

OCTOBER 2005 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Two fatal shootings were reported, one occurring in Newtown the day after serious disturbances in a neighbouring area of Birmingham, the other in Oxfordshire where the victim was discovered in a car. Other serious shooting incidents which resulted in injury occurred in Drumoyne (Glasgow), Brixton Hill (London), Sheepridge (Huddersfield) on two separate occasions involving injuries to four men, Throckley (Tyneside), Handsworth (Birmingham) and Harpurhey (Manchester). In another incident in which shots were fired a man was stabbed during an attempt to steal his car at Dordon (West Midlands).
- **Armed Hold-Ups** - There were a large number of armed raids reported during October. These took place on bookmakers in Britwell (Berkshire), shops in Southend and Stansted Mountfitchet (both in Essex) and Ingol (Preston), a restaurant in Newcastle, a post office in Hooley (Surrey), a pub in Radford (Nottingham), a petrol station in Erskine (Scotland) and banks in Muirhead and Milngavie (central Scotland). There was also a report of a gang of youths armed with weapons, which included guns, committing a series of street robberies in Heston and Hounslow (West London) and armed raids on homes in Wallington (Surrey), Harlow (Essex) and New Farm Loch (Ayrshire).
- **Other Incidents** - Part of Leeds (Harehills) was sealed off after shots were fired at police officers. Armed police were also called to a pub in Leamington where an armed man threatened customers. Arrests were made after windows were smashed in Everton (Liverpool) when a pub brawl ended in a gun fight and in Selby over reports of a gun being fired. Shots were fired whilst an unauthorised filming session was in progress in Hackney (East London).
- **Gun Finds** - Guns were recovered by police in a number of raids, but there were other instances in which members of the public found guns. An arsenal of weapons was found under a child's bed during a police raid in Elephant & Castle (South London) and guns were retrieved by police in raids on addresses in New Cross (South East London - drugs were also seized), Lister Hills (Bradford) and in Chirk (North Wales). Police arrested fourteen people in Wolverhampton suspected to be connected with drug dealing and gun crime. A link between guns and drugs was also evident when children discovered a gun with controlled drugs near Muirkirk (Scotland). A loaded handgun was found by an electrician in a cupboard

on an estate in Brixton (South London). A rifle was found on the foreshore of the River Severn in South Wales after the owner went missing.

- **Gun Losses** - Police were trying to trace a stolen vehicle believed to contain a gun in Lincolnshire. A homeowner who had an unlicensed firearm stolen from his South Wales house was arrested himself and received a suspended prison sentence. In two separate incidents in Hitchin (Hertfordshire) and the Brecon Beacons (Wales) army weapons were mislaid by soldiers on exercises. A Royal Marine was arrested on suspicion of theft of two weapons from the Faslane naval base in Scotland. Gun parts used for making ball-bearing guns were stolen from a house in Carlisle.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Air Rifles**) - A number of high profile cases ended in convictions for serious gun crimes. The men responsible for the murder of 14-year-old Danielle Beccan in Nottingham last year were sentenced to a minimum of 32 years in jail. A member of So Solid Crew was sentenced to a minimum of thirty years for the murder of a man in Tooting (South London) and a man who shot and killed a man in Royston (Glasgow) was jailed for 18 years. Long jail sentences were also given to offenders convicted for crimes in Sheffield (burglary with a revolver - 8 years), outside the Barbican Centre in London (a woman was wounded when a gang started shooting at another group of men - 12 years for the gunman) and in Clifton, Nottingham (robbery, theft and possession of a firearm with intent - 7 years). A man who kept a sawn-off shotgun he had found in a wheelie bin in Washington also received a jail sentence (1 year).
- **Imitation Guns** - Once again there were many incidents with BB guns and other imitation weapons, and, although it was not always the case, children or teenagers were often involved as perpetrators or victims. During the recent disturbances in the Lozells area of Birmingham a police officer was shot with a ball-bearing gun. A man threatened police in Cheshire, a man was held after a one-hour police operation in Swaffham and a man was arrested after armed police were called to a house in Spalding. A woman was questioned after attempting to board a plane at Newquay with a fake handgun in her luggage. A 13-year-old was arrested after a gun was fired at a Crewkerne school, injuring another pupil, while one of two teenage boys was injured when they were approached by youths carrying a BB gun in Carlisle. Two young children were shot with a BB gun in Workington. Problems with youths armed with BB guns were reported from Carlisle, Winsford and Islington (the boy was seen showing off a gun outside a secondary school) and two incidents were reported in Hatfield. Young children have been cautioned after being seen in public with imitation guns in Chapeltown (Leeds) and a church rector was

concerned after seeing youths showing off guns in a churchyard at Dereham, Norfolk.

- A number of people were convicted for offences involving imitation guns. Men were jailed for incidents involving imitation guns that took place in Sweeney, Shropshire (road rage - 21 months), Bradford (robbery and attempted robbery - 13 years), Colne (firing at passers-by from a car - 16 months) and Edinburgh (robbery - 4 years). Three teenage girls received sentences of four and five years in jail after committing robberies in Croydon. A youth received an antisocial behaviour order after firing a BB gun through a letter box in Broadfield (Surrey).
- **Airgun Attacks** - Airguns continue to be used in incidents which leave members of the public frightened and injured. A woman was shot in the head in Sheffield, a student hit in the face whilst walking in West Herrington (Sunderland) and two women pedestrians were targeted in Cambridge. There was an incident in Ely (Cardiff) in which a man was seen at a bedroom window with an air rifle. Schoolchildren were left horrified after they saw a blood-soaked man armed with an air rifle in Iver Heath and a Nuneaton school had to be closed after the caretaker was shot. Youths fired an airgun at a front door in Borehamwood and shattered a kitchen window in Eccleshill (Bradford).
- A number of convictions for airgun offences were reported. One man with a previous conviction and banned from keeping firearms had been spotted with an air rifle (Keswick - six months jail), a Hastings man had fired at two gardeners (18 month community rehabilitation), a man from Pumphferston (West Lothian) fired an air pistol from his bedroom window and injured a young girl (sentence deferred), a Mansfield man shot his neighbour in the leg (120 hours community service), two drunken men had fired an air rifle in the centre of Cheltenham (one years jail), a man had shot two girls from his bedroom window in Lupset (Yorkshire) (120 community punishment) and a man had used an air rifle in an act of domestic violence (Barry Island - 18 months jail).
- Pets have again been targeted with airguns with many reports especially of injuries to cats in October.

OCTOBER 2005 - INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

BBC, 31 October 2005

The kitchen window of a house in **Eccleshill**, Bradford, was shattered by an **air rifle**. The occupants of the house have claimed the police took half an hour to respond to their 999 call. The culprits had apparently casually walked away from the scene.

BBC, 31 October 2005

Armed police were called to a house in **Spalding** when a man claimed he was assaulted and threatened with a firearm there. A man was arrested and a **replica firearm** was recovered during a search of the premises.

Times, 29 October 2005

Carl Morgan, a member of So Solid Crew, was jailed for life for murdering his love rival in a gunfight in **Tooting** in November 2004. He was sentenced to a minimum of thirty years. His victim, who was hit by four shots, had armed himself with a modified pistol that fired homemade bullets and fired seven shots at Morgan, all of which missed. The jury failed to reach a verdict on another member of So Solid Crew, Dwayne Vincent (Megaman), who faces a retrial. He is said to have urged Morgan to "burst" the victim.

BBC, 29 October 2005

A man was arrested over reports that a gun had been fired in **Selby**. There were no reports of any injuries.

icSouth London, 28 October 2005

A postmaster has decided to close his post office in **Hooley** following a terrifying raid in which three men made off with a large sum of cash. The victim had a gun held against his temple during an 11-minute ordeal.

BBC, 28 October 2005

Two men were injured, one seriously, in a shooting incident at **Harpurhey**, Greater Manchester.

BBC, 28 October 2005

Three men were shot and a fourth man stabbed in a series of incidents in the **Sheepridge** area of Huddersfield. The police say the shootings are not connected with any other incidents and there is no threat to public safety.

Welwyn and Hatfield Times, 26 October 2005

After a report that someone was brandishing a black handgun in **Hatfield** an armed response unit rushed to the scene. Police arrested three people after a **BB gun** was recovered. In another incident in the area boys playing with a toy gun were shining a laser sight at passing motorists. A 15-year-old will appear in court charged with possession of an **imitation firearm**.

Times and Star, 26 October 2005

Two children, aged 8 and 12, were shot with a **BB gun** in **Workington**. They were playing outside when they suffered injuries to their legs.

Islington Gazette, 26 October 2005

A 13-year-old boy seen showing a small black handgun to other youths outside a secondary school in **Islington** was arrested and taken to a police station where he was told off. The weapon, which the boy had thrown away before police arrived, was believed to be a **BB gun**.

icSouth London, 26 October 2005

Damian Meredith shot himself in the leg when he was tackled by unarmed police in **Merton**. He pled guilty to possessing a firearm and was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in youth custody.

BBC, 26 October 2005

A man was discovered with gunshot wounds in the **Handsworth** area of Birmingham. He had been hit in the buttocks and the injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

icSouth London, 25 October 2005

A Glock semi-automatic handgun, loaded with 10 bullets was discovered along with a shotgun in an unlocked communal cupboard on a **Brixton** estate. It was discovered when an electrician went to read a meter. Police said it was a miracle that the gun hadn't fallen into the hands of an unsuspecting youngster.

Cambridge Evening News, 25 October 2005

A gang is believed to be firing potshots at pedestrians in **Cambridge**. Two women were shot at with pellets from an **airgun** or **ball-bearing gun** in separate incidents. Police are searching for the occupants of a car which spotted by both of the victims.

Telegraph, 24 October 2005

An 18-year-old was fatally shot in **Newtown**, Birmingham. Police said it was 'too early to say whether the shooting was linked to the weekend's disturbances in the Lozells area'. A teenager has appeared in court charged with murder (*icBirmingham*, 2 November 2005).

icCoventry, 24 October 2005

Armed robbers fired a handgun as they tried to steal the keys of a car and then stabbed its owner when he refused to hand over the keys. The victim was leaving a restaurant at **Dordon** with his wife.

icCoventry, 24 October 2005

Armed police were called to a pub in **Leamington** after one man was hit over the head with the handle of a gun. Other pub customers were threatened as they tried to restrain the offender. No shots were fired.

icBirmingham, 24 October 2005

A police officer was shot in the thigh with a **ball-bearing gun** during disturbances in the **Lozells** area of Birmingham which left a man dead with stab wounds and 35 people in hospital.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 24 October 2005

Three men armed with a handgun and Taser stun gun left empty handed after attempting to rob a Chinese restaurant in **Newcastle**.

BBC, 24 October 2005

A shop assistant had a gun put to her head during a raid on a supermarket in **Ingol**, Preston. The perpetrator had a silver handgun and forced the woman to put hundreds of pounds in a bag before fleeing.

News & Star, 22 October 2005

Two 14-year-old boys were approached and one attacked by two young men carrying a **BB gun** in **Carlisle**.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 21 October 2005

David Wooler was given a 120-hour community punishment after pleading guilty to two charges of common assault after two young girls were shot and injured in **Lupset**. Wooler had been firing an **air rifle** from his bedroom window but claimed he had not intended to hit anyone. The leniency of the punishment was criticised by one of the girls' mothers.

West Yorkshire Police, 21 October 2005

A man was arrested following searches at an address in the **Lister Hills** area of Bradford. Police had recovered a firearm, as well as a quantity of suspected Class A drugs and money.

BBC, 21 October 2005

Leondro Richards, who held a teenager at gunpoint in a bedroom during a robbery in **Clifton**, Nottingham, in April 2005, was jailed for seven years. He had been charged with robbery, theft and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

BBC, 21 October 2005

Following the shooting of a man in **Throckley**, Tyneside, three men have been charged with conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm with intent.

BBC, 21 October 2005

A man found dead in a car near his home at **Stanton St John**, Oxfordshire, had a bullet wound to his neck and had been shot with a handgun. The car had been pushed into a ditch.

This is Nottingham, 20 October 2005

Bar staff at a pub in **Radford** were threatened by robbers with a gun. Three men in balaclavas, one of them holding a handgun, forced one member of staff to open the safe and put its contents into a rucksack.

Harlow Star, 20 October 2005

Three housemates in **Lower Meadow** were held captive at gunpoint by masked burglars. The gunman's accomplice stole mobile phones, cash and bank and credit cards.

BBC, 20 October 2005

An arsenal of weapons, including a pump action shotgun and four handguns, two of which were loaded, were found under a child's bed during a police raid on a property in **Elephant and Castle**, south-east London. Rachael Jacobs has been charged with possessing four self-loading handguns, 76 rounds of ammunition and a silencer for a gun. She is also charged with possessing firearms with intent to endanger life.

icSurrey, 19 October 2005

Lee Goodsell, who fired a **BB gun** round through the letter box of a house in **Broadfield**, has been made the subject of an antisocial behaviour order.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 19 October 2005

A man was shot at close range as he was walking through **Sheepridge**. His attacker called out his name and the victim spun round with a man pointing a revolver at his head. A shot was fired and a bullet hit the victim's arm.

BBC, 19 October 2005

A postmaster had a gun held to his head and a knife to his stomach during a robbery by three men in **Hooley**. The victim was uninjured but very traumatised. He has decided to close his post office (*icSouth London*, 28 October 2005).

Sidmouth Herald, 18 October 2005

A man was seen with a gun in **Ottery's** parish church grounds.

Peterborough Today, 18 October 2005

Nishan Bakunis and Misha Chatsjatrjan are on trial for the murder of a man who had been stabbed and shot and whose body was set on fire in a field at **Upton** in December 2002. A witness said that Chatsjatrjan had confessed to putting eight bullets in the victim's head.

News & Star, 18 October 2005

Gun parts, used for making up ball-bearing weapons were stolen during a raid on a house in **Carlisle**. Police were confident that the pieces could not be put together to form a **BB gun**.

BBC, 18 October 2005

Two drunken men who used an **air rifle** in the centre of **Cheltenham** have been jailed for a year. Marek Losinski and Michael McMahon had bought the weapon in the town and then took turns at shooting at target. The judge commented that "It must be that at the time they visited the gun shop they were under the influence of alcohol, which would have been visible to anyone".

Sunderland Today, 17 October 2005

A student was shot in the face with an **airgun** as he was walking in **West Herrington**. He was knocked to his knees after being shot from a bunker at the roadside and needed six stitches after a plastic pellet tore through his cheek. The victim's case has been raised in the House of Commons (*Sunderland Echo*, 18 October 2005).

BBC, 17 October 2005

An army captain left a gun loaded with 13 rounds of blank ammunition in the toilet of a supermarket in **Hitchin**. She left her waistband holster in the disabled toilet and the pistol was missing for two days. She had been on an authorised military exercise according to the Ministry of Defence. The gun was later found by detectives in a postbox after the person who found it told police on his mobile phone where he had dumped it. A man was questioned and later released with a caution (*The Comet*, 18 October 2005).

BBC, 17 October 2005

A 13-year-old boy was arrested after a gun was fired in a school in **Crewkerne**, slightly injuring another pupil. A **ball-bearing gun** was fired into the air and the ball bearing ricocheted off the ceiling and struck the victim.

BBC, 16 October 2005

A youth showed a counter assistant the handle of a gun which was tucked into his waistband during a raid at a **Southend** newsagents. He escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

This is Nottingham, 15 October 2005

Troy Quimby from **Mansfield** was ordered to do 120 hours' community service after shooting a neighbour in the leg with an **air rifle** in April 2005. He was found guilty of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Sun, 15 October 2005

A head teacher waved a real handgun in front of primary schoolchildren in **Newchurch**, Lancashire, at a harvest festival to illustrate a scheme in Mozambique in which the church swaps food for weapons. The gun was decommissioned.

Life Style Extra, 15 October 2005

A police marksman who works for the Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department was been arrested over rape allegations and firearms offences after a gun was found at his home address. He has been bailed to return to **Romford** Police Station.

Borehamwood & Elstree Times, 14 October 2005

An 18-year-old man has been arrested in connection with an incident in which a **Borehamwood** family was terrified by youths firing an **airgun** at their front door.

icCoventry, 13 October 2005

A **Nuneaton** school for children with learning difficulties has been closed after the caretaker was shot with an **airgun** whilst walking in the grounds. Police were alerted after he found an airgun pellet. No children were at the school at the time.

Hounslow Guardian, 13 October 2005

A gang of teenagers armed with guns, knives and hammers are believed to be behind a spate of robberies across **Heston** and **Hounslow**. Victims have been hit with a gun and pistol whipped. The thieves have made off with cash and mobile phones.

Press Association, 12 October 2005

Mark Kelly and Junior Andrews were both sentenced to a minimum of 32 years each after they were convicted of the murder of 14-year-old Danielle Beccan who was shot dead as she returned home from the **Nottingham** Goose Fair in October 2004 (see [Incidents](#)).

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 12 October 2005

A jury heard how a doorman had a bullet lodged in his hand during a shooting incident outside a nightclub in the centre of **Bradford** in September 2004. Raphael Hunte has denied a charge of attempting to murder the man and a further allegation of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Hastings Today, 12 October 2005

Douglas Quinnell from **Hastings** fired an **air rifle** from his bedroom window at two gardeners after having a bad day at work. He was given an 18 month community rehabilitation order and also ordered to complete a programme to help him learn anger management.

Bishop's Stortford Citizen, 12 October 2005

A cashier was forced to hand over money at gun point in an armed raid at a convenience store in **Stansted Mountfitchet**. One of the two cashiers was threatened with what appeared to be a small black handgun.

South London Press, 11 October 2005

A clubber was shot outside a nightclub in **Brixton Hill**. He was rushed to hospital where he was in a stable condition.

News & Star, 11 October 2005

Gareth Hunter from **Keswick** has been jailed for six months after an off-duty police officer spotted him carrying an **air rifle**. Hunter had a previous conviction for armed robbery and as a result of this was banned from keeping firearms.

BBC, 11 October 2005

Part of Leeds had to be sealed off after a man shot at police officers following reports of a domestic incident in the **Harehills** part of the city. A man locked himself inside a house before leaving with a weapon which he fired several times at police. He then returned to the house. It has emerged that the suspect is a member of a gun club and a licensed gun holder (8 rifles, all of which are understood to be licensed, were removed from the scene). At least 30 shots were fired at police officers (*Yorkshire Post*, 15 October 2005).

Hackney Gazette, 10 October 2005

Filming of what is believed to have been a tale about gun crime was halted when real shots were fired in a street in **Shoreditch**. The film crew, who did not have permission from the local council, jumped into cars and fled. Eye witnesses say that a man being driven away had what looked like a bullet wound to his face.

Croydon Guardian, 10 October 2005

Three teenage girls, Billie Jane Leslie, Simone Minott and Kerri Leyanne Storer, have been sent to prison after using an **imitation gun** in a robbery in **Croydon**. Three other girls were robbed. The sentences were five years for Leslie and four years for Storer and Minott.

BBC, 10 October 2005

Police have arrested 14 people after a series of early morning raids in **Wolverhampton**. The properties raided were suspected to be connected with drug dealing and gun crime activities.

BBC, 9 October 2005

A woman has been questioned after a **fake handgun** was found in luggage at **Newquay Airport** as she attempted to board a flight to Stansted. The woman has been bailed.

Eastern Daily Press, 8 October 2005

Two incidents in Norfolk led to police warning people that they face being arrested and sparking armed police operations if they carry around toy guns resembling real firearms. At **Swaffham** a man was held after a police operation lasting more than an hour. The man was seen carrying the weapon which turned out to be a **BB gun**. At **Dereham** St Nicholas Churchyard three youths were seen showing off **lifelike guns** while about 60 children from a local school were being taken on a tour. The Rector called police. Norfolk trading standards has already investigated two complaints about a new shop in Dereham which sells replica guns and displays some in the front window.

Independent, 8 October 2005

Linton Ambursley and Tyrone Headley were jailed for 12 years and 30 months respectively following an incident outside London's **Barbican Centre** in November 2004 in which a woman was shot. The victim's life was saved when the bullet was deflected away from her heart by her underwired bra. She had been caught in the cross fire when four men started shooting at another group of four men on the opposite side of the road, as hundreds of people who had been attending a music ceremony left the venue. Ambursley admitted wounding her. A third man involved has been deported to Jamaica. (An item relating to this incident originally appeared on the September 2005 list).

Pendle Today, 7 October 2005

Ben Rushton, a soldier, fired at passers-by from a car with an **imitation gun** in **Colne**. One woman was extremely frightened when the gun was pointed at her and another young victim was hit by a pellet. Rushton was sentenced to 16 months in jail.

icBerkshire, 7 October 2005

Staff at a bookies in **Britwell** fled in fear when a masked raider brandishing a sawn-off shotgun burst into the shop and demanded cash from the till. The gunman snatched £200.

BBC, 7 October 2005

Police were trying to trace a pick-up truck stolen from **Rothwell**, near Caistor, because the vehicle is believed to contain a gun belonging to its owner.

Sutton Guardian, 6 October 2005

A man was left shaken but unhurt after he was held at gunpoint in his own home in **Wallington** and forced to hand over the keys to his moped.

Leeds Today, 6 October 2005

Three children, aged 11 and 13, have been cautioned for "possession of an imitation firearm" after they were seen playing with a **BB gun** on a street in **Chapelton**.

Winsford Chronicle, 5 October 2005

Gangs of youths wielding **fake guns** are terrorising **Winsford**. A former firearms officer is leading a campaign to ban the sale of the guns in local shops.

Sheffield Today, 5 October 2005

A woman who was shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Sheffield** only escaped serious injury because she was wearing a cycling helmet. She was walking with her bike at the time. Three youths walked towards her before firing a pellet at her head and running off.

South London Press, 4 October 2005

A handgun, ammunition and a large amount of drugs were seized by police from a flat in **New Cross**. A man and a woman were arrested at the address.

Liverpool Echo, 3 October 2005

Bullets smashed windows in homes near a pub in **Everton** after a pub brawl ended in a street gun battle. Four men were being questioned.

Daily Post, 3 October 2005

A man was in custody after police were threatened with an **imitation firearm** after a three-hour car chase. The chase began after police found a seriously injured woman at a house in **Congleton**.

Bucks Free Press, 3 October 2005

Schoolchildren ran in horror as a blood-soaked man pointed a gun in their direction as they walked past a bus stop in **Iver Heath**. The man, who had attempted to take his own life by slitting his wrists, pointed an **air rifle** at the pupils. The man was taken away by ambulance. Police said the gun was not loaded.

Yorkshire Post, 1 October 2005

Zulfiqar Shaffi was jailed for 13 years after he was found guilty of two charges of robbery and one count of attempted robbery. He had targeted women drivers in two attacks in **Bradford**. In one of the attacks he terrified one of his victims with what she thought was a black revolver. It turned out to be an **imitation firearm**.

Shropshire Star, 1 October 2005

Symon Wilkinson was jailed for 21 months for threatening another motorist with an **imitation handgun** during a road rage incident. He had brought the gun and a baseball bat from his home in **Sweeney** and aimed it at his victim across a car park. His victim was "absolutely terrified".

Sheffield Today, 1 October 2005

Craig Warmsley was sentenced to an eight-year-jail term after pleading guilty to his part in an aggravated burglary at a house in **Firth Park**, Sheffield, in May 2005. Two men had forced their way into a house brandishing a revolver at the victim.

News & Star, 1 October 2005

Police may set a curfew to combat troublemakers on a **Carlisle** estate. Among the problems that residents have experienced is being shot at with **BB guns**.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 1 October 2005

Stephen March found a sawn-off shotgun in a church wheelie bin and kept it. He was jailed for 12 months after admitting possession of an illegal gun at his home in **Washington**. The court heard he was a serial hoarder.

SCOTLAND

Times, 29 October 2005

Michael Fendley was jailed for four years for pointing an **imitation gun** at an employee of a bureau de change in **Edinburgh** as he robbed him of £300. He was caught after bursting into tears immediately afterwards and then admitted to a policeman what he had done.

Herald, 27 October 2005

Police are investigating a raid at a bank in **Muirhead** when two men, one believed to be armed threatened the staff and escaped with a sum of money. Earlier in the month a lone gunman escaped with thousands of pounds after holding up a bank in **Milngavie**.

Herald, 27 October 2005

Two attackers burst into a house in **New Farm Loch**, near Kilmarnock, and demanded money from two couples before discharging a gun. No one was injured as a result of the gun being fired although two of the victims received minor injuries during the incident. A man has appeared in court facing charges relating to the incident (*Evening Times*, 28 October 2005).

Evening Times, 27 October 2005

Barry Thomson, who shot and killed one man and injured two others in a shooting in **Royston**, Glasgow, in October 2004 (see [Incidents](#)), was jailed for 18 years. It had been the third attempt on the victim's life in three years.

Evening Times, 26 October 2005

Thomas Moore admitted having a gun and ammunition without a firearms certificate and breach of the peace after an incident at a **Paisley** pub in August. He was jailed for 40 months. He returned to the pub 30 minutes after being asked to leave with a loaded Russian-made gun but was bundled out by a customer.

BBC, 21 October 2005

A gun and controlled drugs were found by children playing in a wood near **Muirkirk**.

Evening Times, 20 October 2005

An armed robber fled empty-handed after the alarm was raised by staff at a petrol station in **Erskine**. The man had produced a silver-coloured handgun and demanded money.

Press Association, 18 October 2005

John Hickman, a Royal Marine, has been arrested on suspicion of the theft of two weapons from the **Faslane** naval base. The weapons are believed to be an SA80 rifle and a 9mm Browning pistol. Hickman was detained in Northern Ireland.

BBC, 14 October 2005

David Johnston admitted firing an **air pistol** from his bedroom in **Pumpherstoun**, West Lothian, into woods in June 2005. One shot injured a six-year-old girl. Even after the child left the scene Johnston continued to shoot and hit a pole next to where a boy was sitting on a swing. The court heard that he had been drinking earlier in the day. Sentence was deferred and Johnstone, who has previous convictions for serious assault and possession of offensive weapons, was kept in custody.

Evening Times, 10 October 2005

A father and son were left fighting for their lives after their car was shot at in **Drumoyne**, Glasgow. The car crashed after shots hit the car. A car believed to have been used in the shooting has been found by police.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 26 October 2005

David Rogers who committed an offence involving an **air rifle** over four years ago was finally sentenced to an 18 month jail sentence for domestic violence. He had waved the gun at the mother of his two children in **Barry Island** in March 2001 but had fled the country to escape sentence.

This is London, 19 October 2005

In a second incident in a week another soldier lost a firearm. An SA80 assault rifle went missing during an exercise in the **Brecon Beacons**.

South Wales Echo, 13 October 2005

Anthony Townsend, who had called police after a World War II pistol was stolen during a break-in at his home in **Llanrumney**, was arrested himself. He admitted possessing an unlicensed firearm and was sentenced to two years' prison, suspended for two years. The judge said he was worried that "a lethal piece of kit may be in circulation somewhere. Possession of such a weapon, even in these circumstances [Townsend had been given the gun by his soldier father who took it from a German officer], is extremely serious".

BBC, 10 October 2005

A man was arrested after armed police surrounded a house in **Ely**, Cardiff, after a man was reported shooting an **air rifle** from a bedroom window.

BBC, 9 October 2005

A rifle was found on the foreshore of the River Severn at **Rolget** near Newport. The gun's owner has disappeared from home and was last seen on 25 September.

Shropshire Star, 5 October 2005

A man was arrested after police raided a flat in **Chirk**. A handgun was retrieved. Police acted after a man was attacked and robbed in an alley close to where the arrest took place.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Herts Advertiser, 27 October 2005

The owners of a cat in **Harpenden** were horrified to discover that their injured pet had a pellet from an **air rifle** lodged in its skull.

Leeds Today, 24 October 2005

A young swan which lived on the Aire-Calder canal in **Leeds** has been shot dead. An **air rifle** pellet was fired through its neck and in the windpipe.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 18 October 2005

A cat has been hit twice in the last 14 months by powerful **air rifle** shots, miraculously escaping death both times. In August 2004 he need emergency surgery to remove a half-inch metal pellet from his stomach: his spleen was damaged. This month the cat from **Highburton** was shot again and the pellet cannot be removed and will stay lodged in his lumbar muscle.

This is Local London, 13 October 2005

A kitten was shot with an **airgun** and left with a broken jaw. Its owners from **West Wickham** have spent more than £2000 for treatment - a pellet was lodged inside the kitten's head.

BBC, 7 October 2005

RSPCA inspectors were called to a garden in **Southmead**, Bristol, where an injured black cat had been found. The cat had been left paralysed after being shot with an **air rifle** and had to be put down.

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 5 October 2005

A cat was killed with an **air rifle** in **Kirklevington** and had to be put down. It had been shot at close range. Although vets rebuilt her shattered leg the cat suffered a relapse after three weeks.



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