

NOVEMBER 2005 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There was considerable shock at the fatal shooting of WPC Sharon Beshenivsky who was killed by a gunman whilst answering a call to an armed raid on a travel agents in Bradford. Her colleague, WPC Teresa Milburn, was also shot and seriously injured. Other fatal shooting incidents occurred in Chingford, Rutherglen and Leeds. A 17-year-old died from shotgun wounds at his Newton Hall home, though foul play was ruled out in this instance.
- A number of shooting incidents resulted in injuries, many of them serious. A number of people were injured in shootings in the Greater London area: five men were shot in a house in Walthamstow, a man was shot outside his Bexley home, eight people were targeted in a shooting and stabbing incident in Bethnal Green, two young men were shot in Hackney, a girl was injured when a shot was fired through a letter box in Walworth and four men were hurt during an incident in Plaistow though none was actually shot. In Sheffield a man and his wife were shot when they were attacked in their car, a man was shot whilst walking in the street and a man was shot on his doorstep. In the North West another victim was shot on his doorstep in Huyton, a man was injured during a number of related incidents in the Wigan area and two victims were injured during a raid on a Liverpool hotel. In the West Midlands a man was seriously injured in a shooting in West Bromwich and a shop assistant shot during an armed robbery in Sparkbrook.
- **Shots Fired at Police Officers** - In addition to the shooting of the two women police officers in Bradford (see above) shots were fired at police officers in incidents in Huddersfield, Telford, Newtown (Manchester) and Harpenden. In the Huddersfield incident one of the two officers was hurt by flying glass from the car windscreen and in the Harpenden incident the officer was shot in the arm.
- **Armed Hold-Ups** - There were armed raids on a hotel in Liverpool, in which two staff were shot, on stores in Bristol (in both Frenchay and St George), Bridgnorth (in which a victim was stabbed), West Bromwich (in which a shop assistant was shot), Castle Donnington and Dudley, on a post office in Narborough (Norfolk), on two banks in Lancashire (Haslingden, Coppull) and at a number of properties in Cardiff (all involving one suspect). A lorry driver was kidnapped at gunpoint at a service station on the M62 and a woman had her car stolen at gunpoint in

Pollokshields, Glasgow. An armed man was shot with a Taser gun by police when he raided a service station in Newmains. An armed street robbery took place in Muswell Hill and attacks on householders in Cressing (Essex), involving a Taser gun, and Hertford. Assaults and threats were made during a number of armed attacks reported in Wythenshawe, Manchester.

- **Other Incidents** - Two teenagers threatened a farmer with a handgun after he accused them of trespassing at Sandford-upon-Thames, a gang of youths threatened a woman in Cross Keys, a man was shot at in a suspected gangland-style hit in Dulwich (the victim failed to come forward), a man was charged after he waved a gun at a charity lunch in Bath and a man and a woman were charged with firearms and drug offences after a raid on a pub in Bristol. A man was arrested after police used Taser guns following reports of a man carrying a firearm in the centre of Glasgow.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Air Rifles**) - Jail sentences were given to a number of men convicted of various offences involving firearms: for the fatal shooting of a robbery victim in Dagenham (two men sentenced to 18 years, two to 6 years), for murder of his girlfriend whilst driving on the M1 (at least 25 years), for injuring a shopkeeper during a robbery in Peckham (10 years), for firearm possession and drug offences in Ilford (9 years), for the shooting and kidnapping of a man in Tameside (three men sentenced to 17,13 and 12 years), for possession of a prohibited firearm (a sawn-off shotgun) in South Bents (Sunderland) (5 years), for wounding with intent in Woolwich (sentencing deferred until December), for armed robbery and possession of a loaded firearm in Potters Bar (life sentence) and for threatening his girlfriend with a sawn-off shotgun in Aspatria (at least two years, eight months). A licensed gun owner was given a two year sentence after shooting his wife's car with a shotgun in Surrey and a retired policeman jailed for two months after a gun was found in his luggage at Luton Airport.
- **Shotguns** - It appears that a higher number of the incidents and court cases involving shotguns were reported in November. In six of the cases listed above (those involving incidents in Dagenham, Peckham, South Bents, Woolwich, Aspatria and Surrey) the weapon concerned was a shotgun. Armed raids and assaults in Wythenshawe, Coppull, Haslingden, Bristol, Cardiff and at an M62 service station were committed with shotguns. A youth died at his home in Newton Hall from shotgun injuries. Two of the incidents involving animals were also the result of shotgun attacks (on a cat in St Ives, Cornwall, and on a protected peregrine falcon in Taunton).

- **Imitation Guns** - Among the victims shot or threatened with imitation guns, including BB guns, were a boy who was shot at a birthday party in Eastbourne, a boy who was hit in the head by a 9-year-old in Osmondthorpe, Leeds and a receptionist at Chase Farm Hospital who was held at gunpoint by a patient armed with a replica gun. Armed police were called to an incident in Thornton Heath involving a teenager armed with a BB gun.
- A man was sentenced to six years in youth custody for an attempted hotel robbery in Blackpool when he was armed with an imitation firearm, another man was jailed for two years after terrifying motorists with a replica gun on the M4. Another man appeared in court after kidnapping a woman in Oldham armed with an axe and an imitation gun. A van driver has been told he could face jail after being found guilty of brandishing an imitation gun at a traffic warden in Reigate.
- **Airgun Attacks** - Airgun incidents were reported from Swansea (two people were injured by shots fired from a flat), Oxford (one man was shot in the head) and Tyldesley (Leigh) (a fire engine was targeted).
- A man and a youth have been charged in relation to the death of a 12-year-old boy, shot with an air rifle in Conisbrough in May 2005. A Newcastle man convicted of a string of offences, a number of them against his girlfriend, had caused significant damage at their flat with an airgun and had also held it to the nose of his girlfriend's young daughter. An ex-convict was convicted after threatening a gang with an air pistol in Nelson. A man who shot his girlfriend with an air rifle in Kippen, Stirlingshire, was fined, a youth was convicted of pointing an air rifle at police in Craigend, Glasgow, a man pled guilty to shooting at the windows of a primary school in Gorebridge and a woman admitted a charge of culpably and recklessly discharging a firearm after hitting a 14-year-old boy in the arm. Another man was given a suspended jail sentence after hitting a 14-year-old girl with an airgun pellet in Adamstown (Cardiff). A community order was given to a Kenilworth man for possession of a loaded air weapon.
- There have been many reports of airgun injuries, a number of them fatal, to animals and birds, especially cats and swans.

NOVEMBER 2005 - INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

Blackpool Today, 30 November 2005

Louis Kettle broke into a **Blackpool** hotel brandishing a gun. He has pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and possession of an **imitation firearm** and was sentenced to six years in youth custody. The family who own the hotel have described their terror when Kettle broke in and tried to take a phone and camera from behind the bar.

BBC, 30 November 2005

Staff at a bank in **Coppull**, Chorley, were threatened with a shotgun and a crowbar by two robbers who escaped with a "substantial" amount of money.

BBC, 29 November 2005

Paul Atkinson was jailed after threatening to kill his girlfriend, with whom he used to live in **Aspatria**, with a sawn-off shotgun. He was sentenced to at least two years eight months in prison but was told by the judge that he would only be released if he no longer posed a threat to women.

BBC, 29 November 2005

Two teenagers threatened a farmer with a handgun when he told them they were trespassing on private land in **Sandford-upon-Thames**, Oxfordshire. The youths, aged about 16, were riding a scrambler bike at the time of the incident.

BBC, 29 November 2005

A young shop assistant was shot in the face during an armed robbery in **Sparkbrook**, Birmingham. The victim was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable. The masked raiders stole a laptop computer and a mobile phone.

Yorkshire Post, 26 November 2005

The body of a father-of-three was discovered in the driveway of a house in **Moortown**, Leeds. Police say they believe that his injuries were consistent with a gunshot wound.

Life Style Extra, 25 November 2005

Four men, all 21 or under, were jailed following the fatal shooting of a robbery victim at a house in **Dagenham** in July 2004. The victim suffered "catastrophic" injuries to his face and head after being shot at close range with a shotgun by Russell Patterson, then 19. The victim had been enticed to the house by close friend Jay Marshall who was joined at the house by Patterson, Lee Wilson and Robert Crump. Patterson pointed a loaded shotgun at the victim's head to threaten him but pulled the trigger as the victim attempted to disarm him. Just hours before Marshall and Patterson had taken part in another gunpoint robbery. Patterson and Marshall were jailed for 18 years for manslaughter and also given 12 years for firearms and robbery offences. Wilson and Crump were given six year sentences for plotting a robbery.

Leigh Today, 25 November 2005

A fire engine was shot at with an **air rifle** as firefighters tackled a blaze in **Tyldesley**. No one was hurt but the crew were said to be shaken by the experience. Detectives are keen to trace a group of four to five youths, aged approximately fifteen.

BBC, 25 November 2005

A lorry driver was kidnapped at gunpoint as he was parked in his cab at the **Burtonwood Service Station** off the M62. A man with a shotgun burst into the cab and he and three other men forced the driver into a waiting van. He was driven round before being dumped in Preston. The truck was found minus its trailer.

BBC, 25 November 2005

A man was shot and seriously injured in **West Bromwich**. He was found after police were called to reports of a gun being fired. He is said to be in a serious condition in hospital.

icSurrey, 24 November 2005

Ian Ranger was jailed for two years for possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and six months for damaging property after shooting at his wife's car in **Bookham** with a shotgun in August 2005. She had spurned his pleas to give their marriage a second chance. Ranger had held a firearms certificate for 12 to 13 years and had three licensed firearms and an air rifle.

Mirror, 23 November 2005

In May 2005 Michael Elson was given conditional bail for threatening to kill a woman. Three days later he ambushed her in **Oldham** and threatened her with an axe and an **imitation gun**. He dragged her into a car and held her for 20 hours at a derelict house in **Longsight** before police talked him into releasing her. He has admitted kidnapping, false imprisonment, perverting the course of justice, wounding with intent and possessing an imitation firearm.

BBC, 23 November 2005

Following three shooting incidents in Sheffield in a few days, the number of armed response officers has been doubled. In addition to the attack on a couple in their car in **Gleadless** (see below, *BBC*, 21 November 2005), a man was shot several times while walking home in the **Walkley** area and a father of four was shot on the doorstep of his home in **Darnall**.

South London Press, 22 November 2005

Alfoday Fofanah was jailed for 10 years after pleading guilty to the robbery of a supermarket in **Peckham** in April 2005. The shopkeeper refused to hand over takings even when a gun was pointed in his face. The self-loading 12 bore shotgun went off as the shopkeeper and his staff grappled with Fofanah, hitting the shopkeeper in the groin.

BBC, 22 November 2005

Police have charged a man with possession of a firearm after they were called to a charity lunch in **Bath** where the man have waved a gun.

BBC, 22 November 2005

A man was stabbed as he tackled two raiders, armed with a knife and a gun, who had threatened two shop assistants in **Bridgnorth**. It is believed that the raiders have taken part in 19 other raids across the Black Country and Shropshire.

BBC, 21 November 2005

A couple were shot by a gunman who fired into their car as they waited at traffic lights in the **Gleadless** area of **Sheffield**. The man was shot in the leg and suffered other minor injuries. His wife sustained leg injuries. Police believe the couple had been targeted. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. The male victim was in a stable condition in hospital (*BBC*, 22 November 2005).

BBC, 21 November 2005

A man armed with a shotgun accompanied by another carrying a crowbar threatened staff at a bank in **Haslingden**, Lancashire. The men escaped with a quantity of cash.

National Newspapers, 20 November 2005

WPC Sharon Beshenivsky, a policewoman answering a personal alarm call, to a raid on a **Bradford** travel agents was fatally injured when one of the three raiders shot her at point blank range. Her colleague was also shot and suffered a serious injury to her shoulder. Police have been questioning a number of people who were arrested in London. One man has been charged with murder and two other suspects are being sought by police.

BBC, 20 November 2005

Four men were hurt as a man with a gun attacked a pub in **Plaistow**, east London. One man was pistol-whipped, another was hit in the stomach with the butt of the handgun and two others were hurt with glass from a broken window.

South London Press, 18 November 2005

A teenage girl was blinded in one eye when a gunman fired indiscriminately through the letter box of a property on a **Walworth** housing estate. The bullet lodged millimetres from vital arteries.

icSouth London, 18 November 2005

Armed police went to a road in **Thornton Heath** after reports that a youth was seen brandishing a handgun. Police said a **ball-bearing gun** was later recovered. A 14-year-old boy was arrested.

Reuters, 17 November 2005

A 15-year-old youth has been charged with the manslaughter of a 12-year-old boy who was shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Conisbrough** in May 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). The gun went off in the bedroom of a house, sending an air pellet through the victim's eye. The youth's father was also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm.

Leeds Today, 17 November 2005

A boy of 11 was shot in the head by a nine-year-old with a **ball-bearing gun** when he refused to hand over a bag of Playstation games to three boys as he crossed common land in **Osmondthorpe**, Leeds. His mother was able to take a photograph of the boys with her camera. West Yorkshire Police later said that they could confirm that they did receive a report of an incident and a nine-year-old boy was warned and advised in front of his parent. No further action could be taken because he was beneath the age of criminality.

Iford Recorder, 17 November 2005

Police found a Smith & Wesson revolver, ammunition and drugs when they raided the bedsit of Marcus Nelson in **Iford**. He pleaded guilty to firearm possession and drug offences and was given a nine-year jail sentence. The report goes on to describe how Redbridge police have recovered 13 firearms in the past 11 months, eleven of which, including an AK-47 machine gun, were uncovered in a raid on an address in **Woodford Green**.

icSurrey, 17 November 2005

James Ginty, who brandished an imitation gun at a traffic warden in **Reigate** in October 2004 (see [November 2004 Incidents](#)), has been warned he could be jailed. The incident occurred after the warden issued a ticket on his double-parked van. He was found guilty of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

BBC, 17 November 2005

Five men were jailed for their involvement in the shooting and kidnap of a man in **Tameside**, which culminated in a high-speed motorway chase by police (see [February 2005 incidents](#)). Three of the men, Adrian Miller, Jason Schultze and Ian Graham were found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and sentenced to 17, 12 and 13 years respectively.

BBC, 17 November 2005

A post office in **Narborough**, Norfolk, was raided by a gang of three men, two of whom were carrying guns. Staff were threatened and the men escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

South London Press, 15 November 2005

A suspected gunman and the victim of a failed gangland-style hit in **East Dulwich** are both being sought by police. The man who was shot at had not come forward.

Times, 14 November 2005

The man who called himself Lord Buckingham, who was recently sent to jail for obtaining a passport using a false identity, raised his ex-wife's fears when their children said they had found a gun in the glove compartment of his car. The gun was found at his home in **Little Billing**, Northamptonshire, after he had stripped the house. Police are checking to see if the Walther P88 pistol was a replica or had fired live ammunition.

Telegraph, 12 November 2005

Four armed robbers who burst into a couple's bedroom at **Cressing**, near Braintree, tortured the man with an electric Taser-type gun. The gang left with a large quantity of cash and jewellery.

ITN, 12 November 2005

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and other crimes after shooting incidents in **Wigan**. Shots were fired at a house, then a woman was the victim of gun-point car-jacking. Later police received a call to say that a man had been brought in with gunshot wounds to his upper body: he had been shot twice at his house. Finally there was a second car-jacking at gun point. Two men had their car stolen and were left extremely shaken. Two women and another man have also been arrested in connection with the incidents (*BBC*, 14 November 2005) and two men have now been charged (*BBC*, 16 November 2005).

Pendle Today, 11 November 2005

An ex-convict, Graeme Foster, took out a broken and unloaded air weapon after being confronted by a gang on his way home from a pub in **Nelson**. He then returned home and loaded the **air pistol** before getting ready for bed. An Armed Response Unit alerted by the earlier incident arrived at the house and seized the gun and ammunition. He has been bailed for a pre-sentence report.

Hertfordshire Mercury, 11 November 2005

Two men armed with a gun tied up a young couple with tape and robbed them in their home in **Hertford**. Police believe it may have been a targeted attack. A number of items including computer equipment were stolen.

BBC, 11 November 2005

A gunman who was seen firing at a man in a parked car in **Huddersfield** later fired at two armed police officers shattering the windscreen of their unmarked car. One had an eye injury from flying glass.

BBC, 11 November 2005

A police operation involving high visibility patrols has been set up by Greater Manchester Police in the **Wythenshawe** area after four incidents. In one of these two men on a motorbike were seen threatening a man with a shotgun. Later a man and a woman were allegedly assaulted and threatened with a shotgun at a house in **Baguley**. In two other incidents shots were fired at two different houses.

Sunderland Echo, 10 November 2005

Andrew Ross was caught by police with a sawn-off shotgun in the boot of his car at his house in **South Bents**. He had changed his story about how the gun came to be there, but he eventually admitted possessing a prohibited firearm. He was jailed for five years.

Hackney Gazette, 10 November 2005

Two young men were shot in **Hackney** in the early hours of the morning. One had a lucky escape when a bullet grazed his head, the other was in a stable condition in hospital.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 9 November 2005

A policeman was shot with a rifle near **Harpenden**. The .22 bullet tore into his arm. He had been following the trail of suspected poachers. Two men have been released on police bail.

The Mercury, 9 November 2005

Agnius Baicys, described as being part of a gang which had dealt in guns and drugs in Eastern Europe, was found guilty of wounding with intent after a shooting incident in **Woolwich** in which he fired six shots from a shotgun into the stomach of his victim in November 2004. He had denied attempted murder. His father-in-law, on whose behalf Baicys was drawn into a row which led to the shooting, was cleared of three charges.

Muswell Hill Journal, 9 November 2005

A 19-year-old was robbed at gunpoint in **Muswell Hill**. Four men wearing black hoods stopped him, put a gun to his head and threatened him. After punching their victim to the ground the men made off with his mobile phone.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 9 November 2005

A 17-year-old boy has died from shotgun wounds at his home in **Newton Hall**. Police have ruled out foul play.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 9 November 2005

Thomas Masserick is due to be sentenced for a string of assaults, threats to kill, common assault on a child and witness intimidation. His ex-partner has described how he had shot holes in photographs with airgun pellets. She had bought him an **air rifle** to divert his attention from her, but her daughter later revealed how he had put the gun to her nose. Police were alerted when Masserick returned to the house in **Newcastle** and found that his partner had fled. He started shooting up the house with the air rifle: pellets were sprayed over walls and furniture. The weapon was never recovered.

Leamington Spa Today, 8 November 2005

Matthew Reading of **Kenilworth** received a community order for possession of a loaded **air weapon**.

BBC, 8 November 2005

Two people were arrested after a man was shot in the head with an **air pistol** outside a take-away restaurant in **Botley**, Oxford.

Express & Star, 7 November 2005

A gang escaped with cash and mobile phones after holding up a video store in **Dudley** at gunpoint. One of the men brandished a silver pistol. No-one was injured and the gun was not fired.

BBC, 7 November 2005

A man was shot twice when he went to investigate a loud bang outside his home in **Old Bexley**. The victim was said to be in a stable condition. Villagers say a man had been in pubs, prior to the shooting, asking for the victim, who was well-known in the area (*This is Local London*, 9 November 2005).

BBC, 7 November 2005

A man was arrested at his **Exeter** home after throwing firecrackers at people. He made threats to kill the officers. Inside the house police found several **replica weapons**, two **air rifles** (one was very high powered with a telescopic sight and a sound suppresser), and a **deactivated machine gun**.

Scotland on Sunday, 6 November 2005

A police officer at the **US Embassy** in central London sparked a gun drama when he accidentally fired his weapon, a Heckler & Koch MP5, while on guard duty.

Life Style Extra, 6 November 2005

A post-mortem indicated that a man found in a **Chingford** street lying in a pool of blood had died from gunshot wounds. A man has been arrested in connection with the murder.

BBC, 5 November 2005

Six men and two women were sitting in two cars in **Bethnal Green** when they were shot at and then stabbed by two men.

This is Hertfordshire, 4 November 2005

Kirk Holdrick, who escaped jail in 2004 whilst on remand, was caught after four weeks on the run, while in possession of a firearm and driving a stolen vehicle in **Waltham Abbey**. He had originally been arrested during a surveillance operation as he and another man prepared to rob a security vehicle at gunpoint in **Potters Bar**. During the four weeks he was on the run Holdrick committed three armed robberies. After being found guilty of conspiracy to commit armed robberies and being in possession of a loaded firearm he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Enfield Independent, 4 November 2005

A receptionist at **Chase Farm Hospital** was held at gun point by a mental health patient who had escaped from a secure ward. She described how the man was threatening everybody. He frogmarched the woman into a back room and pointed the gun at her head. He was eventually restrained by a security guard and two paramedics. When he was disarmed it was discovered that the weapon was a **replica gun**.

BBC, 4 November 2005

A retired policeman has been jailed for two months after a gun was found in his hand luggage at **Luton Airport**. He pleaded guilty after being arrested in August. Bernard Gray said he put the unloaded Kommer handgun in his holdall for safekeeping and forgot to remove it when he packed for a holiday in Italy. His counsel claimed that it had been Gray's intention to hand the gun to the police because he knew it was illegal.

BBC, 4 November 2005

A gun was fired at police officers answering an emergency call to a domestic incident in **Newtown**, Greater Manchester. Police are now hunting Neil Wood who disappeared after the shots had been fired from a house.

BBC, 4 November 2005

Police have said that two armed robberies on stores in the Bristol area, one in **Frenchay** and the other a few days later in **St George**, may be linked. Both involved a gang armed with a sawn-off shotgun.

BBC, 4 November 2005

A defendant in a murder trial has claimed that his girlfriend shot herself as they struggled with a gun in his car whilst they drove down the M1 towards **Sheffield**. The gun was in the glove box of the car. He has denied he ever had his finger on the trigger of the gun. Howard Simmerson was subsequently found guilty of murder and has been given a life sentence and should serve at least 25 years (*BBC*, 8 November 2005).

Eastbourne Today, 3 November 2005

Youngsters were shot at with a **ball-bearing gun** at a child's birthday party in **Eastbourne** Old Town. One boy, who was playing in a garden with his three-year-old nephew, was hit in the arm with a pellet. The gun had been fired by a youngster in a nearby property.

BBC, 3 November 2005

Two staff were shot during an attempted robbery by masked raiders at a hotel in **Liverpool**. They were in the bar area when three men wearing balaclavas demanded money before shooting them. One victim had a stomach injury, the other an injured arm.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 2 November 2005

A gang of three men, believed to have been armed with handguns, threatened staff at a supermarket in **Castle Donnington** and escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash. During the getaway they crashed into a car.

BBC, 2 November 2005

A police officer was shot at while on patrol in **Trench**, Telford, after he stopped to talk to a man carrying a black holdall. The man ran off and turned and fired a short-barrelled firearm at the pursuing officer who was shaken but not injured in the incident.

BBC, 2 November 2005

A man and a woman have been charged with drugs and firearms offences after a police raid on a pub in **Bedminster**, Bristol.

BBC, 2 November 2005

A handgun has disappeared from the armoury of a nuclear site at BNFL Springfields in **Salwick**, Lancashire.

BBC, 1 November 2005

A gang wearing Halloween masks shouted "trick or treat" before shooting a man in the doorway of his home in **Huyton**. He is critical but stable in hospital after surgery.

BBC, 1 November 2005

Five men were shot when a gang of four men forced their way into a house in **Walthamstow**. The injured were taken to a hospital by a neighbour where three were treated for minor injuries and two are said to be in a stable condition. Operation Trafalgar, which looks into non black-on-black gun crime in London, is investigating the incident.

SCOTLAND

Press Association, 30 November 2005

Following reports of a man carrying a firearm in the centre of **Glasgow** police used Taser guns during the arrest of a man. The suspect was taken to hospital for a check-up before being arrested.

Press Association, 29 November 2005

Masked robbers fired a shot when they forced a woman from her car at gunpoint in **Pollokshields**, Glasgow. No-one was injured. The two robbers made off with her car. The car has since been found abandoned by police in the same area (*Evening Times*, 2 December 2005).

BBC, 29 November 2005

Helen Clarke has admitted a charge of culpably and recklessly discharging a firearm. She struck a 14-year-old boy in the arm with an **air rifle** pellet outside her home in **Turriff**. She said she only intended to frighten him and his friends away. Sentencing has been adjourned until next month.

Scotsman, 25 November 2005

Ian Ferguson, 20, fired **airgun** pellets at a window of a Primary School in **Gorebridge**, Midlothian, after the school had closed. He was reported to have been bored. He pled guilty to smashing the window. Sentence was deferred.

Evening Times, 24 November 2005

A suspected armed robber who was believed to be carrying a gun during a raid on a service station in **Newmains** was recovering in hospital after police used a stun gun. It is expected that he will be detained in police custody and later charged.

BBC, 23 November 2005

A woman whose father died after receiving serious gunshot wounds in an attack in **Rutherglen** on 11 November appealed for witnesses to help the police, despite the victim's criminal past.

Evening Times, 21 November 2005

A court has heard how two plain clothes police officers were targeted by a teenager with an **air rifle**. They had approached a youth swigging from a bottle of beer, which he dropped, but were then confronted by another youth aiming an air rifle at them. Mario Capuano of **Craigend**, Glasgow, was on trial accused of assaulting the two officers in September 2004. He was convicted of pointing the gun at the police officers (*Evening Times*, 23 November 2005).

Record, 17 November 2005

David Burns shot his girlfriend in the backside with an **air rifle** when he went into the garden in **Kippen**, intending to shoot at tin cans, after arguing with her. When she went outside to go to work he shot her. He admitted recklessly discharging the air rifle and causing a pellet to hit his girlfriend "on the body". He was fined £500.

WALES

BBC, 28 November 2005

A man and a woman were arrested after two people were shot with an **airgun** on a busy street in **Swansea**. A man was wounded in the head and a woman suffered a bruised arm. Police searched a flat above the street and recovered an air pistol and pellets.

BBC, 22 November 2005

Paul Davies shot a 14-year-old girl with an **airgun** pellet outside his house in **Adamsdown**, Cardiff. He had fired a warning shot into the air after a group of teenagers had goaded him, and his second shot hit the girl as she was trying to retrieve her shoes. He received an 11 month suspended jail sentence and was ordered to pay his victim £1000.

South Wales Echo, 17 November 2005

A gunman threatened five people with a sawn-off shotgun during a 90-minute rampage across Cardiff. It began at a house in **Penylan**, then there was an incident in **Roath**, where two people were threatened at a cashpoint, after which a chip shop was held up in **Whitchurch**. Although police did not confirm that the robberies were linked only one description of a suspect was issued. A man has appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, robbery with a firearm and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (*South Wales Echo*, 24 November 2005).

BBC, 16 November 2005

A gang of youths wielding what may have been a gun threatened a woman walking through the centre of **Cross Keys**.

South Wales Echo, 8 November 2005

Andrew King terrified a woman motorist on the **M4** when he pointed a **replica handgun** at her. Three weeks later he aimed the gun at another motorist near **Caerphilly**. A court heard that King had taken the Beretta air pistol to work in Didcot to shoot rats. Police recovered two replica guns from King's home together with 600 ball bearings. He was jailed for two years.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

BBC, 30 November 2005

A peregrine falcon, which is a protected species, was found badly wounded by a passer-by in **Taunton** after being shot. She had shotgun pellets in her wing and needed ongoing treatment. The peregrine is afforded the highest degree of legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

icSurrey Online, 23 November 2005

A cat owner fears youths intentionally shot at his pet in **Dormansland**. The cat limped home and when he took her for an x-ray it was revealed that she had been shot with an **air gun**. Her leg had broken and she had 12 fragments of bone. The vets bills have now totalled £1000.

BBC, 21 November 2005

Concerns have been expressed about the way in which Scotland's leading fish farm operator is carrying out the shooting of seals near one its sites at **Kyle of Lochalsh**. There was evidence that seals were not being shot cleanly, with animals left to die of their wounds.

BBC, 14 November 2005

A **Letchworth** resident is devastated by the death of her cat who had to be put down after he was shot with an **air rifle**. She is scared a child could be next.

BBC, 14 November 2005

Vets had to remove the leg of a cat after it was shot with a shotgun pellet in **St Ives**, Cornwall. The incident is being investigated by police as an offence of cruelty to animals.

Yorkshire Post, 11 November 2005

Five swans were shot dead in a **Chesterfield** park in what has been described by animal welfare bosses as a callous **air rifle** attack.

icCoventry, 9 November 2005

Police, working with the RSPCA, are appealing for witnesses to an incident which left a pet cat from **Bedworth** badly injured after being shot, apparently with an **air rifle**.

Barking & Dagenham Post, 9 November 2005

A cat that had been missing for two days finally limped to his home in **Dagenham** with one of his back legs horrifically injured. During an operation vets found an **airgun** pellet which had shattered the bone. The vets told the newspaper that airgun wounds in animals were not uncommon.

icWales, 9 November 2005

Four swans have been shot dead on a stream in **Rumney**, Cardiff. One of the birds had been shot five times with pellets from two different high-powered **air rifles**.

The Comet, 3 November 2005

A woman whose cat was shot with an **airgun** in **Stevenage** has appealed to police to find the gunman who shot her pet as she fears a child could become a victim next. X-rays showed that the cat had a pellet lodged in its intestine and returned home with a £700 vet's bill for its owner.

BBC, 3 November 2005

A man has been arrested on suspicion of shooting and injuring a cat with an **air rifle** in **South Wigston** last month. The cat lost an eye because of the resulting injuries.



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