

MAY 2006 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Victims died after shooting incidents in Leeds, Hornchurch and Marsden (Tyneside).
- A man was left fighting for his life after a shooting at a pub in Walthamstow (north east London) and another man was shot in the leg at a pub in Folkestone. Gunshot injuries were also inflicted on victims in incidents near Liverpool Airport, in Atherton (Wigan), in Peckham (three men shot), in Tividale (West Midlands), in East Howdon (Tyneside - two men injured), in a double shooting in Islington and Finsbury Park (north London) for which a man has been arrested, in Cuffey (south London) and in Cardiff. Security guards were shot and injured during raids in Swadlincote (Derbyshire) and Kilmarnock. Police in Glasgow shot and injured a man after an armed response team was called to an armed robbery on a shop.
- A man was hit on the head and threatened with a handgun in Hastings.
- In separate incidents two men from the Isle of Wight apparently committed suicide by shooting themselves. An armed man shot himself, and later died, whilst his car was surrounded by armed police in Skelmersdale.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - Robberies and attempted robberies involving gunmen occurred at a hotel in Chepstow, on pubs in Coventry and Blakey Moor (Lancashire), on shops in Norwich, Swadlincote (Derbyshire) (in which a security guard was injured), Bromsgrove, Blackburn (where the same man is believed to have struck six times in two months), Dundee and Glasgow (Gorbals and Mount Florida where a man was shot by police following the incident), on service stations in Taunton (two men arrested), Birchencliffe (West Yorkshire) and Mexborough (South Yorkshire), on banks or building societies in Colchester, Streatham (a security guard wrestled a pistol from the robber) and Kilmarnock (a security guard was shot), on a security van delivering cash in Fishponds (Bristol) and on post offices in Beadnell (Northumberland), Ryton-on-Dunsmore (Warwickshire) and Cardiff (in which an imitation gun was possibly used).
- The car used by armed raiders in Swadlincote (see above) was stolen from a woman in Warwick at gunpoint, and an armed man stole a car from a male driver in Blackley (Manchester). A van driver was threatened with a gun by a teenager who was stealing a satellite navigation system from his van in Middlesbrough. A woman in a car was robbed at gunpoint as she picked up her son from school in Leeds.

- **Other Incidents** - A woman was threatened on her doorstep in Hartley Wintney (Hampshire) by a man who fired a gun and ran off. Two men were arrested in Liverpool after a people carrier had been shot at. Houses were fired at in Middleton (Greater Manchester)
- A woman has been charged and a man arrested in relation to possession of a firearm following a police pursuit on the M4 in Berkshire. Two people were charged with possession of an offensive firearm after British Transport Police set up metal airport-style detectors at Luton railway station.
- Two men were arrested after police found a holdall containing a number of handguns, silencers and ammunition in a car in Kentish Town (north London).
- Armed police surrounded an address in Harrogate after reports of someone being threatened with a handgun. A Combe Martin (Devon) man sparked an armed police response when he went missing taking a rifle with him. A 13-year-old girl from Cosham (Hampshire) was charged with a firearm offence.
- **Nightclub Shootings** - In May there were a number of serious shooting incidents linked to nightclubs. A man died after a shooting at a nightclub in Leeds, three men were shot inside and outside a club in Peckham (south London), a woman was shot outside a club in Catford (also in south London) and a teenager was injured at a Cardiff nightclub.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A man was jailed for 11 years for manslaughter after he fired a gun as his brother was being attacked in Newtown (Birmingham). A teenager was jailed for 9 years after a raid on a shop in Abbey Wood (south London) in which he was armed with an imitation gun. A man was jailed for 10 years for possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life in Preston, another was told he was likely to receive a life sentence after pleading guilty to robbery and having a firearm after an armed raid in Surbiton. An army veteran was jailed for 8 years after admitting possession of a rifle with intent to endanger life, cause fear or violence and resist arrest after an incident in Harehills (Leeds). A man out on license from a prison sentence for assault, robbery and firearms offences was jailed for 10 years after he had fired a shotgun in a home in Kelty (Fife). Sentencing was deferred on a man who aimed at shotgun at two police officers in Cumbernauld.
- A man was jailed for 5 years for having a prohibited weapon after he had shot himself accidentally with a home-made gun near Wrexham.
- A man was convicted of trying to smuggle handguns and a submachine gun into Britain.
- **Imitation Guns** - A boy was banned from his school bus to Oundle after firing a replica pistol, and a driver was shot with a ball-bearing gun on a bus in Gosport. A ball-bearing gun may have been fired at the windscreen

of a taxi carrying passengers in Harwich. In Edinburgh three men were arrested following separate incidents involving replica guns within 12 hours. In another incident a BB gun was held to the head of an employee at a homeless hostel in Leith.

- There was more evidence of the use of imitation guns in major criminal activity with the conviction of a teenager for robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent after a raid on a shop in Abbey Wood (south London) (sentenced to 9 years in jail) and the jailing for life of a man for a string of brutal robberies on bookmakers in Bury and Uxbridge (he received a concurrent 5 year sentence for possessing an imitation firearm). Another man was jailed for four years after threatening to shoot two police officers in Abergele with what turned out to be an imitation gun.
- A crackdown on vandals has been launched in parts of Carlisle where ball-bearing guns have been fired indiscriminately in the street and at windows and passing cars.
- Police found replica and decommissioned firearms in a car in Plymouth and arrested four people on suspicion of burglary.
- **Airgun Incidents** (see also **Incidents Involving Animals**) - Another youngster suffered a serious injury as a result of an airgun attack - a 16-year-old girl may never be able to see again properly after she was hit in the face in Hylton (Sunderland). A 16-year-old boy was shot in the neck in Llandudno (a 15-year-old was being questioned). A security guard in Nelson (Lancashire) was shot in the arm with an air rifle, a man was shot in the hand in Batley (West Yorkshire) while in Lancaster a man and a teenager were both hit in separate but possibly related air rifle attacks. A woman in Aberdeen was hit in the back as she walked along a road.
- An airgun sniper took potshots from a window in Leith, causing chaos to traffic and pedestrians in the area. A couple walking on Hastings seafront heard a shot from an air rifle and saw a man reloading the gun at a window. Airguns were fired during a disturbance by youths in Rugby. A South Shields teenager was arrested after he brandished an airgun outside his bedroom window. A gang fired airgun pellets at and into a house in Aspley (Nottingham) and the window of a takeaway was cracked in Ipswich.
- Youngsters found an air rifle wrapped in a black plastic bag on a golf course in Renfrewshire.
- The trial was taking place of a 15-year-old boy charged with manslaughter - a year earlier he had shot his 12-year-old friend in the head with his father's air rifle at his home in Conisbrough. A 17-year-old from Whitehaven was sent to a young offenders institution for four months for offences including having an air rifle in a public place. A Norwich man admitted affray after leaving his home with an air rifle after an argument. A man from Cleator Moor (Cumbria) was given 30 days after admitting possession of an air rifle when banned for five years.

- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were many reports of the damage that airgun attacks can have on pets (GCN noted 12 newspaper reports in May relating to attacks on cats) and the distress this causes to the animals and their owners.
- Two incidents were reported from the West Country in which gulls were shot with air rifles. In one a prosecution was brought by the RSPCA against a man in Dartmouth for intentionally killing a wild bird - he was given a conditional discharge. The RSPCA are appealing for information after a herring gull survived an airgun attack in Newquay.
- A rare hen harrier is believed to have been shot and killed in Northumberland.

INCIDENTS - MAY 2006

ENGLAND

Northern Echo, 31 May 2006

A man was threatened with a black handgun when he tried to stop a teenage thief stealing a satellite navigation system from his van. The van was left in **Saltersgill**, Middlesbrough. The thief had an accomplice who was probably acting as a lookout.

24dash.com, 31 May 2006

British Transport Police set up metal airport-style arches at **Luton** railway station to stop people with weapons during the town's international carnival. Twenty six people were arrested: at least two people were charged with possession of an offensive firearm.

BBC, 28 May 2006

Police have appealed for witnesses after shots were fired at a house in **Middleton**, Greater Manchester, earlier in the month. A window was shattered by the gunshots.

BBC, 27 May 2006

A woman was shot in the leg outside a nightclub in **Catford**, south east London. Four other people were found injured, but police officers said they were investigating how they became hurt. The woman's injuries were said not to be life-threatening.

BBC, 27 May 2006

A man had his car stolen by a man brandishing a pistol at him. The driver was threatened as he parked outside a house in **Blackley**, Manchester.

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 26 May 2006

Pupils at a **Hampton** school were kept in their classrooms after reports of a gunman in the area. Trains were stopped outside Hampton station after a man called police saying he had been followed by gunmen. He also said that his ex-wife and son had been shot. Nothing untoward was found and a man was later taken to hospital suffering from mental health problems.

Mirror, 25 May 2006

A man was shot dead in his car on a clifftop in **Marsden**, south Tyneside. It is believed that the attack was a gangland hit in a turf war over drugs.

Isle of Wight County Press, 25 May 2006

A man diagnosed with depression may have shot himself, an inquest was told. He was found with a gunshot wound to his head at his home in **St Lawrence**. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Guardian, 25 May 2006

Detectives were hunting a gunman who shot two people within minutes of each other in **Islington** and **Finsbury Park**, north London. The first victim, a man, was left with potentially life-threatening injuries. In the second shooting a woman bystander was hit in the back. Police have indicated that the male victim may simply have bumped into the gunman (*BBC*, 25 May 2006). A man has appeared in court charged in connection with the shootings (*Life Style Extra*, 29 May 2006).

East Anglian Daily Times, 25 May 2006

Police were hunting a robber who walked into a bank in **Colchester** and threatened a cashier with a gun. He was holding what was believed to be a firearm wrapped in a plastic bag. The cashier handed over cash, and although uninjured she was left shocked and upset.

Bury Times, 25 May 2006

Elis Rrukaj was jailed for life after being involved in a string of brutal robberies on bookmakers. In August 2005 he was one of two men who raided a bookies in **Bury** and pistol-whipped his victims and repeatedly prodded one with a stun gun until he agreed to open the safe. He had also targeted seven bookmakers and a pizzeria in **Uxbridge**. He was given eight concurrent life sentences and also jailed for five year concurrent for possessing an **imitation firearm** and four years for grievous bodily harm.

This is Essex, 24 May 2006

A taxi driver and his passengers were lucky not to be killed after an object was fired at the windscreen of the car he was driving in the **Harwich** area. It appears that something was fired with either a catapult or a **ball bearing gun**.

This is Bristol, 24 May 2006

Armed robbers held up a security van as it delivered money to a supermarket cashpoint in **Fishponds**. One of the two men was wielding a gun as they forced a security guard to empty his cash box. The robbers made off in a stolen car with an estimated £70,000.

News & Star, 24 May 2006

Police have issued another warning about the use of ball bearing guns after a string of shootings in Carlisle. Officers were called out to four reports of **BB guns** being fired by teenagers in **Botcherby** and **Harraby**. The weapons were fired indiscriminately in the street and at passing cars.

Lancashire Evening Telegraph, 23 May 2006

An armed robber has struck six times since April 2, and four times in the past week, during which he stole cash and tobacco from shops in **Blackburn**. One store has been raided twice in a week. In the latest raid the robber pointed a gun at the head of the store boss.

The Citizen (Blackburn), 23 May 2006

Bar staff and drinkers at a pub in **Blakey Moor**, Blackburn, were left shocked and scared when a man allegedly walked into the pub brandishing what appeared to be a small handgun. He was reported to have shouted that he was going to kill someone. The man left after being calmed down. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm and attempting to cause fear of violence.

BBC, 22 May 2006

A 13-year-old girl from **Cosham** has been charged with a firearm offence following an incident in which a member of the public reported seeing a person with a weapon.

BBC, 21 May 2006

A man was hit on the head and threatened with a handgun after two men got out of a vehicle in **Hastings** and attacked him.

Sunderland Today, 19 May 2006

There are fears that a 16-year-old girl may never again be able to see properly after she was hit in the face by an **air rifle** pellet fired by a hidden gunman. She was walking up a lane near her school in **Hylton** when she was hit and felt a sharp pain in her left eye.

ic Coventry, 19 May 2006

A man claiming to have a gun threatened a member of staff at a post office in **Ryton-on-Dunsmore** although police said no weapon was seen. The man ran from the store empty handed when the alarm was activated.

Cumberland News, 19 May 2006

Police have launched a crackdown on vandals who have plagued two estates in **Carlisle**. Operation Minstrel is part of an ongoing campaign to crackdown on yob culture which has included attacks in which **ball-bearing guns** have been fired at windows.

BBC, 19 May 2006

Armed police surrounded an address in **Harrogate** after reports of someone being threatened with a handgun. The incident was reported to be ongoing.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 18 May 2006

A double shooting took place at an illegal camp in **East Howdon**, near Wallsend. Two men were injured in the leg and stomach and taken to hospital. A car was pursued by police traffic cars after the shootings.

ic South London, 18 May 2006

A security guard wrestled a pistol from an armed robber in a street in **Streatham**. The guard had been attacked outside a building society branch. The guard was not seriously injured during the struggle.

Hastings Today, 18 May 2006

A couple who were walking their dogs along the seafront in **Hastings** heard a shot from an **air rifle** and turned to see a man reloading the gun in the window of a flat. A pellet had hit some railings.

This is Worcestershire, 17 May 2006

During an armed robbery at a **Bromsgrove** shop a man threatened a lone member of staff with what appeared to be a silver handgun. An undisclosed amount of cash was stolen.

Morecambe Today, 17 May 2006

A man was shot in the back with an **air rifle** in **Lancaster**. Doctors say he was lucky not to be paralysed after the pellet missed his spine by inches. The victim required surgery to remove the pellet. Three hours later a teenager in the same area was hit in the shoulder: the pellet was removed under local anaesthetic.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 17 May 2006

A man was shot in the hand with an **air rifle** in **Batley Cemetery** by one of two men who stopped him and stole his phone.

BBC, 17 May 2006

Armed police, dogs teams and negotiators went to **Combe Martin** after reports that a local man had gone missing, taking a rifle with him. The man, who was wearing camouflage clothing, was found and initially fled before surrendering peacefully. He was later released by police.

BBC, 17 May 2006

A woman was robbed at gunpoint as she picked up her son from school in **Leeds**. Two or three men, one of whom was believed to be armed, robbed the woman of a ring and watch in the school car park. Her young daughter was in the back of the car at the time. The men made off in a car which had been stolen the day before.

BBC, 17 May 2006

An armed gang escaped with a substantial amount of money after a raid at a petrol station in **Mexborough**. A security guard was threatened with a handgun.

Yorkshire Post, 16 May 2006

An army veteran faced two charges of attempted murder following an incident in **Harehills**, Leeds, in October 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). He had fired at police with a Winchester rifle during a siege at his girlfriend's house. He had kept eight guns, all licensed, at the house. The court heard that a crowd of local residents "clapped and cheered" as the man shot at the police officers (*Yorkshire Post*, 18 May 2006). James Atkinson admitted possession of a rifle with intent to endanger life, cause fear or violence and resist arrest, but was cleared by the jury of attempted murder. He was jailed for 8 years (*Mirror*, 24 May 2006).

Portsmouth Today, 16 May 2006

Among the latest attacks on bus drivers in the Portsmouth area was one in which a driver was shot by a youth with a **ball-bearing gun** as he drove through **Gospport**.

Evening Star (Suffolk), 16 May 2006

An **Ipswich** restaurateur believes that a spate of attacks on his takeaway may be racially motivated. In the most recent attack a front window was cracked by an **airgun** pellet.

BBC, 16 May 2006

Simeon Jones unleashed a volley of shots into a crowd in a barber's shop in **Newtown**, Birmingham, as his brother was being attacked in August 2005 (see [September 2005 incidents](#)). The shots killed one person and wounded another. Jones admitted manslaughter and was jailed for 11 years.

BBC, 16 May 2006

A holdall containing a number of semi-automatic handguns, silencers and 748 rounds of ammunition was found when armed police stopped a car in **Kentish Town**, London. Two men have been charged with firearm offences.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 15 May 2006

Two men, one of them a teenager, robbed a petrol station cashier in **Birchcliffe**. The teenager pointed a silver semi-automatic handgun at the cashier.

BBC, 15 May 2006

Abdullah Baybasin, who lived in **Edgware**, north London, and is thought to be responsible for much of Britain's heroin trade, has been jailed for 22 years. His gang, known as the Bombacilar, routinely carried guns and had used them to intimidate people for years.

BBC, 15 May 2006

A man was attacked by men wearing masks outside a restaurant in **Tivdale**, West Midlands. One of the masked men used a handgun to shoot the victim a number of times in the leg and stomach.

This is Nottingham, 13 May 2006

A gang fired **airgun** pellets at a house in **Aspley** as a terrified mother and her two young children waited for police to arrive. One of the pellets flew into the bedroom of one of the children as she was revising for an exam. A group of people including a boy with an air weapon were in gardens near her home. It took 90 minutes for the police to respond.

BBC, 13 May 2006

A pub in **Folkestone** was cordoned off after a teenage man was shot in the leg. The victim was taken to hospital: the wound was not life threatening. A man has been arrested.

Pendle Today, 12 May 2006

A security guard in **Nelson** is recuperating after being shot in the arm with an **air rifle**. He was patrolling a car park at the time he was hit.

Newbury Today, 12 May 2006

A woman has been charged with possession of a firearm following a police pursuit on the M4 in **Berkshire**. A man remains in custody following his arrest in the same incident.

Whitehaven News, 11 May 2006

A 17-year-old from **Whitehaven** has been sent to a young offenders institution for four months after admitting beating another teenager and being found guilty of possessing an **air rifle** in a public place. He had the weapon near a park area where children were playing.

Berwick Today, 11 May 2006

Two masked men threatened the manageress of **Beadnell** Post Office at gunpoint before fleeing with cash possibly around £2500.

South Tyneside Today, 10 May 2006

A teenager was arrested for brandishing an **airgun** outside his bedroom window in **South Shields**. A passer-by alerted police after seeing him firing shots. He was later released without charge.

Peterborough Today, 10 May 2006

A 13-year-old boy has been banned from travelling on his school bus to **Oundle** after firing a **replica pistol**, loaded with plastic pellets, as he travelled home on the bus. The boy claimed he was unaware that the gun was loaded at the time.

Trinidad Express, 9 May 2006

Rick Gomes from Trinidad has been remanded in custody on charges of drug trafficking and illegal possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition after being arrested on arrival at **Heathrow Airport**. Moves are afoot to have him extradited to Trinidad and Tobago to face trial on a charge of trafficking more than \$13 million in cocaine.

Somerset County Gazette, 9 May 2006

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of armed robbery after two men brandishing a firearm robbed a service station in **Taunton**.

Mirror, 9 May 2006

Mark Foley pleaded guilty to robbery and having a firearm after an armed raid on an off licence in **Surbiton** in April 2005. He stole £181 and over £1000 of alcohol and cigarettes. He was told that he was in great danger of receiving a life sentence.

Wigan Today, 8 May 2006

Police officers negotiated with a man armed with a gun alone in a car in **Skelmersdale**. The police had pursued the man following reports of a domestic dispute in **Wigan**. Eighteen hours later the man turned the gun, reported to be a handgun, on himself and shot himself in the head (*Bolton Evening News*, 9 May 2006). He later died in hospital (*Bolton Evening News*, 11 May 2006).

BBC, 8 May 2006

Two men have been charged in connection with a shooting in which gunmen opened fire on a people carrier from a motorbike in **Liverpool**.

Isle of Wight County Press, 5 May 2006

A man was found dead from a gunshot wound to his head at his home in **Chale**. He was reported to have suffered from depression as well as arthritis, which prevented him from enjoying his lifelong love of shooting.

ic South London, 5 May 2006

Three men were shot during an incident that spilled from a packed club in **Peckham** into the street. The three victims were hit in the legs and taken to hospital. Two men have been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, violent disorder, and possession of ammunition.

Whitehaven News, 4 May 2006

George Young of **Cleator Moor**, jailed for 120 days after breaching sex offender registration rules, was also ordered to serve 30 days, concurrently, after admitting possessing a firearm, namely an **air rifle**, when banned for five years.

This is Lancashire, 4 May 2006

Viston Samuels was found guilty of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. He had fired a 9 mm semi-automatic gun at a group of men in a street in **Preston** last year. He was jailed for 10 years (*This is Lancashire*, 26 May 2006).

Rugby Today, 4 May 2006

Youths armed with guns, baseball bats and iron bars brought mayhem to **Rugby**. The gang attacked a car and had to be dispersed by police. **Airgun** pellets were fired, and police are investigating reports of drive-by shootings.

Reading Evening Post, 4 May 2006

Ahjad Hussain of **Emmer Green** has admitted trying to smuggle handguns and a Mac 10 submachine gun into Britain. He admitted possessing a handgun, another weapon believed to be a stun gun and eight rounds of 9 mm ammunition. He will be sentenced later.

East London and West Essex Guardian, 4 May 2006

A man was left fighting for his life after he was shot in the stomach in a pub in **Walthamstow**. The victim is in a controlled coma.

BBC, 4 May 2006

A woman was threatened at gunpoint by two hooded men in **Warwick**. They forced her to hand over her keys before driving away in her car. The car was later used in an armed robbery at a supermarket in **Swadlincote**, Derbyshire. A security guard was shot in the legs and is recovering in hospital (*BBC*, 5 May 2006).

BBC, 4 May 2006

Police found **replica** and **decommissioned firearms** in a car that they had stopped in the **Honicknowle** area of Plymouth. Three men were arrested on suspicion of burglary and a woman was taken into custody on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary.

BBC, 4 May 2006

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has said that a police officer, shot during a 17-hour siege in **Rawtenstall** in July 2005, would probably be dead if he had not been wearing body armour. The gunman, Stephen Hensby, shot the officer with a shotgun and then hurled petrol bombs out of an upstairs window.

ic South London, 3 May 2006

Vincent Stickings, 18, who pistol-whipped a storekeeper in **Abbey Wood**, has been jailed for 9 years. He was armed with a gun when he and an unidentified accomplice who brandished a sword robbed the shop. He was convicted of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent.

Eastern Daily Press, 3 May 2006

A shopkeeper in **Norwich** refused to hand over cash from the till when confronted by a masked raider armed with a gun. She shouted at the man to go away and he left.

Eastern Daily Press, 3 May 2006

Andrew Oliver, who had been out drinking, argued after arriving at home in **Norwich**, and left with an **air rifle**. He was seen lying in a field at **Neatishead** and when police challenged him he wielded an axe. Police shot him with a plastic bullet. Green later told them he hoped they would shoot him. In court he admitted affray.

BBC, 3 May 2006

A man returning from a stag party abroad was shot in the leg after arguing with two men in a car near **Liverpool Airport**. Police believe that the intention of the men was to shoot another member of the victim's group.

BBC, 3 May 2006

A man was shot dead whilst standing by his car in **Hornchurch**. His 6-year-old daughter was with him and his 2-year-old son was in the car. The shots were fired from another car which drove past.

BBC, 2 May 2006

A man is seriously ill in hospital after being shot in a street in **Atherton**, Wigan. The victim had been shot in the ankle.

BBC, 2 May 2006

A man threatened a woman with a gun on her own doorstep in **Hartley Wintney**, Hampshire, before firing the weapon into the air and running off.

BBC, 2 May 2006

A pub on the outskirts of **Coventry** was held up by three masked men armed with a shotgun. The men threatened staff and customers before stealing cash and escaping in a car.

BBC, 2 May 2006

A court has heard how a 14-year-old boy killed his 12-year-old friend when he shot him in the head with an **air rifle**. The boy, now aged 15, was showing off his father's new gun in his bedroom in **Conisbrough** (see [May 2005 Incidents](#)) when it went off, firing a pellet through the victim's eye and into his brain. No treatment was possible. The boy denies manslaughter by gross negligence. Prosecuting counsel told the court that leaving such a weapon stored under a bed, as his father had done, was "very dangerous".

BBC, 2 May 2006

A man was seriously injured when he was shot in the stomach at a nightclub in the centre of **Leeds**. Police who attended the scene were attacked with stones and bottles. Despite surgery the victim died in hospital later in the month. It is believed that he was targeted because he had accidentally spilt the gunman's drink (*Leeds Today*, 26 May 2006).

SCOTLAND

ic Scotland, 31 May 2006

Part of a golf course at **Elderslie**, Renfrewshire, was sealed off after youngsters found a **.22 air rifle** wrapped in a black plastic bin bag in shrubbery.

BBC, 28 May 2006

A man was in a serious condition after being shot by police. An armed response unit had been sent to the **Mount Florida** area of Glasgow following reports that a man with a pistol had held up a convenience store. The man, who was known to the staff of the shop, put a gun to the chest of a member of staff.

Evening Times, 25 May 2006

Armed thieves held up a shop in the **Gorbals** area of Glasgow. Two men threatened staff with what appeared to be a firearm and stole a three-figure sum as cash before escaping on mountain bikes.

BBC, 22 May 2006

A robber attacked an off-licence in **Dundee** and escaped with a three-figure sum of cash. He entered the shop carrying a handgun.

BBC, 17 May 2006

A security guard was shot in the stomach during an attempted robbery by two men in **Kilmarnock**. The guard was walking into a bank at the time. The robbers fled empty-handed.

BBC, 15 May 2006

An elderly woman felt a sharp pain in her back as she walked along a road in Aberdeen. The incident is being treated as the reckless discharge of an **air weapon**.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 11 May 2006

A woman had a gun held to her head at a homeless hostel in **Leith**. One employee was threatened with what appeared to be a handgun. Armed officers rushed to the hostel and arrested a man. The weapon turned out to be a **BB gun**.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 10 May 2006

A man was due to appear in court after a sniper with an **airgun** took pot shots from a third floor window at people in a street in **Leith**. The man had laid siege to the area for a number of hours, causing chaos for traffic and pedestrians. A major alert was sparked after workers on a nearby building site reported being fired at.

BBC, 10 May 2006

James Sneddon has admitted assaulting two police officers by aiming a shotgun at them after they had stopped the car in which he and two others were travelling in **Cumbernauld** in January 2006. He opened the passenger door of the car, produced a double-barrelled shotgun and told the officers to "get back". At the time he was out on licence after serving a sentence for assault and robbery. Sentencing was deferred.

BBC, 5 May 2006

Brian Martin has been jailed for 10 years after he fired a shotgun in a home in **Kelty**, Fife in August 2005 (see [Incidents](#)) whilst demanding money in a dispute over £7,500. Martin was out on licence from a prison sentence for assault, robbery and firearms offences.

BBC, 2 May 2006

Three men have been arrested following separate incidents in **Edinburgh** involving **replica guns** within 12 hours. One man has been charged after brandishing a toy handgun and machete. Another man was arrested with a high-powered air pistol and the third man was found with a gas-powered BB gun.

WALES

BBC, 29 May 2006

Police were searching for a handgun used in the shooting of an 18-year-old man at a nightclub in **Cardiff**. The victim had been shot in the stomach and was in a stable condition. Extra police have been drafted into the city centre following the shooting. A man has since been arrested and released on bail (*BBC*, 1 June 2006).

BBC, 25 May 2006

Two men have been arrested after a suspected robbery at a **Cardiff** sub-post office. Police believe that an **imitation firearm** was used during the incident.

BBC, 24 May 2006

A pensioner from **Criccieth** has been cleared after appearing in court charged with shooting a drunken football supporter with an **air rifle** in September 2005. He denied discharging the weapon but he did admit that he beat the man with the butt of the rifle in self-defence. It had been alleged by the prosecution that the attack was totally unprovoked.

BBC, 15 May 2006

Wayne Brown threatened to shoot two police officers at close range in **Abergele** as he pointed a gun. The police were able to distract him and one of them kicked the weapon out of his hand. It turned out to be an **imitation gun**, and Brown has been jailed for four years after admitting possessing a replica firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

South Wales Echo, 6 May 2006

Police are searching for Dominic Abdi in connection with a brutal attack on a pensioner in his flat in **Butetown**. It is thought that Abdi may have since fled South Wales, possibly with a handgun. Detectives believe that Abdi may be responsible for a raid on a hotel in **Chepstow** in which a man wielding a gun looted the safe.

Daily Post, 5 May 2006

A 16-year-old schoolboy was shot in the neck whilst he was standing with friends outside a community centre in **Llandudno**. Armed police officers were sent to the area. The doctors who treated the victim have said that if it had gone a few inches either side it could have hit his main artery. A 15-year old is being questioned and an **air weapon** has been recovered by police (*Wales on Sunday*, 14 May 2006).

BBC, 4 May 2006

Anthony Gurney has been jailed for five years after being convicted of having a prohibited weapon less than 24 in in length (a home-made "Maze" gun). He shot himself in the face with a .22 bullet when he dropped his tiny self-constructed weapon on the floor and then tried to convince police he had been attacked by a mystery gunman. The incident occurred as he was moving equipment from the back of a trailer in **Penycae**, near Wrexham.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

The Scottish SPCA are setting set up a database to record airgun attacks on animals. From 1 June vets, wildlife officers and members of the public will be able to log on to the [SSPCA's website](#) and enter details of an incident. The information will then make up the most comprehensive database of airgun attacks on animals in the UK.

This is Wiltshire, 31 May 2006

A family have spoken of their disgust after their cat was used as target practice by someone using an **airgun** in **Grange Park**, Swindon. The cat was shot in the stomach with the pellet ending up in his leg muscle.

Evening News (Norwich), 27 May 2006

A vet in **Norwich** has described his disgust at people who shoot cats for thrills. He had recently seen two cats injured by **air rifle** pellets, one of which had its jaw broken, and said in an average year he treats three to four cats that have been shot.

Ripley Today, 25 May 2006

A pet cat shot with an **air rifle** has had to have its leg amputated. The incident happened after the cat was let out to roam from its home in **Marlpool**.

Newquay Voice, 24 May 2006

A herring gull was found in **Newquay** with three **air rifle** pellets embedded in its neck. It is believed to have been shot a few days before. The injured gull survived. The RSPCA is appealing for information to discover who was responsible: all birds and their nests are afforded protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Lancashire Evening Post, 19 May 2006

A family's cat was shot and fatally injured in **Ribbleton**. The injured cat was found crawling up the driveway, dragging her back legs behind. She had to be put down. X-ray results showed she had been shot with an **airgun**.

BBC, 17 May 2006

Dr Brian Boughton, a district councillor, used an **air rifle** to shoot a seagull that had nested in his roof in **Dartmouth** to stop it spreading disease. After a prosecution brought by the RSPCA he was found guilty of intentionally killing a wild bird. He was conditionally discharged for a year.

Shropshire Star, 16 May 2006

A pet cat from **Wheathill**, near Bridgnorth, was discovered to have an **airgun** pellet lodged in his pelvis after he'd been taken to a vets because he stopped eating and appeared unwell. The cat, which had also been manhandled, had severe internal injuries and had to be put down.

Leamington Spa Today, 16 May 2006

A man was found not guilty of shooting and killing a dog, which had to be put down in June 2005 after suffering extensive bleeding - an air rifle pellet was found in his abdomen. The man admitted firing his **airgun** into the ground in his garden at **Lighthome Heath** in an attempt to scare off the dog and the magistrates said the evidence against him was inconclusive.

Barking and Dagenham Recorder, 11 May 2006

A cat which was shot with an **airgun** at close range in **Barking** has been blinded in one eye as a result of the attack.

Wilmslow Express, 10 May 2006

A family from **Alderley Edge** are outraged after their cat was shot with an **air rifle** as it played in the back garden. The cat will need surgery to pin a broken leg and remove a pellet from her back.

Daily Mail, 6 May 2006

A farmer from **Bourne End**, Bedfordshire, was cautioned and arrested after he fired a warning shot at a neighbour's dog which he believed was harassing his sheep. The dog was hit by pellets on its back leg. Armed police officers arrived in six patrol cars. He was later released without charge.

Wigan Today, 5 May 2006

A kitten who limped into the family home in **Atherton** was found to have an **airgun** pellet lodged in his leg. An RSPCA inspector said that incidents like this were on the increase in the Leigh area.

This is Wiltshire, 4 May 2006

A cat owner and her daughter from **Bradford on Avon** discovered that their cat had been shot with an **airgun**. A pellet was embedded in the side of their pet. The cat is making a full recovery after managing to get the pellet out himself.

BBC, 4 May 2006

A lamb was shot dead with an **air rifle** at a farm in **Teynham**, Kent. The act was described as "an unacceptable act of cruelty" by a police officer.

Macclesfield Express, 3 May 2006

A cat, who was found snared and shot with an **air rifle** in **Macclesfield**, had to be destroyed. A boy, the older of two who were seen in the area, had been seen carrying a big air rifle.

Eastbourne News, 2 May 2006

A cat is recovering after being shot with an **airgun** pellet and subsequently falling 10 feet from the roof of her owners' house in **Polegate**. The pellet hit her back leg and caused her to lose balance.

BBC, 2 May 2006

A female hen harrier, one of England's rarest birds of prey, appears to have been shot illegally in Northumberland. The bird left the nest in which eggs had been laid on a patch of moor close to **Corbridge**, but shortly afterwards four shots were heard. The bird has not been seen since.



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