



MAY 2007 - SUMMARY

A police firearms officer was shot dead when he attended a domestic incident in Shrewsbury. The gunman apparently shot himself with the same gun. It was widely reported that the gun was legally-owned. In another incident involving armed police a man, who was found to have a loaded gun, was shot dead in Ealing (west London) during an operation on alleged illegal gun transactions. The incidents highlight the potential dangers which the police may have to face from guns, whoever owns them and however they have been obtained.

During May police in Manchester and the West Midlands expressed concerns about the number of gun incidents in their areas, and this month's summary includes a significant number of incidents and convictions from these two regions.

When gun crime is discussed in the media it is rarely reported that nearly two thirds of all recorded gun offences in Great Britain are committed with imitation guns and airguns, the vast majority of which do not need to be registered making them too easy to obtain, especially by youths. The Violent Crime Reduction (2006) Act includes measures that should by now have limited their availability (i) through a ban on the sale, import and manufacture of imitation weapons and (ii) through restricting the sale of airguns to registered firearm dealers. Despite the continuing concerns of many, including the police, the Government has still not implemented either measure. In May Surrey Police ran a campaign to highlight the dangers of imitation guns, while in the Mansfield area Nottinghamshire Police were the latest force to issue a warning about the misuse of airguns. The incidents and convictions recorded in this Summary show that the warnings are still not being heeded. So long as there are further delays to the implementation of the VCR Act, there will be even more incidents involving imitation guns and airguns, inflating the gun crime figures and affecting hundreds of victims throughout the country.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - A firearms officer was killed when police attended a domestic incident in Shrewsbury. Another man was later found dead. Both victims died from a single gunshot wound: the gun used was a .222 calibre rifle, commonly used in pest control.
- A man was shot dead after being chased through a block of flats in Lewisham (south east London). Another man died after being shot as he tried to flee from an attack on a busy road in Cardonald (Glasgow).
- A man died after being shot in Ealing (west London) by police during an "intelligence led" operation on alleged illegal firearm transactions: it is reported that the man had a loaded weapon.
- A man apparently shot himself and died at a property in the centre of Lewes (Sussex).
- Victims were injured in shooting incidents in Woodley (Berkshire), where two teenagers, aged 16 and 15, received shotgun wounds (a 17-year-old has been charged), and in Rayleigh, where a member of the public was shot when he went to the aid of a security guard. In Greater Manchester a

teenager was shot in the leg and received minor injuries as he ran away outside a club in Moss Side, and a man was in hospital after being shot during an incident involving two gangs of men in Oldham. A man received minor injuries when he was shot in the back while sitting in a car in Moseley (Birmingham).

- A police support worker was shot and seriously wounded during a firearms training session run by Thames Valley Police at Kidlington (Oxfordshire).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were attacks on security guards delivering cash in Rayleigh (Essex) (in which a member of the public was shot and injured, see above) and Isleworth (west London). A security van driver was threatened with a gun and abducted in East Whithorn (West Lothian): the van and driver were dumped at Muldron Forest.
- Two armed men stole cash from a social club in Lakenheath (Suffolk). Two pubs in the Reading area (at Playhatch and Caversham) were robbed by gangs armed with knives and guns: the police believe the raids may be linked.
- There were robberies or attempted robberies on shops in Southampton, Brompton (Manchester) and Atherstone (Warwickshire) (two separate robberies), on a travel agents in Northampton, a petrol station in Warmington (Northamptonshire), a fast food outlet in Portsmouth and bookmakers in Dennistoun (Glasgow) and Haverhill (Suffolk). An armed gang stole thousands of pounds from a slaughterhouse in Highgate (Birmingham) (shots were fired into the air).
- A car was stolen from a house in Wyken (Coventry) after the family were threatened with a shotgun. Seven masked men, one armed with a gun, robbed a woman and her son at their home in Hulme (Manchester): a car was stolen from outside the property. A man was hit on the head at a house on Preston Docks during an apparent attempted burglary by an armed man. Men armed with a gun tried to attack the occupants of a house in Milton Keynes: three men have been arrested.
- In Manchester, a teenager threatened a mother, her child and a pensioner with a gun in two separate incidents on streets in Peel Hall and Woodhouse Park. A man was robbed in the street in Brownsver (West Midlands) and had £50 stolen at gunpoint.
- **Other Incidents** - A 15-year-old boy was arrested after someone was reportedly seen with a handgun outside a school in Bromsgrove (Worcestershire). Students and staff were evacuated from a school in Newbury (Berkshire) after reports of youths heading into nearby woods with what was thought to be a firearm.
- Following reports that shots had been fired four youths were arrested at a party in Old Swan (Liverpool) and a handgun was found at a garage in Holloway (north London). A series of gunshots were heard in Upper Shirley (Southampton) and police officers recovered a bullet. A man was arrested in Barton Seagrave (Northamptonshire) about firearms offences after a shooting incident at a house in Kettering when shots were also fired.
- In one of a number of incidents in the West Midlands, shots were fired and two policemen suffered minor injuries (though not as a result of a firearm going off) when they struggled with two men in Birmingham city centre. Two cars were shot at in Halesowen, and a man was seen firing a handgun in a street in Handsworth.
- A woman was arrested after she had barricaded herself into a house with a gun in Havant (Hampshire).

- Armed police were called to a supermarket in Leominster after reports that a man had been seen with what appeared to be a handgun: no weapon was found.
- **Gun Finds, Thefts and Losses** - A shotgun and dangerous drugs were seized by police from a flat in Monkwearmouth (Sunderland): two men have been charged. A gun was found in a house in Derbyshire after two men had been arrested for drug offences in County Durham, and five men were arrested on suspicion of possession of firearms and drugs offences after a quantity of handguns and ammunition were recovered by police during a raid on a property in Stretford (Greater Manchester). A gun was found during a raid on an address in Llanddeusant (Gwynedd) in which a large amount of class A drugs and cash were recovered: two men were arrested. Air weapons were found during a drugs raid in Portishead (Somerset) (see below).
- A handgun was seized by police during raids on a number of homes in Leeds which resulted in seven people being arrested over a credit card fraud.
- A man was arrested at a house in Rugby by police who found a sawn-off shotgun and three air rifles.
- A rifle and 50 rounds of ammunition were in the boot of a car stolen in Urmston (Greater Manchester).
- Police have warned that two replica guns stolen in Beaumont Leys (Leicester) could easily be mistaken for the real thing. Police are also concerned about the theft of two guns used in Wild West re-enactments that were stolen from a house in Meriden (West Midlands).
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A hitman who shot two men, killing one of them, in separate incidents in Basford (Nottingham) has been jailed for a minimum of thirty five years after being convicted of murder and attempted murder.
- There were a number of convictions for serious gun crimes in the Greater Manchester area. Two men will serve a minimum of 21 and 20 years after planning a contract killing in which the hit men were themselves shot dead at a pub in Salford. An 18-year-old was found guilty of the attempted murder of a 17-year-old in Stretford and possession of a section 1 firearm: three other teenagers, aged 16 and 15, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to cause actual bodily harm. Seven members of a gang from Moss Side have been given jail terms or are awaiting sentence for their involvement in the intimidation and kidnap of victims: one man had been shot whilst trying to escape.
- Two men were given sentences of 18 and 14 years, respectively, for the attempted murder of a man who was shot in Brighouse (West Yorkshire) (see [April 2007 Incidents](#)).
- Three men have pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possession of a firearm, and one of them pleaded guilty to GBH, following a robbery at Portslade (Sussex) in which a shopkeeper was shot in the face: they will be sentenced in July. A man who shot the cashier of a petrol station in Hooley (Surrey) in the head during an attempted robbery was given a 12 year sentence (see [March 2007 Incidents](#)).
- A man has been jailed for a minimum of four and a half years for a doorstep attack in Tynemouth in which the victim was shot with a sawn-off shotgun.
- After police had found a sawn-off shotgun hidden under a man's bed in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, the offender pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and has been jailed for four years.

- A man was jailed for seven years after he brandished a gun as police tried to arrest him in Stamford Hill (north London).
- A man who admitted having an illegal revolver at his home in Lochgilphead (Argyllshire) was given 200 hours community service (see [April 2007 Incidents](#)).
- **Airguns** - Another child has been seriously injured after being shot with an air weapon. The 9-year-old was in a garden in Drumchapel (Glasgow) when he was hit in the leg and had to undergo an operation to remove the pellet.
- Two people were injured during a spate of air weapon shootings from a car driven around the Penshaw and Washington areas of County Durham: armed police arrested three men, aged 19 and 21, at a house in Penshaw.
- A pensioner had her car stolen at gunpoint in Rushmere St Andrew (Suffolk): an airgun found when her car was recovered and a man has been arrested.
- Another pensioner was traumatised after four shots from an airgun were fired through her window as she lay in bed in Paisley.
- In Cumbria, two cars had their windscreens smashed in Flimby, probably by shots from an air rifle, and windows of houses and flats were smashed by an airgun or BB gun in Grange. A Carlisle councillor is calling for tighter controls over airguns after windows were smashed in Harraby.
- At least two drivers reported that their vehicles had been hit by a youth firing an air weapon in Chorlton and Whalley Range in Manchester. A train window was hit with an air rifle shot at it travelled through Cheadle Hulme, also in Greater Manchester. British Transport Police reported that an air rifle had been fired at a train in Neville Hill (Leeds).
- A man was detained under the Mental Health Act after an air rifle was seized from a van parked at a supermarket in Dunstable (Bedfordshire).
- Three air pistols and an air rifle were found at addresses in Portishead (Somerset) during a police drugs raid: four men were arrested. Three air rifles were among weapons seized by police in Rugby: one man was arrested.
- **Airguns (Convictions)** - A 19-year-old who fired an air rifle in the face of a 16-year-old girl in Paulton (Somerset) has been sentenced to three years at a young offenders institute: the victim is still ill in hospital.
- A man who used an air pistol during a raid on a betting shop in Horwich (Greater Manchester) has been jailed for 5 years. A man has admitted robbing a shop in Rhu (Dunbartonshire): he was armed with an air pistol.
- A 17-year-old was given a 40 month custodial sentence after he shot a 16-year-old and threatened three shop workers in Greenock with air weapons (see [April 2007 Incidents](#)).
- An 18-year-old who fired an air rifle and injured a man whom he believed was trying to break into his flat in Maryhill (Glasgow) has been given a 12 month custodial sentence.
- A Wild West enthusiast who fired a shot at police called to a disturbance at his house in Hume (Scottish Borders) has pleaded guilty to discharging an airgun pellet towards a police officer and two charges of possessing prohibited weapons: he has an outbuilding kitted out like a Wild West set which housed replica guns.
- A man was jailed for five years after police found a modified air weapon and CS gas cartridges at his caravan in Clayton-le-Dale (Lancashire).
- A man who threatened his father and stepmother at their home in Weston-super-Mare whilst armed with an air rifle pleaded guilty and will be sentenced next month.
- A motorist pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was given a suspended six months prison sentence and

ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work after he gestured with an airgun at another driver in Southport.

- A man was given an eight month suspended prison sentence and 200 hours of unpaid work after an incident in Thetford in which he was spotted with an air rifle.
- **Imitation Guns** - An elderly woman was shot in the face with a BB gun as she walked along a road in Huntingdon: a 9-year-old boy was spoken to in connection with the incident. A woman was hit in the ribcage with a BB pellet whilst walking in a street in Grantham.
- A 13-year-old boy held a fake gun to a teacher's head during a lesson at a school in Northampton.
- Police in Grantham had to deal with four incidents involving BB guns within a week. A BB gun with the appearance of a long-barrelled shotgun was seized, a car windscreen was hit in the same street where a woman was later hit (see above), and in Long Bennington two youths, aged 14 and 16, were given a warning and their BB guns seized after reports of a young man seen with a firearm. Also in Lincolnshire shots were fired from a BB gun at a car in Boston. A motorist was threatened with an imitation gun as he was driving through Trowse (Norfolk).
- A BB gun was recovered and seven people were arrested after reports that a man had brandished a gun in Bedlington (Northumberland).
- Four youths were arrested after a cache of weapons, including BB guns, was found at a house in Leasowe (Wirral) after reports of an alleged assault.
- Two teenage boys appeared in court after police saw mobile phone footage of a group brandishing guns: an imitation MP5 firearm was recovered during raids in Ellesmere Port (Cheshire).
- Armed response teams had to track a motorist spotted with a silver pistol in his hand in Hove (the man was given advice about carrying a BB gun in public). Two teenage women, dressed in Wild West costumes, were arrested in Brighouse (West Yorkshire) after one of them had been seen pointing a gun at other drivers on the M62: the gun turned out to be a toy.
- Two teenagers were arrested after passengers on a bus in Bristol reported seeing them with a gun. A man was arrested in Oxford after being caught on CCTV cameras pointing a gun at passers-by: the weapon was a toy gun and he was later released. A man who pointed a handgun at people in the centre of Cardiff is thought to have been armed with an imitation gun.
- Despite the fact that Surrey Police have been running a campaign warning of the dangers posed by replica guns, there were a number of incidents in the county in May. A 13-year-old was given a formal reprimand after being found with an imitation gun in Woking. Two replica guns were seized from two boys, aged 11 and 13, in Caterham: the boys were reprimanded. Extensive damage was caused by BB guns to cars in Godstone. A teenager was seen with a handgun in Redhill town centre: he dropped the weapon, a BB gun, when confronted by armed officers but was caught later. A local newspaper in Caterham described how easy it was for a 13-year-old boy to purchase a frighteningly realistic Colt pistol replica gun in the town.
- **Imitation Guns (Convictions)** - A man has been jailed for 15 years for stealing £24,000 from a security guard at a service station in Stafford when he was armed with an imitation gun.
- A man who presented a starting pistol at a takeaway in Glasgow whilst demanding a free kebab was jailed for four years.

- A woman was jailed for 18 months after admitting possessing an imitation firearm which she pulled on a man during a dispute over parking in Trowell (Nottinghamshire).
- Three boys who shot at primary school children in Rugeley (Staffordshire) with BB gun pellets, hitting 17 of them, have been given final warnings.
- A man who was jailed for two years for drug dealing had a ball-bearing gun at his house in Darlington.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were more airgun attacks on cats reported in May (in Brighton, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Somerset), and a puppy died after being shot with a BB gun in Strood (Kent).
- Protected birds are often targeted in shooting attacks. This month a buzzard was found shot dead in St Cyrus (Aberdeenshire).

ENGLAND

Grantham Today, 31 May 2007

In addition to the incident in **Long Bennington** (see below), Lincolnshire police have had to deal with a number of incidents involving **BB guns**. A BB gun was seized in **Grantham** after a member of the public reported seeing something with what they thought was a long-barrelled shotgun. Two days later, also in **Grantham**, the windscreen of a car was struck by a BB pellet, and later a woman walking in the same street was hit in the ribcage by a BB pellet which left a mark on her skin.

BBC, 31 May 2007

A civilian police support worker has been shot during a Thames Valley Police "firearms awareness training session" at **Kidlington**, Oxfordshire. The man was in a serious but stable condition in hospital. The incident will be investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The IPCC will examine how a Glock 9 mm pistol came to have a live round, why the safety catch was not on, and whether the officer checked the status of the gun before the lesson (*Times*, 1 June 2007).

BBC, 31 May 2007

John McSally has been convicted of murder and attempted murder and has been ordered to serve a minimum of 35 years. McSally was the hitman who gunned down two men in **Basford**, Nottingham in 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). One of the men was shot dead outside a pub in February, the other victim was shot on his driveway in May but survived. Another man was cleared of murder, and a woman was also cleared of perverting the course of justice.

BBC, 31 May 2007

Police officers were called to **Long Bennington**, Lincolnshire, after a woman reported seeing a young man run past her with what she thought was a firearm. Two youths, 14 and 16, were found with **BB guns** which were seized. The two teenagers were given a warning. Another BB gun had been seized in a similar incident a few days earlier.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 30 May 2007

British Transport Police are to crackdown on one of the worst areas for missile-throwing on the railways in the north-east region. Among recent incidents at **Neville Hill**, at Osmondthorpe in Leeds, a train was shot at with an **airgun**.

Reading Evening Post, 30 May 2007

Four masked raiders held bar staff at gunpoint and knifepoint while they robbed the takings of a pub in **Caversham**. Two of the men were armed with guns and two had knives. A gun was held to the face of one staff member and the staff were forced to go into the office. The raid bears similarities to an armed robbery at another pub at Playhatch, also in the Reading area, earlier in the month (see below), and the police believe the two are linked.

Milton Keynes Citizen, 30 May 2007

Police were called to reports that men armed with a gun were trying to attack the occupants of a house in **Grange Farm**. Three men have been arrested

East London Advertiser, 30 May 2007

Baris Boran has been jailed for seven years. He had brandished a loaded Browning handgun when he tried to escape after police had stopped a car in **Stamford Hill**, north London, in July 2006. Boran admitted four charges including possessing a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing a loaded firearm in a public place

East Anglian Daily Times, 30 May 2007

An robber armed with a handgun threatened two female members of staff and a female customer at a bookmakers in **Haverhill**, Suffolk. Cash was handed over by staff. The police are linking the robbery to previous armed robberies of bookmakers in Haverhill as well as a series of other armed robberies across the country.

BBC, 30 May 2007

A car clamper, George McDicken, admitted making three abusive phone calls to a police station in **Keighley**, in one of which he threatened to shoot a police officer involved in bringing an Asbo against him because of his clamping activities. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

BBC, 30 May 2007

Seven masked men, one armed with a gun, robbed a woman and her son in their home in **Hulme**, Manchester. The gang demanded the woman's car keys before stealing the vehicle which was parked outside. A stereo system was also taken by one of the men.

BBC, 30 May 2007

Nottinghamshire police have urged people living in **Mansfield** and **Ashfield** to help them reduce the number of incidents involving **air weapons**. There were 33 reported offences in the area between 1 January and 2 May. They have asked people to report anyone seen misusing them, adding that "Some people think air weapons are toys, but that is far from the truth".

Oxford Mail, 29 May 2007

A man who was seen on CCTV pointing a gun at passers-by as he walked down a street in **Oxford** was arrested by armed police on suspicion of possessing a firearm. Although the weapon turned out to be a **toy gun**, a police spokesman said that "firearms are something the police take extremely seriously and it's not possible to distinguish at a distance whether or not the weapon is real. We urge people not to take toy guns into public places". The man was released without charge.

News & Star, 29 May 2007

A councillor in Carlisle is calling for tighter controls on airguns after windows in **Harraby** were smashed with an **airgun**. Hundreds of pounds worth of damage have been caused to office windows. Councillor June Martlew has said that airguns need to be licensed. "I don't think anyone under the age of 18 should be able to have an airgun. They should be subject to the same laws as other guns."

East Anglian Daily Times, 29 May 2007

Two men threatened a bar steward at a social club in **Lakenheath**, Suffolk, with a firearm and a wooden stave as he was locking up. The pair made off on foot after stealing a quantity of cash.

Shropshire Star, 28 May 2007

Armed police were called to a supermarket in **Leominster** after witnesses reported seeing a man waving what appeared to be a handgun. The store had to be evacuated. A man was arrested but no firearms were found by the police.

BBC, 28 May 2007

A man is recovering in hospital after being shot in the stomach during an incident involving two gangs of men in the **Clarksfield** area of Oldham.

This is Lancashire, 27 May 2007

Thomas Beard has been jailed for five years after police found an **air rifle**, ammunition and 66 CS gas cartridges at his caravan at **Clayton-le-Dale**. Although it was claimed that the weapon had only been used to shoot vermin and rabbits, the judge told Beard that the danger was that the weapons could have gone into wider circulation. The police had found two air weapons, one of which was the subject of a charge because it had a muzzle which exceeded the specifications. The cartridges were for a starting pistol and did not fit the weapon on the site.

BBC, 27 May 2007

A man was hit on the head in his house on **Preston Docks** by a suspected burglar who was seen brandishing a gun. The offender tried to steal cash but left the house empty-handed.

Evening Chronicle, 26 May 2007

Benito Bado has been given an indefinite jail sentence following a doorstep gun attack at a house in **Tynemouth** in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He tried to lure his victim outside saying he wanted to settle a dispute between the two men and then fired a loaded sawn-off shotgun as the other man tried to close the door. The victim was hit in the calf. Bado was arrested after fleeing the scene. He was found guilty of wounding with intent and a firearms offence. He will serve at least four and a half years before he can be considered for release.

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 25 May 2007

A robber held a silver revolver to a security guard's throat and demanded a cash box whilst the guard was delivering money to a bank in **Isleworth**, west London. The robber jumped into a getaway car and escaped with thousands of pounds.

Bury Free Press, 25 May 2007

Andrius Jankauskas was spotted by an off duty police officer armed with an **air rifle** in **Thetford**, Norfolk. Armed police responded and had to use CS gas to subdue Jankauskas who was drunk and aggressive. He pleaded guilty to affray and having a firearm in a public place and was given an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months. He was ordered to do 200 hours' unpaid work. The weapon will be destroyed.

BBC, 25 May 2007

A rail commuter was in a serious condition after being shot by robbers as he went to the aid of a security guard at **Rayleigh** station in Essex. The victim was shot in the chest with a handgun after intervening. The guard, one of two, was attacked as she loaded a cash machine. The victim has regained consciousness in hospital (*BBC*, 26 May 2007). A man was being questioned by police in connection with the shooting (*Independent*, 29 May 2007).

This is Cheshire, 24 May 2007

Neville Paul, 18, was found guilty of attempted murder and possession of a section 1 firearm following the attempted murder of a 17-year-old boy who was shot in a park in **Stretford** in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Three others, two aged 16 and one aged 15, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to cause actual bodily harm. The victim has subsequently recovered after being shot three times.

Mail, 24 May 2007

A group from **Moss Side**, Manchester, calling themselves the Fallowfield Mandem posed in photos with guns they used to intimidate and threaten kidnap victims. One victim was hit in the back with a bullet after trying to escape in one incident in February 2006. Twins Marvin and Michael Berkeley were jailed over two firearms offences and several other offences and were given an indeterminate sentence and two years and four months in jail, respectively. Kane Snowdon and Marcus Smith were also given indeterminate sentences, and Tyrone Patrick was sentenced to seven years. All had pleaded guilty to offences including kidnap, conspiracy to rob and assisting an offender. Lee Dilnutt pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited weapon and was given a minimum four year sentence. Duane Edwards, who pleaded to a number of offences including conspiracy to possess a firearm with intent to endanger life, will be sentenced in July.

ic Coventry, 24 May 2007

A masked gunman demanded cash from a shopkeeper in **Atherstone** and made off with about £100 from the till. The robber brandished a small black handgun.

BBC, 24 May 2007

Students and staff were evacuated from a secondary school in **Newbury**, Berkshire, after reports that a group of youths were heading into nearby woods with what was thought to be a firearm.

BBC, 24 May 2007

A woman with a gun barricaded herself into a house in **Havant**, Hampshire, before it was set on fire. No one was injured but the house was "substantially damaged". A woman was arrested.

BBC, 24 May 2007

Armed police arrested eight people in two separate raids in North East England. One arrest was made in **Wallsend** after a man allegedly made threats to kill. Another man was arrested at a house in **Bedlington** after reports that a man had brandished a gun. Six others were held on suspicion of assisting an offender. A **BB gun** was recovered from the Bedlington house.

North-West Evening Mail, 23 May 2007

Vandals have caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage in a street in **Grange**, Cumbria. The attackers used either an **airgun** or **BB gun** to smash windows at a number of houses and flats.

BBC, 23 May 2007

A handgun was among items seized by police when they raided seven homes in the **Beeston**, **Belle Isle** and **Wortley** areas of Leeds. Five men and two women were arrested over a credit card fraud.

BBC, 23 May 2007

Three **air pistols** and an **air rifle** were found when police raided four addresses in **Portishead**, Somerset, and seized cash, a large quantity of methadone, two hydroponic sets and a small quantity of cocaine. Four men were arrested.

Argus (Brighton), 23 May 2007

Armed police followed a man after he was seen sitting in a car in **Hove** with a silver pistol in his hand. Armed response teams tracked the car which was stopped in **Crawley**. The pistol was revealed to be a **BB gun** and the driver was given advice about carrying it in public.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 22 May 2007

A man who lay in wait armed with an **air rifle** for his father and stepmother to return home in **Weston** in March 2007 pleaded guilty to charges of grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault by beating and two charges of criminal damage. The gun belonged to Christopher Wall's father and was later found in a neighbour's garden. He will be sentenced next month.

Sun, 22 May 2007

A pensioner was carjacked at gunpoint outside a church in **Rushmere St Andrew**, Suffolk. A man put a pistol to her head, ordered her out of the car and drove off. The car was found six miles away with an **airgun** inside. A man has been arrested.

BBC, 22 May 2007

Two cars have had their windscreens smashed in **Flimby**, Cumbria, by what are believed to have been shots from an **air rifle**. The incidents took place a week apart.

BBC, 22 May 2007

A man demanded money from a woman working in a travel agency in **Northampton** whilst threatening her with a gun. He escaped with cash. A man later questioned in connection with the raid was released without charge.

This is Lancashire, 21 May 2007

Matthew Gillett, 20, pulled sharply in front of another motorist as they drove along a road in **Southport**. At traffic lights the other motorist got out to remonstrate with Gillett who picked up an **airgun** and gestured with it. Gillett pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and was ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Dunstable Today, 21 May 2007

Teams of armed police officers descended on a supermarket car park in **Dunstable** and seized an **air rifle** from a van. A man was detained under the Mental Health Act. The car park was closed for an hour. The police said they were concerned for the welfare of the man in the van.

BBC, 21 May 2007

Anthony Gurney pleaded guilty to GBH, robbery and possessing a firearm after a raid in which a shopkeeper in **Portslade**, Sussex, was shot in the face in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). An attempted murder charge was ordered to lie on file. Stephen Gurney and Henry Doyley both admitted robbery and possession of a firearm. Charges of attempted murder and GBH were ordered to lie on both men's files. The men will be sentenced in July.

BBC, 21 May 2007

Three men forced staff at a shop in **Breightmet**, Greater Manchester, to open the till. The gang were armed with a gun, knife and a bat and stole cash and cigarettes before leaving as an alarm sounded.

BBC, 20 May 2007

Four youths have been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm following reports that shots were fired at a house party in the **Old Swan** area of Liverpool.

BBC, 20 May 2007

A handgun was found at a garage in **Holloway**, north London, after reports that shots were fired in a street. There were no reports of anyone being injured in the shooting.

Yorkshire Post, 19 May 2007

Armed officers from West Yorkshire Police arrested two teenage women in a supermarket car park in **Brighouse** after an off duty police officer from Greater Manchester Police spotted the women and reported them for threatening motorists when one of them pointed a gun at lorry drivers whilst driving on the M62. The weapon was a **toy gun** and the two women, both dressed in Wild West costumes, were returning from a party. The police said they had a duty of care to the public and to their officers to take firm action and that meant responding with armed officers. The women were released a few hours later after one of them had been cautioned.

Sunderland Echo, 19 May 2007

Following the arrest of two men and the discovery of cocaine in a car stopped by police near Houghton, County Durham, detectives in **Derbyshire** searched a house where they found a gun and cannabis.

BBC, 19 May 2007

Two **replica guns** were stolen in a burglary in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester. One of the guns looks like a Colt 45 handgun in a holster and the other is a black starting pistol. The police have warned that they are very realistic and could easily be mistaken for the real thing.

ic SouthLondon, 18 May 2007

A 13-year-old schoolboy was allowed to purchase a frighteningly realistic **Colt pistol replica** for £40 from a shop in **Caterham**. The test purchaser was sent by the local newspaper *The Caterham Advertiser*. The purchase took only three minutes, and the only safety advice given to the boy was not to shoot his friends in the face with it. Surrey Police have warned that youngsters brandishing these deadly-looking weapons are at risk of being shot. Their Assistant Chief Constable Mark Rowley believes shops need to act more responsibly and recognise their moral responsibility to cease the sale of realistic looking BB guns. He hopes the Violent Crime Reduction Act (2006) will become law this autumn.

BBC, 18 May 2007

Two men armed with a shotgun threatened a man and his family at a house in **Wyken**, Coventry, before stealing their car.

BBC, 18 May 2007

Shots were fired from an imitation gun at a car in **Boston**, Lincolnshire. Pellets, believed to have come from a **BB gun**, were fired by one of two youths, aged between 16 and 18. One of the pellets hit the car's windscreen but did not cause any damage.

Wirral Globe, 17 May 2007

Police are warning of the dangers of imitation firearms after finding a cache of weapons at a house in **Leasowe**. Thirteen weapons including **ball-bearing guns** and a sword were seized when police searched an address following reports of an alleged assault. Four youths were arrested, three of whom (a 14-year-old girl and two boys, aged 13 and 14) were bailed pending further inquiries. Police say they "were delighted to have seized the weapons and potentially prevented them being used on the streets".

Southern Daily Echo, 17 May 2007

A gunman attempted to rob a shop in **Southampton** city centre. The man walked into the shop and revealed a small handgun to one of the cashiers who pressed the panic alarm. The man left the premises empty-handed and fled the scene.

ic Coventry, 17 May 2007

A newsagent in **Atherstone**, Warwickshire, was forced to hand over the contents of the till by a masked gunman. The robber produced a black handgun and threatened the shopkeeper before escaping with cash.

AOL News, 16 May 2007

A man has died after being shot by police in **Ealing**, west London. Scotland Yard said the man died in an "intelligence led" operation conducted by officers from Operation Trident. No police officers were injured in the incident which is being referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Scotland Yard has said that police were investigating alleged illegal firearm transactions and that a loaded weapon was found with the man (*BBC*, 16 May 2007).

Mirror, 15 May 2007

Nicola Vickers pulled an airgun on a homeowner in a dispute over parking outside the man's house in **Trowell**, Nottinghamshire, in September 2006. She tapped the weapon, which belonged to her son, on the steering wheel when she was asked to move her car from across his driveway. She was jailed for 18 months after admitting possessing an **imitation firearm**.

ic SurreyOnline, 15 May 2007

After a spate of gun attacks in **Tandridge** and neighbouring areas, police are introducing a service to dispose of BB and replica guns. Car windows were smashed and extensive damage caused to car panels and interiors by **ball bearing guns** in **Godstone** village in April. Also last month, a police helicopter was sent after a teenager was seen with a handgun in **Redhill** town centre. When the helicopter arrived the youth pointed the gun towards the sky. After armed officers confronted the boy who dropped the gun, a **BB gun**, and ran away. He was caught later. He has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or distress.

Hunts Post, 15 May 2007

An elderly woman was shot in the face with a **BB gun** as she was walking along a road in **Huntingdon**. As a result of the hit she fell to the ground, knocking her face and smashing her spectacles. The woman went to hospital for treatment. Medical staff noticed a bullet-type wound to her upper lip. Police have spoken to a 9-year-old boy in connection with the incident.

BBC, 15 May 2007

A cashier at a petrol station in **Warmington**, Northamptonshire, was threatened by a man who produced a firearm. The man escaped with an undisclosed amount of money.

Sun, 14 May 2007

Armed police swooped on a home in **Dukinfield**, Manchester, after believing an armed crook was standing in the living room window. The figure turned out to be 6ft statue of Lara Croft, the gun-toting star of Tomb Raider, but the home owner was arrested and taken for questioning. A police spokesman said "An officer can never take things at face value".

Northern Echo, 12 May 2007

Dale Calow, who has been jailed for two years for drug dealing, had a **ball-bearing gun** at his house in **Darlington** when police raided the property.

BBC, 12 May 2007

A man was shot in the back while sitting in a car in **Moseley**, Birmingham. Shots were fired from another car. The victim was taken to hospital for treatment but his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening and he has since left.

BBC, 12 May 2007

A man has appeared in court charged with the murder of a man who was shot in the head in **Chislehurst**, south-east London, in March 2006. The victim was shot once and died instantly.

Rugby Advertiser, 11 May 2007

Three men attacked a pedestrian as he walked home in **Brownsover**. The men threatened the victim with a gun, pushed him to the floor and stole £50. The man blacked out and woke up near a phone box.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 11 May 2007

After a review of the case, a murderer who executed two men and used a car shredder to mutilate one of the bodies has been told he must spend at least 25 years in prison. Jamie Franklin gunned down the men at his scrapyards in **Wellingborough** in October 2001 and was jailed for life in March 2003.

Bolton News, 11 May 2007

Paul Rathbone pointed a gun at terrified cashiers working in a betting shop in **Horwich** in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He escaped with £485 but was caught when his escape car broke down 250 miles away. Police in **Basingstoke**, Hampshire, linked the number plates to the robbery and discovered a handgun inside the car. Rathbone admitted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** (an air pistol) and has been jailed for five years.

BBC, 11 May 2007

A motorist was threatened with an **imitation gun** as he drove along the A47 at **Trowse**, Norfolk. The incident was seen by an off duty police officer and firearms officers were deployed. Another driver was arrested and released on bail pending further inquiries.

BBC, 11 May 2007

A man arrested for travel fraud near **London Bridge** was found to be carrying a loaded gun. A search of the man's bag revealed a stun gun and a later search of his house unearthed a third gun. The special constable who found the gun during the arrest in March 2007 was Conservative MP David Davies.

BBC, 11 May 2007

Two **replica guns** were seized in **Caterham** by Surrey Police after a tip-off. Two boys, aged 11 and 13, were reprimanded for carrying a replica 9mm Beretta, a replica Glock 23 and ammunition.

BBC, 10 May 2007

Armed police officers were called to **Birmingham New Street** station after reports that a passenger was travelling on a train from Bristol with a gun. A man was arrested but no firearm was recovered. It is understood that the incident was domestic-related.

BBC, 10 May 2007

Another fast food outlet in **Portsmouth** has been held up by a man with a gun. The robber forced staff to hand over cash, including a large sum in change.

BBC, 9 May 2007

A man, aged between 18 and 20, was seen firing a handgun in a street in the **Handsworth** area of Birmingham. Police cordoned off nearby roads. There were no reports of any injuries. Police are concerned at a sudden upsurge in shootings directly linked to the city's gangs in the past month (*BBC*, 18 May 2007).

Sunderland Echo, 9 May 2007

A house in Penshaw was besieged by armed police after a spate of **air weapon** shootings. Three men, aged 19 and 21, were arrested. Neighbours reported seeing a car driving around the **Penshaw** and **Washington** areas with pellets being fired from the window. One victim received minor injuries when he was shot in the back as he walked with a friend along a street in Washington. Later another man received a deep injury to this arm after a pellet was fired from a moving car in Penshaw.

Manchester Evening News, 9 May 2007

At least two drivers reported that their vehicles had been hit after a youth with an **air weapon** took pot shots at passing cars on Princess Parkway, Manchester. After the first incident in **Chorlton** the driver spotted two youths, aged 16 to 18, near the road and after stopping saw that one of them was brandishing a weapon. In the second incident a shot was fired at a car in **Whalley Range**. A youth was seen pointing at the car.

Express & Star, 9 May 2007

Three 12-year-old boys who were arrested after 17 children were shot at with **BB guns** while they played at a **Rugeley** primary school in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) have been given final warnings. No action will be taken against a fourth boy who was also arrested on suspicion of assault. Final warnings mean the boys will be referred to a youth offending team and they will have to disclose the fact they have been given the warnings for the next five years.

BBC, 9 May 2007

Shots were fired at two cars in **Halesowen**, West Midlands.

Reading Evening Post, 8 May 2007

Armed robbers fled with thousands of pounds after a raid on a pub in **Playhatch**. The gang, believed to be three men, were armed with a gun and a knife. They threatened the owner and demanded money.

BBC, 8 May 2007

Shots were fired at two unarmed police officers in **Birmingham** city centre when they got into a struggle with two men who were acting suspiciously. A man in his 20s has been arrested and a firearm has been recovered from the area. The officers suffered minor injuries in the struggle but not as a result of the firearm going off.

BBC, 8 May 2007

Police investigating mobile phone footage of a group brandishing guns have recovered an **imitation firearm** after a series of raids in **Ellesmere Port**, Cheshire. Two teenage boys appeared in court following the recovery of the fake MP5 firearm.

BBC, 8 May 2007

A licensed Remington Firebolt action rifle and 50 rounds of ammunition were in the boot of a car stolen from outside a house in **Urmston**, Greater Manchester. Detectives believe the car thief was unaware that the firearm was in the boot.

BBC, 8 May 2007

Ian McLeod and Constance Howarth must serve a minimum of 21 years and 20 years after planning a contract killing. They were convicted following the fatal shooting of two men at a pub in **Salford** in March 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The two victims, Richard Austin and Carlton Alveranga, had been attempting to carry out a gangland hit at the pub but the pair were disarmed by some of the pub's customers and shot with their own weapons and died of their wounds. Their intended target was shot in the face and chest but escaped serious injury.

BBC, 8 May 2007

Dean Durbin, 19, was sentenced to three years at a young offenders institute for possessing an **air rifle** that was fired in the face of a 16-year-old girl in an incident in **Paulton**, Somerset, in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Durbin said that the shooting occurred after he had threatened to kill himself, and that following a scuffle a gunshot was fired and the victim was left "grey and lifeless". The girl is still ill in hospital.

BBC, 7 May 2007

A man was arrested after a shooting incident at a house in **Kettering**. Gun shots had been heard but the house was empty and no-one had been hurt. Armed police later searched a house in **Barton Seagrave** and recovered a number of items. The man was arrested in a nearby road and is being questioned about firearms offences. Police described it as an isolated incident.

Basingstoke Gazette, 7 May 2007

There were reports of a series of gunshots being heard in the **Upper Shirley** neighbourhood in Southampton. Police cordoned off the area and firearms officers found a bullet, but it is believed that the person responsible for firing the gun may have driven off afterwards.

BBC, 7 May 2007

A quantity of handguns and ammunition was recovered by police after a raid on a property in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester. Five men have been arrested on suspicion of possession of firearms and drugs offences.

BBC, 6 May 2007

A policeman was killed when officers attended a domestic incident at a property in a suburban street in **Shrewsbury**. The officers were confronted by a man with a firearm and a constable was shot. He was pronounced dead in hospital. A man was later found dead and a firearm recovered. The gun was a .222 calibre rifle, commonly used in pest control. Both victims died from a single gunshot wound (*BBC*, 7 May 2007).

BBC, 6 May 2007

A 14-year-old was shot in the leg as he ran away from gunfire outside a club in **Moss Side**, Manchester. He was hit in the shin and suffered minor injuries. He has been discharged from hospital.

BBC, 6 May 2007

Two guns used in Wild West re-enactments have been stolen from a house in **Meriden**, West Midlands. A black 8mm automatic **blank firer** and a black .22 over and under Derringer gun were taken. Police fear that if real bullets are fired from the guns they may explode. The guns were stolen by three men pretending to be from the water board.

BBC, 5 May 2007

A 13-year-old boy has had a "formal reprimand" from police after being found with an imitation gun, a silver **imitation handgun**, in **Woking**. A campaign by Surrey Police is under way to warn people that replica guns can put them in the firing line of police (see [Police Campaigns](#)).

Bucks Free Press, 4 May 2007

Police found a 12-gauge sawn-off shotgun hidden under a bed of a room in **Marlow** rented by Simon Colloton. There was also a shoe box containing six cartridges. It was claimed that Colloton had not intended to use the gun and made a "stupid" impulse buy. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and has been jailed for four years. The gun was forfeited.

BBC, 4 May 2007

A man has been shot dead after being chased through a block of flats in **Lewisham**, south east London. He was rushing back to a friend's flat pursued by two men. Inside the premises, one of the attackers fired two shots through a door, fatally wounding him. A firearm was discarded by the assailants as they escaped.

BBC, 4 May 2007

Four masked men burst into a slaughterhouse in **Highgate**, Birmingham, fired shots into the air and escaped with thousands of pounds. One brandished a firearm and a knife. Some of the workforce were hit by debris from the ceiling when the shots were fired.

Manchester Evening News, 3 May 2007

Education Secretary Alan Johnson was on a train which was hit with an **air rifle** shot as it travelled through **Cheadle Hulme**. Toughened glass is thought to have stopped the pellet which was fired at his carriage. The outer skin of the double-glazed panel on the window was pierced by the pellet. No trace of the gunman was found.

BBC, 3 May 2007

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested after someone was reportedly seen with a handgun outside a school in **Bromsgrove**, Worcestershire. The boy has been released on bail.

BBC, 3 May 2007

A 17-year-old has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent following the shooting of two teenagers with a shotgun in **Woodley**, near Wokingham in Berkshire. A woman has been charged with assisting an offender and another woman was arrested and released on bail. One victim, aged 16, remains in hospital after suffering a gunshot wound in the leg, a 15-year-old received lesser injuries to his arm, leg and neck.

BBC, 3 May 2007

A 13-year-old held a **fake gun** to a teacher's head during a lesson at a school in **Northampton**. The boy walked up to the teacher and pointed the 3in-long gun to her head during a maths class. She only realised it was a toy when the boy handed over the gun after being challenged by a teaching assistant. The boy has received a warning from the police and he has been excluded from the school. The gun has been destroyed.

BBC, 3 May 2007

Three men are on trial having denied the murder of a man in **St Osyth**, Essex, in March 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot through a glass panel in the door of his house with a sawn-off shotgun. Two other men have appeared in court after being arrested in Spain. All five men will now face trial on the murder charge at the same time (*Gazette*, 31 May 2007).

Press Association, 2 May 2007

A man has died after shooting himself at a property in the centre of **Lewes**, Sussex. Police have confirmed that they are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

BBC, 2 May 2007

A man was armed with an **imitation gun** when he stole £24,000 from a security guard delivering cash to a service station in **Stafford** in January 2006. Mark Buckley admitted robbing the service station and was jailed for 15 years.

Sunderland Echo, 1 May 2007

A shotgun and dangerous drugs have been seized by police from a flat in **Monkwearmouth** as part of a crackdown on street crime in Sunderland. Two men have been charged in connection with the raid.

Express & Star, 1 May 2007

Six men have appeared in court following a fight between two armed gangs in the centre of **Wolverhampton** in June 2006. Gunmen opened fire in the street showing complete disregard for passers-by. It is claimed that a mystery motorcyclist delivered two firearms to one of the gangs. The men deny more than a dozen charges relating to violence and firearms. The trial continues.

BBC, 1 May 2007

A man was arrested at a house in **Rugby** when police executed a firearms search warrant. A sawn-off shotgun and the butt of a double-barrelled shotgun were recovered along with ammunition and three air rifles. The man was being questioned on suspicion of possession of an illegal firearm and possession of a shotgun without a legal certificate.

BBC, 1 May 2007

A teenager threatened a mother, her child and a 72-year-old woman with a gun. The boy, who was on a bike, threatened to shoot the mother with a black handgun as she walked in **Peel Hall**, south Manchester. Later the same day at **Woodhouse Park** a boy twice demanded the pensioner's purse. Greater Manchester Police have linked the two incidents.

BBC, 1 May 2007

Two teenagers were arrested after passengers on a bus travelling from Keynsham to Bristol reported seeing two boys with a gun. The bus was stopped in the **Brislington** area and two boys, aged 14 and 16, were arrested. An **imitation firearm** was seized.

SCOTLAND

Scotsman, 31 May 2007

David Kennedy has admitted robbing a shop in **Rhu**, Dunbartonshire, in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He was armed with a handgun which was later discovered to be an **air pistol**. After fleeing with £80 he joined the pursuit for the robber saying he had been driving by and had seen the chase. He will be sentenced next month.

Daily Record, 29 May 2007

A pensioner was left cowering in terror when she was attacked with an **airgun** as she lay in bed in her home in **Paisley**. The weapon was fired through her windows four times. She was left traumatised by the incident. A police spokesman called it "a very serious incident" and urged witnesses to come forward.

BBC, 26 May 2007

Staff at a bookmakers in **Dennistoun**, Glasgow, were threatened with that appeared to be a firearm and forced to hand over a three-figure sum of cash to a man who escaped on a bicycle.

Scotsman, 23 May 2007

A man has been arrested for the murder of a waiter in a restaurant in **Kirkwall**, Orkney, in June 1994. The victim was shot in front of 14 customers and died of a single shot to the head from a 9mm pistol. Three years later a policeman, Edmund Ross, was jailed for four years for a cover up during the investigation. Ross had been given the task of test-firing all 9mm weapons on the island and had concluded that none of the weapons was capable of firing the fatal bullet, nor could he find the same type of ammunition anywhere on the island. However, his trial was told that he had two boxes of 9mm bullets bearing similar batch numbers to the one recovered from the murder scene and he hid the shells to protect his son, Michael. Michael Ross, who was 15 at the time, has now been charged with the murder (*BBC*, 23 May 2007).

Herald, 23 May 2007

A nine-year-old boy has undergone an operation to remove a pellet from his leg after he was shot with an **airgun**. He was playing in a garden in **Drumchapel**, Glasgow, when he saw a bird struck by a pellet. The gun was fired again and the boy was struck in the leg.

BBC, 17 May 2007

George Horsburgh, a Wild West enthusiast, fired a shot at police called to a disturbance at his home in **Hume**, near Kelso, in July 2006. Police, including two armed response units, were sent to the scene where Horsburgh appeared with what looked like a long-barrelled rifle which he failed to put down when requested. A shot then rang out. Horsburgh claimed his intention had been to shoot the tyres on the police cars. He admitted discharging an **airgun** pellet towards a police officer. He told police he "just flipped" after a fall-out with his wife over his drinking. His property had an outbuilding kitted out like a Wild West set housing **replica guns**, and he also pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing prohibited weapons. Sentence was deferred.

BBC, 15 May 2007

A security van driver was threatened with a gun and abducted by two men who stole the van when it was parked in **East Whitburn**, West Lothian. One of the attackers pointed a handgun at the driver. They dumped the van in a lay-by on the A71 at **Muldron Forest** and got away with an undisclosed sum of money believed to be thousands of pounds. The driver, who had been bundled into the back of the van, was unhurt and managed to free himself before alerting the police. The police have spoken to almost 500 people and have set up road checks where the van was taken from (*BBC*, 22 May 2007).

BBC, 10 May 2007

A man was shot dead on a busy road in **Cardonald**, Glasgow. A shot was fired and as the victim tried to flee he was shot in the head and abdomen. Police are investigating whether the shooting may have been a gangland revenge killing (*BBC*, 11 May 2007).

BBC, 1 May 2007

Casimir Ali, 18, shot a convicted burglar with an **air rifle** believing he was trying to break into his flat in **Maryhill**, Glasgow. The man was drunk and on drugs and Ali fired twice at him to scare him off. One shot hit the man in the chest. He admitted assaulting the man while under provocation and to a further charge of possessing a knife. He has been given a 12 month custodial sentence (*Evening Times*, 23 May 2007).

WALES

BBC, 29 May 2007

Two men have been arrested after a police raid in which a large amount of class A drugs, cash and a firearm were found at an address at **Llanddeusant**, Gwynedd.

South Wales Echo, 25 May 2007

Armed police in the centre of **Cardiff** were searching for a man who pointed a handgun at people and shouted "Bang! Bang!". He was drinking what looked like a bottle of cider and staggered around the city centre. Although many members of the public were convinced it was an **imitation gun**, set procedures to deal with firearm incidents had to be followed. One witness described the incident as "very frightening".

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

The Argus (Brighton), 27 May 2007

Police are investigating after two cats from the same **Brighton** street were shot and wounded by **air rifle** pellets. One cat was found bleeding from the neck, the other was found with a pellet embedded in the neck. Two days later it was reported that a gunman had shot and injured 10 cats with an air rifle in a half-mile area in **Brighton** (*Mirror*, 29 May 2007).

Rochdale Observer, 25 May 2007

A pet cat was used for target practice in **Rochdale**. The owner saw two teenagers firing and cans and warned them to keep away from her pet, but minutes later she found the cat cowering under her kitchen table covered in blood. An **airgun** pellet was embedded in one of the cat's front legs and had to be removed by a vet.

This is Hampshire, 23 May 2007

A kitten is lucky to be alive after an **airgun** attack left him blind in one eye. The pet was found crying in pain with blood pouring from his nose at his **Eastleigh** home. It is believed he was shot in the head at close range.

BBC, 22 May 2007

A puppy has died after being shot with a **BB gun** in her owner's garden in **Strood**, Kent. The owner was indoors for a few minutes and came out to find the puppy bleeding. She died the next day after being taken to the vet.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 22 May 2007

A cat was shot in the stomach with a high-powered **air rifle** in **Welwyn Garden City**. The cat pulled through, although vets were unable to remove the metal pellet as it was too close to her spine. The cat's owner believes that the person responsible has shot five cats in the last couple of years.

BBC, 18 May 2007

Vets removed an **airgun** pellet from the neck of a young cat who was found injured in **Curry Rival**, Somerset. They believe the cat was shot deliberately. The nature and location of the wound suggested that it could not have been the result of a stray pellet.

BBC, 1 May 2007

Police have appealed for information after a buzzard was shot dead near **St Cyrus** in Aberdeenshire. An X-ray showed four shotgun pellets in its body. Buzzards are protected under law and offenders can be jailed for up to six months or fined up to £5000.