



MAY 2008 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - During May there were reports of four deaths from gunshot wounds. Two of these were homicides: a 17-year-old died a few days after being shot in an attack in Camden (north London) (a 16-year-old boy has been arrested) and a newsagent in Huyton (Merseyside) was fatally shot. A licensed shotgun owner was killed by police following a siege in Chelsea (London). A pensioner died after being shot in the chest with a shotgun in Bourton-on-the-Water (Gloucestershire): police were not treating his death as suspicious.
- A number of men were seriously injured in shooting incidents, and one woman was badly hurt in a shooting in an office building in the centre of Glasgow.
- In London a man was in a critical condition after being shot in Norbury (south London) and a second teenager suffered life threatening injuries in an incident in north London, in Archway. Another teenager was shot during a mass brawl in London Fields (east London).
- On Merseyside male victims were injured in a second shooting incident in Huyton and in two others in Halewood and Old Swan.
- Three men were injured in incidents in the West Midlands: one was shot in the stomach in Newtown (Birmingham), another in the leg in Bilston and a third victim was hit in the eye at a house in Woodgate Valley.
- In Greater Manchester a man was shot in a targeted attack in Salford. Another victim was shot three times by a gang who attacked him at his home in Newall Green
- A man was shot in the head in a targeted attack in Caversham (Reading). A teenager was charged with attempted murder after a man was shot in the back in Consett (County Durham). A man was in a serious condition in hospital after being shot in Allenton (Derby).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies or attempted robberies by armed men on banks in Cheltenham (the man claimed in a note that he had a gun) and Oldham (Greater Manchester), on stores in Dundee, Vange (Essex), Huddersfield (West Yorkshire) (two stores were targeted), Exeter (Devon), Gainsborough (Lincolnshire) and Pinehurst (Wiltshire) and on a garage in Gossops Green (Sussex) (three men were arrested).
- A security guard was threatened with what appeared to be a rifle at Billing Aquadrome (Northamptonshire).
- A robber with a sawn-off shotgun stole jewellery and a car after forcing his way into a house in Northaw (Hertfordshire).
- A man was robbed in the street in Scarborough (North Yorkshire) by two men with a handgun.
- Following a car-jacking in Bramley (West Yorkshire), shots were fired in Armley and armed police later laid siege to a house in Beeston but the gunman was not located.
- **Other Incidents** - A man escaped uninjured after an attempted shooting with a sawn-off shotgun in Worksop (Nottinghamshire).
- A shotgun was fired through the door of a house in Derby, an incident which may be linked to five previous shootings in the city. Shots were

fired into a nightclub in West Bromwich (West Midlands) and at a row of shops in Huyton (Merseyside).

- A shot was fired at a car in Bilborough (Nottingham) in a targeted attack. Shots were fired by the occupants of one vehicle at another in Leicester: two men have been charged. A car was damaged in a shotgun attack in Salford (Greater Manchester).
- A gun was fired at a TV screen inside a pub in Kirkby (Liverpool) and a window of a house in Sandyhills (Glasgow) was smashed when it was shot at. An area of Stoke-on-Trent was sealed off after a weapon was fired near a house.
- Five women were held hostage at gunpoint in Stanstead Abbots (Hertfordshire): a man was arrested on suspicion of false imprisonment. A man was threatened with a gun after he chased vandals in Ribbleson (Preston): a man has been arrested. A woman was held up at gunpoint at a petrol station in Glazebury (Cheshire) but the offender did not make any threats or demands.
- A man wielded a handgun in front of a female driver after a road rage incident in Stanningley (Leeds).
- A woman was arrested after an incident in which she was allegedly seen wielding a gun and a knife in Ramsgate (Kent). Police used rubber bullets to disarm a man seen brandishing a gun outside a supermarket in St Austell (Cornwall).
- Armed police searched for a gunman seen in Foldcroft (Harlow, Essex) but no one was found. Video footage captured by a resident on an estate in Epsom (Surrey) showed that one of a group of youths on motorbikes was armed. Police in Southampton were searching a wood after a resident reported a gun shot and youths had been spotted fleeing into the wood.
- A student arrested in the USA after trying to buy a gun with fake ID is being investigated over firearms offences and other matters in the UK.
- A resident in Kempsey (Worcestershire) has raised concerns about clay pigeon shooting in the locality in which shots have been fired across a public footpath.
- **Gun Seizures** - A number of police raids linked to drugs have resulted in the seizure of guns.
 - Four handguns were seized by police during a drugs raid on a property in Salford (Greater Manchester).
 - In West Yorkshire a ball-bearing gun was found at a house in Sowerby Bridge where police discovered a cannabis factory
 - Two stun guns were seized during a raid on a snooker club in Batley along with a haul of drugs and cash.
 - A loaded pistol was found at a house in Dagenham (east London) where police also found crack cocaine: a man has been charged with drug and firearm offences.
 - A stun gun and an air rifle were among weapons discovered during a police search for drugs at a property in Consett (County Durham).
 - Police have confiscated a self-loading pistol and two BB guns during Operation Academy, targeted at drug crime in Ipswich.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A number of men were convicted for murder in trials that ended in May.
 - Two men have been jailed for a minimum of 35 years after being found guilty of murdering a man and the attempted murder of two others in a shooting in Lambhill (Glasgow)
 - A man was jailed for life for shooting dead a man in Harlesden (north west London)

- A teenager was found guilty of killing a woman who was caught in crossfire during a shoot out in New Cross (south London)
- A 17-year-old was found guilty of shooting dead another teenager in Brixton (south London): he has been told he will face a life sentence
- Three men have received life sentences for shooting dead a man in Catford (south east London)
- A man has admitted killing a man in a shooting in Cardonald (Glasgow): sentencing has been deferred
- Two teenagers have been sentenced to seven years and five-and-a-half years for the rape of a girl in Woolwich Common (south east London): the girl was threatened with a firearm.
- Two men who took part in an incident at a gym in Moss Side (Manchester) have been jailed for nearly five years and seven years: a victim was punched, threatened with a machine pistol and pistol whipped. A man pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent to cause fear after he fired seven shots from a pump action shotgun into a home in Raunds (Northamptonshire). Three men, including two teenagers, were convicted of an attempt to scare another teenager by threatening him with a firearm in Dovecot (Liverpool). A man has admitted firing a shotgun at a man in Hull as he opened his front door.
- A man who was convicted in Manchester of conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life had supplied handguns (converted blank-firing weapons) to gangsters across the UK: six co-conspirators had all pleaded guilty. Three men were jailed for a total of 19 years following their arrest during Operation Werewolf, a series of police raids in Greater Manchester targeting gun crime. A Lithuanian was jailed for six years and eight months after admitting supplying Baikal pistols for £2500 each.
- Three men were jailed for a total of 31 years for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life after an attack on a house in Blackburn (Lancashire).
- A gang leader who terrorised an estate in Camberwell (south London) has been jailed for six years for possession of a loaded firearm.
- Three men who threatened victims at gunpoint in Abbey Wood and Thamesmead (south east London) during a spate of robberies have received sentences of between five and eight years.
- A man has been jailed for 11 years for possessing a self-loading pistol, converted to fire live ammunition which was found in a flat in Cardiff. Another man who was brandishing a handgun in Ely (Cardiff) has been given an indeterminate jail sentence with a minimum tariff of five years.
- Two men have pleaded guilty to stealing a woman's car at gunpoint in Accrington (Lancashire).
- A Preston man who threatened his brother with a double-barrelled shotgun on the day of his father's funeral has had his license revoked and been fined £150 for threatening behaviour under the Public Order Act.
- A man has been jailed for seven years and three months for drug offences and possessing a rifle which was stolen from a property in Kessock (Inverness-shire).
- A man has pleaded guilty to burglary and has been jailed for two years for stealing property including three guns from a farm in Carlisle.
- A man who pleaded guilty to keeping a number of guns illegally in Cwmanan (Mid Glamorgan), as well as admitting drug offences has been jailed for eight years (see [April 2008 Incidents](#)).

- A farmer from Great Stainton (County Durham) pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without a licence but was cleared of charges relating to an alleged threat to his estranged wife.
- **Airguns** - More people were targeted in airgun attacks during May:
 - An engineer was shot in the neck with an airgun whilst trying to restore power in Coleford (Gloucestershire) (a man was given a caution)
 - A victim was hospitalised after being shot with an air rifle in Rotherhithe (South London)
 - Two people were hit by airgun pellets in a drive-by shooting in Cheltenham (Gloucestershire): three people have been arrested
 - A 12-year-old boy was shot in the chest with an air rifle in Ottery St Mary (Devon) in an incident described by the police as an accident
 - A 16-year-old was shot in the face as he walked down the street in Burnley (Lancashire): the weapon was thought to be an air weapon
 - Two youths were being sought after two people were hit with airgun pellets in Norwich
- A man was arrested after randomly firing a high-powered air rifle into crowds at Wakefield Market. A man was arrested after an airgun was fired inside a hospital in Sunderland.
- A man was arrested in Ivybridge (Devon) following reports of a person being threatened with a gun: an air pistol was found at the scene. Armed police arrested a man in the Kingswood area of Bristol after receiving reports of a man wielding an air rifle. A man was charged with possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after threats were made to the occupants of a house in Leyland (Lancashire): an air rifle was recovered.
- A siege in Cotgrave (Nottinghamshire) involving a man, allegedly armed with an airgun, ended when police fired rubber bullets. Police officers arrested a man and recovered an air rifle and a knife after an incident in Netherton (West Yorkshire). An air rifle was recovered and a man arrested in Norwich after reports that he was seen with a rifle.
- A man fired a shot with an air pistol at a bus in Exeter: a light was shattered. Youths firing an air rifle may have been responsible for breaking the window of a train on the Weardale Railway in County Durham.
- Vandals have been driving around Bransgore (Hampshire) firing airgun pellets at car windows. The rear windscreen of a woman's car was shattered in Gleadless (Sheffield), probably by an airgun pellet.
- Criminal damage was caused in Clacton (Essex) by an airgun pellet. A window was shattered with what is believed to have been an airgun in Cwmdare (Mid Glamorgan), the latest incident in a spate of vandalism suffered by one man. There have been a number of incidents in the Swindon area in which properties and cars have been targeted and damaged with shots from air weapons or BB guns. The glass pane of a bus stop in Walsall was damaged by shots from an air weapon, and a window was smashed at a business park in Linthwaite (Huddersfield).
- A youth firing an air pistol out of a window in Colchester (Essex) was "given advice" by police.
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - A man has pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding after he shot a woman in the neck with an air rifle in Bury (Greater Manchester).
- Three 19-year-olds have all received custodial sentences after targeting victims in the centre of Brighton whilst armed with an air rifle.

- A man has been jailed for five years and nine months after admitting firing an air rifle at a man who was mowing his lawn in Annan (Dumfriesshire).
- A man has been fined after admitting committing a breach of the peace by firing an air rifle on an area of waste ground in Brechin (Angus).
- A teenager was jailed for 12 weeks for stealing a mini-moto and an air rifle in Halifax (West Yorkshire).
- **Imitation Guns - It is clear from this month's incidents that despite recent legislation imitation guns are still on sale and continue to be used in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour. North Wales Police, for instance, have dealt with 83 criminal incidents involving BB guns, air weapons and replica firearms over the last 12 months. However, the authorities do appear to be taking the issue seriously with raids on traders and prosecutions**
- A youngster was suspended from a school in Dundee after one pupil was shot in the neck and another in the hand with a pellet gun: the boy, aged 11, has been reported to the Children's panel. A pupil was temporarily excluded from his school in Warwick for brandishing a BB gun in the playground but his mother successfully appealed against his permanent exclusion.
- A 13-year-old was attacked with what is believed to have been a ball-bearing gun in Heckmondwike (West Yorkshire). A ball-bearing gun was fired at a garden in Tiptree (Essex) hitting someone standing inside.
- Two men have been charged after a robbery in Twickenham in which three people were robbed and threatened with an imitation gun and knives in Twickenham (south west London).
- A man has been charged with 19 offences of being in possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, and four counts of making threats to kill after he roamed the streets of Cippenham (Slough in Berkshire).
- A youngster was arrested for possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after he pointed a firearm out of a car window in Stoneleigh (Warwickshire). One man was arrested in Ashington (Northumberland) after being seen with a firearm which was found to be a blank-firing revolver and another in Romsey (Hampshire) after being found in possession of an imitation firearm in a park.
- Vandals smashed a double glazed window with what Kenilworth police believe was a BB gun.
- Someone was seen firing a BB gun into a fence beside a house in Colchester (Essex) and pellets were flying through the fence into a garden.
- A man who died after his car crashed with a train was due to be sentenced for having an imitation gun in Burton-on-Trent (Staffordshire).
- Imitation firearms were among goods seized by police and trading standards officers at a market in Polesworth (Warwickshire). Children as young as five were given ball-bearing guns as prizes at a fair in Market Weighton (East Yorkshire). The *Daily Post* was able to source BB guns in Colwyn Bay (North Wales) for £5.
- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - Two teenagers who robbed a shop in Blackpool whilst armed with a BB gun now face lengthy spells in youth detention. A man has admitted assaulting a woman and stealing £140 during a robbery at a filling station in Aberlour (Moray): he was armed with a replica pistol.
- A man who pulled a ball-bearing gun on police in Eltham Hill (south east London) will serve at least three years in jail.

- A man and a woman have each been jailed for eight months for a series of drive-by shootings in Suffolk in which two BB guns were used: a third defendant will be sentenced later.
- Five youths pleaded guilty to ten BB gun shootings in Gloucester in which six people were injured: a 20-year-old male and an 18-year-old female were given 18 month community orders and three younger boys were given six-month referral orders.
- A man who produced a BB gun in a surgery in Errol (Perthshire) has been given 18 months probation and told to complete 100 hours unpaid work.
- A prisoner who was locked in a cell at the police station in St Asaph (Flintshire) had a ball-bearing gun in his pocket: he pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and was jailed for seven days.
- A disabled man has agreed to sign over his imitation gun to the police after his trial was dropped: he had been alleged to have threatened a group of teenagers in Ironville (Derbyshire).
- A market trader who ran a stall in Walsall (West Midlands) has been sentenced to 120 hours community work after pleading guilty to possessing imitation firearms (soft air pistols) and an air weapon in public places.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More animals have suffered as a result of shooting incidents. As always cats and birds were the most frequent targets, but there were also incidents in which seals, two ponies and a dog were killed.
- Cats were injured or killed in airgun attacks in Bearsden (East Dunbartonshire), Bolton (in Great Lever and Farnworth), Broadfield (Sussex), Hartlepool, Pontypridd (Glamorgan), Stackpole (Pembrokeshire) and Wigan. A cat in Stowmarket (Suffolk) was shot with a shotgun and survived, amazingly. An estate in Ashford (Kent) was deemed by the RSPCA to be too dangerous for cats because they have been targeted by guns although the ban has now been lifted.
- Birds were targeted in woods in Burton (Staffordshire), birds of prey have been killed in the area around Blandford (Dorset) and five seagulls were found dead with apparent airgun injuries on the North Yorkshire coast. Ducks and a swan have been killed on the River Stour in Fordwich (Kent) (youths with an air rifle are suspected), and two swans were found dead with air rifle wounds in Sturton-by-Stow (Lincolnshire). A heron has been shot with an airgun in Morden (south London), and in other incidents in the London Borough of Merton and neighbouring boroughs foxes, squirrels and a crow have been shot.
- In other reported incidents two headless seals were found near Kyle of Lochalsh (wildlife campaigners believe they had been shot) and a dog was shot dead in Colchester. Two Shetland ponies were shot and killed in Whitchurch (Shropshire): two teenagers have been charged.

MAY 2008 - GUN INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

Times, 31 May 2008

Mindaugus Balezentis of **Ilford**, east London, has admitted supplying Baikal pistols from Eastern Europe for £2500 each and has been jailed for six years and eight months. He will be deported after prison.

Telegraph, 31 May 2008

A newsagent has been shot dead in his store in **Huyton**, Merseyside. The victim had suffered six raids on his shop in nine months (*Sunday Mirror*, 1 June 2008).

Swindon Advertiser, 31 May 2008

An **airgun** pellet forced a two-inch dent in the middle of a glass panel in an estate agent's window in the latest attack in **Swindon**.

BBC, 31 May 2008

A man is in a serious condition in hospital after being shot in **Allenton**, Derby. It is thought he was shot in the front garden. His injuries were described as serious but not life-threatening.

BBC, 31 May 2008

A man has been charged with a firearms offence following an incident in **Leyland**, Lancashire. He was arrested after leaving a house where he was apparently threatening the occupants with a rifle. An **air rifle** was recovered nearby.

Lancashire Evening Post, 30 May 2008

Jason McKean from **Preston** has been fined £150 and has had his shotgun licence revoked after he armed himself with a double-barrelled shotgun on the day of his father's funeral and threatened his brother. After angry words and a bout of "pushing and shoving", McKean had returned carrying a shotgun. He denied making a threat to kill and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence but admitted threatening behaviour under the Public Order Act.

BBC, 30 May 2008

An armed gang shot a man twice through the window of his home in **Newall Green**, Manchester, and then forced their way in and shot him a third time. The victim was in a stable condition.

Swindon Advertiser, 29 May 2008

An armed robber held staff at a shop in **Pinehurst**, Swindon, at gunpoint. He produced a handgun and demanded money from the safe. He ran off with a large amount of cash.

Express & Star, 29 May 2008

A glass pane at a bus stop in **Caldmore Green**, Walsall, was damaged by shots from an **air weapon**. Three teenagers were arrested. Two were released without charge and a third has been given bail pending further inquiries.

BBC, 29 May 2008

Police used rubber bullets to disarm a man seen brandishing a gun outside a supermarket in **St Austell**, Cornwall. A man was taken into custody but later became ill and was transferred to hospital.

Barking & Dagenham Recorder, 29 May 2008

A loaded gun, a silencer and 100 rounds of ammunition were discovered in a house in **Dagenham**, east London. The machine pistol was found with a stash of plastic wraps containing crack cocaine. A man has been charged with possession with intent to supply crack cocaine and possession of a firearm.

Swindon Advertiser, 28 May 2008

Air rifle and **ball bearing** gunshots have been fired during several incidents in the **Stratton** area of Swindon. The shootings have been mainly at the windows of businesses and shop windows have been smashed.

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 28 May 2008

Three hopeful car buyers were robbed and threatened with a gun and knives in **Twickenham**, south west London, where they had gone for a pre-arranged meeting. They were approached by three men, one of whom produced a gun. Two of the men have now been charged, one with robbery and possession of a weapon and another with robbery and possession of an **imitation weapon** with intent to use. The third suspect was released.

BBC, 28 May 2008

Three men have been jailed for life for shooting dead a man they thought had raped a woman friend. Their victim was killed in **Catford**, south London, in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Michael Peters will serve a minimum of 30 years and Sebastian Baptiste-Gomez and Dean Clement were jailed for 28 years each.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 27 May 2008

Police have seized a haul of drugs, two stun guns and cash during a raid on a snooker club in **Batley**. Two men and two women were arrested.

New Post Leader, 27 May 2008

An armed response team were called to a street in **Ashington**, Northumberland, where a man had been seen with a firearm. The weapon was a **blank-firing revolver**. A man was arrested and released on bail.

Manchester Evening News, 27 May 2008

A woman was held at gunpoint during an armed robbery at a bank in **Oldham**. The cashier had a small black handgun pointed at her head. The robber escaped with £2000 in a plastic carrier bag.

Daily Mirror, 27 May 2008

Ball-bearing guns were given to children as prizes at a fair at **Market Weighton**, East Yorkshire. Children as young as five were spotted loading and playing with the guns on their own. The town council has said that it did not know about the guns and would not let it happen again.

Birmingham Mail, 27 May 2008

A man was shot in the eye by a gunman who fired through the window of a house in **Woodgate Valley**, Birmingham. The victim was found on the floor of the property and was in a "stable condition" in hospital. A man and a teenage woman have been arrested. The police said it was not clear whether the shot came from a **ball-bearing gun, air pistol** or a genuine firearm. A man has been charged with wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (*BBC*, 28 May 2008).

Bexhill-on-Sea Observer, 27 May 2008

A man was arrested and cautioned for possession of an **imitation firearm** after police went to a park in **Abbey Water**, Romsey in Hampshire, following a report from a member of the public.

BBC, 27 May 2008

A student accused of trying to buy a gun with fake ID in Vermont, USA, is being investigated by West Mercia Police over "firearms offences and other matters" in the UK. A suspicious package was found at his university residence in **Worcester**.

The Journal, 26 May 2008

Police are investigating the possibility that youths fired an **air rifle** at a train on the Weardale Railway near **Frosterley** in County Durham. A woman was treated for shock after her carriage window was broken by a missile. The hole left in the window was caused either by an air rifle or a stone. Two youths were seen near the line at the time of the incident.

Headingley Today, 26 May 2008

A man in **Stanningley**, Leeds, wielded a handgun in front of a female driver whose car had crashed with the man's vehicle. A man has been arrested and questioned by police.

Hastings & St Leonard's Observer, 26 May 2008

A woman has been arrested after she was allegedly seen wielding a gun and a knife in **Ramsgate**, Kent. She was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill.

Guardian (Worksop), 26 May 2008

A security guard has been threatened with what appeared to be a rifle in an armed robbery at **Billing Aquadrome** in Northamptonshire.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 26 May 2008

A car was damaged when it was blasted with a shotgun as it was parked in **Salford**. The gun appears to have been fired at the windscreen. It is not believed that anyone was in the vehicle at the time of the incident.

BBC, 25 May 2008

A second 17-year-old has been seriously injured in a shooting in north London within two days. The latest victim was found in **Camden** with a gunshot wound to his head. The victim has since died in hospital. A 16-year-old boy has been arrested (*BBC*, 29 May 2008).

Liverpool Echo, 24 May 2008

Paul While, 18, has been sent to a young offenders' institute for six years and his brother Lee Worswick has been jailed for six months and three months for their part in an attempt to scare another teenager at a bookmakers in **Dovecot**, Liverpool, in December 2007. Their 17-year-old accomplice, who admitted two counts of possessing a prohibited firearm including a military rifle and another of intending to endanger life, is due to be sentenced later. While shot himself in the foot as he tried to pull the sawn-off shotgun out of his pocket but continued into the shop and aimed the weapon at his victim. The three offenders later drove to the home of their victim's grandfather where gunfire was heard coming from their car.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 24 May 2008

A window was smashed with an **air rifle** at a business park in **Linthwaite**.

BBC, 24 May 2008

A teenager is fighting for his life following a shooting in a street in **Archway**, north London. He was taken to a local hospital where his condition is described as "life threatening". A 17-year-old and an 18-year-old were arrested near the scene (*BBC*, 25 March 2008).

Yorkshire Evening Post, 23 May 2008

A man, armed with a high-powered **air rifle**, fired randomly into crowds at **Wakefield Market**. The gunman had earlier been in a row after he had scratched a coffee table belonging to a furniture trader. A man was been arrested and then released on bail pending further inquiries, but remains detained under the Mental Health Act, according to police.

The Journal, 23 May 2008

An **air rifle** and a stun gun were among a stash of weapons discovered as police raided a house in **Consett**, County Durham, searching for drugs.

Evening Courier, 23 May 2008

Eighteen-year-old Bobby Lee Maguirre has been jailed for 12 weeks after police found him riding a stolen mini-moto while armed with a stolen **air rifle**. The bike and gun were found hours after they had been taken in a raid in **Halifax** in April 2008.

The Courier (Leamington Spa), 23 May 2008

A school in **Warwick** excluded a pupil who brandished a **BB gun** in the playground. It is believed he fired the gun and held it to another pupil's head. Against the wishes of the school's governors and headteacher, who permanently expelled him, the boy has been allowed to return to lessons after his mother appealed to an independent exclusions panel.

BBC, 23 May 2008

A man is in a critical condition after being shot in **Norbury**, south London. His condition was said to be serious but stable.

This is Derbyshire, 22 May 2008

A shotgun was fired through the door of a house in **Derby**. No-one was injured, though a woman and child were in the house at the time. Police are linking the incident to five previous shootings in Derby since December (*This is Derbyshire*, 23 May 2008).

Northumberland Gazette, 22 May 2008

A man has been arrested after an **airgun** was fired at a hospital in **Sunderland**. He was threatening to harm himself and fired at a wall in the accident and emergency department.

Evening Courier, 22 May 2008

Drugs and weapons were seized in a series of raids in West Yorkshire. During one of the raids a man was arrested and released on police bail when a cannabis factory and a **ball-bearing gun** were found at a house in **Sowerby Bridge**.

BBC, 22 May 2008

Ashley George has been jailed for life for shooting dead a man in **Harlesden**, north west London, in October 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He will serve a minimum of 27 years for murder, possession of a firearm and possession of cannabis with intent to supply. The victim was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

BBC, 22 May 2008

A teenager has been found guilty of killing a woman who was caught in crossfire during a shoot-out with another youth in **New Cross**, south London, in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Seventeen-year-old Armel Gnango was found guilty of murder, attempted murder and possessing a gun to endanger life. He will be sentenced later. Although it was not Gnango's weapon which fired the fatal bullet he was still responsible for the killing because he was involved in the gunfight.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 21 May 2008

A robber armed with a sawn-off shotgun forced his way into a house in **Northaw**, Hertfordshire, and stole cash and a haul of jewellery worth £150,000 before stealing a silver BMW 23.

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, 21 May 2008

A pensioner died after being shot in the chest with a shotgun at his home in **Bourton-on-the-Water**, Gloucestershire. He died en route to hospital. The police are not treating the incident as suspicious and the coroner has been informed.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 21 May 2008

A man has been gunned down near a supermarket in **Old Swan**, Liverpool. The victim was shot in the stomach. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening (*BBC*, 22 May 2008).

BBC, 21 May 2008

John Kasper and two untraced accomplices broke into a farm at **Belle Vue** in Carlisle in December 2007 and stole property including a shotgun and two rifles. Kasper pleaded guilty to burglary and has been jailed for two years.

Express & Star, 20 May 2008

A market trader had 23 **soft air pistols** at a stall in **Walsall** and further checks revealed he had three more at home. The man was also found with a **.22 air rifle** at his pitch when police swooped in March 2008. Harbjan Singh pleaded guilty to charges of possessing imitation firearms and air weapon in public places. He was sentenced to 120 hours community work.

BBC, 20 May 2008

A man who claimed in a note to be armed with a gun attempted to rob a bank in **Cheltenham**, Gloucestershire.

Southwark News, 19 May 2008

Abdul Aziz Kamara, known as 'Gambi', has been jailed for six years for possession of a loaded firearm. He and his gang had terrorised an estate in **Camberwell**, south London, but following calls from residents to the police the estate was raided and he was arrested in November 2007.

Lancashire Telegraph, 19 May 2008

Three men have been jailed for a total of 31 years after an innocent teenager was caught up in a violent feud between rival gangs. Shots were fired at a terraced house in **Bastwell**, Blackburn, as the 13-year-old and his older brother cowered inside. The revenge attack, which took place in June 2007 (see [Incidents](#)), was supposed to have been aimed at the house next door. All three men admitted possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Amjad Niwaz was jailed for 13 years, Anjum Nawaz for ten years and Mohammed Imfiaz Malik for eight years.

Evening Star, 19 May 2008

Armed police officers arrested a man following reports of a man seen with a rifle in **Norwich**. A vehicle seen leaving the area was stopped and the man detained. An **air rifle** was recovered.

Evening Star, 19 May 2008

Two youths spotted hiding in undergrowth shot two people with an **airgun** in Bunkers Hill, **Norwich**. The victims felt a stinging sensation and found they had been shot with airgun pellets.

The Courier (Leamington), 19 May 2008

A British clay pigeon shooting team member has been told by a judge that he may face having his shotgun licence revoked whatever the outcome of his trial. The man has pleaded not guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. It is alleged that in February 2008 he fired his Browning automatic three-shot shotgun with intent to cause another man to fear unlawful violence would be used against him. The charge follows an alleged incident on the defendant's land in **Lighthorne**, Warwickshire.

BBC, 19 May 2008

Operation Academy, a long-term operation to disrupt gangsters targeting **Ipswich** has resulted in £270,000 worth of drugs being seized and 371 arrests. Police have confiscated other items including a self-loading pistol with ammunition and two **BB guns**. Almost half of those arrested were from **London** while 49% were local.

BBC, 19 May 2008

A 19-year-old has been charged with attempted murder after a shooting in **Consett**, County Durham. The victim was treated for a back wound.

BBC, 19 May 2008

A man is being questioned by police after another man was shot in the stomach in a field in **Huyton**, Merseyside. The victim is said to be in a stable condition in hospital and his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

Spenborough Guardian, 18 May 2008

A 13-year-old was attacked with what is believed to have been a **ball-bearing gun** whilst walking in **Heckmondwike**, West Yorkshire. Two men in a white van drove past and fired something at him. The boy was badly bruised on his thigh and left shaken.

Scarborough Evening News, 18 May 2008

A man was robbed and threatened by armed youths as he was walking along a street in **Scarborough**, North Yorkshire. Two men threatened him with a handgun and stole his briefcase, wallet and wrist watch.

Mid Devon Star, 18 May 2008

A 12-year-old boy from **Ottery St Mary** was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** and had to be taken to hospital. He had been playing with the gun with a friend in a field when one of them discharged the weapon. Police have confirmed that the shooting was an accident.

BBC, 18 May 2008

A man was shot in both legs in a targeted attack outside a pub in **Salford**, Greater Manchester. The victim's injuries were not life threatening and he was in a stable condition in hospital.

BBC, 18 May 2008

Tony Turner was being transferred from Pentonville Prison in April 2008 when he was freed by three men in **Barking**, east London. The men then escaped with him by car. Turner has been recaptured and faces extra offences including conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm. He was already facing charges related to armed robberies. Another man has been charged with conspiracy to rob, possession of a firearm and assisting an offender.

This is Hull and East Riding, 17 May 2008

A man in west **Hull** opened his front door in November 2007 to find a shotgun in his face. The gunman David Rust was found not guilty of attempted murder but has admitted shooting at the man, saying that he deliberately missed him after being ordered to kill him by two men who threatened him and his family.

The Star (Sheffield), 17 May 2008

Jack East, 16, has admitted two counts of robbery after stealing mobile phones from a teenage couple but has been cleared of carrying a gun during the attack. He told the court he had not used a **ball-bearing gun** which he had bought in Cleethorpes during the robbery in **Burngreave**. He did admit that he carried photographs of himself posing with firearms on his mobile telephone and posted them on his social networking web page.

Lancashire Evening Post, 17 May 2008

A man was threatened with a gun after he chased vandals who damaged his car in **Ribbleton**, Preston. One of a group of four boys and a girl turned on him and brandished a gun at him. A 19-year-old man has been arrested and is helping police with inquiries.

BBC, 17 May 2008

Police are investigating three apparently unconnected shootings in the West Midlands. A man who was shot in the stomach in **Newtown**, Birmingham, was in a serious condition in hospital. However, he is now making a good recovery (*Birmingham Mail*, 21 May 2008). A man was shot in the leg in **Bilston**. In the third incident shots were fired into a **West Bromwich** nightclub. This shooting may be connected with an incident a week earlier where a man fired bullets outside the club (*Birmingham Mail*, 19 May 2008).

Southwark News, 16 May 2008

A man was hospitalised after he was shot with an **air rifle** in **Rotherhithe**, south London. He had stopped at traffic lights when he was hit. He needed an operation to remove a pellet from his arm.

Kenilworth Weekly News, 16 May 2008

Kenilworth Police have issued warnings about carrying BB guns and other imitation firearms after two incidents in the last few weeks. During one incident in April 2008 a youngster pointed a firearm out of a car window at a man in **Stoneleigh**, Warwickshire. The offender was arrested for possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. The youth admitted the offence and received a final warning. The other incident vandals smashed a double glazed window with what police believe was a **BB gun**.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 16 May 2008

A man was arrested at the end of a three-hour hunt for a gunman after an incident in **Netherton** in which a car and a door and a window of a house were damaged. Police officers are believed to have recovered an **air rifle** and a knife.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 16 May 2008

Two teenagers, a 15-year-old and 16-year-old, robbed a shop in **Blackpool** whilst armed with a **BB gun** in March 2008. The shopkeeper handed over £70. Both have pleaded guilty to robbery and also admitted possessing a firearm and now face a lengthy spell in youth detention.

BBC, 16 May 2008

Shots were fired by the occupants of one vehicle at another vehicle in **Leicester**. Three men were arrested and two men have now been charged, one with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Wimbledon Guardian, 15 May 2008

Video footage captured by a resident on an estate in **Epsom**, Surrey, who spotted a group of five youths racing around on motorbikes showed that one of them was armed. He was shooting at a derelict hospital and pointing a gun at houses, according to the resident. She said the weapon looked like a shotgun or a rifle, but thinks it may have been an **airgun**.

Manchester Evening News, 15 May 2008

Peter Hanley has pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding. He shot a woman in the neck with an **air rifle** at a petrol station in **Bury** in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

Liverpool Echo, 15 May 2008

Detectives were searching through CCTV footage after a gun was fired inside a pub in **Kirkby**. Two masked men walked in and shot at the TV screen. Ten minutes later three men, one of whom is believed to have had a gun, approached a man outside another pub and demanded to know who was inside. The two incidents could be linked.

Lancashire Telegraph, 15 May 2008

A 16-year-old boy was shot in the face as walked down the street in **Burnley**. A pellet, fired from what is believed to have been an **air weapon**, hit him in the cheek. The paper recalled another recent incident in which a woman was hit in the back with an airgun pellet fired from a passing car in **Edenfield** in March 2008.

Gainsborough Standard, 15 May 2008

Two staff members were threatened in a robbery at a furniture store in **Gainsborough**, Lincolnshire. Two men armed with what police believe was a handgun sprayed the employees with suspected CS gas before demanding money. The men left with a small amount of cash.

BBC, 15 May 2008

A man escaped uninjured after an attempted shooting in **Worksop**, Nottinghamshire. A passing police dog handler saw a man fire a sawn-off shotgun and attempted to apprehend the suspect. Unfortunately the victim of the shooting was targeted by mistake and he suffered minor injuries. Two men were later arrested in Nottingham.

This is Gloucestershire, 14 May 2008

A man firing shots from an **airgun** hit two people in a drive-by shooting in **Cheltenham**. The attack was believed to be the result of fighting between rival gangs. A man and a youth have been arrested (*BBC*, 15 May 2008). A third person has now been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder (*BBC*, 27 May 2008).

News & Star, 14 May 2008

A man has gone on trial accused of breaking firearms law by grabbing a high powered rifle from three men who were shooting foxes near his home in **Mallerstang**, near Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria. The incident occurred in September 2007. He claims he was entitled to take the gun because he was afraid that he could have been hurt by the men. He has pleaded not guilty to possessing the rifle and ammunition and affray.

Express & Echo, 14 May 2008

A man leapt in front of a bus in **Exeter** and then shot at it with an **air pistol** after he had forced the driver to stop. A light close to the windscreen was shattered and the damage will cost about £750 to repair.

East Anglian Daily Times, 14 May 2008

Ryan Jefferies, 21, and Megan Lawrence, 19, have each been jailed for eight months for their part in a drive-by shooting campaign in Suffolk which damaged 40 cars, a number of homes and left a man injured in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Two **BB guns** were used. A third defendant Luke Berry, 19, will be sentenced later. They all admitted 13 offences of criminal damage and possession of an imitation firearm and Jefferies and Lawrence admitted common assault. The incidents took place in **Eye, Needham Market, Grundisburgh, Orford, Kirton, Felixstowe and Levington**.

Coventry Telegraph, 14 May 2008

Imitation firearms were among goods worth £250,000 seized by police and trading standards officers at **Polesworth** market, Warwickshire. About 50 **ball-bearing guns** were seized to stop them being sold on to people in the area.

BBC, 14 May 2008

A man was targeted by someone lying in wait in **Caversham**, Reading, and shot in the head. Two men were arrested: one was released without charge, the other has been released on bail. The victim is recovering in hospital where he is said to be stable.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 13 May 2008

Armed police laid siege to a house in **Beeston**, Leeds, in the hunt for a gunman after an earlier car-jacking in Bramley and chase to **Armley** where the thief fired two shots. The gunman was not located.

Southern Daily Echo, 13 May 2008

Police were searching Bassett Wood in **Southampton** for a firearm after a resident reported hearing a gunshot. Six youths had been spotted fleeing into the wood from a car that crashed into a lamppost.

BBC, 13 May 2008

A man has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. The charges follow a shooting in **Halewood**, Merseyside, in which another man was injured. The victim suffered arm and back injuries.

BBC, 13 May 2008

A man who died after his car crashed with a train was due in court to be sentenced for having an **imitation gun**. Ian Hakes had pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after he fired the gun while he was on the phone to police and threatening to kill himself in a park in **Burton-on-Trent**, Staffordshire, in November 2007. When the police arrived he had pointed the weapon at them.

Warrington Guardian, 12 May 2008

A woman was held up at gunpoint at a petrol station in **Glazebury**, Cheshire, although the offender did not make any threats or demands. The man had already paid for cigarettes when he pointed what appeared to be a black pistol at the woman.

This is Local London, 12 May 2008

Two teenagers have been sentenced for the rape of a 15-year-old girl at **Woolwich Common**, south east London, in August 2007. The girl was also threatened with a firearm. A 17-year-old was found guilty of rape and possession of a firearm and sentenced to seven years, and 18-year-old Andrando Flowers who pleaded guilty to rape was sentenced to five-and-a-half years.

Herald (Harlow), 12 May 2008

Armed police were called to search for a gunman in **Foldcroft** in Harlow, Essex, after reports from the public of a man with a gun. No one was found.

Gazette, 12 May 2008

A spate of incidents has forced police in North Essex to warn people about using BB guns and airguns in public. Officers were called on five different occasions to reports of nuisance behaviour or criminal damage. In **Tiptree** a **ball-bearing gun** was fired at a garden, hitting someone standing inside. In **Colchester** someone was seen firing a **BB gun** into a fence beside a house but pellets were flying through the fence into a garden. Later a youth who was firing his **air pistol** out of a bedroom window in **Colchester** was "given advice" by police. It is thought he was aiming to hit birds. There was a similar nuisance report in **Clacton** as well as a report of criminal damage in the town that had been caused by an **airgun** pellet.

The Citizen (Gloucester), 12 May 2008

Five youths were charged with five counts of possessing an air weapon in a public place after ten **BB gun** shootings in **Gloucester** in February 2008. Christopher Newman, 20, Victoria Sutton, 18, two 14-year-old boys and a 13-year old boy drove around the streets firing pellets from the gun. Six people were injured. All five pleaded guilty. Newman and Sutton each received 18-month community orders and will be required to attend 32 sessions of the Think First programme and will be electronically tagged and under curfew for three months. The three younger boys were each given six-month referral orders.

BBC, 12 May 2008

A shot was fired at a car in **Bilborough**, Nottingham. No-one was injured during the incident which police think was a "targeted attack".

BBC, 12 May 2008

A man denied being part of the largest crime network to supply guns to the criminal underworld ever uncovered in Britain. He was alleged to have supplied handguns and ammunition to gangsters across the UK. During one operation in **Manchester** police seized 29 guns and 856 bullets. All of the guns were **blank-firing weapons** (Baikal self-loading gas handguns sold legally in some European countries) converted to fire live rounds. Kaleem Akhtar has now been convicted of conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life and will be sentenced in June. His co-conspirators, Madasser Ali, Paul Wilson, Asaid Saleem, Agnius Malcevas and Edgaras Malcevas and Michael Peake, had all pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to their parts in the operation. The guns, brought from Essex, were found in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and Scotland (**BBC**, 22 May 2008).

BBC, 10 May 2008

Two men armed with a handgun robbed a newsagents in **Exeter**, Devon. They entered the shop and demanded money from members of staff. No-one was hurt in the incident.

Liverpool Echo, 9 May 2008

Damage was caused to shutters and a window when shots were fired at a row of shops in **Huyton**, Merseyside.

Hackney Gazette, 9 May 2008

A teenager was shot during a mass brawl in a park in **London Fields**, east London. The 18-year-old was in a serious but stable condition after being shot in the leg. Two other men were treated for stab wounds. One man was arrested.

Birmingham Mail, 9 May 2008

A security van driver has been accused of making up a story of being kidnapped and robbed at gunpoint in a country lane in **Wishaw**, West Midlands. He has denied the charge of theft.

BBC, 9 May 2008

A man was arrested after armed police were called to the **Kingswood** area of Bristol after reports of a man wielding an **air rifle**. Officers sealed off several streets having received calls from members of the public.

BBC, 9 May 2008

Seventeen-year-old Junior Glasgow has been found guilty of shooting dead an 18-year-old youth worker in **Brixton** in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The motive appeared to be revenge for the theft of a gold chain by a friend of the victims. The judge told Glasgow that he would face a life sentence.

Argus Lite, 9 May 2008

Three 19-year-olds who targeted victims in the centre of **Brighton** whilst armed with an **air pistol** have all received custodial sentences. They had been drinking and taking drugs when they picked on people and stole a mobile phone and £10 before being caught by police in December 2007. Dane Moulard and Luke Wells were both sentenced to three years and four months, Gareth Buss received a three year sentence.

Star (Sheffield), 8 May 2008

A woman has criticised police after they took an hour to respond to shots being fired outside her home in **Gleadless**, Sheffield. The shots were apparently fired by a gang of youths as she got in a car, one shattering her rear windscreen. It is believed that an **airgun** pellet was responsible.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 8 May 2008

A shopkeeper in **Huddersfield** chased a would-be robber from his shop, despite being threatened with a silver handgun. The man waved a gun and demanded money, but the shopkeeper grabbed a pole and he ran off.

Daily Mail, 8 May 2008

Antonio Wint has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and has been jailed for a minimum of four years and 250 days. Andre Marshall pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and assault causing actual bodily harm and was jailed for seven years. Together with a 17-year-old the two men had been involved in an incident at a gym in **Moss Side**, Manchester, in July 2007 where they pulled out a 9mm Scorpion machine pistol. A man was punched, threatened with the gun and pistol whipped. Wint had already been jailed for 20 months after two members of a rival gang were admitted to hospital with gunshot wounds.

Argus Lite, 8 May 2008

Three men were arrested after holding up a cash delivery at a garage in **Gossops Green**, Sussex. The police recovered a firearm along with the stolen cash.

This is Gloucestershire, 7 May 2008

An engineer trying to restore power to more than 1000 homes in **Coleford**, Gloucestershire, had to abandon work after being shot with an **airgun**. The victim was left with a cut neck. A local man was later given a caution for assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Northern Echo, 7 May 2008

A court was told that a farmer pointed a shotgun at his estranged wife in a showdown after accusing her of having an affair. The incident was alleged to have taken place in August 2007 in **Great Stainton**, County Durham. However, Anthony Whitehead has been acquitted of threatening his wife but did plead guilty to possessing a firearm without a licence (*Evening Gazette*, 13 May 2008).

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 May 2008

A masked man brandishing a gun escaped with cash during a robbery at a store in **Linthwaite**, Huddersfield. The weapon is believed to have been a double-barrelled shotgun. The cashier emptied the till into a bag and the robber escaped.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 6 May 2008

Police marksmen fired rubber bullets to end an armed siege at a flat in **Cotgrave**, Nottinghamshire. The man, allegedly armed with an **airgun**, was taken to hospital. Police had been called to reports of a disorder at the flat involving the man and another man and woman.

Daily Echo, 6 May 2008

Vandals have been driving around **Bransgore**, Hampshire, firing **airgun** pellets at car windows. Fourteen vehicles have been shot at so far. The residents want police to take action.

National Media, 6 May 2008

Armed police officers responded after members of the public reported gun shots being fired near the King's Road in **Chelsea**, London. The officers were fired at and they "discharged their weapons". The gunman was subsequently found shot dead at the scene, and the Independent Police Complaints Commission is now investigating. It is reported that the gun fired by the dead man was 'lawfully held'. At the inquest it was revealed that Mark Saunders had been shot five times by police marksmen (*Times*, 9 May 2008).

BBC, 6 May 2008

A man is on trial accused of firing seven shots from a pump action shotgun into the home of his former landlord in **Raunds**, Northamptonshire, in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He had been evicted from the snooker club he rented. Steve Ford was found not guilty of attempted murder, attempted grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, but had pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent to cause fear. He will be sentenced in June (*Northampton Chronicle & Echo*, 8 May 2008).

BBC, 6 May 2008

Armed police were deployed in **Cippenham**, Slough, in Berkshire, following reports of a man roaming the streets with a gun. It is believed the man made threats to a number of people. A man has been charged with 19 offences of being in possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. He also faces four counts of making threats to kill (*BBC*, 20 May 2008).

BBC, 5 May 2008

A man has been arrested after a police firearms team entered a house in **Ivybridge**, Devon, following reports a person was being threatened with a gun. A broken knife and an **air pistol** were found at the scene.

BBC, 5 May 2008

An area in **Stoke-on-Trent** was sealed off after a weapon was fired near a house. Police have not said what the firearm was, but armed officers were sent to search a house.

News Shopper, 4 May 2008

Three men who targeted victims in **Abbey Wood** and **Thamesmead** in south east London during a spate of robberies in November 2007 have been jailed. Victims were threatened at gunpoint and had credit cards, cash and other valuables stolen. The men were convicted of robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Sheku Kamara, 20, was sentenced to eight years in prison, Alieu Jallow, 19, also to eight years and Olatokunbo Fasina, 18, to five years.

Echo (Essex), 4 May 2008

A man robbed a convenience store in **Vange** of £200 after threatening the cashier with a gun.

Manchester Evening News, 3 May 2008

Four handguns were seized by police during a drugs raid on a property in **Salford** in which they discovered cannabis plants and £10,000 in cash. Two men and a woman were arrested after this raid and another in Fallsworth.

Manchester Evening News, 3 May 2008

Three men have been jailed for a total of 19 years following their arrest during Operation Werewolf, a series of police raids targeting gun crime. Jahangar Majid was sentenced to five years for keeping a pistol and ammunition in his flat in **Bury**. Michael Pearson from **Flixton** pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing a firearms, ammunition and cannabis, and Mazhar Mohammed from **Old Trafford** pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing a firearm and ammunition. Both were jailed for seven years.

News Shopper, 2 May 2008

Ian Pearson will have to serve at least three years in jail after he pulled a **ball bearing gun** on two police officers who found him near **Eltham Hill** after he had caused a disturbance outside a pub. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm, possessing a bladed article and possessing cocaine.

Citizen (Blackburn), 2 May 2008

Barry Kirk and James Hurst have pleaded guilty to stealing a woman's car at gunpoint after posing as prospective buyers. The pair met the woman in **Accrington**, Lancashire, in October 2007 to take the car on a test drive. Sentencing has been adjourned.

Times, 1 May 2008

Five women were held hostage at gunpoint for more than three hours in **Stanstead Abbots**, Hertfordshire. A delivery driver held a pistol to a woman's head after he entered a small business unit. The hostages were released unhurt, and a man was arrested on suspicion of false imprisonment.

Stourbridge News, 1 May 2008

A resident in **Kempsey**, Worcestershire, has raised concerns about clay pigeon shooting in the locality in which shots were fired across a public footpath.

BBC, 1 May 2008

A disabled man from **Ironville**, Derbyshire, will not now be prosecuted for allegedly threatening a group of teenagers with an **imitation gun** in September 2007. The trial was scheduled to start in April but was dropped at the last minute. The man bought the handgun over the internet six weeks before the incident, but has now agreed to sign the weapon over to the police.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 28 May 2008

Scott McEwan was drunk when he walked into a GP's surgery in **Errol**, Perthshire, in February 2008 and pulled out a gun in front of staff and patients. He claimed he had forgotten putting the weapon, a **black BB gun** described as a fairly good replica of an automatic pistol, in his pocket. He was given 18 months probation and told to complete 100 hours unpaid work.

BBC, 22 May 2008

A woman was seriously injured in a shooting in an office building in the centre of **Glasgow**. Police are treating the attack as attempted murder. There were claims that she had been shot in cold blood by a spurned lover (*Scotsman*, 23 May 2008).

BBC, 17 May 2008

A man who heard a noise at his home in the **Sandyhills** area of Glasgow went downstairs and discovered his front windows had been smashed. Police later established the window had been shot at. A man had been seen running away.

Press & Journal, 16 May 2008

Paul Gerrard has been fined £225 after admitting committing a breach of the peace in December 2007 and conducting himself in a disorderly manner by repeatedly discharging a **.22 air rifle** on an area of waste ground in **Brechin**. The area was partially surrounded by a housing estate and close to a nature trail. Gerrard had been firing the rifle at tin cans.

BBC, 16 May 2008

Stuart Robertson has admitted gunning down a man in **Cardonald**, Glasgow, in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He admitted murder and sentence was deferred for background reports.

BBC, 16 May 2008

Peter Lawlor has been jailed for seven years and three months after police found heroin worth almost £100,000 and a stolen rifle during searches of properties in and near **Inverness**. The self-loading rifle was stolen from a property in **Kessock** in December 2006.

Press & Journal, 15 May 2008

Christopher Patterson, also known as Wiseman, raided a filling station in **Aberlour**, Moray, in January 2004 whilst armed with a **replica pistol**. He held a woman who was working alone at gunpoint. He admitted assaulting his victim and stealing £140. Sentencing was deferred.

BBC, 15 May 2008

Mark Maydock has been jailed for five years and nine months after he admitted firing an **air rifle** out of the window of a house in **Annan**, Dumfriesshire, as a man was mowing his lawn. The incident took place in August 2007. The prosecution said that he asked a friend to bring him the rifle from his car and he then took aim and fired a number of shots at the man.

BBC, 14 May 2008

A store in **Dundee** has been robbed at gunpoint. A man threatened two members of staff and stole about £565.

BBC, 13 May 2008

A man is on trial accused of murdering a waiter at a restaurant in **Kirkwall**, Orkney, in 1994. As he was serving a family the victim was shot once by a man with a mask and a hood.

BBC, 8 May 2008

The son of a man who had gun certificates revoked after threatening an advocate has been refused permission to store firearms at his home in **Ross-shire**. The father, Michael Campbell, had his shotgun and firearms certificates revoked in 2004 following an incident in the Court of Session in Edinburgh. His son has been required to keep his rifles with a registered firearms dealer when not in use because police were concerned that Michael Campbell would get access to the guns if kept in the family home.

BBC, 7 May 2008

It is reported that a youngster was suspended after one pupil was hit in the neck and another in the hand at a primary school in **Dundee**. Police have said they expect to take possession of a **toy pellet gun** as part of their investigation. An 11-year-old boy has been reported to the Children's Panel following the incident (*BBC*, 8 May 2008).

BBC, 2 May 2008

Raymond Anderson and James McDonald have been found guilty of shooting dead a man at a garage in **Lambhill**, Glasgow, in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). They were also found guilty of attempting to murder two other men. Both were told they must serve 35 years before being eligible for parole, the longest sentences ever passed by a Scottish court.

WALES

Daily Post, 28 May 2008

North Wales Police revealed officers have dealt with 83 criminal incidents involving **BB guns, air weapons** and **replica firearms** over the last 12 months, the latest involving a schoolboy carrying a BB gun. The newspaper has found that BB guns and airguns are readily available across North Wales and they were able to source a weapon for £5 within minutes in **Colwyn Bay**.

Cynon Valley Leader, 22 May 2008

A former police officer has found himself the constant victim of vandals in **Cwmdare**, Mid Glamorgan. In the most recent incident more than £400 of damage was caused to a window by what police believe to be an **airgun**.

South Wales Echo, 21 May 2008

Derek Williams who admitted possession of a firearm has been given an indeterminate jail sentence with a minimum tariff of five years. He was arrested after when he brandished a 9mm handgun in **Ely**, Cardiff. Following an argument with his ex-partner he had gone back to his home and armed himself with the gun. He had pointed the gun "at point blank range" at the heads of two witnesses. During a struggle the gun was fired at the ground.

South Wales Echo, 21 May 2008

Leroy McCalla has been jailed for 11 years for possessing a self-loading pistol, converted to fire live ammunition which was found in a bag on the floor of a flat in **Cardiff** only a few paces from where a toddler was playing. The flat was raided in April 2007. See [February 2008 Incidents](#).

Daily Post, 9 May 2008

A prisoner at **St Asaph** police station was able to keep a gun in a cell for two days. An investigation has been launched into how the man, who had been arrested in connection with a shoplifting offence, was able to have the **ball-bearing gun** which was only found when officers from the security firm which transports prisoners to and from court realized his jacket was unusually heavy. Wayne Harding was charged with possessing a firearm and after pleading guilty was jailed for seven days.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

This is Lincolnshire, 31 May 2008

Two swans have been shot dead with **air rifles** in Lincolnshire. The first was found by a member of the public at **Sturton-by-Stow** and a search of the area uncovered another. Both had gunshot wounds to the neck and head.

Epsom Guardian, 30 May 2008

A heron was the latest victim in a wave of animal shootings in Merton, south London. The bird was found in **Morden** after being attacked with an **airgun**. Recently a fox and a squirrel were shot and killed in **Mitcham**. In neighbouring boroughs a squirrel, crow and two foxes have also been shot. Airguns and crossbows have been used.

Crawley Observer, 30 May 2008

A cat suffered a chipped pelvis and has an **air rifle** pellet still lodged in his thigh after being shot in Broadfield, **Sussex**.

Manchester Evening News, 28 May 2008

A cat has been left blinded after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Atherton**, Wigan. The pellet shattered his eyeball and is still lodged in his neck.

BBC, 26 May 2008

A dog guarding a business premises in **Colchester**, Essex, has had to be put down after being shot.

Kent Online, 22 May 2008

Youngsters have reportedly been killing ducks and a swan on the River Stour. The dead birds have been found by boatmen and people living along the river at **Fordwich**. One of the latest victims was a duck that frequently visited the local pub. Two teenagers who have been seen several times on the cycle path beside the river with an **air rifle**, are being blamed for the killings.

BBC, 20 May 2008

Two headless seals whose corpses were found close to a salmon farm at **Kyle of Lochalsh** are thought by wildlife campaigners to have been shot and decapitated to try and hide the fact that they were shot at all.

Western Telegraph, 18 May 2008

A cat found lying on the path to his home in **Stackpole**, Pembrokeshire, had been shot with an **airgun**. An X-ray revealed that it would be too dangerous to remove the pellet which is lodged near his spine.

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 16 May 2008

Five seagulls have been found dead with apparent **airgun** injuries, three in **Carlin How** in Cleveland and two in **Robin Hood's Bay** near Whitby in North Yorkshire.

Daily Echo, 16 May 2008

Protected birds of prey are being found with shotgun wounds in the area around **Blandford**, Dorset. Nine birds, all with pellet wounds from a 16-gauge shotgun, have been brought into a rescue centre in the last three months. The man who runs the centre believes the four buzzards, two sparrowhawks, two kestrels and a tawny owl were deliberately blasted.

BBC, 15 May 2008

An estate in **Ashford**, Kent, has been deemed to be too dangerous for cats by the RSPCA. A family applying to re-home a cat have been turned down. A spokesperson for the charity said 90% of complaints in the area were from the estate, where cats had been targeted with **air** and **pellet guns**. The RSPCA has now announced that it intends to lift the ban (*Only Kent*, 29 May 2008).

Bolton News, 14 May 2008

A cat is suffering from severe burns and a gunshot wound after the latest attack on a cat in the **Great Lever**. An **airgun** pellet was discovered lodged inside her and she had been so badly burned by boiling water that her fur has fallen out.

Evening Star, 12 May 2008

A cat owner from **Stowmarket**, Suffolk, is disgusted at an attack on his pet which resulted in the cat being blasted with 15 shotgun pellets. The cat survived as, amazingly, the pellets had all avoided the cat's internal organs.

Bolton News, 12 May 2008

A cat has been left partially paralysed after it was hit twice in the hip with pellets from an **air rifle**. The injured cat was found in a garden in **Farnworth**, Bolton. The RSPCA funded the operation needed to remove the pellets.

Burton Mail, 9 May 2008

Local people who enjoy the tranquillity of the Burton Mail Centenary Woodland at **Burton**, Staffordshire, have been shocked to see a man carrying an **air rifle** which he has been using to take pot shots at birds nesting in the woods.

Pontypridd Observer, 8 May 2008

The paper has reported a number of instances of **airgun** abuse. In April a cat in **Pontypridd** was found with airgun pellets hanging out of its neck and chin. The owner said that this was the fourth attack on the cat in one year. In March and April two cats, a horse and a bird were shot with airgun pellets resulting in two of the animals having to be put to sleep because of the seriousness of their injuries.

BBC, 5 May 2008

Two Shetland ponies have been shot dead in their field in **Whitchurch**, Shropshire. Two youths, aged 17 and 14, have been charged with firearms offences, criminal damage and cruelty to animals.

Northumberland Gazette, 2 May 2008

A cat has been shot dead with an **airgun** in the garden of his home in **Hartlepool**, County Durham.

Bearsden Herald, 1 May 2008

Two **airgun** attacks on cats in less than 24 hours in **Bearsden**, East Dunbartonshire, have led to calls for the weapons to be restricted. One of the attacks left one cat writhing in agony after being shot at close range in the chest. In another attack, which happened earlier in April a cat lost an eye after a pellet embedded in its skull.

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