

OCTOBER 2006 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were four fatal shootings in London; a man's body was found in a property in Wandsworth, two 22-year-old men were killed in separate incidents in Ealing and Harlesden over the same weekend and a man was found dead with a number of gunshot wounds in an alleyway in Clapham.
- A teenage boy was found dead in a house in Lochbroom (Wester Ross): there were apparently no suspicious circumstances.
- Two men were critically injured when they were shot in Harehills (Leeds) and Holbrooks (Coventry). Two victims were injured in the same incident in Ealing which led to another man's death (see above). Two men have been injured in shooting incidents in Glasgow.
- Two men received gunshot wounds outside a nightclub in Elephant and Castle, south London. In another nightclub incident a man was shot in Sheffield. We have previously noted the number of shootings which take place in and outside nightclubs and are pleased to report that a nightclub in Nottingham has had its licence revoked after a shooting took place there earlier in the year.
- A teacher was attacked with a stun gun outside a school in Bristol.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - During a reported bank robbery in Finchley Road, north London, shots were fired at two police officers - a man has been charged with their attempted murder.
- There were armed robberies or attempted robberies on a fast food restaurant in Nottingham, at post offices in East Bergholt (Suffolk) and Calderbrook (Littleborough), at a betting shop in Milnsbridge (Huddersfield), jewellers in Blackpool and Beckenham (south London), an off licence in Leamington and other shops in St Osyth's (Essex), Allerton (Bradford), Clacton (Essex), Wincobank (Sheffield) and Coleshill (Coventry).
- Security guards were held up in separate incidents in Kent, at Paddock Wood and Larkfield. A petrol station was raided at Escrick (North Yorkshire).
- A woman had her car stolen by two men who threatened her at gunpoint in Bishop's Stortford (Hertfordshire).
- In a raid on a Wigan pub the landlady and her partner were locked in a cupboard. A man was robbed at gunpoint in his home in Giffnock (Glasgow).
- A suspected gunman attempted to rob two women of their handbags on streets in Whitchurch (Cardiff).
- **Other Incidents** - A man was threatened with a handgun in Felling (Tyneside). A man was arrested after a party of three anglers (a man and two boys) were shot at after they were asked to leave a private lake in South Ockenden (Essex).

- A man was arrested after police had to seal off the centre of Shrewsbury following reports of a man being seen with a gun. The town of Crowhurst (Sussex) was also shut down for a while after reports of a man with a rifle or gun. Armed police swooped on a Peterborough street following reports that a man was seen wielding a handgun or a knife.
- A 15-year-old was arrested when he was found to have a gun on a bus in Weoley Castle (Birmingham). A man who fled from a road accident in Keighley was believed to have been carrying a firearm.
- Four people, including a girl of 14, were remanded following a raid in Harrow in which firearms and drugs were found by police. In another drugs raid in Swanley (Kent) a handgun and ammunition were recovered: two men were charged.
- **Smuggling, Thefts and Losses** - Two men have been charged after firearms parts and ammunition were found at Dover docks.
- Nine soldiers are to be prosecuted for smuggling guns out of Iraq to trade for cash and drugs.
- An assault rifle being used by Prince William at Sandhurst was missing for two hours.
- A paint ball gun was among items stolen from a house in Kingsheath (Northampton).
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - There were long jail sentences for three men convicted after serious shooting incidents. One was jailed for a minimum of 28 years after killing a man in Grimsby and another for 12-and-a-half-years after shooting a man in the head in Salford. A man was given a jail sentence of six years, nine months for firing a shot at two police officers in Huddersfield.
- A gun club member was jailed for five years after police found an illegal arsenal of more than 100 guns in his house near Wrexham.
- An Aberdeen man was fined £900 for firing a stun gun in a pub.
- **Airguns** - There was a welcome reduction in the number of reported airgun incidents in which victims were injured this month, but there remained, nevertheless, a significant number of serious incidents.
- During a month in which Staffordshire Police say they dealt with 63 airgun incidents during the school summer holidays a boy was hit in the eye with an airgun pellet as he walked in the street in Cannock (Stafford). It was revealed that a young boy from Cruden Bay (Aberdeenshire) has had an airgun pellet in his neck for a number of weeks since being hit in a lane near his home in August (a 12-year-old has been charged). An airgun sniper injured two girls at Rhuddlan Castle. A 10-year-old girl was wounded in the throat whilst she 'played' with an airgun at a house in Wolverhampton.
- A man was shot in the hand and face with an airgun whilst walking in the street in Harlow and another was wounded when he was hit by an airgun pellet in Kirkdale (Liverpool). Yet another airgun victim was hit in the head in Lochmaben (Dumfries & Galloway).

- Ambulance crews have been targeted with air weapons in incidents on Teesside and Tyneside.
 - Vandals with an airgun shot at two windows of a home in Ipswich. A motorist believes his car window was broken by an airgun fired in East Grinstead (Surrey), and in the same town a theatre and arts centre was damaged in an air rifle attack.
 - A man appeared in court charged with firing a powerful air rifle at a vehicle occupied by two men at Combroke (Warwickshire).
 - A man received a four year jail sentence for killing his friend with an airgun at his home in East Calder.
 - A teenage boy was given a six month detention and training order for shooting a girl with an air rifle near Middlesbrough: the girl lost the sight of one eye.
 - A 19-year-old youth received a deferred prison sentence: he and others had fired an air rifle at cars near Costessey (Norfolk). A man was given 240 hours of community service after firing an air pistol from a car in Currie, outside Edinburgh.
 - A convicted armed robber faces a jail sentence after being caught with an air rifle.
 - An ex-police employee responsible for firearms in Devon and Cornwall received a caution after being found in possession of a gas cartridge airgun, which required a licence, in Exmouth.
- **Imitation Guns** - Lancashire Police reported that in 2004/05 more than half of the firearms incidents (160 out of 259) involved weapons like ball-bearing guns. In October 2006 there were still too many incidents involving these weapons.
 - An inquest heard how a 20-year-old was killed when he shot himself with a faulty replica gun converted to fire steel ball-bearings in Anfield (Merseyside).
 - A teenage boy was threatened by a group of youths armed with a ball-bearing gun who stole his mobile phone and wallet in Spalding. A woman used a ball-bearing gun in a hold up on a takeaway in Newcastle. A bus driver was attacked with a BB gun in Scarborough. In Arbury (Cambridge) a man tried to rob three male students whilst armed with what appeared to be an imitation gun.
 - Two of a group of three boys were seen on CCTV footage holding guns whilst walking through Macclesfield: police believe it is most likely that the weapons were imitations, but say that the incident could have had fatal consequences had an armed response team been called. Two youths were arrested in Bridgwater (Somerset) when they were spotted carrying guns, later found to be BB guns, in the town centre.
 - A Muswell Hill (north London) man who saw youths in the street with BB guns has been subjected to a firebomb attack.
 - A Blackpool hotelier has described how two lads were firing a ball-bearing gun out of a hotel window at girls outside.
 - Four teenagers were arrested near Ashford in Kent and charged with various offences, including burglary and stealing a car, after four imitation guns (including an airsoft weapon) were found in their car.

- A primary school in Bretton (Peterborough) was damaged after an attack involving a ball-bearing gun.
- Two police officers were honoured for bravery after the arrest of a man in Bannerfield (Selkirk). He had pointed a pellet gun at them when they went to his house.
- A man was arrested on suspicion of having an imitation gun on a train in Liverpool and a teenager was charged after he was found with a ball bearing gun on a train in Colchester. Two men were arrested at Oxenholme station (Cumbria) for possessing an imitation firearm in a public place. A gas powered ball-bearing gun was confiscated from a local youth in Sowerby Bridge (West Yorkshire).
- A 19-year-old was given eight months detention after threatening a woman with a fake gun in Preston. A man has admitted using an imitation gun when he held up an off licence in Dundee.

Incidents Involving Animals - Attacks on cats and swans, in particular, continued to occur with sickening regularity: airguns were the weapons mostly responsible. There were also attacks on other birds, including doves, reported during October.

GUN INCIDENTS – October 2006

ENGLAND

Liverpool Echo, 31 October 2006

An inquest has heard that Christopher Woods, 20, was at a friend's house in **Anfield**, smoking cannabis and playing computer games when he pointed a pistol at each of his friends and then placed it under his chin and pulled the trigger (see [April 2006 Incidents](#)). The "crude" **replica weapon** had been converted to fire steel ball bearings and was faulty. Christopher died when his life support machine was turned off. His mother has vowed never to let her toddler son have a toy gun and warned parents of the dangers of guns.

Leamington Spa Today, 31 October 2006

Matthew Collins appeared in court after being charged with possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He pleaded guilty to the charge that he had fired a powerful **air rifle** at the rear of a vehicle occupied by two people whom he claimed had made violent threats towards him when they visited him at his caravan in **Combroke**.

Daily Record, 31 October 2006

It has been reported that Prince William lost an L86 assault rifle during firing practice at **Sandhurst**. The weapon was picked up and used by another cadet who handed it back two hours later.

This is Bradford, 30 October 2006

A man who fled from a road accident in **Keighley** was carrying what is believed to have been a rifle or some other firearm.

Peterborough Today, 30 October 2006

Armed police swooped on a street in **Peterborough** after reports that a man was seen wielding a handgun or a knife. Nobody was arrested following the incident but officers are still investigating the disturbance.

Monsters & Critics, 29 October 2006

A man has been charged with attempted murder after shots were fired at two police officers investigating a reported bank robbery in **Finchley Road**, north London. No police officers were injured in the shooting, but a female police officer was treated in hospital for a cut to her eye (*This is Local London*, 30 October 2006).

This is Exeter, 28 October 2006

Stephen Cunningham Young, a former police employee responsible for firearms, was given a caution for possessing an air pistol with a self-contained gas cartridge system at a nightclub in Exmouth (see [September 2006 Incidents](#)). The judge at the court hearing brought the prosecution to an end after Young, who had pleaded not guilty, agreed to be cautioned.

Mirror, 28 October 2006

A gunman fired at a man and two boys as they fished at a private lake in **South Ockenden**, Essex, without permission. The man was told he should not be fishing and to clear off, but he and the boys had got five yards away when two shots were fired. A man has been arrested.

Rochdale Observer, 27 October 2006

Armed robbers, one with a gun, got away with a large amount of cash in a raid on a post office in the village of **Calderbrook**, Littleborough. Security guards were making a cash delivery at the time.

Prestwich & Whitefield Reporter, 27 October 2006

Sufyan Sarwar has been jailed for 12-and-a-half years after shooting a man in the head in **Salford** in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He had arranged to meet the victim, who has suffered long-term damage to his speech, to pay back a debt but shot him twice.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 27 October 2006

A betting shop manager was robbed at gunpoint as he locked up the premises in **Milnsbridge**. He handed over his bag, which contained cash, to the robber who grabbed the bag and fled. The raider had pointed a silver handgun towards the victim's chest.

Cambridge Evening News, 27 October 2006

A man tried to rob three male students in **Arbury**. When they refused to hand over their bags he threatened them with what appeared to be an **imitation firearm**.

Yorkshire Post, 26 October 2006

Guy Tasker shot and killed a young father in a "completely random, motiveless and pointless" attack was jailed for life (minimum 28 years). Tasker had obtained a shotgun to injure or at least frighten one of a group of friends who had been mocking him. Instead he shot a wholly innocent man who was making a snowman for his daughter in a street in **Grimby** in December 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Tasker was high on drink and drugs and in a state of extreme agitation.

Observer News, 26 October 2006

A woman was manoeuvring her car in **Bishop's Stortford** when she was approached by two men. She was threatened at gunpoint and the men climbed into her car and drove off.

Lakeland Radio, 26 October 2006

Two men were arrested for possessing an **imitation firearm** in a public place at **Oxenholme** station.

ic Coventry, 26 October 2006

A man pointed a gun at a cashier's head during a robbery at a supermarket in **Coleshill**. No one was injured, but all three staff members were left badly shaken. The gunman grabbed money for the till and ran out.

Halifax Today, 26 October 2006

According to an article the West Yorkshire Police website reports that a **gas powered ball-bearing gun** was confiscated from a local youth in **Sowerby Bridge**.

News Shopper, 23 October 2006

Three men raided a jewellers in **Beckenham**, stealing jewellery from the window displays at gunpoint.

Evening News (Norwich), 23 October 2006

Jamie Browne, a 19-year-old who was one of a group of youths who fired **air rifles** at cars travelling on the A47 near **Costessey**, was given a deferred prison sentence to give him a chance to mend his ways. He was one of three youths arrested in October 2005 after cars were hit by air pellets. Browne had to forfeit the air weapons so they could be destroyed.

Evening Star, 23 October 2006

Airgun vandals have shot at two windows at the home of a woman in **Ipswich**. The victim is worried that that they could hit somebody unintentionally.

Life Style Extra, 22 October 2006

A man found with a number of gunshot wounds in an alleyway in **Clapham** was pronounced dead at the scene. Police have launched a murder hunt.

24Dash.com, 20 October 2006

Two teachers were attacked outside a school in **Bristol** with a stun gun. One male teacher was hit after being confronted with one or two men and when a woman teacher came to his aid she was assaulted and suffered a broken jaw.

Shropshire Star, 19 October 2006

Armed police sealed off part of **Shrewsbury** town centre following reports of a man wielding a gun. Traffic was halted during the operation. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a prohibited weapon and has been bailed pending further enquiries (*BBC*, 20 October 2006).

Sheffield Today, 19 October 2006

A 17-year-old female shop assistant was held up at gunpoint in **Wincobank**, Sheffield. Two masked men burst in and demanded cash. When the assistant called to a colleague one of the men pointed the gun in the second woman's face.

Macclesfield Express, 18 October 2006

Three boys were captured on camera as they walked through **Macclesfield** town centre with two of the boys carrying what police fear may be guns. The photograph was taken on CCTV in late September. The police believe the guns were likely to be **BB guns** but said armed police could easily have been scrambled to the scene with potentially fatal consequences.

ic Surrey, 18 October 2006

East Grinstead has suffered two **air rifle** attacks just days apart. In the second incident the windows of a theatre and arts centre were peppered with holes at an estimated cost of £600 to repair. This followed an attack on a car (see below).

BBC, 18 October 2006

Two men have been charged with smuggling offences after firearm components, knives and ammunition were allegedly found in a vehicle at **Dover** docks.

ic Coventry, 17 October 2006

A shop assistant at an off licence in **Leamington** was on her own when a man walked in and asked her to hand over the contents of the till. He told her not to press the shop's panic button and that he would shoot her unless she did. He had a bag with him and pointed it at her saying he had got a gun. £65 was stolen.

BBC, 17 October 2006

A 15-year-old boy has been charged after armed police recovered a firearm on a bus in **Weoley Castle**, Birmingham. He was charged with possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

This is Hertfordshire, 16 October 2006

A second man has been shot dead in London over the weekend. Another 22-year-old was killed in **Ealing**. Two other men suffered gunshot wounds in the shooting at an office used by the Eastern European community as a social venue. In another incident a man was left fighting for his life after being shot outside a nightclub at **Elephant and Castle**, south London. Police believe the man was shot accidentally while another clubber, who was shot in the buttock, fled from the gunman.

Harrow Times, 16 October 2006

A 22-year-old man, David Kerr, was found dead in the communal area at a block of flats in **Harlesden**. Police were called to reports of shots being fired. A post mortem gave the cause of death as a gun shot wound to the chest.

BBC, 16 October 2006

Two men threatened staff with a firearm at a fast food restaurant in **Nottingham** city centre. Members of staff were found locked in a room at the back of the restaurant. The men stole an undisclosed amount of money.

Peterborough Today, 14 October 2006

A 16-year-old was approached by two youths on bikes and one on foot and was then pulled to the ground and threatened with a **ball bearing gun** in a **Spalding** car park. The gang stole the victim's wallet and mobile phone. Police are treating it as a serious incident.

Northern Echo, 14 October 2006

A youth has been given a six-month detention and training order for blinding a girl with an airgun in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Surgeons were unable to save the sight in her eye after the youth shot her in the face with an **air rifle** on a path at **South Bank** near Middlesbrough. He was one of a number of friends who were firing the air weapon at the time. The teenager was given a consecutive 12-month order for knocking a youth unconscious during an attack filmed on a mobile phone camera. He had faced other charges to which he pleaded guilty but was given an absolute discharge for these. The victim's mother was said to have been left devastated by the court sentence.

BBC, 14 October 2006

Four people, including a 14-year-old girl, have been remanded to custody accused of firearms offences. The girl is accused of conspiring to supply firearms, including revolvers and a machine pistol, and possessing illegal weapons and ammunition. A youth of 16 is charged with possessing a revolver, cocaine, cannabis and five CS sprays. The four were arrested in **Harrow**. Other firearms and crack cocaine were recovered during the raid.

BBC, 14 October 2006

Three armed men stole cash from a safe at a post office in **East Bergholt**, Suffolk. The men were armed with a shotgun, baseball bat and crowbar. Police are linking the raid with others at post office stores in Suffolk at Wickhambrook and Assington.

Swindon Advertiser, 13 October 2006

Kevin Clarke of **Eastleaze**, who has served a prison sentence for armed robbery, was caught with an **air rifle** in August 2006. He has admitted one count of possessing a firearm after a previous conviction with three-plus years of imprisonment and another of possessing ammunition. He now faces another jail term. It was claimed that he had purchased the air rifle that day to shoot at targets in his garden.

Peterborough Today, 13 October 2006

A primary school in **Bretton** was attacked by vandals who broke several windows, causing hundreds of pounds of damage. The windows were shot out with a **ball-bearing gun**.

Northamptonshire Police Office, 13 October 2006

The police Stolen and Lost Property site includes details of a theft from a house in **Kingsheath**, Northampton, in which a gas-powered paint ball gun with paint balls in it was stolen.

Leeds Today, 13 October 2006

A man was shot in a hail of bullets in a street in **Harehills** and was fighting for his life in hospital. His condition was described as "still critical, but stable".

GCN is grateful to a correspondent who alerted us to this incident.

BBC, 13 October 2006

Two masked men armed with a knife and a handgun robbed a security van as it made a delivery to a bank in **Larkfield**, Kent. No shots were fired and no-one is believed to have been hurt.

BBC, 13 October 2006

Marcus Rhoden has been jailed for a minimum of six years and nine months after admitting firing a shot at two armed policeman in **Huddersfield** in November 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). The officers needed hospital treatment after the incident.

BBC, 13 October 2006

Two crews from the North East Ambulance Service were targeted with **air weapons** in separate incidents in **Middlesbrough**. No one was injured but damage was caused to two vehicles which were taking patients to hospital. The attacks follow recent incidents against crews on **Tyneside**.

BBC, 12 October 2006

Nine soldiers are to be prosecuted over allegations of smuggling guns out of Iraq to trade for drugs and cash. The soldiers are from the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of Wellington's Regiment) based in **Warminster**. The charges follow a criminal inquiry by the Royal Military Police.

BBC, 12 October 2006

A landlady and her partner were locked in a cupboard when armed robbers broke into her pub in **Wigan**. The three men threatened the couple with a gun and knife. Money and cigarettes were stolen.

BBC, 12 October 2006

A woman was arrested in **Newcastle** after staff at a Chinese takeaway were threatened with a gun. The weapon was a **ball-bearing pistol** according to police. Staff were left shocked but uninjured.

BBC, 12 October 2006

A man has been accused of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, false imprisonment and wounding following an incident at the West Indian Carnival in **Moss Side**, Manchester, in May 2006. Shots were fired and a man was taken against his will.

BBC, 12 October 2006

A man is in a critical condition in hospital after being shot in the **Holbrooks** area of Coventry. He underwent surgery but remained critically ill two weeks later. He was hit four times outside his home when he confronted four masked men but the motive is not known (*ic Coventry*, 24 October 2006).

ic Surrey, 11 October 2006

A motorist in **East Grinstead** reported having a window broken with what was believed to be an **air weapon**. A police helicopter circled over the town centre.

ic Liverpool, 11 October 2006

A man is recovering in hospital after suffering a gunshot wound to his stomach. The wound appeared to have been caused by an **airgun** pellet. The incident occurred in a street in **Kirkdale**.

Citizen (Blackpool), 10 October 2006

A **Blackpool** hotelier who issued a warning about the dangers of providing free internet access after problems with two guests also reported that some lads (whom he believes were responsible) were seen firing **BB guns** from a window at the hotel at girls outside.

Rye & Battle Today, 9 October 2006

A team of police locked down the village of **Crowhurst** after a resident saw a man with a rifle or shotgun wandering around. No sign of the man was found after a two hour search.

East Anglian Daily Times, 9 October 2006

A shopkeeper in **Clacton** has described how he tackled an armed robber wearing a **Scream** mask who held a gun (a black pistol) at his head. Two raiders had burst into the newsagents. The raiders fled.

Daily Post, 9 October 2006

An armed police unit was sent to **Liverpool Lime Street** station after reports that a man had been seen with a firearm on a train on a Wigan to Liverpool service. The train was brought to a halt just outside the station. A man was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an **imitation firearm**.

BBC, 9 October 2006

Four teenagers were arrested after a car containing youths and a shotgun were reported in **Ashford**, Kent. Armed response units were called out and saw the car on the M20. The vehicle crashed shortly afterwards in **Willesborough**. **Imitation firearms** (two imitation shotguns and a soft air weapon) were found in the car. The four, aged between 15 and 19, were held for firearms offences, burglary and stealing a car.

BBC, 8 October 2006

A man was arrested after another man said he was being threatened with a handgun. Police had been called to premises in **Felling**, Gateshead. During their search a cannabis farm was discovered.

Lancashire Evening Post, 7 October 2006

Police in **Preston** have said that home-made weapons were being handed out from a "lending library" for specific crimes so known suspects were never caught with them. Criminals were resorting to home-made devices rather than more powerful manufactured weapons. In 2004/05, 160 of the 259 firearms incidents in Lancashire involved weapons like ball bearing guns.

Blackpool Today, 7 October 2006

Three raiders burst into a **Blackpool** jewellers and pocketed £100,000 worth of designer watches. They were armed with a handgun and hammers. Police are not convinced that the men were the same ones who robbed another jewellers in Blackpool in September (see [Incidents](#)), even though there were several significant similarities.

Scarborough Today, 6 October 2006

Following an attack on a bus driver on Barrowcliff in **Scarborough** local councillors have demanded a crackdown on the sale of **ball-bearing guns** to young people. Shopkeepers are selling the guns on the seafront. The councillors want their local MP Robert Goodwill (Con) to raise the issue in Parliament.

BBC, 6 October 2006

A nightclub in **Nottingham** has had its licence revoked after a shooting took place there in July 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

This is Bradford, 5 October 2006

A former policeman who works in the security industry will appear in court later this month accused of trying to steal cash from a bingo hall in **Bradford** by allegedly posing as an undercover officer on a covert operation. He faces two firearms charges in relation to the incident.

Harlow Star, 5 October 2006

A man who was shot in the back and face with an **airgun** has said that it could have ended his career as a graphic designer if he had been struck in the eye. He was walking along the street a short distance from his home in **Pennymead**, Harlow when he heard a loud bang and felt a sharp pain in his back. A youth in a car was pointing an airgun at him which he fired again.

Bridgwater Mercury, 5 October 2006

Two teenagers have been arrested after frightened shop workers spotted them strolling around **Bridgwater** town centre carrying guns. The teenagers were carrying **ball-bearing guns** which were confiscated by police.

BBC, 5 October 2006

Security guards who were filling a cash machine in **Paddock Wood**, Kent, were robbed by a man who threatened them with a gun. The gun was not fired.

Muswell Hill Journal, 4 October 2006

A disabled man who had seen youths running past, firing **BB guns** at his home in **Muswell Hill**, north London, has been the victim of fire bomb attackers. He found his car had been torched during the night.

Birmingham Mail, 4 October 2006

A 12-year-old boy escaped serious injury despite being shot in the eye with an **airgun** as he walked along a street in **Cannock**. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident. Staffordshire Police say they dealt with 63 airgun incidents during the school summer holidays.

The Press, 3 October 2006

An armed man subjected staff at a rural petrol station to a harrowing robbery - and made away with only a wallet and a set of house keys. Police said two men, one armed with a long-barrelled gun, had entered the petrol station on the A19 at **Escrick**, North Yorkshire.

BBC, 3 October 2006

A ten-year-old girl who claimed that she had been shot in a park in **Wolverhampton** with an **airgun** has admitted she was actually injured while playing with the gun herself. She was hurt at a friend's house. She has had stitches in her throat. A 15-year-old boy who had been arrested was released without charge.

BBC, 3 October 2006

Police discovered a dead man in a downstairs room of a property in **Wandsworth**, south London. He had been deliberately shot through the glass of his front door. Police have ruled out burglary and believe the gunman had come with the "intention of killing him".

Yorkshire Post, 2 October 2006

A man was recovering in hospital after being shot in the stomach in a **Sheffield** nightclub. The victim was among a group in a confrontation in the club. His injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

This is Bradford, 2 October 2006

Masked men armed with a handgun threatened shop staff during an armed robbery in **Allerton**. Three men entered the store and made off with money from the till and a quantity of cigarettes.

BBC, 2 October 2006

Christopher Harwood, 19, has admitted having a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He threatened a woman with a pistol he wore for line dancing by pointing the **fake weapon** at the woman's head. The incident happened when he had gone to **Fulwood**, Preston, to settle a minor argument with an old friend in April 2006. The victim had come to investigate noises in the middle of the night. Harwood was sentenced to eight months detention.

BBC, 2 October 2006

A man fled with an amount of cash after threatening two members of staff with a gun at a store in **St Osyth**, Essex.

BBC, 2 October 2006

A teenager brandishing an imitation firearm on a train sparked an alert by an armed response unit in **Colchester**. The 19-year-old was arrested and a **ball-bearing gun** taken from him. He was cautioned and released.

BBC, 1 October 2006

Two men have been charged with drug offences after an operation in **Swanley**, Kent, in which cocaine was seized. A handgun and ammunition were also recovered by police in the raid.

SCOTLAND

ic Perthshire, 27 October 2006

The power capacity of a **ball-bearing gun** will be debated before David Laing and Greg Stout are sentenced after each admitted two counts of firing the weapon at four passers-by in **Perth** on two separate occasions in December 2005 (see also [September 2006 Incidents](#)). The Court heard the weapon described as a "toy" in an attempt to dissuade the Sheriff from imposing a custodial sentence.

BBC, 25 October 2006

A primary schoolboy from **Cruden Bay**, who was injured in August, has had an **airgun** pellet lodged in his neck for several weeks after hospital staff failed to spot it. The pellet has only just been found and is expected to be removed this week. A 12-year-old boy has been charged with the original incident, which occurred as the victim was going down a lane, and a report sent to the children's reporter.

ic Scotland, 24 October 2006

A teenage boy was found dead from a gunshot wound in an upstairs bedroom at a house at **Lochbroom**, Wester Ross. There do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances. The death has been described by his parents as an accident (*BBC*, 25 October 2006).

BBC, 23 October 2006

A man was in a stable condition in hospital with a gunshot wound after an attempt was made on his life in **Cranhill**, Glasgow. He was shot in the leg and also suffered a cut to his head.

Selkirk Today, 20 October 2006

Two police officers, Constable Graeme Shepherd and Sergeant Helen Birrell, have been honoured for bravery after their arrest of a man in **Bannerfield**, Selkirk, in March 2005. The two had gone to the man's house and found him with a gun which had been pointed at them. The weapon turned out to be a **pellet gun**.

Daily Record, 20 October 2006

A man who managed to carry a stun gun in his hand luggage through two airports (in Bangkok and Amsterdam) was arrested after firing it in a pub in **Aberdeen** in January 2006. John Christie was fined £900 and was described by his defence counsel as "a silly man" not a terrorist.

BBC, 20 October 2006

Police used a Taser stun gun during a disturbance in a house in **Tollcross**, Glasgow. A man was taken to hospital and taken into custody after treatment.

Herald, 13 October 2006

A leading figure in the Scottish entertainment industry was being treated in hospital after being shot outside his home in **Clarkston**, Glasgow. He received at least one bullet wound to a leg during the attack.

BBC, 13 October 2006

A man has appeared in court accused of firing an **air rifle** at another man near his home in **Lochmaben**. The victim was hit on the head with a pellet.

Evening Times, 4 October 2006

A man was robbed at gunpoint as he sat watching TV at home in **Giffnock**. The gang of four raiders burst into his house, assaulted the man and ransacked the property escaping with several thousands of pounds.

Evening News, 4 October 2006

Scott Martin, 20, carried out a drive-by shooting with an **air pistol** after an argument in a pub in Edinburgh in December 2005. Four people were forced to dive into bushes for cover when they were fired on by Martin. The A71 in **Currie** was closed for half an hour as a result. Martin pleaded guilty to "culpably and recklessly" firing the air pistol and was ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

BBC, 2 October 2006

In May 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) Brian Cooney held up an off-licence in **Dundee** armed with an **imitation handgun** he had stolen from his friend's son. He then attempted to rob another outlet in the city. He was stopped by police after being recognised from CCTV footage. Cooney admitted stealing an imitation firearm and two charges of possessing an imitation firearm as well as admitting assault and robbery.

WALES

Wales on Sunday, 29 October 2006

Gun club member William Charles Hughes from **Gwersyllt**, near Wrexham, was jailed for five years. He held an illegal arsenal of more than 100 guns at his home. He had admitted two charges of selling illegal firearms and 13 of possessing illegal guns and a charge of possessing ammunition. Police found 111 weapons at his home. One of the 37 handguns found was loaded. The guns were left around the house because he didn't have enough secure cabinets in which to store them. (See also [June 2006 Incidents](#)).

Daily Post, 12 October 2006

An **airgun** sniper shot and injured two teenage girls at **Rhuddlan Castle**. Initially police officers were called after reports that fireworks were being let off but when they arrived they were approached by the teenagers, one of whom had a pellet wound in the thigh (she was still being treated in hospital) and the other was grazed.

South Wales Echo, 6 October 2006

A suspected gunman is being hunted after two attempted robberies in which he approached two women in **Whitchurch**, Cardiff, and demanded they hand over their bags. Both women managed to run away unharmed.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Wymondham and Attleborough Mercury, 19 October 2006

A cat owner has warned there could be someone in **Wymondham** shooting cats with an **air rifle**. Her cat was shot in the leg with a pellet. A pellet was quickly removed but she is worried about letting her pet out of the house.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 19 October 2006

A swan is recovering in an animal hospital after being repeatedly shot with an **airgun** and a shotgun. It had been shot on several different occasions. The bird was found at a pond in **Falkirk**. Those who shot the bird were described by the Scottish SPCA as "incredibly cruel".

BBC, 17 October 2006

Animal inspectors collected the bodies of three animals shot by **airguns** in the Black Country in one week. A cat had to be put down after being left paralysed after being shot in **Wednesbury**. Also in **Wednesbury** a collared dove was found shot dead. A swan died after being shot in the head by Effington Canal in **Walsall**.

BBC, 13 October 2006

At least 19 pet doves have been shot and killed by an **airgun** sniper in **Wedmore**, Somerset. Their bodies were found scatted across the village during the last few weeks. Their breeder said she had about 30 birds at her home but nearly all had disappeared. Two birds which have been survived are being treated in an animal rescue centre.

Sheffield Today, 11 October 2006

According to the RSPCA swans are being "killed for fun" in South Yorkshire by yobs with **air rifles**. Over the last three months then animal welfare charity has dealt with the deaths of five adult swans and a cygnet. Incidents have occurred in **Athersley** in Barnsley (May), **Harlington** in Doncaster (September) and most recently in **Hemingfield** near Barnsley. In the latest incident two swans were decapitated after being shot: the RSPCA believes the heads were taken to get rid of the evidence, the air weapon pellets.

Scarborough Today, 5 October 2006

A swan was used for target practice at **Scarborough Mere** and was hit eight times with **airgun** pellets. It was given about a 50/50 chance of survival. The RSPCA reported a total of 63 incidents of air rifle attacks on animals and birds in the north between January 1 and July 18 this year.

Norwich Evening News, 5 October 2006

A woman has spoken of her anger after thugs who shot her pet cat and left it for dead. Two-year-old Ernie was found by a neighbour lying at the site of a former pub in **Norwich**. The cat was put on a drip by vets. He had been shot in the shoulder and pelvis by an **airgun**.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 3 October 2006

A two-year-old pet cat was shot with an **air rifle** while exploring the streets of **Chapel End**, near Nuneaton. The cat limped home and was found to have a lump in her leg. A bone had been broken in two places.



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