



OCTOBER 2007 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were four more fatal shootings in South London in October: the attacks happened in Stockwell, New Cross (a woman was hit by a stray bullet during a gunfight between two men), Plumstead (the victim was an 18-year-old) and Streatham. In a fifth fatal attack a 16-year-old was killed in Burngreave (Sheffield).
- In Manchester a man was injured in Cheetham Hill and a 13-year-old was shot in Moss Side where a gunfight between rival gangs had been reported earlier in the month.
- Two men were shot and injured in West Green (north London) and a 14-year-old received injuries in a shooting in Leyton (north east London). A second teenager was injured in the attack which resulted in one death in Plumstead (south east London), and a second man was shot during the fatal attack in Streatham (south London) (see above).
- A woman was grazed by a bullet and the exterior of a house was damaged in Huyton-with-Roby (Merseyside).
- A soldier suffered a serious gunshot wound to the leg in an exercise at Barry Buddon training camp.

- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies at a bookmakers in Penicuik (Midlothian), at two shops in Essex (Saffron Waldon and Colchester) and another shop in Cleethorpes (Lincolnshire). A man is due to appear in court after two robberies on shops and one attempted robbery on a post office in Kilmacolm and Inverkip (Inverclyde). A leisure park in Camber Sands (Sussex) was held up by a gunman.
- There were three similar car-jackings in Warrington and Bolton.
- Two men robbed a man at gunpoint in an alley in Kidlington (Oxfordshire).
- Three men broke into a flat in Binley Woods (West Midlands) and pointed a gun at the occupants when stealing cash and a mobile phone.

- **Other Incidents** - Three windows of a house in Newton Heath (Manchester) were smashed by gunshots and another house was hit during an early morning raid in Raunds (Northamptonshire).
- A shot was fired through the window of a gym in Grangetown (Sunderland).
- A man was arrested after an alleged firearms incident in Frilsham (Berkshire).
- Armed police were called out to reports of a man with a firearm in Pollok (Glasgow).

- **Gun Finds** - An air weapon was among a haul seized by Merseyside Police in Croxteth and Norris Green.
- A 20-year-old was remanded in custody on drugs and firearms offences after being arrested in possession of a firearm and ammunition without a certificate in Thamesmead (south east London)
- A Torquay man is on trial facing charges relating to an arsenal of weapons which police found at his home. The charges relate to possessing prohibited weapons, possessing weapons without a firearms certificate and

possessing a shotgun without a licence. Police seized 17 guns from a replica pistol collector in Battersea (south London).

- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - A 17-year-old was convicted of manslaughter and jailed for two years after killing his sister in their Gorton (Manchester) home with a pistol illegally owned by his mother who has been given a three year jail sentence.
- A man convicted of attempted murder after a shooting in Kennington (south London) has had his sentence increased to 17 years on appeal.
- A man was jailed for five years after going to his ex-girlfriend's home in Canning Town (east London) with a loaded pistol.
- Two people, one a 17-year-old, who kidnapped and pistol-whipped a man in Plumstead (south east London) were found guilty of kidnap and possession of a firearm.
- A man who claimed he thought the machine gun he found in a rucksack in a Clydeside yard was a paintball gun was not believed and was jailed for five years.
- A man who admitted possessing a prohibited weapon (a 9mm handgun with silencer) in Manchester has been jailed for six years.

- **Airguns - There were a number of serious incidents involving airguns in October. The incidents in Scotland will certainly add further weight to the arguments for tight restrictions on airguns proposed by the Scottish Government. The Convictions list reflects the serious nature of many of the offences involving air weapons.**
- A man had to undergo emergency surgery after being hit with an airgun pellet whilst walking in Erskine (Renfrewshire). In another attack in Scotland a woman was seriously injured when she was hit in the leg as she returned home in Townhead (Glasgow).
- A man who attacked a 13-year-old boy in a Greenock park threatened to shoot him with an air rifle if he told anyone.
- A sniper has been taking potshots at homes and businesses in Greenock, Port Glasgow and Gourock.
- A van was hit with an air rifle pellet in Dundee.
- A 19-year-old from Portland (Dorset) fears she could lose her sight after being shot in the eye with an air rifle pellet which was left embedded in her head.
- In Hampshire a woman was hit on the leg after two teenagers shot at her in Ringwood and an elderly man was hurt when he fell in fright when his window was hit with airgun pellets in Petersfield.
- Three people were hit by air rifle snipers when they stepped outside from a party in Kilburn (north London).
- An air rifle pellet is thought to have punched a hole through the roof of a car as a woman drove through an estate in Caerphilly (South Wales).
- In a series of attacks in Suffolk (Orford, Felixstowe and Ipswich) cars and property were damaged and a man was hit: three people aged 18 to 21 have been bailed in connection with the incidents.
- An air weapon was found by police after two men threatened another at the station in Newton Abbot (Devon).
- **Airguns - Convictions** - Two teenagers were found guilty of the murder of a man in Cottingham (Humberside) who had been battered with a cricket bat and shot a number of times with an air rifle.
- A man was given a seven year jail sentence after attempting to rob a petrol station in Cheltenham whilst carrying an airgun.
- A soldier who used an airgun to take pot shots at passers-by from his bedroom window in Long Eaton (Derbyshire) (one woman was hit) was given a lenient 26 week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months.

- In Scotland an 18-year-old was jailed for nine months after pointing an air pistol at a student in a bar in St Andrews. A man was jailed for at least years for firing an airgun at police in West Linton, and another man has been ordered to be tagged after admitting firing an air rifle from a building site in Galashiels.
 - A man who opened fire on his neighbour's window with an air rifle in Weston-super-Mare has been warned he could face a prison sentence.
 - A man received a five month suspended prison sentence after firing an air rifle at neighbours in a boundary dispute in Worcestershire.
 - A 15-year-old girl has been given a 12-month referral order for her part in an attack in Northwich (Cheshire) during which an air rifle was fired at a 15-year-old boy.
 - Two men with previous convictions were in trouble after being found with air weapons when prohibited. An air rifle was found at the home of a Paignton man. A man from Burnley was given a conditional discharge after being found with an air pistol.
- **Imitation Guns** - Attacks in which people were hit with shots from imitation guns happened in West Derby (Merseyside) where a pensioner was hit leaving a party, Brixington (Devon) where BB pellets caused visible injuries to youngsters and Briton Ferry (South Wales) where a 12-year-old boy fired a BB gun at a schoolgirl.
 - A 13-year-old fired a BB gun at three primary school children in Heaton (Tyneside).
 - A ball-bearing gun was used in an attack involving teenagers in Glasgow's south side. A man has appeared in court accused of brandishing an imitation gun in Greenock.
 - The window of a coach was shot out in Liverpool, probably with a ball-bearing gun.
 - The windows of a house in Hainault (Essex) were hit with steel pellets from BB guns, one of a number of incidents reported in the area.
 - Three incidents involving ball-bearing or toy guns were reported in Tonge Moor and Great Lever in Lancashire: in one a community support officer feared for her life.
 - A man was arrested in Stamford (Lincolnshire) after three imitation guns were found in a car, and an 18-year-old faces firearms charges after a ball-bearing gun was discovered in his car after it crashed in Bolton.
 - **Imitation Guns - Convictions** - Two men and a woman have been given long jail sentences (11 years and 9 years) for three robberies in South London in which they threatened victims with a replica silver pistol.
 - A man who pointed an imitation rifle at road diggers in Slough was ordered to do community service for 12 months. Another man who fired a ball-bearing gun into the air in Exmouth during a row pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence: sentencing was adjourned.
 - A 16-year-old pleaded guilty to being in possession of an imitation firearm at Wrexham bus station.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Cats were seriously injured (one fatally) in a number of incidents involving airguns across the country (two in Kent, Suffolk, Somerset, Middlesex, Essex, Wiltshire and Cardiff).
 - At Scarborough seaside donkeys were fired at with an air rifle as they grazed in a field.
 - Swans have been shot with air rifles in three different locations (Falkirk, Harlington (South Yorkshire) and Nuneaton).
 - Police were investigating to shooting of two protected hen harriers on the Queen's Estate in Sandringham.

GUN INCIDENTS – October 2007

ENGLAND

Petersfield Post, 31 October 2007

An elderly man was hospitalized after he fell in fright at three **airgun** pellets being shot at his window in **Petersfield**, Hampshire.

News Shopper, 30 October 2007

Michael Gbenbitse and a 17-year-old boy kidnapped and pistol-whipped a man in a revenge attack in **Plumstead** (south east London) in October 2006. The victim only escaped being shot when the gun jammed. Both were found guilty of kidnapping and were also convicted of possession of a firearm. Gbenbitse was given an indeterminate sentence, sentencing of the 17-year-old was adjourned.

Herald Express, 30 October 2007

A **Torquay** man is on trial facing 18 charges, eleven of which relate to possessing prohibited weapons, four to possessing weapons without a firearms certificate and one to possessing a shotgun without a licence. An arsenal of weapons was found by police in his home. He has pleaded not guilty to all the charges and also denies purchasing or acquiring 50 rounds of .410 ammunition without a certificate. The prosecutor has alleged that the man has "an unhealthy obsession with guns" and is "all too interested in their use and firing". The trial continues.

BBC, 30 October 2007

A man was arrested after two men threatened another at gunpoint at **Newton Abbot** station in Devon. An **air weapon** was found at the man's home address.

BBC, 30 October 2007

A 19-year-old from **Portland**, Dorset, fears she could lose her sight after an **air rifle** pellet was left embedded in her head. The pellet lodged and fragmented in the back of her eye. She was shot during an evening out with friends. A 20-year-old man was arrested and released on bail in connection with the shooting.

This is Wiltshire, 29 October 2007

Two teenagers shot at a woman with an **airgun** during an open day at the fire station in **Ringwood**, Hampshire. The woman was treated at the scene for a grazed leg. Two boys aged between 12 and 14 years old were seen riding away from the scene on bikes.

Express & Echo, 29 October 2007

Chingis Azis fired a **ball-bearing gun** in the air during a row in a street in **Exmouth**, Devon, in October 2007. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause his victim fear of violence. Sentencing was adjourned.

Bolton News, 28 October 2007

An 18-year-old was arrested under the Firearms Act at the scene of a car crash in **Bradshaw** after a **ball bearing gun** was spotted on the back seat of the vehicle. Neither he nor his passenger was injured in the crash.

BBC, 27 October 2007

A 14-year-old is in hospital, where his condition is described as stable, after he was found with a gunshot wound in his shoulder in a street in **Leyton**, east London. Operation Trident is investigating the incident.

BBC, 27 October 2007

Police are hunting a man who robbed a leisure park at **Camber Sands**, Sussex. He threatened two members of staff with a handgun before making off with an undisclosed quantity of cash from a safe.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 25 October 2007

A gunman opened fire on a house during an early morning raid in **Raunds**, near Wellingborough. Neighbours say between three and five shots were fired through the door of the property. Armed police arrested a local man who was later charged in connection with the incident.

News Shopper, 24 October 2007

A 20-year-old has been remanded in custody after appearing in court charged with drugs and firearms offences. He was arrested in **Thamesmead** and charged with two counts of possessing ammunition for a firearm without a certificate, two counts of possessing a firearm without a certificate, possession with intent to supply cannabis, possessing cocaine with intent to supply and possession of CS gas.

Daily Mail, 24 October 2007

Daniel Galvin has been found guilty of criminal damage and common assault following a boundary dispute with neighbours in **Worcestershire**. In December 2006 he had fired an **air rifle** at them whilst they were harvesting sugar beet and one pellet hit a tractor. He was given a five month suspended jail term and ordered to carry out 150 hours of community work. He was also fined and ordered to pay towards the damage to the tractor.

ic South London, 23 October 2007

Two men and a woman who surrounded a lone woman and couples and threatened them with a **replica gun** (a silver pistol) have been jailed. Terence Glasgow was jailed for 11 years, Clare Griffin for 11 years and Lawrence Mabinton for 9 years. The trio struck three times in **Elm Park** and **Brixton Hill** in November 2006.

Daily Mail, 23 October 2007

David Collinson was given a seven year jail sentence after he was convicted of robbery. He had attempted to rob a petrol station in **Cheltenham** in February 2007 but was thwarted by a cashier who refused to put her till money in a bag. Collinson, who was carrying an **airgun**, was convicted of robbery.

BBC, 22 October 2007

Damage was done to the exterior of a house in **Huyton-with Roby**, Merseyside, when shots were fired. A woman was grazed on the side by a bullet and was treated in hospital before being allowed to go home (*Liverpool Echo*, 23 October 2007).

BBC, 22 October 2007

A man has been killed and another seriously injured in a shooting in **Streatham** High Road, south London. Two or more vehicles were seen leaving the area after the shooting. Four people have been arrested.

BBC, 21 October 2007

A 13-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after being shot in the shoulder in **Moss Side**, Manchester. He is not thought to have suffered life-threatening injuries.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 20 October 2007

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing an **imitation firearm** after police stopped a vehicle in the **Stamford** area because they believed it was acting suspiciously. One imitation gun was found in the glove compartment and another two in the boot. The suspect has been released on police bail.

Evening Telegraph (Derby), 20 October 2007

Private Michael Verney used an **airgun** to fire pot shots at passers-by from his bedroom window in **Long Eaton** in November 2006. He pleaded guilty to one charge of assault and one of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. A woman was hit and left with bruising and a small wound. Verney also fired at a group of teenagers. He told police that he was "practising for his new job". He was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, but was told by the judge that he would usually face a custodial sentence. The judge said he did not want to see him lose his job and waste a career in the Army. As an Editorial points out "If a company accountant or street cleaner had started firing an airgun at innocent bystanders, hitting one in the process, they would almost certainly have been jailed. The loss of their job would inevitably have followed. A serviceman, with his special skills, should be expected to show absolute discipline in the community."

This is Hertfordshire, 19 October 2007

Armed police swooped on the flat of a **replica pistol** collector in **Battersea**, south London, and seized 17 guns that were exact replicas and could be converted to fire. The guns will be destroyed. Local residents had raised concerns that the man had a large number of firearms and ammunition on display in his home. According to the police, the action was taken to reduce the threat of firearm incidents and to prevent any possible tragic consequences should the guns have made their way into the wrong hands.

Sunderland Echo, 18 October 2007

A shot was fired through the window of a gym in **Grangetown**, Sunderland. Police sealed off part of a busy road at the scene. The shot appeared to have been fired from a car travelling along the road. A bullet hole was visible in the window.

Ham & High, 18 October 2007

Smokers who had stepped outside from a party in **Kilburn**, north London, were shot at by **air rifle** snipers. Three people were hit. One woman was hit in the shoulder, her boyfriend was hit in the head and the pellet punctured the skin and a third victim was shot in the back.

East Anglian Daily Times, 18 October 2007

An armed robber struck at a jewellery store in **Colchester** and threatened staff with a handgun. He escaped the scene on a moped with thousands of pounds worth of jewellery. The employees were left shaken.

BBC, 18 October 2007

A 16-year-old boy was shot dead in a play area in the **Burngreave** area of Sheffield. The boy was a local resident. Detectives are looking at whether there are links to another shooting in the city centre in the last 24 hours (*Press Association*, 18 October 2007). An 18-year-old has been charged with murder (*The Star*, 23 October 2007).

Yorkshire Post, 17 October 2007

David Sellers, 19, and Luke Anderson, 18, have been found guilty of murdering a man they battered with a cricket bat and shot with an **air rifle**. They attacked their victim on a deserted country lane in **Cottingham**, near Hull, in December 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Both face life jail sentences.

Telegraph, 15 October 2007

Reydeell Waite was arrested during a police surveillance operation in **Greater Manchester** during which detectives watched him buy a 9mm semi-automatic handgun with silencer for £2,500. He admitted possessing a prohibited firearm and was jailed for six years.

BBC, 15 October 2007

A series of 19 gun attacks, which included a man being shot in the head along with damage caused to cars and property in Suffolk, may be linked. The victim was hit, but not hurt, by a pellet fired from a car in **Ipswich**. At least 17 cars in **Ipswich**, **Orford** and **Felixstowe** and one house in **Orford** were shot at with a **high-powered airgun** or **ball-bearing gun** on the same day. Two men and a woman, aged 21, 19 and 18, have been bailed in connection with the attacks (*BBC*, 18 October 2007).

BBC, 15 October 2007

Another teenager has been killed in a shooting in south London. Two gunmen opened fire into a car in **Plumstead** hitting two 18-year-olds. One victim died and the other teenager suffered injuries which are not thought to be life-threatening.

Rugby Advertiser, 12 October 2007

Three men broke into a flat in **Binley Woods** and pointed what was believed to be a handgun at the occupants. They stole £50 and a mobile phone. About the same time burglars broke into another house in the neighbourhood and stole a car from the driveway.

Newbury Today, 12 October 2007

Police were called to an alleged firearms incident in **Frilsham**, Berkshire. Nobody was injured. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear or provocation.

ic Berkshire, 12 October 2007

Anthony Gudgeon pointed an **imitation rifle** at road diggers in **Slough**. Objects had already been hurled at the men but they were really alarmed when they saw a rifle being levelled at them from a bedroom window. Gudgeon admitted having an imitation firearm but claimed he had not intended to scare the men. He said he had "accidentally" pointed the gun in their direction. He pleaded guilty to threatening, insulting and abusive behaviour towards one of the workmen and was ordered to do community service for 12 months, undertaking 150 hours of unpaid work.

Oxford Mail, 11 October 2007

A man was robbed at gunpoint as he walked along an alley with his girlfriend in **Kidlington**. Two men threatened the man with a knife before the alleged handgun was produced. The victim handed over his mobile phone and wallet.

ic South London, 11 October 2007

Nathan Smith has been jailed for five years after going to his ex-girlfriend's home in **Canning Town** with a loaded pistol in July 2007. The gun was found under a car seat after armed police officers carried out what is known as a 'hard stop'. There were four cartridges inside the chamber of the gun. Smith admitted possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate.

Exmouth Journal, 11 October 2007

A volley of **BB gun** shots was allegedly directed at youngsters in a recreational ground in **Brixington** in September. The BB pellets caused "visible injury" to the victims. BB guns were seized from two youths. The guns were described by police as very realistic.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 11 October 2007

A 13-year-old boy has been arrested for assault after a teenage sniper fired a **BB gun** at three primary school children in the playground of their school in **Heaton**. The boy is a former pupil and will be assessed by the youth offending team at a youth surgery.

This is Lancashire, 10 October 2007

Three incidents involving guns have been reported. In one a female community support officer feared for her life after a **ball-bearing gun** was pointed at her head by a youth in **Tonge Moor**. The youth was cautioned. In another incident in **Tonge Moor** in September a woman was arrested after an **air rifle** was pointed at children. The woman was disarmed by armed police officers. Armed officers were called to an incident in **Great Lever**, also in September, after a man was seen with a handgun tucked into the waistband of his trousers. He was disarmed and the weapon turned out to be a **toy gun** belonging to his son.

Liverpool Echo, 10 October 2007

A grandfather was shot with a **ball-bearing gun** and threatened with a knife as he left his 70th birthday party in **West Derby**. The victim was hit in the leg in an unprovoked attack by a gang.

Telegraph, 9 October 2007

A police officer asked an eight-year-old boy to destroy his plastic **toy gun** after he was told it was an imitation firearm. The boy was threatened with arrest until his step-father snapped the gun in half. The incident took place outside the boy's home in **Pinehurst** in Swindon.

Sun, 9 October 2007

Two gangs of youths fought a gun battle on the streets of **Moss Side**, Manchester. Police officers found ten bullet casing on the ground, gunshot damage to a car and one bullet lodged in a fence, after the exchange of fire between the rival groups.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 8 October 2007

William Kay was drunk when he opened fire at a neighbour's window in **Weston-super-Mare**. He had fetched his 22-calibre **air rifle** from his home and shot at the property. He pleaded guilty to charges of possessing an air weapon and criminal damage and has been warned he could face a prison sentence.

Burnley Citizen, 8 October 2007

Ex-convict Mohammed Quadri from **Burnley** has been given a conditional discharge after being found with an **air pistol**. He had admitted having a firearm when prohibited and being in breach of licence after his release from custody.

Manchester Evening News, 7 October 2007

Police are investigating an incident in which three windows at a property in **Newton Heath** were smashed by gunshots.

BBC, 7 October 2007

Two masked men, one armed with a gun and the other with a carving knife, confronted a shopkeeper at a newsagents in **Cleethorpes**, Humberside. They demanded cash which the shop assistant refused and the men fled.

Wimbledon Guardian, 5 October 2007

Leon Russell was convicted in May of the attempted murder of a man and sentenced to a minimum seven and a half years' jail. His victim had been shot at point blank range up to 13 times in **Kennington**, south London. The High Court has heard an appeal before agreeing Russell's sentence was unduly lenient and has increased the minimum sentence to 17 years.

Ilford Recorder, 4 October 2007

A woman whose cat was killed with an **air rifle** pellet (see below) is considering leaving **Hainault**, Essex. Her windows have been hit with steel ball bearings fired from **BB guns** and pot shots have been taken at passers by and at her neighbours' cat. She also described how a man had been shot as he cycled near Hainault station.

Herald Express, 4 October 2007

An **air rifle** was found at the **Paignton** house of a man who was banned from possessing such weapons for five years following his release from a young offender's institution. Lewis Macnamara was convicted of two counts of assaulting a police officer and illegally possessing an imitation firearm and a razor blade.

BBC, 4 October 2007

A woman had her car stolen by two would-be male buyers, both aged about 19. She was a passenger on the test drive when the driver stopped the car, threatened her with a gun and ordered her out of the car. The incident happened in the **Winwick** area of Warrington. A man is being questioned by detectives investigating a series of similar gunpoint highjackings. In two other incidents a man in **Bolton** was threatened with a gun (the gang stopped to pick up the car stolen in Warrington after the carjacking) and a car was stolen in **Accrington** (*Bolton News*, 6 October 2007).

Tottenham, Wood Green and Edmonton Journal, 3 October 2007

Two men were shot in the thigh and the foot by a gunman outside a social club in **West Green**, north London. They were taken to hospital though their conditions were said not to be life threatening.

Times, 3 October 2007

A 26-year-old woman who was walking home from work was killed when she was hit in the head by a stray bullet in a car park in **New Cross**, south London. Two men began shooting at each other and the victim was caught in the crossfire. Three men and a woman have been arrested, but no weapon has yet been found. A 17-year-old arrested after the death has been accused of the attempted murder of an unknown male and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence (*BBC*, 9 October 2007).

Times, 3 October 2007

A 21-year-old man was found dead with gunshot wounds in a stairwell of a building in **Stockwell** (south London). Two teenagers aged 18 and 17 have been charged with murder, the 17-year-old has also been charged with carrying a gun (*BBC*, 7 October 2007).

This is Cheshire, 3 October 2007

A 15-year-old boy on a bike was threatened with an **air rifle** in a **Northwich** park in July 2007. A 15-year-old girl has been sentenced for her part in the incident in which the teenager she was with fired a large air rifle at the boy. The victim struggled with the teenager and the girl got involved and hit him. The victim escaped with the rifle. Magistrates gave her a 12-month referral order for each offence.

Daily Post, 3 October 2007

An **air weapon** and industrial fireworks were among a haul seized during a day of action by Merseyside police in **Croxteth** and **Norris Green**.

Liverpool Echo, 2 October 2007

A window of a coach was shot out by a teenage gunman as the bus headed into the centre of **Liverpool**. The perpetrator was one of a gang of about seven youths, aged around 16. The damage was estimated at around £1000. Police suspect a **ball-bearing gun** was used.

Cambridge Evening News, 2 October 2007

A gunman wearing a hallowe'en mask attempted to rob a post office and convenience store in **Saffron Walden**, Essex, but the owner refused to hand over any cash. The offenders left empty handed. Two men have been arrested and were helping police with their inquiries.

BBC, 2 October 2007

A man has been shot in the shoulder in **Cheetham Hill**, Manchester. He was driving along a street in the area when the attack happened. A man got out of another car and fired at his vehicle before driving off. The injured man was in a stable condition in hospital.

BBC, 2 October 2007

Kasha Peniston, 17, has admitted the manslaughter of his 12-year-old sister at their home in **Gorton**, Manchester, in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The gun was illegally owned by their mother who had buried the .38 snub-nosed revolver in the garden. She had already pleaded guilty to possession of the gun and possession of ammunition (see [September 2007 Incidents](#)). The teenager removed the gun from the garden and was playing with it in his pocket in the living room when he shot his sister. Kasha Peniston has been jailed for two years, Natasha Peniston for three years.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 31 October 2007

An **air rifle** pellet was fired at the windscreen of a van at traffic lights in **Dundee**. No-one was injured but the driver was shocked.

Greenock Telegraph, 29 October 2007

A gunman tried to hold up a post office in **Inverkip** but ran off empty-handed. Following the attempted robbery police mounted a massive manhunt. A man is due to appear in court today in connection with this hold up and two recent robberies in **Kilmacolm** (see below).

Daily Record, 26 October 2007

Philip Thompson, who fired an **airgun** at police during a stand-off at his home in **West Linton**, Peeblesshire, in December 2005 (see [Incidents](#)), has been jailed for at least three years.

Greenock Telegraph, 23 October 2007

A man grabbed a 13-year-old as he was cycling through a **Greenock** park, shoved a pill into his mouth and then threatened to shoot him if he told anyone. The boy spat out the tablet and the police were alerted. He said that the attacker had an **air rifle**.

Greenock Telegraph, 22 October 2007

A masked man subjected three members of staff and a customer to a gunpoint ordeal at a supermarket in **Kilmacolm**. He demanded money before fleeing with a three figure sum. Four days later a man brandishing a silver handgun threatened a member of staff at an off-licence in the town and stole a three-figure sum. Police believe the same man may have been responsible for both robberies (*Greenock Telegraph*, 25 October 2007).

Greenock Telegraph, 16 October 2007

A man has appeared in court accused of brandishing a gun in **Gourock**. He denied conducting himself in a disorderly manner, brandishing an imitation firearm, placing people in a state of fear and alarm and committing a breach of the peace. He also denied a charge of having an **imitation handgun** in a public place on the same day. He did admit possessing an imitation gun but claimed he had it for legitimate reasons and it was in his house. He was released on bail.

BBC, 16 October 2007

A woman was seriously injured when she was shot at with an **air weapon** as she returned home to her flat in **Townhead**, Glasgow. She was taken to hospital where she had pellets removed from her left knee and her right thigh.

Scotland on Sunday, 14 October 2007

A **ball-bearing gun** has been used in one of three attacks in the past month in **Glasgow's** south side which the police believe to be linked. The victims were aged between 13 and 18.

Greenock Telegraph, 11 October 2007

A sniper has been terrorising Inverclyde by taking potshots with an **airgun** at homes and businesses. The person strikes mostly at weekends and has hit targets in **Greenock, Port Glasgow** and **Gourock**. In the latest incident a business in Gourock was hit. Police think that joyriders firing through a car window may be responsible.

ic Renfrewshire, 10 October 2007

A man has gone through emergency surgery to remove an air pellet lodged close to his spine. His condition was described as comfortable. The victim was walking with a friend through a wooded area in **Erskine** when he was shot in the lower back from close range. The shooter, who was armed with a powerful **air weapon**, has not been found.

Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter, 9 October 2007

Gary Trainer claimed he was one hundred per cent certain that a sub-machine gun he found in a rucksack at an abandoned shipyard on the **River Clyde**, a site used by paintball fans, was a paintball gun. The Czech-made 9mm Luge sub-machine gun was in poor condition but in working order. Trainer pleaded guilty to possessing an automatic weapon without lawful authority in October 2005. The judge was unable to accept that he had found the firearm by chance and jailed Trainer for five years.

BBC, 9 October 2007

Luke Wardle who admitted firing an **air rifle** from a building site in **Galashiels** in May 2007 has been ordered to be electronically tagged for three months. Police found drugs in a nearby works cabin, and he also admitted charges of dealing cannabis as well as possession of cocaine.

St Andrews Citizen, 5 October 2007

Adam Kavanagh, 18, was jailed for nine months after pointing an **air pistol** in the face of a student in a bar in **St Andrews**. The victim, his friends and bar staff wrested the gun from his grasp. Kavanagh admitted assaulting the student. He had been a member of a gun club and had a previous conviction for a firearms offence.

BBC, 4 October 2007

Armed police were called out to reports of a man with a firearm in the **Pollok** area of Glasgow. A weapon was recovered but had not been discharged.

Advertiser (Midlothian), 4 October 2007

A man stole a three figure sum of money from a bookies in **Penicuik** after presenting a small handgun to two female members of staff. The women were left shaken but no-one was injured.

Evening Telegraph and Post, 3 October 2007

A soldier suffered a serious gunshot wound to the leg in an accident during a military training exercise at the **Barry Buddon** training camp (Tayside). He received emergency treatment in hospital and the injury is not thought to be life-threatening. The Army is carrying out an investigation.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 25 October 2007

A woman was driving through an estate in **Caerphilly** when a missile punched a hole through the roof of her car. She believes it was an **air rifle** pellet.

Evening Leader, 10 October 2007

A 16-year-old boy has appeared in court after wielding a **ball-bearing gun** at the **Wrexham** bus station. He pleaded guilty to being in possession of an imitation firearm. The gun had been bought in Wrexham. A full pre-sentence report was ordered by the magistrate.

Western Mail, 8 October 2007

A 12-year-old boy has been arrested after firing a **BB gun** at a classmate, a 12-year-old girl, in a school in **Briton Ferry**. The boy admitted the offence and has been given a police reprimand. He has been excluded from the school.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Daily Record, 27 October 2007

A swan may have to be put down after it was shot and left brain damaged by an **airgun** pellet. It may die if released. A dog walker spotted the injured bird struggling on the Forth and Clyde Canal in **Falkirk**.

Kent News, 25 October 2007

A cat which had been shot with an **air rifle** pellet in **Maidstone** had to have its leg amputated.

Eastern Daily Press, 25 October 2007

Bird welfare officers have launched an investigation after two rare birds of prey were found on the Queen's **Sandringham** estate. An allegation was made that the rare hen harriers were shot. Only 15 nesting sites are thought to exist across the UK.

BBC, 25 October 2007

A swan and a cygnet have been killed in a suspected **air rifle** attack by two teenage boys in **Harlington**, near Doncaster. The birds were found dead next to the River Dearne. The swan had been shot through the eye, its cygnet had died after being shot through the bill. Two boys were seen leaving the area with an air rifle.

BBC, 24 October 2007

A cat had to have a leg amputated after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Detling**, Kent. The cat's owners discovered it had suffered a wound when it returned to their house.

Lowestoft Journal, 5 October 2007

A pet cat was shot in the face with an **airgun** pellet in an incident in **Lowestoft**. The cat is recovering after treatment and removal of the pellet. In June another pet cat had been shot in the face by an **air rifle** pellet in **Kessingland**, Suffolk.

Yorkshire Post, 4 October 2007

Up to 50 shots with an **air rifle** were taken at seaside donkeys as they grazed in a field in **Scarborough**. One donkey was left with a pellet embedded in its neck following the attack.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 4 October 2007

A thug armed with an **air rifle** has shot a defenceless cat as it was playing in **Weston-super-Mare**. Her owner noticed there was blood on a window sill in her house after she came in.

Wimbledon Guardian, 4 October 2007

A cat has survived an **air rifle** attack in **Stanwell**, near Staines. The cat was shot several times in the stomach and its owner has been saddled with a £900 vet's bill.

Iford Recorder, 4 October 2007

A cat has been shot dead with an **air rifle** in **Hainault**, Essex. The cat's owner has also described various other incidents in the area involving **BB guns** and **airguns** (see above).

Bootle Times, 4 October 2007

Kyle Sheils, 17, who tormented his neighbours in **Netherton**, has been given an ASBO. Among his anti-social activities he had shot a cat with a **ball-bearing gun**. He will be barred from certain areas, swearing in public and carrying a ball-bearing gun or any form of paint in a public place.

Swindon Advertiser, 3 October 2007

A cat owner has warned cat lovers to be on their guard after her pet was shot with an **air rifle** in **Watchfield**. The cat was very badly hurt with a wound just below the neckline, but has survived.

ic Coventry, 3 October 2007

A cygnet found with its head in the water in **Nuneaton** had been shot through the head with an **air rifle** and killed.

South Wales Echo, 2 October 2007

A woman in **Caerau**, Cardiff, discovered her cat on a window bleeding and limping badly. The cat had been shot on the top of her front leg with an **air rifle**.

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