he was fined £660 at **Edinburgh** Sheriff Court.

**Daily Record**, 25 March 2008

George Bundy from **Dunblane** has had his **replica guns** removed by police after a minor disturbance at his home. Officers seized his two 1860s-style Colt pistols and a Winchester rifle for tests. Bundy claimed that the guns cannot be converted to fire live rounds and are always locked away.

**BBC**, 25 March 2008

Michael Absalom has been jailed for eight years and six months after two armed raids on a money exchange office in **Glasgow** in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) and on a bank in **Troon** in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). After the first incident he disposed of dyed note under a bin along with his gun, which he had pointed at two tellers. In the second raid he menaced three tellers with a Luger-type gun.

**Daily Record**, 18 March 2008

A gunman shot out windows in three houses and a church with an **airgun** in **Alloa** and **Tullibody** in Clackmannanshire.

**Greenock Telegraph**, 14 March 2008

A sheriff has renewed an attack on BB guns after two teenagers appeared before her on firearms charges. Scott McFarlane, 17, was caught firing a ball bearing gun in the direction of a park in **Gourock** in September 2007. He pleaded guilty to offences including possession of the **plastic BB gun** and ammunition and was given an absolute discharge if he returned to her court in 12 months having been on good behaviour. John Gorry, 17, from **Larkfield** was also ordered to be of good behaviour after being caught with a **BB gun** and ammunition without lawful authority or reasonable excuse in Greenock in November 2007.

**BBC**, 14 March 2008

Lothian and Borders Police are destroying about 800 weapons handed in during the past six months. The cache includes shotguns, **air weapons**, **replica guns** and other **imitation weapons**.

**BBC**, 14 March 2008

A World War II handgun was found at the home of John Hutchison in **Jedburgh** in December 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He had scared youngsters in the streets of the town by showing them a handgun holster and a hunting knife and has threatened to burn his partner's children and set fire to their home. He has been jailed for three years.

**BBC**, 12 March 2008

Two female staff were left badly shaken after two men threatened them with what appeared to be a firearm during a robbery at a bookmakers in **Glasgow**.

**Scotsman**, 8 March 2008

A parking warden was shot with an **air rifle** in **Edinburgh's** New Town. He was ticketing cars when he was hit on the hand by a pellet.

**BBC**, 6 March 2008

**Imitation firearms** were found at a **Dundee** flat at the centre of a police operation. No one was arrested.

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## WALES

**Port Talbot Guardian**, 20 March 2008

In a second armed robbery in the Afan Valley in a month a female worker at **Dyffryn Rhondda** Post Office was threatened with a gun. A man made off with cash. In February a gun was used to threaten staff at **Cymmer** Post Office where a large but undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

**BBC**, 20 March 2008

A man was taken to hospital with face and body injuries after being shot in an incident in the **Mayhill** area of Swansea. Two men have been released on bail and a third man is being questioned (*BBC*, 25 March 2008).

**South Wales Echo**, 8 March 2008

A gunman threatened to shoot and kill a takeaway delivery driver during an attack in **St Mellons**, Cardiff. Three men were involved, one armed with what the driver described as a nine-inch long black pistol and another with a lock-knife. The men stole a mobile phone, wallet, bank cards and satellite navigation system.

**South Wales Echo**, 5 March 2008

A security guard was left traumatised when Ajad Singh pointed a handgun at his face and told him he was about to be "wasted". Singh was jailed for two and a half years. He was drunk when he attempted to steal bottles of wine from a store in **Splott**, Cardiff in November 2007. He had the **BB gun** in his pocket. He admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Spalding Guardian**, 30 March 2008

A cat died shortly after being found by her owner lying injured in his shed in **Holbeach**, Lincolnshire. She had been shot in the stomach with an **air rifle** and died because of severe internal bleeding.

**Manchester Evening News**, 27 March 2008

A Canada goose was shot dead with an **air rifle** in **Moston**, Greater Manchester. Police were called following reports that the bird had been shot and killed. A description of the man responsible was given to the police.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 24 March 2008

A cat is lucky to be alive after he was shot with an **airgun**. The cat was fine when he was let out of the family house in **West Denton**, Newcastle, but three hours later he was found in agony under a bush in the front garden. A vet discovered that a pellet had gone through his kidney and perforated his intestine and pancreas. Major surgery saved his life.

**Guardian**, 22 March 2008

The **British Deer Society** are launching an anti-poaching campaign and will press the Association of Chief Police Officers to provide greater resources for what it describes as "gun crime" in the countryside. As many as 50,000 deer are killed every year by night-time poachers and illegal bloodsports fanatics. Shotguns, .22 rifles and crossbows are all being used. Shooting deer at night is a crime.

**Chorley Guardian**, 20 March 2008

A kitten had to undergo emergency surgery after an **airgun** pellet went through his side, liver, kidney and spleen causing internal bleeding. His owner from **Chorley**, Lancashire, found her pet very quiet and lethargic and she picked him up she felt a hole in his side.

**This is Hertfordshire**, 19 March 2008

A goose had to be put down after it was shot with an **air rifle** at Stanborough Lakes, **Welwyn Garden City**. The bird was rescued from the water by an RSPCA inspector. An hour long operation revealed that the pellet had shattered the ear canal and the goose would not recover. The RSPCA is caring for another goose which may also have been shot with an air rifle.

**Sunderland Echo**, 19 March 2008

Two pet cats were lucky to survive after they were both shot with an **air rifle** in **South Hylton**. Their owner said that his neighbourhood has been repeatedly targeted by thugs with airguns. He has now alerted the police and other residents to the problem in a bid to put a stop to it.

**BBC**, 17 March 2008

Police are investigating after a rare peregrine falcon was shot and injured in **St Lawrence**, near Ventnor on the Isle of Wight. The bird was discovered with a gun shot wound to its back in the garden of a house. A vet found an **airgun pellet** still lodged in its body as well as signs of earlier shotgun wounds that had healed.

**South Wales Echo**, 15 March 2008

A kitten died after being shot "just for the thrill of it" according to his owners. The kitten suffered an **air rifle** wound when he was shot in fields near their home in **St Brides Wentlodge**, Gwent.

**Express & Star**, 15 March 2008

A pet cat has been shot at point blank range with an **air rifle** in an attack in **Bilbrook**, Wolverhampton. A metal pellet lodged just an inch away from her spine.

**Neath Guardian**, 13 March 2008

An injured swan has been found to have **air rifle** pellets lodged in its neck. The swan was shot at **Banwen** Pond in the Dulais Valley.

**Exmouth Journal**, 13 March 2008

A day-old lamb was killed with an **airgun** on a farm in **Clyst St Mary**, Devon.

**BBC**, 13 March 2008

Three men have appeared in court accused of killing 29 swans. The birds, all shot, were found buried in a freshly dug pit at **Radwell Lake**, Bedfordshire, in October 2007. The lake was purpose-built for legal shoots by two of the men. The men were all charged under the Wildlife and Countryside Act with intentional killing of mute swans. One of the men denied charges of possession of a rifle and ammunition and failing to comply with a condition on his firearms certificate.

**BBC**, 13 March 2008

A cat required surgery after being shot with a suspected **airgun** pellet in **Peterhead**, Aberdeenshire.

**Bolton News**, 8 March 2008

A show horse has been shot with an **airgun** in his stables in **Radcliffe**. He will be left with a scar after having had a pellet removed from his face. The horse is the latest victim in a string of airgun attacks on animals in Bolton.

**Whitby Gazette**, 7 March 2008

Two cats have been shot, probably with an **air rifle**, in attacks in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. One of the cats needed extensive surgery and has lost the sight in one eye. The other cat will also need treatment after being shot in the cheek.

**BBC**, 6 March 2008

A buzzard has died after it was found shot in **Potcote**, Northamptonshire. An x-ray revealed the bird's body contained three shotgun pellets.

**BBC**, 4 March 2008

A cat has suffered injuries to its neck and mouth after it was shot in the garden of a house in **Binscombe**, near Godalming in Surrey. The offenders are believed to have gone to the back of the house and shot the cat in the right side of the neck. The cat was shot with an **air rifle** and has since died (*Surrey Advertiser*, 25 March 2008).

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