



NOVEMBER 2006 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Two men died in separate shooting incidents in Newtown and Lozells, neighbouring districts of Birmingham. There were other shooting incidents in the area during November. A teenager died after being shot outside a nightclub in Camberwell Green (south east London) (two other men were injured in the same incident) and a man was fatally wounded in Netherley (Merseyside).
- Armed police shot dead a man as part of an operation to stop an attempted armed robbery in New Romney (Kent).
- A soldier died after being shot in the head at Lydd firing range in Kent.
- A man was found dead on the doorstep of a house in Purbrook (Hampshire) and a shotgun recovered, but police were not treating the death as suspicious.
- A man has been arrested after a police officer was shot and wounded in the Graiseley area of Wolverhampton. Two police officers were taken to hospital, one with facial injuries, after their vehicle was fired at following a bank robbery in Horwich, near Bolton.
- A teenager was left fighting for his life when he was shot outside a talent show in Hornsey (north London). Another male victim was critically injured when he was shot a number of times in a Birmingham street. Another man was critically injured in a drive-by shooting in Auchinairn (near Glasgow) in which a second victim was injured. Two men were injured in the same incident in Camberwell Green in which a teenager was shot dead (see above), and a man was shot and injured in Bellshill (Lanarkshire). Two men were injured after a gunman opened fire on a car in Smethwick (West Midlands) after a funeral. A teenage victim was shot and wounded in a hotel in Slough, and in yet another shooting in Moss Side (Manchester) a 16-year-old was injured. A motorist was shot in the foot in Slip End (Bedfordshire) when he was chased from his car onto the M1 motorway.
- An injured man was being guarded by police in hospital after a suspected gun incident in Great Horton (West Yorkshire).
- Four people sustained minor injuries when a shotgun was fired through the window of a Sheffield pub.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A mother had her car stolen whilst three men held a gun to her eight-year-old son's head at a petrol station in Cheadle. A woman was pistol whipped by a man who came to her home in Greenwich to purchase some puppies. One person was hurt after being hit on the head with a gun when an attempt was made to gatecrash a party in Southend.
- This month there was a spate of reported armed raids on security guards loading money into cash machines. The robberies, which usually take place outside banks, supermarkets and petrol stations happened in Stansted and Epping (Essex), Thumscoe (South Yorkshire), Eaglescliffe (near Stockton), Oxted (Surrey), Great Barr (Birmingham), Trowbridge (Wiltshire) and Falkirk. The GMB Union has voiced its concerns about the rising number of attacks on security vans and says that attacks are likely to top 1000 this year, a 20% rise on last year's figure (*BBC*, 23 November 2006).

- There were robberies and attempted robberies by raiders armed with guns on a bank in Glasgow, post offices in Hartlepool, Birchcliffe (West Yorkshire), Northwold (Norfolk) and Livingston (West Lothian), bookmakers in Skipton (North Yorkshire), Birkby (West Yorkshire) and Spalding (Lincolnshire), a cash-and-carry in Northwich (Cheshire), an off licence in Woodingdean (Brighton), a chemists in Glinton (Cambridgeshire) and other shops in Croston (Lancashire), Widnes, Lindley (West Yorkshire), Corstorphine (Edinburgh) and Bellshill (Lanarkshire). A garage in Plymouth and a pub in Banff were robbed by armed men. A youth who raided a petrol station in Belbroughton (Worcestershire) claimed he was armed with a handgun.
- Police have indicated that an airgun was used in a raid on a bank in Ebbw Vale. An assistant was injured with an airgun during a raid on a video store in Monkspath (Warwickshire), and in another raid on a video store (in Waterlooville) the robber was armed with an airgun or BB gun (see below). A BB or pellet gun was fired during a raid on a shop in Lozells (Birmingham) injuring two people (see below).
- A taxi driver was held up in Bank Top (Lancashire) during a failed attempt to steal cash and his car.
- Three youths have been arrested after a teacher was held up at a school in Bletchley.
- **Other Incidents** - A man has been charged after threatening two security guards at a caravan park in Wells (Norfolk). A serving police officer was arrested on a serious firearms charge after an incident in West Thurrock (Essex).
- A bullet was fired through the window of a house in Newcastle. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and firearms charges following an incident in which a bullet was fired in Peterborough last month.
- A gunman armed with a shotgun opened fire on a house and a vehicle in High Green (Sheffield).
- An actor has been questioned after a gun and ammunition were found at a property in Salford. A 16-year-old was apparently arrested after a firearms incident in Blakelaw (Tyneside).
- Armed police arrested a man on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life after a stand-off in Melksham (Wiltshire).
- Two people who were arrested after a stabbing incident in Wallington (Surrey) were charged with firearms and drugs offences in addition to offences relating to the original incident.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A 19-year-old has been convicted of the murder of a teenage member of a rival Manchester gang in Hulme (sentence to be announced). Two men were jailed for a minimum of 30 years for shooting dead a man in Chingford.
- A Glasgow man was jailed for seven years for storing firearms.
- **Smuggling** - Three Manchester men have been convicted and sentenced to a total of 37 years for smuggling blank-firing pistols into Britain: the guns were converted to fire live rounds.
- **Stun guns** - Two women who used a stun gun during a robbery in a pub near Blackburn were both jailed for two years.
- A man from Sutton-in-Ashfield (Nottinghamshire) has been jailed for 18 months after buying a stun gun, a prohibited weapon, through the

internet. Two people have been charged with possessing a stun gun in Clacton (Essex).

- **Airguns** - A boy of five was shot on the temple with an air weapon in Hollinwood (Manchester): two men aged 18 and 20 have been arrested. A cyclist who had been shopping in Fulbourn (Cambridge) was hit and injured by an airgun fired from a passing car. Armed raiders shot a shop assistant in the eye during a raid on a video store in Monkspath (Warwickshire). A man was hit with a pellet whilst walking in the street in Sheerness: after the assault an air rifle, pellets and cannabis were seized. Another man who was pushing his young child in a buggy in Lupset (West Yorkshire) was hit with an airgun pellet.
- Police have said that an airgun was used in a raid on a bank in Ebbw Vale and a video shop in Waterlooville was held up by a man armed with an airgun or BB gun.
- A woman's car was hit by an airgun pellet as she drove through Barrhead (Renfrewshire). In an apparent road rage incident in Oxfordshire a van driver was followed for seven miles before another motorist fired an airgun through the rear window.
- Three youths with air rifles were arrested at Penshaw (Co. Durham) after members of the public were targeted. A bus service in Weston-super-Mare has been diverted after vehicles were shot at, probably with airguns. Damage has been caused to a leisure centre in Walton (Merseyside) - windows were shot out with BB guns and air rifles.
- A court heard how a teenager was shot three times with an air pistol in a street in York.
- **Convictions** - A 15-year-old who shot a young boy in the head with an air rifle in Muirhouse (Edinburgh) was placed on probation for three years - the court heard that had he been locked up he would never achieve his ambition to become a soldier.
- **The following cases highlight how airguns are being used to threaten partners and ex-partners** - A woman was given a suspended 51-week prison sentence for using an air rifle in an attack on her ex-partner in Pinner (north London). An Airdrie man, who fired pellets from an air pistol into his partner's head and chest after returning from a drunken party, was given 300 hours of community service. A man was given a suspended 12-month sentence after he had pointed an air rifle at his estranged partner's house in Heysham. Another man received a 20 month jail sentence for waving an air pistol in his ex-girlfriend's face in Hatfield.
- A teenager broke into his elderly neighbour's house in Newarthill, Lanarkshire, armed with an airgun and bound and gagged her before stealing various items from her (sentence was deferred).
- Three men, one of whom was drunk and carrying an air rifle, who burst into a house in Colne, admitted charges of affray. They were given community orders and suspended prison sentences.
- A man who threatened to shoot a hotel manager in St David's who had refused him another drink was fined £500 after an air pistol had been found in his bedroom.
- Two Sheffield men were convicted after one of them had been spotted with a converted air rifle in a park.
- A man was put on probation for 18 months following an incident in which he told police he was going to shoot himself with a gas-powered handgun in Johnstone (Renfrewshire).
- A footballer was fined £1500 after he was caught with a loaded airgun in a car in Sighthill Green (Edinburgh). Another man was given 240 hours community service after pulling an airgun from a carrier bag in the centre

of Edinburgh. An 18-year-old pleaded guilty to being in possession of an air rifle and ammunition after being seen in the street in Johnstone.

- There have been a number of recent instances of men released after serving sentences for serious offences being found in possession of airguns, in breach of their parole conditions or release licence. In November there were cases involving convicted murderers found with weapons in Hilperton (Wiltshire) and York. Another former prisoner was found with an air rifle in Brandon (Suffolk).
- **Imitation Guns** - A teenager was hit in the face and suffered bruising and blurred vision when a fellow pupil shot him with a BB gun at a school in Chandler's Ford (Hampshire). A paper girl was hit with a BB gun pellet whilst delivering papers in Worcester. A man was hit in the face with a pellet fired by a young child when a group of 9 and 10-year olds were "playing" with BB guns in Brickhill (Bedfordshire). Two teenagers have been charged after another boy was hit in the face with a BB gun pellet in Cullen (Aberdeenshire).
- A fake gun was used by three burglars who had already killed one woman when they raided a second home in Hillingdon (west London).
- Two people were injured in Lozells (Birmingham) with a BB or pellet gun during a raid on a shop.
- Shots were fired, apparently from a BB gun, from a car as it drove through Cirencester. It is believed that an imitation gun was recovered after an incident in the centre of Bath. A Horsham resident was arrested after a BB gun was seen at a Remembrance Day ceremony. Police in Ilminster (Somerset) dealt with a BB gun incident involving a 12-year-old boy, while in Burnham (Somerset) officers had to deal with three incidents involving BB guns in the space of four days.
- Vandals with BB guns have caused damage to a leisure centre in Merseyside (see above) and to churches in Morecambe.
- **Convictions** - A former police officer was jailed for four years after pointing an imitation gun at two police officers to avoid arrest over a plot to steal money from a bingo hall in Bradford.
- A man was given a two year suspended sentence and ordered to pay compensation for an aggravated burglary committed 5 years ago in Shrivenham (Oxfordshire): he had been armed with a replica handgun.
- **Paintball Guns** - Four people, including three teenagers, have been arrested after a series of paintball gun attacks in west Berkshire following a burglary at a paintball centre in Pangbourne.
- A man was fined £500 after terrifying a family by firing at them with a paintball gun that looked like an airgun while they were driving through Paisley.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Most of the reported incidents concerned pet cats and wild birds. The illegal slaughter of four deer occurred in Aberdeenshire.

INCIDENTS – NOVEMBER 2006

ENGLAND

Peterborough Today, 30 November 2006

A man brandishing a black handgun terrified staff at a **Spalding** bookmakers. He demanded cash and fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

In the News, 30 November 2006

A man has been killed in a shooting in the **Lozells** area of Birmingham. He died in hospital after he was found suffering from gunshot wounds. Three days earlier two people were arrested following reports of a man being shot at in the area (*BBC*, 27 November 2006).

BBC, 29 November 2006

A shotgun was fired at a police van during a bank robbery in **Horwich**, near Bolton. One police officer suffered facial injuries, either from shards of glass or shotgun pellets and his female colleague suffered shock. Three men are being sought by police.

News Shopper, 28 November 2006

A woman was pistol-whipped by a man who snatched two of her puppies when he came to her **Greenwich** home with another man for a pre-arranged visit to see the dogs. As he picked up the pups he pulled out a gun and said he was not going to pay for them.

East Anglian Daily Times, 28 November 2006

Carl Loveridge, who was traced after he left blood at the scene of a robbery, was discovered to have a firearm stored away in his bedroom when police raided his home in **Brandon**. Despite claiming the **air rifle** to be his father's, he admitted one charge of theft and one count of possessing ammunition (as a former prisoner he was barred from having any firearms or ammunition within five years of release). He was ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service.

Cambridge Evening News, 28 November 2006

Ken Kew has pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a gun in **Fen Ditton** in June 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He denies possession of a pistol with intent to cause fear of violence, threats to kill and threatening to damage property. In court a male nurse has described how he was wounded by Kew. He was shot in the left side of his chest, centimetres from his heart. The nurse and his family were visiting Kew's estranged wife at the time. The case continues.

BBC, 28 November 2006

Two family members were fired at as they drove out of a car park in **Smethwick**. The attacker fired six shots from a handgun. One victim was shot in the leg, the other in the shoulder and pelvis. The pair are in hospital where their condition is described as stable. Two other passengers in the car were unhurt. All the men had been to a funeral.

BBC, 28 November 2006

Bus services on a service in **Weston-super-Mare** have been diverted after shots were fired, probably from an **airgun**, at its vehicles.

Portsmouth Today, 27 November 2006

A man walked into a video shop in **Waterlooville** and brandished what police believe was either a **BB gun** or an **air rifle**. The shop assistant handed over a small amount of cash before the robber made off. No shots were fired.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 27 November 2006

A thief who was armed with a gun hit a man over the head during a raid on a betting shop in **Birkby**. The victim handed over cash and the man fled.

Bromsgrove News, 27 November 2006

A youth claiming to have a handgun escaped empty-handed after attempting to a petrol station in **Belbroughton**. However, the only weapon seen was a small wooden baseball bat.

BBC, 26 November 2006

A gunman walked into a hotel in **Slough** and shot a 19-year-old man in the leg before running off. The victim is being treated in hospital.

This is Bradford, 25 November 2006

Matthew Brakewell, a former police officer, told staff at a **Bradford** bingo hall that he was an undercover agents but had concocted an elaborate plot to steal money in October 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). When caught he aimed an **imitation handgun** at two police officers to avoid arrest. He was jailed for four years.

Stamford Today, 24 November 2006

A man forced a terrified pharmacist to hand over drugs and cash in a raid on a village chemist in **Glinton**. He had pulled out what looked like a gun.

BBC, 24 November 2006

A soldier died during an exercise at **Lydd** firing ranges from a single gunshot wound to the head. Police have been called to the ranges and are continuing to work alongside Army representatives.

Wakefield Today, 23 November 2006

A father was shot in the head with an **airgun** as he was pushing his 2-year-old son in his buggy on a walk to the shops in **Lupset**. A pellet lodged in his head. The incident happened just 90 minutes after a 16-year-old girl was fired at.

ic Surrey, 23 November 2006

A teenager from **South Godstone** appeared before magistrates accused of having an **imitation firearm** and driving a car without valid licence or insurance cover. He will argue that the gun was simply a toy belonging to his son. The case was adjourned.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 23 November 2006

A man threatened a shopkeeper with a handgun and demanded money in an attempted robbery in **Lindley**. The shopkeeper pressed an alarm button and the robber fled empty-handed.

Daelnet, 23 November 2006

A man entered a bookmakers in **Skipton** and threatened staff with a handgun to obtain cash. He was captured on CCTV. The gun was described as an old black military type pistol with a long barrel similar to those used by officers in the First World War.

BBC, 23 November 2006

A 16-year-old has been shot in the leg in the latest shooting in the **Moss Side** area of Manchester. He was approached by a group of about six people, before one of them shot him in the knee. He suffered minor injuries.

BBC, 23 November 2006

A man was found dead on the doorstep of a house in **Purbrook**, Waterlooville. A shotgun was recovered from the scene. Police had been called to reports of a domestic disturbance. Police said the death was not being treated as suspicious.

BBC, 23 November 2006

A robber, one of two, held a gun to the head of a garage owner in **Plymouth** and threatened to pull the trigger. The men burst in when the owner was closing and, after dragging him and an apprentice upstairs, bound him and made off with cash. Police believe they may have been responsible for another raid in Plymouth at a takeaway restaurant.

Worcester News, 22 November 2006

A paper girl, aged 13, was shot between the eyes with a **ball-bearing gun** while delivering newspapers in **Worcester**. A gang of youths were involved in the attack. The youth who shot her was described as being aged between 14 and 16. The victim's mother believes her daughter could have lost an eye.

This is Lancashire, 22 November 2006

A drunken man, armed with an **air rifle**, and two accomplices burst into a house in **Colne** in April 2006 leaving a 10-year-old girl to flee in terror. Christopher Costello, who was carrying the gun, Ian Jackson and Ashley Cullen, all 18, admitted a charge of affray. They were looking for a man they claimed had carried out an alleged indecent assault. The man was not there at the time. Costello was given a 12-month community order with three-month nightly curfew, Jackson got 40 weeks in prison, suspended for 52 weeks, with supervision and 100 hours unpaid work, and Cullen a similar sentence.

Reuters, 22 November 2006

Three men, Robert Tyrer, Jamie Tyrer and Kenneth Lloyd from **Manchester**, were sentenced to a total of 37 years in prison for their role in a large gun import racket. Two other men will be sentenced later. The gang smuggled **blank-firing guns** bought legally in Germany into Britain and then converted them to fire bullets. Most of the guns were simply posted from Germany to Britain in large parcels. The plot was discovered after a parcel of 14 guns was mistakenly delivered to a shop in a Manchester suburb. The gang sold the guns, bought for about £80, for £750 after modification. Some of the guns, 109 out of 274, have been recovered by police.

Chard & Ilminster News, 22 November 2006

Police dealing with anti-social behaviour during one evening in **Ilminster** confiscated a **BB gun** after a 12-year-old boy was seen firing it at a can on a wall. The officer concerned was worried that a pram behind the wall could have been hit. The father of the boy criticised the police for confiscating the weapon.

BBC, 22 November 2006

A Metropolitan Police officer has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life after an incident involving a newspaper reporter in **West Thurrock**, Essex. The man is in custody.

Avon & Somerset Constabulary, 22 November 2006

Police are warning parents not to be tempted to buy imitation guns for their children this Christmas. **Burnham** and **Highbridge** police have been called to three incidents in the last four days in which imitation guns have been seen by members of the public, prompting emergency calls. One police officer said that a number of shops and local market stall are selling imitation weapons.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 will make it illegal to sell, manufacture and import imitation guns. GCN considers it totally irresponsible for anyone to continue selling them at this time.

National Newspapers, 21 November 2006

A gang of three men held a gun to an eight-year-old boy's head as they stole his mother's car at a filling station in **Cheadle**. His mother was vacuuming the car when the gang of three approached and pointed a handgun and dragged the boy from the car. They drove off in the car which was later found abandoned in Fallowfield after it had collided with a bus.

This is Wiltshire, 20 November 2006

Two masked men robbed a security guard at gunpoint outside a supermarket in **Trowbridge**. The men escaped with thousands of pounds after the attack.

BBC, 21 November 2006

A man who was walking along a street in **Netherley**, Merseyside, was shot and later died from his injuries.

Sheffield Today, 20 November 2006

Joe Mitchell was spotted by police acting suspiciously in a park in **Parson Cross** who caught him with a sawn-off rifle and ammunition. He was followed to the house of his stepfather, Paul Dawson, whom police found trying to hide the weapon. The rifle was a converted **air rifle**, the barrel shortened and a silencer attached. Both men pleaded guilty to possessing the Martini Action rifle without a certificate, having a firearm in a public place and a silencer attached. Mitchell was sentenced to 12 months in a young offenders' institution, Dawson was given a community order and 100 hours of unpaid work.

The Press (York), 20 November 2006

Gilbert Alexander Cook, a released murderer, broke his parole conditions by carrying an **air rifle**. He was seen on **Strensall Common** with a friend and two air rifles, which at one point were worn openly on their shoulders. They told two members of the public that they were looking for rabbits. The case was adjourned. The Home Office will make a final decision on whether Cook is recalled to prison to continue serving his life sentence.

Gazette & Herald, 20 November 2006

Armed police surrounded a block of flats in **Melksham**, Wiltshire, after a stand-off with a gunman. A stun gun was used to disarm the man who was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life.

BBC, 20 November 2006

Three men armed with two guns threatened security staff near a cash machine at a supermarket in **Great Barr**, Birmingham. An amount of cash was stolen.

Eastbourne Today, 18 November 2006

Police were called to a street in **Eastbourne** after a member of the public claimed to have seen a man with a gun. A man was searched but no gun was found, although he was charged with possession of an offensive weapon.

BBC, 18 November 2006

Two robbers forced a female security guard to the floor and threatened her with a handgun in a robbery outside a bank in **Oxted**, Surrey. Cash was taken from a security van before the men drove off.

This is Wiltshire, 17 November 2006

Gary Burbridge, a murderer released on licence after serving 10 years for beating a toddler to death, could be returning to jail after being caught with a firearm. He was with two teenagers on a canal towpath in **Hilperton** when police were called to investigate reports of someone firing an **air rifle**. He was observed apparently kneeling and looking through the scope of the gun, but ran off. He went to a police station the next day and handed over the rifle. He claims he didn't fire the gun. He was specifically banned from possessing a firearm on the terms of his licence. The case was adjourned and Burbridge released on conditional bail.

Oxford Mail, 17 November 2006

A gunman fired a pellet from an **airgun** which shattered the rear window of a van. It appears the gunman was a motorist angry at being blocked off at a roundabout at the M40 services at **Wheatley**. He had followed the van driver for seven miles before the shooting incident, which took place at **Thame** (*Oxford Mail*, 18 November 2006).

Citizen (Blackburn), 17 November 2006

Taxi drivers in Blackburn are threatening to stop working at night after a driver had a gun held to his head by two hooded raiders in **Bank Top**. The robbers attempted to steal cash and the car but left with neither.

BBC, 17 November 2006

Two people are being held on suspicion of conspiracy to rob after an attack in **Lozells** in Birmingham in which a **ball bearing or pellet gun** was fired and two shopkeepers were left with facial injuries. Both victims require surgery. The incident may be linked to the murder of a man in nearby **Newtown** (see below).

BBC, 17 November 2006

A 20-year-old was shot dead in a possible revenge attack in **Newtown**, Birmingham. A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

BBC, 17 November 2006

Four people were taken to hospital with minor injuries after a shotgun was fired through the glass door of a pub in **Sheffield**. The police believe the incident followed a dispute between two groups of people in the area.

BBC, 17 November 2006

Two men armed with shotguns robbed a post office in the village of **Northwold**, Norfolk. No shots were fired and no-one was injured although the postmistress was left extremely shaken by the incident.

This is Cheshire, 16 November 2006

Police are hunting a gunman who held up a store in **Widnes**. He produced a black handgun and demanded that the safe was opened. But he panicked and fled empty-handed.

The Press (York), 16 November 2006

A court has heard how a teenager was shot three times by a man wielding an **air pistol** in a residential street in **York** in February 2006. The man, who has denied possessing a firearm with intent to make the victim fear unlawful violence and wounding the youth, is alleged to have pulled his weapon out from his clothing without warning as the victim and his friends were walking home. A pellet had to be removed by surgery from the 17-year-old's face and he was also shot in the hand and leg. The incident is alleged to have followed a fight between one of the victim's friends and a housemate of the accused. The trial continues.

Northern Echo, 16 November 2006

A female security guard was held at gunpoint during an armed raid at a supermarket in **Eaglescliffe**. Two men armed with handguns forced the woman to hand over money then ran into a nearby housing estate.

Milton Keynes Today, 16 November 2006

A woman teacher was confronted by two young men whilst working alone in a classroom of a school in **Bletchley**. One of the youths produced what looked like a gun and demanded she hand over her valuables. She gave them only a school bag and they left, but searched other rooms and offices. The incident has sparked fears about security at the school. Three people, two aged 18 and one 16, have been arrested and were questioned before being released on police bail.

Horsham Today, 16 November 2006

A **Horsham** resident with a **ball bearing gun** was arrested during the town's Remembrance Day parade. The person was spotted leaning out of the window of a flat with the gun, and was given a caution. The gun was destroyed.

Harlow Star, 16 November 2006

A security guard was threatened at gunpoint during a raid on a bank in **Epping**. Two men, one of whom was brandishing a gun ordered the guard to hand over the cash box he was carrying.

East London and West Essex Guardian, 16 November 2006

The paper had reported that a live round of ammunition, a .22 calibre short round, had been found in **Walthamstow** High Street, in the doorway of a shop. Since the article was posted on the website the paper had been bombarded with e-mails, all but one from the USA, questioning why this should be an issue. Many boasted that they carried a handful of bullets around in their pockets. However the law is very different here, and as a local councillor said, "As far as the council and the police are concerned, this a serious offence. It [the bullet] could not have got there by any legal means."

Dearne Today, 16 November 2006

A gunman opened fire on two men during a car chase through the streets of **Thumscoe** following a raid on a post office. The men were pursuing three robbers who had entered the post office, brandishing a handgun. They forced customers to lie face down on the floor while they stole money from security guards who were refilling a cash machine.

Citizen (Chorley), 16 November 2006

A female sales assistant at a store in **Croston** was confronted by two raiders, one whom was brandishing what appeared to be a handgun. A small amount of cash and a safe were stolen.

Cambs24, 16 November 2006

A masked armed robber threatened a security guard with a handgun before stealing a money box from a bank in **Stansted**. An undisclosed amount of money was taken.

BBC, 16 November 2006

Three armed burglars, who battered a woman to death and stole her car, went on to attack another family in **Hillingdon** where a man and his two children were asleep. One of them brandished a **fake gun** while another fetched one of the children from her room and held a knife to her throat. They were forced to escape when the father grabbed the gun and used it to hit all three of them. He was stabbed in the knee.

Herts24, 15 November 2006

Garry Shales waved a loaded **air pistol** (a replica of a Walther handgun) in his ex-girlfriend's face. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He had used the gun in the back garden to fire at objects around the garden. Shales had attacked the woman as she got into a friend's car in **Hatfield** on May 2006. He had already been spared a prison sentence after a previous attack. He was sentenced to 20 months in prison.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 15 November 2006

A robber with a silver pistol raided a post office in **Birchcliffe** and threatened staff with the gun. They were forced to hand over cash. The man fled and was driven away by an accomplice. The staff had suffered a similar ordeal four weeks earlier.

Cambs24, 15 November 2006

A man from **March** pleaded not guilty when he faced charges of possessing a firearm, a TX200 **air rifle**, without a certificate and ammunition without a certificate, both charges contravening Section 1 of the Firearms Act. He has been released on unconditional bail.

ic Croydon, 14 November 2006

A man and a woman have been arrested after two bus passengers suffered stab wounds in **Wallington**. The man was charged with two counts of grievous bodily harm, two counts of assaulting police officers and both were charged with possession of two shotguns and one handgun, two counts of possessing ammunition of possessing cocaine with intent to supply.

This is Bradford, 13 November 2006

A man is being guarded by police in hospital following a suspected gun incident in **Great Horton**. The incident followed a serious public order incident in **Wrose**, Shipley, to which it is being linked. The police have not confirmed all the details.

South Essex Echo, 13 November 2006

Armed police swooped on a 15-year-old girl's birthday party after gun-wielding thugs tried to gatecrash. A group of 20 youths stormed the party in **Southend**. One friend was left bleeding from a wound to his head after being hit by a gun. The party on Saturday evening started with a group of girls being turned away because they were not invited.

BBC, 13 November 2006

An **air rifle**, pellets and cannabis were seized from a house in **Sheerness**, Kent, after an alleged assault in which a man was hit with a pellet whilst walking in the street.

BBC, 13 November 2006

Traffic in the city centre of **Bath** was halted as police came to the aid of a taxi driver who was being held at gunpoint. Three men apparently threatened the driver with a gun. A man was disarmed and all three were taken away by police. What's believed to be an **imitation firearm** was recovered (*Avon & Somerset Constabulary*, 14 November 2006).

Sunday Sun, 12 November 2006

A 16-year-old boy was said to be in custody after a firearms incident in **Blakelaw**, Tyneside.

Sunday Sun, 12 November 2006

The house of a man cleared of murder was yesterday the target of a gunman. The man was asleep upstairs in his house in Cowgate, **Newcastle**, when a gold-coloured bullet smashed through a window and landed in the living room where his terrified girlfriend was watching TV.

Bedfordshire on Sunday, 12 November 2006

Children were warned about the dangers of carrying imitation firearms after a policeman confiscated a number of **BB guns**. A man had been hit in the face by a plastic pellet from a gun fired by a young child in **Brickhill**. Police found that children aged 9 and 10 had been playing in the street with three of these weapons.

BBC, 12 November 2006

Three youths have been arrested after police received reports that people were being targeted by **air rifles** at **Penshaw**, near Washington. Members of the public became worried about their safety. Several air rifles were seized.

BBC, 12 November 2006

A 25-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the shooting of a police officer in the **Graiseley** area of Wolverhampton. The constable was shot twice in the shoulder at close range after he and a colleague chased a man seen acting suspiciously. He is in a serious but stable condition in hospital.

Portsmouth.co.uk, 11 November 2006

A man armed with several kitchen knives was immobilised with a Taser stun-gun and arrested by police in **Wymering**.

Sheffield Today, 10 November 2006

A masked gunman opened fire on a home in **High Green**. A man wearing a balaclava pointed a twin-barrelled shotgun at the house and fired repeatedly, hitting brickwork. He then shot at the front grille of the family's van which was parked in the street. Police officers recovered ammunition casing outside the house.

This is Hampshire, 9 November 2006

A teenager was injured when a fellow pupil fired a **ball-bearing gun** in the canteen of a school in **Chandler's Ford**. He was hit near his right eye when the other pupil was "playing" with the plastic gun before lessons. He has suffered from a sore eye and blurred vision since the incident. A 15-year-old was arrested and cautioned for possessing an air weapon in a public place. The gun was destroyed.

Eastern Daily Press, 9 November 2006

A man has been accused of threatening two security guards with a double barrelled sawn off shotgun. Police surrounded a vehicle in the car park of a pub in **Stiffkey** after an earlier incident in which the guards were threatened at a caravan park at **Wells**. A man was arrested on suspicion of firearms offences and then sectioned under the Mental Health Act at a secure hospital.

Morecambe Today, 8 November 2006

In the last 12 months there have been 35 instances of vandalism on churches in **Morecambe**. Among the damage caused have been windows that have been smashed with **ball bearing guns**.

Manchester Evening News, 8 November 2006

A boy of five was shot in the head after a group of youngsters were apparently targeted with **airguns**. The boy was yards from the back door of his house in **Hollinwood** when he was hit on the temple by a lead pellet. He was taken to hospital and has made a full recovery. Two men, aged 18 and 20, have been bailed on suspicion of assault and possession of an air weapon.

ic Solihull, 8 November 2006

A shop assistant in a video store in **Monkspath** was shot in the eye with an **airgun** by armed raiders. The victim is recovering at home after being rushed to hospital with serious bruising and internal bleeding. According to a colleague he is "still not out of the woods". After firing the gun the raiders made a run for it empty handed. CCTV footage is being reviewed (*Birmingham Mail*, 13 November 2006).

Cirencester.co.uk, 8 November 2006

Police are appealing for witnesses after receiving a report of shots being fired from what is believed to be a **BB gun** in **Cirencester**. The shots came from a black sports car as it travelled through the town centre.

Luton Today, 6 November 2006

A motorist was shot in the foot by a gunman after his car was rammed in **Slip End**. The victim was forced to run onto the nearby M1 in a bid to escape his attackers.

ic Birmingham, 6 November 2006

A man was fighting for his life in hospital after being shot repeatedly at point-blank range on a busy street in **Birmingham**. Police were questioning three men, all aged in their 20s, who were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. A firearm was recovered.

The Citizen (Blackburn), 6 November 2006

Nicola Eyre and Jade Walker shot a pub manager with a stun gun and stole £1000 for a shopping trip to the Trafford Centre. Eyre was a former employee of the pub on the **Blackburn** and **Oswaldtwistle** border and her voice was recognised. Both women pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of a prohibited weapon and were jailed for two years.

Cambridge Evening News, 6 November 2006

A man who was cycling back from a routine shopping trip in **Fulbourn** was the victim of a drive by shooting. A gang took a potshot from a passing car and the **airgun** pellet that lodged in the man's thigh had to be removed by surgery.

This is Nottingham, 4 November 2006

Anthony Billson has been jailed after buying a stun gun on the **internet** out of "curiosity". He had used the weapon, which is illegal, once when he was drunk. The weapon was discovered in a shoe box at his home in **Sutton-in-Ashfield** in June 2006 along with drug equipment, cannabis and amphetamines. He admitted possession of the drugs and the weapon but said he had not realised the gun was a prohibited weapon. Billson was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Press Association, 4 November 2006

A former Coronation Street star is to be questioned by police after a gun and ammunition were allegedly found during a raid at his home in **Salford**.

BBC, 4 November 2006

Four people, three of them teenagers, have been arrested after a series of **paintball gun** attacks in west Berkshire. They are thought to be linked and follow a burglary at a paintball centre in **Pangbourne** in October 2006. Three teenagers and a woman have all had paintballs fired at them, causing minor injuries, and a number of homes have been hit.

Peterborough Today, 3 November 2006

A man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and firearms offences following an incident in which a bullet was fired through the window of a flat in the centre of **Peterborough** in October 2006.

Personal Communication, 3 November 2006

A mother from **Oxfordshire** wrote to us because we had not seen a report about her son's shooting with an **air rifle** earlier this year. We have now added the incident to the [list for April 2006](#). The incident was another serious airgun incident involving a young teenager, and we believe it is important to provide more details (see [Personal Accounts](#)).

Guardian, 3 November 2006

Carl Dobson and his associate Anthony Green were jailed for a minimum of 30 years for murder for a revenge attack on a music producer in a row over lyrics which allegedly insulted Dobson's half-brother. A handgun was held to the victim's head before he was shot in the back as he tried to escape. He was also shot in the leg with a Mac-10 machine gun. The murder took place in **Chingford** in November 2005 (*This is Local London*, 3 November 2006) (see [Incidents](#)).

Oxford Mail, 2 November 2006

Marc Daniel-Youngs was caught through DNA fingerprinting five years after a burglary in **Shrivenham**. He had been chased from a property by a woman, whom he had threatened with a **replica handgun**, and ordered to give her back what he had stolen. Daniel-Youngs admitted an aggravated burglary charge and was given a two-year suspended sentence and paid £1000 in compensation.

Liverpool Echo, 2 November 2006

Windows have been shot out with **BB guns** and **air rifles** at a leisure centre in **Walton** during a number of recent attacks on leisure facilities on Merseyside.

Lancaster Today, 2 November 2006

Stephen Evans gave himself up in a 'negotiated surrender' when police had surrounded his house in **Heysham** after he had pointed an **air rifle** at his estranged partner's home. Two .22 air rifles were found in his house. He was convicted of possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence. He received a 12 month jail sentence, suspended for two years. (See also [September 2006 Incidents](#))

The Argus, 2 November 2006

The owner of an off-licence in **Woodingdean**, Brighton, has described the moment when one of his staff was threatened by a gunman. The woman shop assistant was worried the masked raider, who has still not been caught, might return. The raider, who was wearing a hood and a scarf covering his face, except for his eyes, walked into the shop brandishing a gun.

This is Local London, 1 November 2006

A teenager died and two other men were injured when they were shot outside a nightclub in **Camberwell Green**. Police were called to reports of a disturbance between two groups of men outside the club.

Reuters, 1 November 2006

Flying Squad detectives supported by firearms officers shot and killed a man in **New Romney**, Kent, as part of an operation to prevent a suspected armed robbery. The death is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. It later emerged that the police officer who shot the man had also taken part in the fatal shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes at **Stockwell** underground station in July 2005 (*Independent*, 2 November 2006). An inquest was told that the dead man, Bob Haines, received multiple gunshot wounds. Three other men have been charged with robbery and possessing a firearm (*Kent on Sunday*, 12 November 2006).

Northwich Chronicle, 1 November 2006

Employees at a cash-and-carry in **Northwich** were subjected to a terrifying ordeal by armed robbers who escaped with a substantial amount of money. One of the robbers carried what is believed to be a sawn-off shotgun.

Hornsey & Crouch End Journal, 1 November 2006

A 19-year-old victim was fighting for life after being shot in the head outside a talent show in **Hornsey**. Trouble began when a group of young men were refused service at the bar and were told to leave the building.

Hartlepool Today, 1 November 2006

A post office was raided in **Hartlepool** by a man wearing a Halloween mask. He produced what appeared to be a gun, but left the store empty handed after shop staff threatened to press a panic button.

BBC, 1 November 2006

A court has heard how Yvonne Newman shot her female ex-partner with an **air rifle** then beat her with a walking stick at the house they shared in **Pinner**, north-west London. The air rifle shot missed. Newman pleaded guilty to attempted grievous bodily harm with intent, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. She was given a 51-week prison sentence, suspended for two years.

BBC, 1 November 2006

Two people have been charged with possessing a prohibited weapon, a Taser stun gun. The woman and the teenager are both from **Clacton**.

BBC, 1 November 2006

A 19-year-old member of the Gooch Close gang has been convicted of the murder of another teenager gunned down at a house in **Hulme** in September 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was a member of a rival gang. The teenager, who cannot be named, will be sentenced at a later date.

SCOTLAND

Scotsman, 29 November 2006

A pub in **Banff** was raided by a hooded gunman who took a four-figure sum of money before fleeing by car, possibly driven by an accomplice. A man was arrested in connection with the hold-up in Great Yarmouth by about 15 plain-clothed police officers from Norfolk's specialist firearms unit (*Eastern Daily Press*, 30 November 2006).

BBC, 28 November 2006

A woman who claimed that a gunman forced her to reverse her car and caused her to crash on the **Melrose** bypass has had her story dismissed as untrue.

Daily Record, 25 November 2006

Police constable Chris Kenny has picked up his fourth bravery award in three years for disarming a man with an **air rifle** in **Lochgelly**, Fife, in September 2005 (see [January 2006 Incidents](#)). When the gunman emerged from his flat he grabbed the barrel of the rifle and wrestled the man to the floor before he could open fire.

BBC, 23 November 2006

Two boys, both aged 13, have been charged after an 11-year-old boy was shot in the face in **Cullen** with a **BB replica handgun**. The victim escaped serious injury.

BBC, 23 November 2006

Two men made off with a four-figure sum from a bank in the centre of **Glasgow**. They were armed with what appeared to be firearms. No firearm was discharged and no-one was injured.

Evening News, 22 November 2006

Andrew Craig, 19, terrified office staff when he carried a loaded **airgun** through **Edinburgh** city centre in November 2005. He had pulled the replica gas-powered gun out of a carrier bag. The gun had been bought earlier in the day from a toy shop and was ready to fire. He has been told to carry out 240 hours of community service after admitting a breach of the peace and possessing a gun in public without lawful reason.

ic Renfrewshire, 21 November 2006

Stewart Goldthorpe, 18, was branded a "stupid idiot" after he had caused a scare when shooting tin cans and bottles with an **air rifle** for target practice in the playground of a school in **Johnstone**. The alarm was raised as he walked home with the air rifle. He pleaded guilty to being in possession of the .22 air rifle and ammunition in the school grounds without authority or lawful excuse. Sentence was deferred for nine months and Goldthorpe was ordered to be of good behaviour.

BBC, 17 November 2006

A man was in a critical condition in hospital after a shooting in **Auchinairn**, near Glasgow. A second man was also injured in the drive-by shooting and a dog was shot dead. The victims sustained stomach and leg injuries, respectively. They were talking in the street at the time of the shooting.

Evening News, 17 November 2006

A masked robber threatened two female staff members at a sub-post office in the Deans area of **Livingston** with a gun. He made off with more than £10000.

Mirror, 15 November 2006

In August 2006 Steven Cahill terrorised his elderly neighbour after smashing her way in through the loft of her house in **Newarthill**, Lanarkshire, where he bound and gagged her. He was armed with an **airgun**. He robbed her of a bank card, wallet, money and cigarettes and withdrew £300 from her account. Cahill admitted housebreaking and robbery. Sentence was deferred.

ic Renfrewshire, 15 November 2006

Police are hunting the person who shot at a heavily-pregnant woman with an **airgun** as she drove along a busy road in **Barrhead**. She heard a bang at the rear of her car as a window smashed, sending splinters of glass into the vehicle.

Scotsman, 14 November 2006

Robert Silvestro was ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service after he admitted discharging recklessly a pistol loaded with pellets in an incident in which he used an **airgun** to fire pellets into his partner's head and chest after arriving home in **Airdrie**. He had been at a drunken party in January 2006. The couple married seven months later and the whole incident was described as completely out of character.

ic Lanarkshire, 14 November 2006

Armed robbers escaped with thousands of pounds in cash after they held up security guards with what appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun at a service station near **Falkirk**. The security guards were about to load a cash machine.

Evening Times, 14 November 2006

A female worker in a mini supermarket in **Bellshill** was attacked when a gunman burst into the shop. The robber fled with cash from the till. The gun wasn't fired during the robbery.

Daily Record, 14 November 2006

A 15-year-old admitted a reduced charge of culpable and reckless discharge of an **air rifle** (the original charge was attempted murder) after a six-year-old boy was shot in the head in **Muirhouse**, Edinburgh in April 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). He was placed on probation for three years. The judge had been told that if he was locked up he would never achieve his ambition to become a soldier and had read a "glowing" report from the commanding officer of the youth's cadet detachment. (This updates and replaces an entry originally posted in September 2006).

Evening News, 10 November 2006

A masked gunman threatened a shopkeeper with a pistol during a botched robbery at a newsagent in **Corstorphine**, Edinburgh. The suspect eventually fled empty handed.

BBC, 10 November 2006

James McCann of **Glasgow** has been jailed for seven year for storing firearms. He admitted possessing the gun, a silencer, revolver and ammunition after the cache was found by police during a search of two homes in Glasgow in June 2006.

ic Renfrewshire, 9 November 2006

Armed police marksmen who stormed a house in **Johnstone** in January 2006 found Stephen Comerford sitting with a gun in his mouth threatening to pull the trigger. Officers used a stun gun to make sure Comerford didn't harm anyone after a three hour stand off. He pleaded guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner, shouting, swearing, brandishing a firearm and committing a breach of the peace. The handgun was powered by a **gas capsule**. Comerford was said by his lawyer to be someone who struggled with all aspects of social interaction. He was placed on probation for 18 months.

BBC, 9 November 2006

A man was shot in an attack in **Bellshill**, North Lanarkshire. His condition was described as stable.

BBC, 7 November 2006

A family was left terrified after Derek Farmer, who was drunk and armed with a **paintball gun**, took pot-shots at them as they were driving along a street in the centre of **Paisley**. The family heard a missile strike their car and when they glanced up at the flat overlooking them saw a man holding what they believed was an air rifle. Farmer was aiming the gun at the street below. He pleaded guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner by discharging a paintball gun and causing the occupants of a passing vehicle in a state of fear and alarm. He was fined £500.

BBC, 3 November 2006

Footballer Lee Wallace has been fined £1500 after admitting possessing a loaded **airgun** in **Sighthill Green**, Edinburgh (see [August 2006 Incidents](#)).

WALES

BBC, 16 November 2006

Meic Stevens, a folk singer, has been fined £500 for threatening to shoot a hotel manager in **St David's** when she refused him another drink in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). An **air pistol** was recovered after a police armed response unit was called. Stevens had denied a charge of threatening behaviour.

South Wales Argus, 8 November 2006

A man is in police custody on suspicion of carrying out an armed robbery at an **Ebbw Vale** bank. Police say an **airgun** was used.

South Wales Echo, 1 November 2006

Youths, some armed with fireworks and **ball-bearing guns**, roamed streets in **Cardiff** on Halloween.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Bury St Edmonds Today, 28 November 2006

A pet cat has been shot in the head with an air rifle in **Badwell Ash**. A pellet was lodged in the cat's skull, just above her nose. The vet hopes to see her make a full recovery.

BBC, 23 November 2006

Police have appealed for information after four deer were found illegally shot and killed in the **Cushnie** area near Alford in Aberdeenshire. They had been shot numerous times using a .22 rifle.

Personal Communication, 21 November 2006

A member of a small [Wildlife Rescue Charity](#) based in **Bedfordshire** has written to us to say that in July, August and September this year they treated 13 patients from the local area who had been shot with airguns, a huge increase on last year. He writes "Most of the casualties had been shot on housing estates, with pigeons topping the list of those birds whom it is apparently still ok to shoot at in the garden. We have seen the same with corvids, birds of prey and water fowl. We also had an incident of someone in our street targeting animals, including a pet magpie, which was clearly identified as such, and shot anyway. Just last week, a mallard duck was brought in to us having been shot in the chest with an airgun. Luckily, his injuries are responding to treatment and he will eventually be released." The Charity's vet has also seen a huge increase in the numbers of cats used as targets this year.

Blackpool Today, 18 November 2006

A pedigree cat was shot in the shoulder in an airgun attack in **Layton**. His owner discovered the cat under bushes bleeding from a wound. An **airgun** pellet had lodged in the muscle above his right elbow and was removed by surgery.

This is Lancashire, 15 November 2006

Matthew Knowles pleaded guilty to carrying a loaded weapon and ammunition in public. The charge followed an incident in which he and two friends went to a park in **Brightmet**, Bolton, with his **air rifle** in June 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). While they were there a male swan was shot repeatedly. The dead swan was found with a twig pushed through its beak. Two airgun pellets were found in its head and it had been shot three times in the throat and neck. Knowles claimed that he only shot at the swan once after it was dead, and that a friend was responsible for the fatal shots. Knowles was sentenced to eight weeks in custody, suspended for 12 months, with a requirement to attend probation for 12 months and complete the Think First programme (*This is Lancashire*, 16 November 2006).

Dewsbury Today, 10 November 2006

An article about the horrific cruelty inflicted on cats in the Dewsbury area includes an account of how a cat was found dead in **Overthorpe Park** after being shot in the stomach with an **airgun** and having a lit firework inserted into it.

This is Lancashire, 4 November 2006

Two youths shot a goose dead at point-blank range in a country park at **Farnworth**, Bolton. Moments earlier they had maimed a swan after firing into a flock of birds on the lake. They were witnessed by a family. The youths were armed with a **.22 air rifle**.



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