



NOVEMBER 2007 - SUMMARY

At the end of the month police mounted raids in London, Merseyside, Manchester and West Midlands which resulted in over one hundred arrests and the seizure of over 1300 guns as part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme. The majority of these guns were imitation firearms. On 1 October measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Act were implemented which made it illegal to manufacture, import and sell realistic imitation guns. In view of the seizures there can be no doubt that these measures were long overdue. During November police and trading standards officers in a number of areas confiscated imitation guns in warehouses and shops, and Gun Control Network was pleased to see that positive action is being taken to ensure that the measures in the VCR Act are enforced.

The extent to which imitation guns, together with airguns, continue to contribute to a significant proportion of gun crime can be seen once again from the incidents reported in November.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Another London teenager was shot dead in November (the 17-year-old was killed in Stoke Newington, north London). Two men died in Merseyside, one in his home in Liverpool (three people were arrested), the other in a gangland-style shooting in Speke. Another man was shot dead in Chilham (Kent) (a man was arrested but released on bail).
- The lethal nature of air weapons was in evidence again when a 17-year-old died after being shot with an air rifle in Maesglas (South Wales) in what was described as a tragic accident. An 8-year-old boy from Cheswardine (Shropshire) was fighting for his life after being shot with an airgun in another 'tragic accident' (see below).
- A 16-year-old was the victim in a shooting in Mitcham (south London) (he was shot in the leg) and a 14-year-old was shot in the face whilst riding a bike in Huyton (Merseyside). In a further serious shooting in Merseyside a man was badly injured in Allerton.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies or attempted robberies on an off licence in Westhoughton (Lancashire), a cash and carry in Milton Keynes and shops in Dedham (Essex) and Barrowfield (Lancashire). One man is believed to have been responsible for a series of robberies on bookmakers, a post office and a travel agents in Manchester, Salford and Stockport. There were armed raids on petrol stations in Newton (Lancashire) and Weymouth (Dorset).
- A fast food delivery man was robbed of cash in Balham (south London) and a taxi driver was threatened at gunpoint in Pease Pottage (West Sussex). A lorry was stolen in Caerwys (North Wales) and its driver driven to Lancashire.
- A woman was robbed by armed raiders at home in Coalville (Leicestershire) and two women were robbed in the street, one in Beaumont Leys (Leicester) (the gunman was on a motorcycle) and the other outside a bank in Birtley (County Durham).

- A motorist, who earlier in the year was robbed at gunpoint of his car and other items in Harrow (north west London), has complained that police treated him as a suspect: one of the gang responsible has since pleaded guilty to robbery.
- **Other Incidents** - A man was arrested after a gun was fired through the letterbox of a property in the Rothwell area of Leeds. A gunman opened fire three times in as many weeks in the same street in Dovecot (Merseyside).
- A delivery van was damaged after the driver was forced to pull over on the M90 in Perthshire and a shot was fired from a rifle.
- Six people were arrested after two men were seen with guns at a bar in Streatham (south London).
- A man suspected of having a gun in Sunderland was incapacitated with a stun gun fired by police.
- A man seen brandishing a firearm in Manningham was being sought by West Yorkshire Police.
- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - Over 1300 firearms, the vast majority of them imitation guns, were seized by police in co-ordinated raids in Manchester, London, Liverpool and Birmingham as part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme.
- Two arrests have been made after a haul of guns was found in Croxteth (Merseyside) in September (the arrests have been linked to the murder of Rhys Jones in August).
- A sawn-off shot gun was seized from a house in Gateshead (Tyneside) and two men arrested. A man was arrested in Huddersfield after a sawn-off shotgun, a stun gun and cannabis were found.
- Police found a gun on wasteground in Huyton (Merseyside)
- Guns were stolen from a gun shop in Bolton after an employee was kidnapped.
- An air rifle was stolen from a property in Winterbourne Gunner (Wiltshire).
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A life sentence has been given to a man for the murder of another man in Birmingham whom he pursued and shot after the victim witnessed a raid on a building society. He was caught after another armed robbery in Great Barr (Birmingham).
- A man was jailed for 16 years for the attempted murder of a man in Walthamstow (north east London): the victim was lucky to survive after being left with a bullet in his liver.
- Two men were sentenced to 18 and 15 years for a robbery in Finchley Road (north London) during which shots were fired at a police officer.
- A shooting victim who lied about the circumstances of the incident in Harrow (north west London) was jailed for two years.
- **Licensing** - More questions were raised about firearms licensing during an inquest into the death of a man who shot himself with a legally-held rifle in Lewes (Sussex).
- **Airguns** - An airgun shooting claimed another life when a 17-year-old who was killed in Maesglas (South Wales) in an apparent accident. An 8-year-old boy from Shropshire was fighting for his life after being shot in the head with an airgun, also reported to be an accident.
- Victims who were shot with airgun pellets in November included a number of children and youngsters

- A 9-year-old girl was in hospital after being hit in the head with an airgun pellet in Shard End (Birmingham)
- A 13-year-old girl was hit with an air rifle shot in Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire)
- A schoolboy was hit in Nelson (Lancashire)
- A woman shot in the neck in Bury (Greater Manchester) and needed surgery in hospital (three people have been arrested)
- A 17-year-old door-to-door salesman was hit with an air rifle pellet on an estate in Blackpool
- There were reports of three airgun incidents in Darlington including one in which a pregnant woman was hit.
- A builder was hit in the back with a pellet in Corby (Northamptonshire)
- A motorcyclist's helmet was shattered when he was fired at in Loddiswell (Devon)
- A man threatening to harm himself in Horden (County Durham) was armed with an air rifle.
- A man was arrested after pointing an air rifle at staff at a kebab shop in Whitstable (Kent)
- Shots from an airgun were fired at houses in Rugby and in Glasgow (the home of Tommy Sheridan who has campaigned to tighten airgun laws in Scotland).
- A car was damaged in Irchester (Northamptonshire) in an incident which is believed to have involved an airgun being fired from another vehicle.
- Windows at a theatre in Aberdeen have been damaged by airgun pellets.
- **Convictions** - A man who hoped to be shot by armed police whilst armed with a gas-fired air pistol in Harrogate has been given an 18-month community order
- A man who showed off an airgun in a pub in Urmston (Greater Manchester) has been jailed for five months.
- A 17-year-old from Tranent (East Lothian) has been given an Asbo after terrorising the town by brandishing an air rifle.
- A man from Bathgate (West Lothian) who pointed an air weapon at two police officers has pleaded guilty to assaulting the officers by threatening to shoot them will be sentenced next month. Another man who pointed an airgun at police officers was jailed for two years after an incident outside his home in Rassau (South Wales)
- **Imitation Guns** - A woman was hurt during a probable attack with a BB gun as she walked in Chippenham (Wiltshire).
- A nine-year-old was robbed by a youth armed with a BB gun in Dalton (Huddersfield). An imitation gun was used in an attempted robbery in Williton (Somerset) following which a woman was arrested.
- A couple in Northampton have been subjected to threatening behaviour at their home which has included ball-bearing guns being fired at their windows.
- Bus passengers in Hartlepool were showered with glass after someone fired a pellet gun. Vandals with BB guns have damaged a shop in Harleston (Norfolk). A car being driven in Peterborough was damaged by a shot from a BB gun.
- In Peterlee (County Durham) a youth was spotted with an AK-57 assault rifle later found to be a ball-bearing gun. An armed response was triggered by a boy who threatened his friend with an imitation gun in Walney (Cumbria). A 14-year-old was arrested for allegedly carrying an imitation gun at his school in Crawley (Sussex).
- A man brandishing a BB gun and a samurai sword in Exmouth (Devon) was stopped with a Taser gun.

- **Convictions** - A man has admitted six charges after a series of raids across the country on banks and building societies when he was armed with a BB gun. Three men have been jailed for their part in two armed robberies in South Wales during which an imitation firearm was brandished.
- A 16-year-old pleaded guilty to having a plastic gun in public in Port Glasgow (sentence has been deferred).
- A teenage soldier was fined after admitting possessing an imitation gun in Holywell (North Wales).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Airgun attacks on animals continue to occur with sickening frequency. Reports in November described attacks on swans in Merseyside and Denbighshire and cats in Angus, Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Worcestershire.
- In Sussex the RSPCA warned youngsters that shooting animals with airguns was not only cruel but illegal.

GUN INCIDENTS – November 2007

ENGLAND

This is Wiltshire, 30 November 2007

A woman claims she was shot with a **BB gun** as she walked through **Chippenham**. She said she felt a sharp, stabbing pain in her leg and realised she had a bright round spot. The shot may have been fired from a passing vehicle.

Press Association, 30 November 2007

Thomas Callery has been jailed for a minimum term of 16 years after being found guilty of attempted murder. Callery flew into a rage and shot a landlord's father with a handgun as he tried to throw him out of a pub in **Walthamstow**, north east London, in April 2006 (see [May 2006 Incidents](#)). The victim was lucky to survive and left with a bullet lodged in his liver. Callery's partner was jailed for 3 years for assault, affray and assisting an offender.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 30 November 2007

An **air weapon** is believed to have been fired at a car as it travelled along a street in **Irchester**. A car was coming in the opposite direction and as the vehicles passed each other, the victim heard something strike the driver's door of his vehicle. The police officer who investigated the incident believed the damage was caused by an airgun pellet or similar.

The Journal (Newcastle), 29 November 2007

A woman was threatened at gunpoint by a robber as she left a bank in **Birtley**, County Durham. He produced what police believe to be a handgun after demanded her handbag. The victim managed to run back inside the bank and the man fled empty-handed.

Home Office, 29 November 2007

A total of 118 people have been arrested and over 1300 real and imitation firearms have been seized in **Manchester, London, Liverpool** and **Birmingham** as part of a co-ordinated day of action which formed a key part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme. The firearms recovered included 10 handguns, 6 **imitation handguns**, 1290 **realistic imitation firearms**, 3 cs gas canisters, 1 stun gun and 4 **air weapons**. See *BBC*, 28 November 2007 below.

Diss Mercury, 28 November 2007

Vandals in **Harleston**, Norfolk, have been responsible for a spate of broken windows which it is believed have been smashed with **BB pellet guns**. In the latest incident a sweet shop lost £150 worth of stock because glass went all over the children's sweets and there was £200-worth of damage to the door.

BBC, 28 November 2007

Thirty three people were arrested and ten firearms seized by police after raids across **Liverpool**. The arrests are for a variety of offences including possession of firearms and drugs offences. Later reports indicated that 57 had been arrested and 10 firearms seized. Six **imitation firearms** were seized during visits to registered dealers (*Liverpool Echo*, 29 November 2007). Greater **Manchester** Police arrested 23 people and seized a gun, a stun gun, ammunition, machetes and drugs (*Press Association*, 28 November 2007). See *Home Office*, 29 November 2007 above.

BBC, 28 November 2007

A 14-year-old boy has been arrested for allegedly carrying an **imitation gun** at his school in **Crawley**, Sussex. He was detained and later released on police bail. It is believed the boy was spotted on the school's CCTV putting the gun into his locker after showing it to his friends.

Lancashire Evening Post, 27 November 2007

Firearms officers swooped on two addresses in **Ribbleton** and arrested three people, a man and two women, on suspicion of firearms offences. Police in Preston have adopted a zero tolerance approach to weapon-carrying. One of the women was later released without charge (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 28 November 2007).

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 27 November 2007

A motorcyclist armed with gun robbed a woman of cash in a street in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester. The victim was unhurt but left extremely distressed.

BBC, 27 November 2007

A woman was shot in the neck with an **airgun** as she was walking back to her car in **Bury**, Greater Manchester. She had to have an operation to remove the pellet. Police are investigating three other similar incidents in the same area, one in September and the other two in November. Three people, two 19-year-olds and a 21-year-old, have been arrested on suspicion of wounding and were released on bail (*IntheNews*, 30 November 2007).

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 26 November 2007

A motorist was shot at with a **ball-bearing gun** while driving along a road in **Peterborough**. He heard a loud bang and discovered a dent in the back passenger door which looked like it had been caused by a ball-bearing.

Liverpool Echo, 26 November 2007

A converted handgun, a silencer and ammunition have been found by police searching wasteground in **Huyton**.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 24 November 2007

Builders took cover after a pellet was fired from an **air rifle**, hitting a man in the back, on a building site in **Corby**. The weapon had been pointed from the second floor of a house opposite the site.

This is Lancashire, 23 November 2007

Police have released CCTV pictures of a shopkeeper in **Westhoughton** being held at gunpoint by a robber. The victim who ran an off licence was taken to hospital suffering from an angina attack following the hold up in which the man pulled a black handgun from his pocket. The robber fled empty handed.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 23 November 2007

A massive arsenal of **BB guns** and **replica firearms** has been taken off the shelves of a shop in **Blackpool**. More than 120 guns were confiscated by police and trading standards officers. The operation came after the shop sold a gun to a 17-year-old. A man was arrested for selling realistic imitation firearms.

Sunderland Echo, 22 November 2007

Police fired a Taser gun at a suspect after they received reports of a man allegedly carrying a firearm in the street in **Horden**, County Durham. The suspect was alleged to be knocking on doors and threatening to harm himself. A Webley **air rifle** was recovered, and a man was arrested on suspicion of affray.

Pendle Today, 22 November 2007

A member of staff at a shop in **Barrowfield**, Lancashire, was threatened by a man brandishing a handgun. The man was trying to break into a neighbouring shop by forcing open a security shutter door. No property was taken.

Liverpool Echo, 22 November 2007

A gunman has opened fire three times in as many weeks in a street in **Dovecot**, Merseyside. In the latest attack windows at the front of a house were damaged but no-one inside was hurt. It is believed to be the second time this house has been singled out.

Argus, 22 November 2007

Andrew Stevens shot himself in the head outside his ex-girlfriend's home in **Lewes**, Sussex, in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The coroner has called for reforms to gun licensing laws after Stevens, who was depressed, was able to buy a rifle and kill himself. His gun licence application was handled by Avon and Somerset Constabulary and a series of concerns have been raised about the procedure. Stevens had joined a rifle and pistol club. On the day he killed himself Stevens had first pointed his rifle at a police officer before turning it on himself and firing the fatal shot to his head.

ic Surrey, 21 November 2007

A taxi driver was threatened at gunpoint by two men. They lured him to a secluded spot in **Pease Pottage** and demanded money whilst threatening him with a handgun. He managed to drive off and escape unhurt.

Daily Echo, 21 November 2007

An armed robber threatened a woman worker and stole cash from a petrol station in **Weymouth**. The man was carrying a handgun. The victim was left unhurt but very shaken.

BBC, 21 November 2007

Police investigating the murder of Rhys Jones in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) have arrested a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old over the discovery in September of a haul of guns and ammunition in **Croxteth**, Merseyside. The teenagers have been released on bail.

Wimbledon Guardian, 20 November 2007

A man delivering a curry was robbed at gunpoint in **Balham**, south London. As he returned to his bike three men demanded money and when he told them he did not have any one man pulled out a handgun and pointed it at his face. He handed over around £35.

Pendle Today, 20 November 2007

A schoolboy was hit in the forehead by an object fired from an **air rifle** or **pellet gun** in a street in **Nelson**. It was also reported that a few weeks earlier a young girl had been hit in the leg.

BBC, 20 November 2007

A woman was threatened by what was thought to be a firearm during a robbery at her home in **Coalville**, Leicestershire. The robber escaped with an undisclosed amount of money.

Manchester Evening News, 19 November 2007

One hundred **BB guns** intended for the Christmas market have been confiscated by trading standards officers. The guns, including handguns and machine rifles, were found when two warehouses in **Salford** were raided. The guns fire lead or steel shot capable of piercing skin.

Info4Security, 19 November 2007

Andrew Roberts and his son Mark Roberts have been sentenced to 18 years and 15 years respectively after a robbery in **Finchley Road**, north London, in October 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) in which a guard was threatened with a handgun outside a bank. Mark Roberts fired shots in the street as he attempted to get away.

BBC, 19 November 2007

A man was hit in the side and seriously injured outside a shop in **Allerton**, Merseyside, in a targeted drive-by shooting.

BBC, 19 November 2007

A man who lied about his identity and how he was hurt in a shooting incident in **Harrow**, north west London, in June 2006 has been jailed for three months after pleading guilty to one count of perverting the course of justice. Sanjeev Bhanot was nearly paralysed by the bullet wound admitted he "feared for his family's safety" if he co-operated.

Wimbledon Guardian, 18 November 2007

A 16-year-old was shot by three gunmen in **Mitcham**, south London. The teenager was found suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg. He was taken to hospital but his injury is not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 18 November 2007

Six people have been arrested after police were called to a bar in **Streatham**, south London, following reports of two men with firearms. The men had left the scene and the arrested were made later.

BBC, 18 November 2007

A man has died in a shooting in **Chilham** in Kent. Police were called after reports of a shooting. The man died at the scene. A man was arrested in connection with the incident and has been bailed until January (*Kent News*, 21 November 2007).

Express & Echo, 17 November 2007

Armed police used a Taser stun gun to subdue a man who brandished a gun and a samurai sword in the centre of **Exmouth**. He pointed a handgun, later found to be a **BB gun**, at a doorman. A man was questioned and bailed until January.

BBC, 17 November 2007

Three masked men threatened staff at a shop in **Dedham**, Essex. The men were armed with weapons including a sawn-off shotgun.

West Yorkshire Police, 16 November 2007

A man has been arrested following an operation in the **Sheepridge** area of Huddersfield. A sawn off shotgun and an electric stun gun were recovered along with a substantial amount of suspected cannabis.

Somerset County Gazette, 16 November 2007

Derek Hyslop has admitted stealing thousands of pounds in a series of armed attacks on banks and building societies across the country. He admitted six charges of possessing an imitation firearm (a **BB gun**) with intent to commit robbery and three counts of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was remanded in custody pending a pre-sentence report.

Hendon Times, 16 November 2007

Five men are on trial, one charged with murder, all five with conspiracy to rob following the death of a man in **Cricklewood**, north London, who was shot in the chest with his own high-powered **air rifle** in his home in January 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 15 November 2007

A Lithuanian couple have had extra security put on their **Northampton** house after gangs of youths pelted it with eggs and ketchup, attacked their fence with an iron bar and shouted at them. They said they had always had trouble with people shooting at their window with **ball-bearing guns** and throwing stones.

BBC, 15 November 2007

A 17-year-old has been shot dead on a street in **Stoke Newington**, north London. Police were called after report of gunfire. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Manchester Evening News, 14 November 2007

One man has been behind a spate of robberies carried out in south Manchester, Stretford and Stockport in the space of three weeks. On each occasion he has walked into businesses and pointed a gun at cashiers and demanded money. He has struck at a bookmakers and a post office in **Wythenshaw**, a post office in **Northenden**, bookmakers in **Old Trafford**, **Gatley** and **Baguley** and a travel agents in **Cheadle**. Police have released CCTV images of the gunman and a substantial reward is being offered for information that leads to his conviction.

Liverpool Daily Post, 14 November 2007

A man was shot dead in a gangland-style killing in the heart of a housing estate in **Speke**, Liverpool. Police were called to the scene by a member of the public and found the body of a man with a fatal wound. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Herts 24, 14 November 2007

A 13-year-old girl was shot with an **airgun** as she walked home from school in **Welwyn Garden City**. She was struck in the waist by one of the shots and other pellets smashed into a nearby house and car.

Northern Echo, 13 November 2007

Marc Thorpe, who terrorised a pregnant woman and then adopted a firing stance in the road with a **gas-fired air pistol**, had hoped to be shot by armed police. He went into the street in **Harrogate**, North Yorkshire, dressed only in boxer shorts and a woollen hat after a row with his girlfriend. Thorpe was given an 18-month community order with probation supervision and measures to deal with his drink and mental health issues. The gun will be destroyed.

Kent News, 13 November 2007

A man from **Whitstable** was arrested after he pointed an **airgun** and threatened staff at a kebab shop. He has been released pending a decision from the CPS to prosecute.

Herald Express, 13 November 2007

A motorcyclist's crash helmet visor was shattered in what is thought to have been an **air rifle** attack as he was riding home in **Loddiswell**, near Kingsbridge in Devon.

BBC, 13 November 2007

A high-powered **air rifle** was stolen in a burglary at a garage in **Winterbourne Gunner** near Salisbury. A faulty crossbow was also taken.

North-West Evening Mail, 12 November 2007

A 16-year-old boy sparked a huge police operation after he allegedly threatened a friend with an **imitation gun** in **Walney**, Cumbria. He was charged with possession of an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence.

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 12 November 2007

A 20-year-old pregnant woman was shot in the stomach as she was walking in **Darlington**. She saw a group of teenage boys, aged 17-20, before hearing a loud crack and feeling the searing pain of an **airgun** pellet strike. Hospital staff found bruising, but her coat had prevented more serious injury to herself and her baby. The same evening a woman walking in the town was shot twice by an **air rifle**. On 31 October a man was shot in the back in the Parkside area of the town: he found a part of a pellet in the wound.

BBC, 11 November 2007

Police used a stun gun and riot-control gas to subdue football supporters at a pub in **South Shields**, Tyneside.

BBC, 11 November 2007

A gun shop worker was kidnapped by two men in **Bolton** and forced to open the premises and hand over weapons and ammunition. Several guns were taken.

Shropshire Star, 10 November 2007

An eight-year-old boy is fighting for his life after being shot in the head with an **airgun**. The boy from **Cheswardine** near Market Drayton, was today described as being in a "serious but stable" condition. The shooting incident is being described as a "tragic accident".

Lancashire Evening Post, 10 November 2007

Police sealed off parts of **Preston** in a mass operation to tackle the number of potentially-deadly shootouts between weapon-wielding gangs.

BBC, 10 November 2007

Police used a stun gun to incapacitate a man suspected of having a firearm in **Sunderland**. The man was arrested, though no weapon was found.

This is London, 9 November 2007

A man has complained about police behaviour after three men pressed a gun to his head and robbed him of items including his watch, money, mobile phone and his car following an incident in **Harrow** when he offered a lift to men involved in a car crash. His car was later found burnt out. The Metropolitan Police officers apparently treated the victim as if he himself was a criminal. One of the gang has pleaded guilty to robbery and theft and has been jailed for four years.

Hartlepool Mail, 9 November 2007

Bus passengers in **Hartlepool** were showered with glass after someone fired at the vehicle with a **pellet gun**.

Blackpool Gazette, 9 November 2007

A service station in **Newton** was held up at gunpoint. Two masked men stormed into the garage and threatened the assistant before making off with a small sum of cash from the till.

BBC, 8 November 2007

Lynton Fletcher has been jailed for life for murdering a man who had witnessed an armed robbery in which Fletcher participated. The victim was shot in the chest through both lungs in central Birmingham in February 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). Fletcher was caught after a retired policeman was shot and badly injured during another armed robbery in **Great Barr**, Birmingham, in August 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). The man had tried to wrestle a gun from a robber. His evidence led eventually to Fletcher.

BBC, 8 November 2007

A woman has been arrested after an attempted armed robbery in **Williton** near Taunton in Somerset. Another woman was walking when she was approached by the woman, who appeared to be holding a gun, demanding money. No money was handed over. An **imitation firearm** has been seized.

Rugby Advertiser, 7 November 2007

A pensioner who wrote an open letter to burglars who had broken into her **Rugby** home may have had her window shot at. It looked likely that the shot was from an **air rifle** or a **ball-bearing gun**.

Northern Echo, 7 November 2007

A youth was spotted in a street in **Peterlee**, County Durham, with what was described as an AK47 assault rifle. The weapon was later recovered from the teenager and found to be a **ball-bearing gun**. A police spokesman said "It is impossible to distinguish a replica weapon from the real thing at a distance... People need to be aware that if they carry an imitation firearm in a public place a tragedy could be round the corner". The 18-year-old was given suitable advice regarding his conduct in front of his parents.

Liverpool Echo, 7 November 2007

A 14-year-old boy was shot in the face by a gunman whilst riding his bike in **Huyton**. He was hit by two pellets and received minor facial injuries. The weapon may have been discarded by the gunman who fled the scene in a car. A few days earlier a man had been shot in the leg in a pub on the same estate.

Citizen (Blackburn), 7 November 2007

A 17-year-old salesman was shot in the back of the head as he called door to door on an estate in **Blackpool**. He was left with a chipped skull after he was hit by an **air rifle** pellet, thought to have been fired from a first floor window.

West Yorkshire Police, 6 November 2007

Police are appealing for information following reports of a man brandishing what appeared to be a firearm in **Manningham**. There were no reports of any shot having been fired.

West Yorkshire Police, 6 November 2007

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life after a firearm was discharged through the letterbox of a house in the **Rothwell** area of Leeds. No-one was injured in the incident.

Milton Keynes Citizen, 6 November 2007

Three teenagers, all armed with handguns, attempted to rob a cash and carry in **Milton Keynes**. The gang ran off empty-handed when one of them shouted that someone was approaching.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 November 2007

A nine-year-old girl has been left traumatised after she was robbed at gunpoint whilst cycling in **Dalton**. Her purse, containing less than 10p was taken by a teenager, aged 15 or 16, armed with a **ball-bearing gun** which he loaded in front of her.

BBC, 6 November 2007

Two men were arrested when police seized a sawn-off shotgun and ammunition from a house in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. One of the men was charged with possession of a firearm when prohibited for life and aggravated possession of a firearm.

BBC, 5 November 2007

A nine-year-old girl has been injured after she was shot in the head with an **airgun pellet** in an incident in **Shard End**, Birmingham. Hospital staff were not able to remove the pellet, and she is expected to receive specialist care in a plastic surgery unit.

This is Wiltshire, 4 November 2007

Deshan Chetty broke into the former home of a friend in the centre of **Swindon** in August 2007 and was confronted by the friend's estranged wife. As he fled he stole a **ball-bearing gun** belonging to her son. He was ordered to do 80 hours of community service and was put on probation for six months.

Sun, 2 November 2007

Nicholas Violet showed off a handgun in a pub in **Urmston**, Greater Manchester. He admitted possessing an **air weapon** in a public place and has been jailed for five months.

Liverpool Daily Post, 1 November 2007

A man has died after being repeatedly shot at his home near **Liverpool** city centre. He suffered a number of wounds to the stomach. Three men have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

SCOTLAND

Greenock Telegraph, 23 November 2007

A 16-year-old pleaded guilty to having a **plastic gun** and pellets in **Port Glasgow** town centre. Christopher McDonald handed over the weapon to police when they saw him apparently hiding something. He claimed it was sold as a toy and he had bought it as a toy. Sentence was deferred for a year.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 22 November 2007

A 17-year-old from **Tranent**, East Lothian, has been given an Asbo after terrorising the town by brandishing an **air rifle**. He was alleged to have damaged property with the weapon. His mother claimed it was a toy gun he bought from a market in Blackpool for £20. "It wasn't powerful, it was a toy".

Courier, 22 November 2007

A passenger in a 4x4 car which stopped a delivery van on the M90 near **Bridge of Earn**, Perthshire, fired at the van with what is understood to have been a rifle. The van driver escaped unhurt but the bonnet of the van was dented.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 19 November 2007

During the last four years official police action has been required on 47 occasions when an **air rifle** or **BB gun** was used in a **Lothians** school.

Evening Express (Aberdeen), 12 November 2007

A landmark theatre in **Aberdeen** has been damaged in apparent drive-by shootings. Police and staff at the theatre believe that a hole in a shattered window pane could only have been caused by an **airgun** pellet. A second pane of glass was later shattered in a similar way.

Sunday Mail, 4 November 2007

Someone has fired shots at the **Glasgow** home of ex-MSP Tommy Sheridan who has campaigned for tighter laws on airguns. He was at home with his wife and two-year-old daughter when holes were made in the front window by, it is believed, **airgun** pellets.

BBC, 2 November 2007

David Moran from **Seafield**, near Bathgate, pointed a handgun at two police officers and threatened to shoot them. An off-duty policeman came up behind him and grabbed the gun, later found to be an **air weapon**. Moran had taken methadone, valium and tonic wine and picked up the handgun after an argument with his girlfriend. He pleaded guilty to assaulting the officers by threatening to shoot them and will be sentenced next month.

WALES

Western Mail, 17 November 2007

Brinley Watkins pointed a handgun at armed officers gathered outside his home in **Rassau** in June 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He was shot in the stomach by a police marksman. His weapon was a faulty **airgun**. He has been jailed for two years after pleading guilty to two counts of possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and one count of making a threat to kill.

BBC, 14 November 2007

North Wales Police are searching for three men who kidnapped a lorry driver at gunpoint on the A55 at **Caerwys**, Flintshire. The driver was threatened with a handgun and then driven by car to **Skelmersdale** in Lancashire where he was released. The lorry is still missing.

BBC, 12 November 2007

The death of a 17-year-old-boy who was shot with an **air rifle** is being described as a "tragic accident". Two teenagers have been arrested after the death of the boy in **Maesglas**, Newport. The teenager was visiting his grandmother at the time and was found by ambulance crews lying in the street with an airgun pellet wound to his chest.

Daily Post, 9 November 2007

A teenage soldier who pointed a ball-bearing gun at a friend in a supermarket car park in **Holywell** was arrested at gunpoint by police. Craig Campbell admitted possessing an **imitation firearm** (a realistic black plastic replica pistol). He was fined £500 with £60 costs. Campbell will apparently receive a double penalty as the army will also punish him.

BBC, 2 November 2007

Three men have been sentenced for their part in armed robberies at a betting shop in **Lakeside**, Cardiff, and a travel agency in **Pontyclun** in February 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Robert Worrell, Emanuel Uzo and Morris Doyle were together jailed for a total of 28 years. At the travel agent's two of the men wielding an **imitation firearm** forced staff into a back room and stole thousands of pounds in cash and travellers cheques. Hours before the robbers had threatened the betting shop manager with the same weapon.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Lynn News, 30 November 2007

A 13-year-old cat had to have a leg amputated after it was shot at close range with an **airgun**. The cat's owners, from **Gaywood** in Norfolk, are frightened to let their other two cats out of the house.

Liverpool Echo, 24 November 2007

When a swan was being treated after being shot with a crossbow X-rays revealed pellets beneath the skin from previous **airgun** and shotgun attacks. The bird was found in Stanley Park in **Anfield**.

BBC, 23 November 2007

A swan that had lived on a pond in a nature reserve in **Rhyl**, Denbighshire, for 14 years was found dead after being shot with an **air rifle**.

Press & Journal, 21 November 2007

A cat in **Monifieth**, Angus, needed surgery to have its eye removed after being shot with an **airgun**. The attack has been condemned by the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Tayside Police.

Birmingham Mail, 20 November 2007

Cat owners in part of **Kidderminster**, Worcestershire, have been warned to keep an eye on their pets after one was shot and injured by an **airgun** pellet. The pellet was removed from the cat's neck and it is expected that the pet will make a full recovery.

Bolton News, 16 November 2007

A cat shot by an **air rifle** in **Bury** was the first pet to be operated on at a new mobile animal welfare clinic in Radcliffe funded by the RSPCA.

North-West Evening Mail, 15 November 2007

A cat owner in **Barrow** has been devastated by the shooting of two of her pets with an **airgun**. Both cats are recovering from their injuries. One had to have a pellet removed from a bone in his leg, the other still has a pellet still embedded in his rump.

Lincolnshire Echo, 15 November 2007

A cat survived an **air rifle** shooting in **Glebe Park** in Lincoln after being shot in the head at close range. He is slowly recuperating but the injuries may have damaged his brain.

Gloucestershire Echo, 14 November 2007

A cat from **Charlton Kings** has been shot twice this year and has had to have a leg amputated. She was targeted with an **air rifle** in May and again in August. His owner has had to pay £1133 in vet's bills, excluding the amputation.

Eastbourne Today, 4 November 2007

The RSPCA has warned youngsters in **Eastbourne** who have been shooting squirrels and rabbits with **air rifles** that they are not only killing animals, they are distressing local residents and breaking the law. A number of seriously injured animals have been found and have had to be put down.

Cambridge Evening News, 3 November 2007

A pet cat has died after being shot with an **airgun** in **Littlebury**. The three-year-old was found in her basket crying in agony. Vets found an airgun pellet had punctured her intestines in three separate places and despite emergency surgery she died soon afterwards.