



SEPTEMBER 2006 - SUMMARY

See the [Full List of Incidents](#)

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries - September was marked by a number of serious gun attacks on young people (see also Airguns), two of whom were killed.**
- A 15-year-old boy was the victim of a fatal shooting in Moss Side (Manchester) and a teenage boy was shot dead in the Meadows area of Nottingham. In another Manchester shooting a 16-year-old girl was hit in the shoulder in Whalley Edge. Two teenagers were injured, one critically, during an attack outside a fast food restaurant in Brixton (south London).
- Other deaths occurred after shooting incidents at nightclubs in Bristol and Kings Cross (London), and two people (a man and a woman) died in a double shooting in Derby which appears to have been a murder/suicide (the man responsible had a shooting gallery set up in his back garden). A man died after apparently shooting himself with a shotgun in Govilon (near Abergavenny): two of his neighbours had earlier been shot and injured in their garden.
- A member of the armed forces was critically injured in a shooting at Ogmores-by-Sea (South Wales): he was the only person involved. A man died after shooting himself in the face with his own shotgun during an organised duck shoot near Fraserburgh.
- Men were injured in gun attacks in Glasgow, Portslade (Sussex), Bury (Greater Manchester), Hillfields (Coventry), Winson Green (Birmingham), Dingle (Merseyside), Marsh (Huddersfield) (in a pub), Headington (Oxford) (at a house party), Lemington (Newcastle) and Govilon (near Abergavenny, two brothers injured (see above)), There were a number of incidents in south London which resulted in gun injuries: in Camberwell, Old Kent Road, Brixton (two separate incidents, one in which a cyclist was shot and another in which two men were shot outside a club), Walworth and Kennington. Other London incidents which left victims injured were reported from Hackney and Hanwell.
- A man claims he suffered a mysterious gunshot wound at a birthday party in Ingol (Preston).
- A man was knocked unconscious with a stun gun in an attack in Chester-le-Street.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were armed robberies or attempted robberies on an off licence in Lincoln, a video store in Aylesbury, post offices in Walker and Denton Park (both Tyneside) and Loxton (Somerset), jewellers in Chester, Manchester and Blackpool and other shops in Bulwell (Notts), Hartlepool and Needham Market (Suffolk). Security guards were the target of robbers in Gosforth

(Newcastle), Benfleet (Essex) and Doncaster. A pub was raided in Meadows (Nottingham) and a takeaway in Marsh (Huddersfield). A petrol station was robbed at Tattenham Corner (Surrey).

- Taxi drivers were robbed at gunpoint by passengers in Preston and Huddersfield.
- A lorry was hijacked at gunpoint in Aveley (Essex).
- A man was robbed of property at gunpoint in North Shields, another was threatened for his mobile phone in Huddersfield and a victim in York was approached by a gunman who demanded property (the victim disarmed the man). A man was forced to stop his car and hand over cash in Longford (Coventry).
- A couple were held at gunpoint in their Coventry home by thieves who stole their car and cash. An armed man stole a car from a woman who had been shopping in Rochdale.
- A prisoner escaped after the van in which he was being transported was held up by armed men in Redditch.

- **Other Incidents** - Several shots were fired by a gang in south east London during attacks which left one man dead and another injured, both from stab wounds. A man was seriously injured in a hit and run incident when the car driven by a man armed with a handgun, who had just been arguing with another man, hit him in East Ham, east London.
- The door of a caravan was blasted by a gunman at a travellers' camp near Sandy, Bedfordshire.
- Shots were fired as one car chased another along the A1 near Barnet, north London. A road in Bradford city centre was closed after reports of a gun being fired.
- A man has been abducted at gunpoint from his Glasgow home.

- **Thefts and Losses** - Thieves stole 33 air rifles and air pistols from an angling shop in Surrey.
- A police officer mislaid a metal holder containing 15 bullets in Nottingham.

- **Gun Finds - Hundreds of guns were found at a house in Dartford in what the Metropolitan Police consider to be one of their biggest ever seizures.** A man has been arrested and charged with a number of firearms offences.
- Two men were arrested on suspicion of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life when their car was stopped in Stapleton (Bristol), and a man was arrested after a sub-machine gun, ammunition and drugs were found at a Liverpool flat.
- An arsenal of weapons, ammunition and shotgun powder was found in a private house in Ashbrooke, Sunderland, after the owner, a gun club member, had died. The discovery led to the evacuation of neighbouring houses.

- **Terrorism** - A number of those arrested recently in London and the South East on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activities have been charged with firearms offences.

- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - Four young men, aged between 18 and 20, were convicted of firearm and robbery offences committed in the Sutton (Surrey) area.
 - A man who was overpowered by a police officer in Peckham (south London) was jailed for 11 years for possessing firearms, including a machine pistol and a replica pistol. A 10 year sentence was given to a man who threatened a police officer with a firearm following an attempt to rob a jewellers in Knightsbridge (London).
 - A man was jailed for nine years after firing a shotgun during an attempted robbery in Balornock (Glasgow).
 - Two men were jailed after they had been stopped whilst driving to a suspected shooting in London. They received sentences of six years and three years for possessing firearms.
 - A Nottingham man was jailed for eight years after giving his girlfriend a loaded machine pistol and ammunition. Another man was jailed for 10 years after searches of two houses (including his own) in south London had led to the finding of a machine gun and a stun gun. Another Nottingham man who was caught with a sawn-off shotgun in his shed in Bilborough was jailed for three-and-a-half years, although had the gun been six inches longer he would have received a five year mandatory sentence: the lesser sentence has been criticised by campaigners and politicians.
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- **Airguns - There were more serious airgun attacks in September, and there must be continuing concern about the number of these which have left the victims, often young people, with injuries.**
 - An eight-year-old boy playing in his back garden in North Tyneside was shot in the head with an air rifle pellet. A 12-year-old girl was shot in the face while playing with friends in Biggleswade and a schoolgirl was injured when she too was shot in the face during breaktime in Beaumont Leys (Leicester). Teenage boys were injured in Stoke-on-Trent (whilst the victim was walking home) and in Brampton (Cambridgeshire) (while the victim was fishing) and another was shot as he walked in a field in Keynsham. A boy was shot in a street in Chard (Somerset).
 - A 16-year-old has lost the sight in one eye after an incident with an air rifle in Featherstone, Staffordshire. The air weapon involved, bought at a car boot sale, may fire when dropped to the ground.
 - A police officer was taken to hospital after being shot in the back of the neck with an air weapon in Sunderland.
 - A man had to be taken to hospital after being shot with an air pistol at a party in Wembley (north London). A man needed stitches after an attack in Redhill (Surrey) and a teacher at a school for the visually impaired at Penwortham (Lancashire) was hit when an air weapon was fired at visitors. A security guard was hit in the head at a vehicle depot in Polmadie (Glasgow) and needed surgery to have a pellet removed from his skull.
 - An airgun was fired from a van at a lorry being driven on the A1 in Nottinghamshire. Vandals armed with airguns shot at cars in Mortlake, south London.

- An air rifle was fired through the window of a primary school in Telford, and windows were damaged after an air weapon was fired at a building used by a playgroup in Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire. Five pubs and restaurants in Oldham were targeted by a drive-by shooter armed with an airgun.
- Airguns were recovered by police after a member of the public called to say she had seen a man with a gun behind a block of flats in Kenilworth. An airgun was seized by police in Penyfael (South Wales).
- An ex-manager of a police explosives and firearm licensing department was charged after an alleged incident in Torquay when he was found with a gas-powered air pistol, which requires a licence.
- A teenager was jailed for a minimum of six years for shooting his friend in the head with an air rifle in Washington (Co. Durham). A man was convicted of possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear at his ex-partner's house in Heysham. A man who threatened a passer-by with an air pistol in Norwich has been jailed for 12 months.
- A number of Scottish courts dealt with offenders involved in airgun incidents. The most serious offence was culpable homicide: a man pleaded guilty to shooting dead his friend with an air rifle whilst he fired at the wall of his living room in East Calder. A 15-year-old admitted culpably and recklessly discharging an air rifle in Muirhouse (Edinburgh): a six-year-old boy had been hit in the head. A 17-year-old appeared in court after taking a pot shot at a CCTV camera in a Perth supermarket with an air rifle, and two men who took potshots from their car in Perth and hit four people admitted assaulting victims by shooting at them. A young professional footballer has admitted having a loaded airgun in a car while driving around in a car in Sighthill (Edinburgh). A man accused of terrorising teenagers with an air pistol in Penicuik was cleared because he was epileptic (he was alleged to have held the pistol to the head of one boy).
- **Imitation Guns - There was more evidence in September of the widespread misuse of imitation guns, especially by young people, and that these weapons are being deliberately used in serious criminal activities.**
- A 14-year-old may lose the sight of one eye after being hit with a BB gun pellet in Greater Leys, Oxford. A 12-year-old cyclist narrowly escaped injury after being hit with a BB gun pellet fired from a car in Southgate (Surrey).
- In two separate incidents BB guns were fired in schools. Three youths walked into a school in Sunderland armed with a BB gun and started taking potshots at pupils. Two pupils have been charged after fellow pupils were shot with a ball-bearing gun at a school in Aberdeen.
- A man was injured after being shot with a pellet gun in Arnold, Nottinghamshire. A man suffered serious soreness and bruising after being shot by pellets, probably from a paintball gun, in Bromsgrove.
- Youths with BB guns went on the rampage in South Wiltshire causing damage to property and to dozens of cars in a number of localities. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to shop windows in Bridgwater.

- A woman was arrested on suspicion of causing fear with an imitation firearm after demanding drugs in South Shields. A man was held after an incident involving an imitation gun at a pub in Warwick. A 16-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after an imitation gun was found in Northampton.
- A replica firearm was recovered after an incident involving armed police at a house in Swindon. A man appeared in court charged with robbery and with possessing an imitation firearm after a raid in Blackpool.
- A man was found guilty of a number of charges following four robberies in which staff at three shops and a bookmakers in Nottingham were threatened with a fake gun. Another offender pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace after he had threatened to shoot a volunteer in a soup kitchen in Edinburgh when armed with an imitation firearm.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - The reports published in September continued to describe airgun attacks on animals and birds, particularly on cats and swans.
- A number of grey seals were found shot and killed in Orkney.

INCIDENTS – September 2006

ENGLAND

Sunderland Today, 30 September 2006

A man was arrested after an assault in **Chester-le-Street** in which the victim was attacked with a stun-gun. The man was knocked unconscious by a bolt from the gun which is normally used on animals in slaughterhouses. The incident is thought to have involved up to 15 people.

The Press (York), 29 September 2006

The victim of an armed robber fought back and grabbed his gun. The man was returning home from a night out in **York** when he was approached by the gunman who demanded property. The gunman ran off after the struggle. The police confirmed that the weapon was an **airgun**, although it gave all the appearances of being a handgun.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 29 September 2006

A taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint after he had picked up a passenger in **Deighton**. The driver was asked to drive in **Sheepridge** where the passenger pulled out a silver handgun and demanded money. The robber demanded more and his mobile phone but rejected the phone and fled.

Blackpool Today, 29 September 2006

A man has appeared in court charged with robbery and with possessing an **imitation firearm** in the form of a Colt handgun after an armed robbery in which hundreds of pounds were taken from a post office in **Blackpool**.

BBC, 29 September 2006

Staff at a post office in **Loxton**, near Axbridge in Somerset, were held at gunpoint in an attempted robbery.

BBC, 29 September 2006

A shop assistant in **Lincoln** was left "shaken and upset" after an armed robber threatened her with what police believe was a handgun. The robber was given some cash from the till and ran from the off licence.

BBC, 29 September 2006

In what police have described as a "targeted" shooting, a man was shot in the lower body in **Dingle**, Liverpool. He was taken to hospital but his condition is not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 29 September 2006

A gunman opened fire on two teenagers outside a McDonald's in **Brixton**, south London. One of the victims is in a critical condition after being shot in the chest, the other was shot in the arm and was in a stable condition. It is not clear whether the boys were queuing outside the restaurant.

BBC, 29 September 2006

An inquest was told that Stephen Hensby of **Rawtenstall** died after shooting at two police officers who came to speak to him over a claim of harassment from neighbours on July 2005. One of the police officers was wounded by a shot from a single-barrelled shotgun. After a siege lasting several hours police entered the house and found that Hensby had shot himself in the head. The court judged that his death was suicide.

BBC, 29 September 2006

A 16-year-old girl was shot in the shoulder by a gang who were terrorising children in **Whalley Edge**, Manchester. She was taken to hospital for treatment although she was not thought to be seriously hurt.

Aylesbury Today, 29 September 2006

A robber held a gun to the back of a shop assistant at a video store in **Aylesbury**. He left with an undisclosed amount of cash, leaving two assistants unhurt but very shocked. A second man was probably involved.

Salisbury Journal, 28 September 2006

Motorists in **Downton**, **Woodfalls** and **Hale** in Wiltshire discovered that windows of their cars had been smashed. There were holes in the windows of a pub in Downton during the night. Cars and property in **Woodgreen** and **Fordingbridge** had also been hit. The number of cars with one or more windows or windscreens shattered was estimated to be as high as 97. Youths with **BB guns** are believed to have been responsible for the damage. Three teenagers have been arrested.

ic Surrey, 28 September 2006

Police are investigating the shooting of a man in the forehead in **Redhill**. He needed five stitches for a gash above his right eye after the **air rifle** attack. A 17-year-old girl suffered a bruised left eye after she was hit in the face with a baseball bat during the incident. An 18-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of assault. In another recent incident in the area a seven-year-old boy and a man walking his dog were both victims of a drive-by shooting in **Earlswood**. (See also [Quotes](#)).

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 28 September 2006

A soldier was shot in the pelvis in an attack in a pub in **Marsh**, Huddersfield. The motive is understood to be some sort of grudge. The victim was recovering at home.

BBC, 28 September 2006

A 16-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm after he was spotted on CCTV cameras in **Northampton** carrying a handgun. An **imitation gun** was found.

BBC, 28 September 2006

Police are searching for an armed robber who escaped from a prison van after it was raided as the man was being transferred from Redditch to Blakenhurst Prison. Masked men stopped the van in **Redditch** and threatened the security staff with a handgun.

BBC, 27 September 2006

Air weapons and miniature crossbows have been found on a canal boat after a man threatened a member of the public with a sawn-off shotgun at a pub in **Warwick**. No shots were fired. A man was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an **imitation firearm** in a public place.

Press Association, 26 September 2006

A gunman is being hunted after a teenage boy was shot dead at a shopping parade in the **Meadows** area of Nottingham. The victim was involved in an altercation with another youth when he was fatally wounded. The victim had previously been charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of a man in the area in July 2005 but the prosecution against him was dropped due to lack of evidence (*BBC*, 27 September 2006).

Evening Post (Nottingham), 26 September 2006

A legal loophole has meant that Darren Randall escaped a mandatory five year jail sentence because his sawn-off shotgun was too long. He was jailed for three-and-a-half years after being caught with the gun and a quantity of cannabis in his shed in **Bilborough**. The gun was six inches too long to make a five-year sentence inevitable. The loophole has been criticised by campaigners, MPs and a retired judge.

Chard & Ilminster News, 26 September 2006

Police have recovered an **air rifle** after a man and a boy were shot in a street in **Chard**. Both received minor injuries, thought to be bruising. A 17-year-old has been arrested.

BBC, 26 September 2006

More than 2000 pupils from schools in **Peckham** and **East Dulwich** were sent home early on the advice of police amid fears of gang violence, and recent shootings at London nightclubs (see below).

BBC, 26 September 2006

An **air rifle** pellet has been shot through the window of a primary school in **Telford**. A parents' meeting was in progress at the time. Police want to speak to a group of youths seen on grassland near the school.

BBC, 25 September 2006

Three men were shot in separate shootings at London clubs over the weekend. One man was killed after being shot at a club in **King's Cross** and two men survived a shooting outside a club in **Brixton**.

BBC, 25 September 2006

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after another man was shot in the leg at a house party in **Headington**, Oxford. Armed officers were called to the house after reports of a disturbance, probably the result of a group of youths gate crashing the party. After an argument a man arrived with a gun which he fired in the garden.

Sunday Mirror, 24 September 2006

Mohammed Younis and Rodney Stoute were caught by police when they were driving from **Reading** to **London**, with automatic weapons. They were driving to a suspected shooting to kill a bouncer who had refused to let them in to a club. They were in a car with the registration G2GUN and were joined by a man riding a motorbike with the licence plate G1GUN. Younis was jailed for six years and Stoute for three years for possessing firearms.

BBC, 24 September 2006

A wounded man was taken to hospital with internal injuries after an incident at an address in **Lemington**, Newcastle. The victim is critically ill.

Sunderland Today, 23 September 2006

Three teenagers walked into a school in **Ashbrooke**, Sunderland, and started taking pot-shots at pupils with a **BB gun**. Three pupils suffered minor injuries when they were targeted. The police said that pupils at the school were obviously shaken by the incident.

BBC, 23 September 2006

Police are looking for Sean Sutton, whom they describe as "highly dangerous", after a shooting incident in **Kennington**, south London, earlier in the month. The victim has been left confined to a wheelchair for life.

BBC, 23 September 2006

A teenager was being treated for wounds to his leg after a number of gun shots were fired in **Winson Green**, Birmingham. Details were sketchy but it appeared a number of shots had been fired in the street.

Preston Today, 22 September 2006

Stephen Evans was convicted of possessing an **air rifle** with intent to cause fear. He had gone round to the house of his ex-partner in **Heysham** and pointed the rifle at the front door and bedroom window. He will be sentenced next month.

Lancashire Evening Post, 22 September 2006

A gunman shot a teacher in the leg while repeatedly firing an **air weapon** at visitors leaving a centre for the visually impaired at **Penwortham**, near Preston. Police attended the wrong location and failed to re-contact visitors and staff who were left waiting for 90 minutes inside a building.

ic South London, 22 September 2006

An unarmed police officer, PC Steven Roots has been honoured with London's top policing award. He was recognised for his bravery after he overpowered a fleeing gunman Kingsley Opuku in a chase in **Peckham**. Opuku was found to have a Mac-10 machine pistol, 15 rounds of ammunition, a silencer, **replica pistol** and bulletproof vest and was jailed for 11 years for possessing firearms in November 2004.

Evening Post (Nottingham), 22 September 2006

A man suffered a minor injury after being shot with a **pellet gun** in **Arnold**. Police rushed to the location after receiving calls about a serious incident.

Spalding Today, 21 September 2006

An **airgun** was fired at the windows of a mobile building in **Sutton Bridge** which was used by a playgroup. No one was in the room at the time. The damage was discovered when staff attended an evening meeting.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 21 September 2006

A man was threatened at gunpoint for his mobile phone. He had parked his car in a car park in **Deighton** when he was approached by a man with a gun. The gunman had two accomplices.

The Comet, 21 September 2006

A gunman blasted the door of a caravan at a travellers' site on the A1 near **Sandy**, terrifying a man and woman inside. The shot peppered holes in the door. After the shooting a car was seen leaving the site.

Bury Times, 21 September 2006

A man was shot in the leg when he answered the door of his home in **Bury**. The attacker fled, leaving his victim bleeding heavily on the doorstep.

Sunderland Echo, 21 September 2006

Daniel Stoddart, 18, pushed a friend on to a bed before using an **air rifle** to shoot him in the temple and the leg at the victim's house in **Washington**. The victim, aged 17, has a pellet embedded in his head, inches from his right eye. He had refused to shoot another friend after being ordered to do so by Stoddart, who has been told he must serve a minimum of six years in jail.

BBC, 20 September 2006

An armed policeman has lost a metal holder containing 15 bullets while on duty in the **Nottingham** city area.

Oxford Mail, 19 September 2006

A 14-year-old boy may lose the sight of one eye after being hit with a pellet fired from a **ball-bearing gun**. He was shot in **Greater Leys**, Oxford whilst he was out in the street with some friends. It was alleged that a man was at the bedroom window of a house with a BB gun near to where they were playing. A man was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm.

Monsters and Critics, 19 September 2006

Christopher Hatton has been sentenced to ten years in prison after threatening a police officer with a firearm following an attempt to rob a jewellers in **Knightsbridge**. He was found guilty of attempted burglary and possession of a firearm with intent to resist arrest.

Guardian, 19 September 2006

A teenager has been arrested after a schoolgirl was shot in the face with an **air weapon** during breaktime at a school in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester. She was due to have an operation to remove a ball bearing from her cheek. She was chatting to friends on a playing field at the time of the incident.

BBC, 19 September 2006

A large quantity of **air weapons** has been stolen from an angling shop in **Woodhatch**, Surrey. A total of 33 air rifles and air pistols were taken. Police are concerned the weapons could be sold on, and end up in the hands of young people.

BBC, 19 September 2006

A man was stabbed to death yards from his front door in **south-east London** in an attack by a mob of up to 40 youths. One of the youths had pulled out a gun, aimed and fired several shots before the group dispersed. Later they are thought to have fired shots in the air outside a community action centre before chasing and stabbing another man in **Deptford Wharf**.

BBC, 19 September 2006

Julia Palmer has admitted kidnapping a man and driving him 170 miles from **Lincoln** to **Croydon**. Two men, one of whom had produced a silver handgun after the victim had got into the car, have denied kidnap charges. The kidnapping was over an alleged debt owed to a man in Ireland.

BBC, 19 September 2006

A woman has been arrested for allegedly holding a water pistol to the head of a shop worker in **South Shields** and demanding drugs. She was arrested on suspicion of causing fear with an **imitation firearm**.

Yorkshire Post, 18 September 2006

A man with an **airgun** deliberately targeted a lorry as it travelled on the A1 just north of **Blyth** services. The lorry driver heard a noise and caught a glimpse of what appeared to be a gun in the hand of a van driver in the next lane. Subsequent examination of the lorry revealed damage around the driver's door consistent with a BB gun of small calibre air weapon.

Kenilworth Today, 18 September 2006

Armed police cordoned off a road in **Kenilworth** after a woman called to say she had seen a man with a gun in a communal garden behind a block of flats. After two hours the cordon was lifted when officers recovered two **air rifles**, and **air pistol** and ammunition from one flat. A man later reported to the local police station admitting he had been using one of the rifles to shoot at a tin can.

BBC, 18 September 2006

A man was in hospital after suffering gunshot wounds to his buttocks after an incident involving a large group of men in **Hillfields**, Coventry.

Life Style Extra, 17 September 2006

The A&E department of **Homerton** hospital in east London was closed for an hour after a patient threatened to kill staff with a gun. The man was arrested at a nearby address.

BBC, 17 September 2006

A security guard was pushed to the ground and threatened with a gun as he delivered money to a cash point at a supermarket in **Doncaster**. Two men were involved in the attack and a third man escaped with them in a stolen car.

Evening Post (Nottingham), 16 September 2006

Nathan Ricketts, an anti-drugs volunteer, has been jailed for eight years after he gave his girlfriend a loaded Mac-10 machine pistol and ammunition. He was told by the judge that he had no doubt the lethal firearm was destined for criminal hands. His ex-partner Bernadette Burke pleaded guilty to the same charges and will be sentenced later. The gun was found in a box of old toys and clothes after police raided Burke's mother's house in **Nottingham** in October 2006.

BBC, 16 September 2006

A man has died after being shot at a nightclub in **Bristol**. He suffered a single gunshot wound to the chest and died later in hospital. A firearm has been recovered during a search of the area (**BBC**, 17 September 2006).

Sunderland Echo, 15 September 2006

An arsenal of weapons was found in a clear-out of a house in **Ashbrooke** after its owner had died. The find led to the evacuation of neighbouring homes. Among the items recovered was machine-gun ammunition. There were a number of other items including a quantity of shotgun powder which the police believe the man was using to make his own ammunition. He was a member of a gun club, so according to police it was probably just for cheapness rather than anything untoward.

ic South London, 15 September 2006

Four men were gunned down in five days. A 19-year-old was hit in the stomach in **Camberwell** in what was thought to be a case of mistaken identity. Another man was shot in the back outside a nightclub in **Old Kent Road** (see below), a cyclist was shot in the knee in **Brixton** and a man shot outside a barber's in **Walworth**.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 15 September 2006

Armed police sealed off a street in **Walker** in their hunt for gunmen behind a spate of robberies (see below). One man was arrested but it is not known if any weapons were recovered.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 15 September 2006

A man was forced to kneel down with a gun to his head during a terrifying street robbery in **North Shields**. Two men confronted the 18-year-old, grabbed him by the throat and dragged him into an alley where a gun was put to his head. They stole property including an MP3 player and jewellery.

BBC, 15 September 2006

A man from **Clapton**, one of twelve men arrested in raids in London, has been charged with several offences including providing instruction or training in the making or use of firearms contrary to Section 54(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000. Another man from **Walthamstow** had earlier been charged with both providing and receiving training in the making or use of firearms, a man from **Putney** with possessing a shotgun, in contravention of the Firearms Act (*BBC*, 13 September 2006), a man from **Upper Norwood** with receiving training in the use of weapons and an **Eltham** man with possession of a flare launcher under the Firearms Act (*BBC*, 12 September 2006). Twelve men altogether have now been charged following the raids.

BBC, 15 September 2006

Darren Jones, who threatened a passer-by with an **air pistol**, admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence at **Norwich** Crown Court. He has been jailed for 12 months.

BBC, 15 September 2006

Shop staff in **Needham Market**, Suffolk, were threatened by two men with what police believe was a double-barrelled shotgun. They men escaped with a quantity of cash.

Evening Post (Nottingham), 14 September 2006

A man shot and killed a woman outside her home in **Alvaston**, Derby, and then fatally shot himself. Lenny Yorke shot his ex-partner in front of his daughters. Police had investigated a domestic incident between the two. It has emerged that Yorke was an **airgun** enthusiast who had recently bought two air pistols and ammunition from a Radford airgun shop. He had set up a shooting gallery in his back garden. A number of weapons were seized by police when they searched his house.

BBC, 14 September 2006

A gang of armed robbers threatened staff with a gun and stole expensive watches from a jewellers in **Blackpool**. The three men ran off.

This is Essex, 13 September 2006

A masked man robbed security guards at gunpoint as they made a cash delivery to a bank in **Benfleet**. The robber was driven away by an accomplice. The bank had also been targeted in March 2006.

Lancashire Evening Post, 13 September 2006

A taxi driver was threatened at gunpoint when he picked up a fare in **Preston**. The teenage gunman screamed at him to hand over his takings.

Journal (Newcastle), 13 September 2006

A masked raider fired two gunshots after forcing his way into a sub post office in **Walker**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The man was armed with a shotgun. No one was injured and the raider fled when staff activated the alarm. Earlier in the week two men, one with a handgun, took cash from **Denton Park** post office.

Hartlepool Today, 13 September 2006

A man wearing a hood held up a shop in **Hartlepool** at gunpoint before making off with the store's taking. Two female shop assistances were left petrified by the raider who was armed with a handgun.

Cambs 24, 13 September 2006

A teenager was shot with an **air rifle** while fishing in **Brampton**. He felt a sharp pain near his right hip. He turned around and saw a young man with what he described as an air rifle.

BBC, 13 September 2006

A man who managed the explosives and firearm licensing department for Devon and Cornwall police has been charged with being in possession of an illegal gun. He was arrested after an alleged incident in **Torquay** when he was allegedly found with a six-shot revolver-style **air pistol**. The weapon was gas powered and the man did not have a licence for it.

BBC, 13 September 2006

Hundreds of guns were found at a house in **Dartford**. In what was one of the Metropolitan Police's biggest ever weapons seizures, pump-action shotguns, M16 rifles, revolvers and antique firearms were discovered. One man was arrested and a second man was questioned in linked raids in the United States. A man has been charged with a number of firearms offence (*BBC*, 15 September 2006). See [News Items](#).

Avon and Somerset Constabulary, 13 September 2006

Police are appealing for witnesses to an incident in **Keynsham** in which an 18-year-old was shot with an **air rifle** whilst he and a friend were walking in a field. The victim claims three teenagers were some distance away when one of them fired a gun at him.

Evening Post (Nottingham), 12 September 2006

James Wallace denied four charges of robbery, four charges of possessing a firearm with intent to commit robbery and one count of wounding with intent. The case followed robberies at three shops and a bookmakers in the **Nottingham** area between September and October 2006. Each time the staff were threatened with a **fake gun**. Wallace was found guilty on all charges. Another man who denied robbing a shop, possessing a firearm with intent to commit robbery and wounding with intent was found not guilty and was acquitted. Jonathan Scott had earlier pleaded to guilty to five armed robberies, associated firearms offences and grievous bodily harm. A 17-year-old also pleaded guilty to concealing firearms and conspiring to steal (*Evening Post* (Nottingham), 16 September 2006).

Peterborough Today, 11 September 2006

A police armed response unit was called to a street in the centre of **Peterborough** after reports of two men carrying a handgun. No one has been able to shed light on the whereabouts of the two men.

LondonSE1, 11 September 2006

Police are appealing for information regarding a shooting near the **Old Kent Road**. The victim heard a gunshot and turned to see two men with handguns firing at him. He suffered a number of gunshot wounds to his abdomen.

BBC, 11 September 2006

A man was shot in the face at a shop in **Portslade**, east Sussex. The victim's injuries are not thought to be life threatening and he is stable in hospital. The police confirmed there had been "a number of arrests".

Bridgwater Mercury, 10 September 2006

Thousands of pounds worth of damage were caused in **Bridgwater** town centre when a catapult or **ball bearing gun** was used to smash windows. Holes the size of golf balls were left in some windows, others had large cracks.

Bedford Today, 10 September 2006

A 12-year-old girl was shot in the face with an **airgun** while playing with friends on **Biggleswade Common**. She was hit in the mouth with a pellet which has resulted in her losing part of her upper lip. A man, who was said to have been shooting rabbits, was arrested close to the scene.

BBC, 10 September 2006

Two men have been charged with robbery following an incident which closed **Finsbury Park** station in north London. The reports of a gunshot inside, but police said that there was no evidence so far that a gun had been fired.

BBC, 9 September 2006

An armed gang hijacked a lorry carrying £15,000 worth of lager from **Aveley** in Essex. The two drivers were tied up after they had a gun pushed into their faces. The lorry was found abandoned in Dagenham.

BBC, 9 September 2006

The murder of 15-year-old Jessie James was widely reported in the media. The teenager was shot in the **Moss Side** area of Manchester. His body was found in a park. He had been hit with three bullets fired from a semi-automatic pistol (*Times*, 11 September 2006). Last month three men were shot and wounded in two separate incidents in Moss Side.

Manchester Evening News, 8 September 2006

A gang of four wearing hoodies held up a jewellers in the centre of **Manchester** with a gun. They terrified staff with the weapon before snatching handfuls of watches. A gun was recovered from the scene by police.

ic South London, 8 September 2006

Richard Graham pulled a pistol on a policeman as he chased him down an alley in **Herne Hill** in January 2006. After a series of bangs Graham escaped but a modified Beretta pistol and two unfired 8 mm cartridges were found. Forensic experts were unable to prove that he actually fired the gun. Graham has been jailed for seven years after he denied firing the gun but pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to resist arrest.

BBC, 8 September 2006

Joel Simmonds was found in possession of a machine gun and stun gun after searches of his house in **Lambeth**, south east London, and another property in **Denmark Hill**. He was convicted in July of various offences and has now received a 10-year jail term.

BBC, 8 September 2006

In another **airgun** incident in the **Stoke-on-Trent** area a teenage boy was recovering in hospital after being shot in the leg. He had walked home following the attack.

This is Hertfordshire, 7 September 2006

Police are trying to trace a car involved in a drive-by shooting in **Barnet**. One car chased another along the A1 as several shots were fired.

Mirror, 7 September 2006

A man was in a critical condition in hospital after a hit and run incident involving a motorist armed with a handgun. The gunman's car hit the pedestrian after he had been arguing with another motorist in the street in **East Ham**, east London, moments beforehand.

Manchester Evening News, 7 September 2006

Five pubs and restaurants in **Oldham** were targeted by a drive-by shooter in one night. Nobody was hurt in the **airgun** attacks that occurred within half a mile of each other. Windows were broken and customers and staff were left badly shaken.

Hucknall Today, 7 September 2006

A newsagent was punched in the face and pinned to the floor at gunpoint in an armed robber in **Bulwell**.

Harrow Times, 7 September 2006

A man was shot at with an **air pistol** and a second man was stabbed in the stomach when a fight broke out at a party in **Wembley**. The injured men were taken to hospital.

Bromsgrove Standard, 7 September 2006

A man was left injured after he was shot by pellets while walking in **Bromsgrove**. He suffered serious soreness and bruising. The pellets were believed to be from a **paint ball gun**, fired from inside a car.

BBC, 7 September 2006

A man from **High Wycombe** faces three firearms offences. He is alleged to have had a Balkal 8mm pistol in his possession, having a magazine clip with 10 rounds of ammunition and possessing a black gun silencer without holding a firearms certificate. He is one of thirteen men who appeared in court in connection with an alleged plot to blow up airliners (*BBC*, 18 September 2006).

BBC, 7 September 2006

A man was arrested following an incident involving armed police at a house in **Swindon**. There were reports that a man was setting fire to the property. A pensioner was arrested on suspicion of affray. A **replica firearm** was recovered from the scene.

BBC, 7 September 2006

Two hooded men raided a pub in the **Meadows**, Nottingham. They threatened customers with a handgun and demanded cash before running off with a cash drawer from the till. No shots were fired during the incident.

ic Surrey, 6 September 2006

A 12-year-old boy narrowly escaped serious injury after thugs fired at him from a passing car with a **BB gun**. He was cycling in **Southgate** when he was approached by the car.

ic South London, 6 September 2006

Residents were in shock following a shooting at a family home in **Welling**. Police are still hunting the gunman who blasted shots of the house. The family had only moved in recently.

Ealing Times, 6 September 2006

A pensioner was shot at by a masked intruder, and then he chased the man along his street in **Hanwell**. He suffered a slight injury to his hand.

BBC, 6 September 2006

A policeman is recovering in hospital after being shot in the back of the neck with an **air weapon**. He was with other officers who responded to reports of projectiles hitting windows in **Ridgeway**, Sunderland. Two youths were arrested at the scene.

Northumbria Police, 5 September 2006

An 8-year-old boy, who was playing in the garden of a house in **North Tyneside**, was shot in the head with an **air rifle**. He suffered a pellet wound to the side of his head. A 16-year-old male youth was arrested and an air weapon seized.

Injury Watch, 5 September 2006

A 16-year-old boy has lost the sight in one eye and has a pellet permanently embedded in his brain following an incident with an **air rifle**. The boy, from **Featherstone** in Staffordshire, was playing with the weapon (a Westlake B2) in a wooded area when it went off. The gun had been bought at a car boot sale. The police have seized the weapon and initial investigations have raised concerns. Similar models have also been seized and test seem to show that the weapon may fire when dropped on the ground.

ic Coventry, 5 September 2006

A couple were held at gunpoint at their home in **Coventry** by masked thieves who stole their car and an undisclosed sum of cash.

BBC, 5 September 2006

Two men armed with what are believed to be firearms attempted to rob a security van in **Gosforth**, Newcastle. There were reports that two shots were fired at a building.

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 4 September 2006

Vandals armed with **airguns** have been shooting at cars and breaking their windows in **Mortlake**. Two drivers reported being hit.

ic Coventry, 4 September 2006

A man was forced to stop his car and hand over cash by armed robbers on a scooter. The incident occurred in **Longford**.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 4 September 2006

A masked raider pointed a silver handgun at two staff members at a takeaway in **Marsh** and threatened to kill him. The raider grabbed a handful of cash, fired the gun at the floor and fled. Police discovered that the weapon was a **blank-firing gun**.

Observer, 3 September 2006

In an article which describes how many firearms offences are committed by teenagers furious over a perceived lack of 'respect' the reporter describes an attack on a pedestrian in **Hackney**, east London which left the victim with a gunshot wound in the leg. The gunmen went off on a motorbike.

Wimbledon Guardian, 1 September 2006

A petrol station cashier in **Tattenham Corner** was taken to hospital after being pistol whipped around the head in an armed robbery. The robbery may be linked to a one at an off licence in **Ashted** (see [August 2006 Incidents](#)).

Wimbledon Guardian, 1 September 2006

Four men, aged between 18 and 20, have been convicted of firearm and robbery offences carried out in the **Sutton** area in October 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Sheldon Green, Jonathan Tetteh, Andrew Farge and Thomas Gumble pleaded guilty to a variety of offences. Tetteh had threatened a girl with a handgun and two evenings later three of the men threatened two teens with a handgun and a knife and stole a moped. Later they robbed a man of a mobile phone and gold chain. Police found a number of videotapes showing the four men with weapons. On one Green is heard threatening that he would blow a man's brain out while brandishing a Smith and Wesson revolver. Police are still searching for some of the weapons shown on the gang's video.

This is Bradford, 1 September 2006

A road in **Bradford** city centre was closed after police received reports of a gun being fired. Nobody was injured.

Lancashire Evening Post, 1 September 2006

A man says he suffered a mysterious gunshot wound at a friend's birthday party in **Ingol**, Preston. Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with incident despite the man's claim that he was shot by an unknown gunman in an alleyway. The police say there was no evidence to support his claim.

BBC, 1 September 2006

Armed robbers raided a jewellers in the centre of **Chester**. The three men, one of whom was armed with what appeared to be a handgun stole watches and made their getaway in a car that was later found burned out.

BBC, 1 September 2006

Two men have been arrested when their car was stopped in the **Stapleton** area of Bristol. The were arrested on suspicion of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life.

BBC, 1 September 2006

Police found a sub-machine gun, ammunition and a quantity of drugs at a flat in **Liverpool** city centre. A man has been arrested.

Asian Times, 1 September 2006

A man stole a car at gunpoint from a woman who had been shopping in **Rochdale**. Days later the same car with false number plates was seen at a service station in Ashton but was found abandoned a few hours afterwards.

SCOTLAND

ic Scotland, 29 September 2006

A man has been abducted at gunpoint from his home in **Glasgow**. Police are concerned about his health as he is a diabetic and has been fasting in observance of Ramadan. A number of people who know the victim have raised doubts about whether he was the real target of the abduction (*Evening Times*, 3 October 2006).

Evening News, 29 September 2006

A 15-year-old has admitted firing an **air rifle** dangerously from a window in **Muirhouse**, Edinburgh, after a six-year-old boy was hit and had to have a pellet removed from his head by surgeons. He admitted culpably and recklessly discharging the air rifle in April 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). He had faced a charge of attempted murder which was eventually dropped by the Crown.

ic Perthshire, 26 September 2006

Kerrin Wishart, 17, appeared in court accused of taking a pot-shot with an **air rifle** at a CCTV camera in a **Perth** supermarket. He is also alleged to have walked around the store with the air rifle, and further counts of having the air rifle in his possession without reasonable excuse and having the loaded weapon on a cycle path.

Daily Record, 26 September 2006

Alexander Leverage, a former soldier, was jailed for nine years after firing a shotgun during an attempted robbery in a supermarket in **Balornock**, Glasgow, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He had brandished a shotgun at staff and shoppers and discharged the weapon as he demanded tills be opened and money handed over.

BBC, 21 September 2006

A pupil has been excluded from a school in **Aberdeen** after fellow pupils were shot with a **ball bearing gun**. One child is believed to have been hit in the face and another was shot in the chest. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal. Two boys have now been charged (*BBC*, 26 & 27 September 2006)

Kirkintilloch Today, 19 September 2006

Police have issued a warning after receiving a number of reports of young people carrying guns in **East Dunbartonshire**. In the last two months there were five reports. **Replica guns** have been recovered, but a spokesman said "When officers attend firearms incidents it may be that they are facing a handgun, a replica weapon or a toy gun. The reality is that it is almost impossible to determine what they are encountering".

Edinburgh Evening News, 15 September 2006

Christopher Wright, who was accused of terrorising teenagers with an **air pistol** in **Penicuik**, has been cleared because he is epileptic. He had been alleged to have held the pistol to the head of one boy and then threatened a girl by pointing the pistol at her.

Scotsman, 14 September 2006

David Laing and Greg Stout laughed as they took potshots with an **airgun** from their car in **Perth**, a court has heard. Eventually they were pursued by one of their victims who drove after them in his car and then trapped them until police arrived. Four people were hit by airgun pellets during sprees in December 2005 and January 2006. Both admitted assaulting victims by shooting then or at them. Sentencing has been deferred.

Daily Record, 12 September 2006

A security guard was shot in the head with an **air rifle** by a gunman whilst he was providing security on a vehicle depot in **Polmadie**, Glasgow. The victim is facing surgery to have a pellet removed from his skull.

Scotsman, 8 September 2006

Michael Loran has pleaded guilty to culpable homicide following an incident in which a friend died from a shot in the heart when Loran fired an **air rifle** at the wall of his living room in **East Calder** in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). At the time both men had a blood alcohol level three-and-a-half times the legal limit for drivers. Loran will be sentenced next month. The gun had been acquired by Loran's son about a year before the shooting (*BBC*, 7 September 2006).

BBC, 8 September 2006

Gerald McFarlane threatened to shoot a volunteer working in a soup kitchen in **Edinburgh** in June 2006. McFarlane was a regular user of the soup kitchen. He told the man that he would kill him before opening up his jacket to reveal a gun in an inside pocket. The weapon was an **imitation firearm** and was recovered by police. McFarlane has been jailed for six months after pleading guilty to committing a breach of the peace.

BBC, 7 September 2006

A man was shot on a street in the east end of **Glasgow**. He was taken to hospital for treatment and his injuries were not said to be life threatening.

BBC, 6 September 2006

Lee Wallace has admitted having a loaded **airgun** in the back of a friend's car while driving around a car park in **Sighthill**, Edinburgh in August 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of possessing an air weapon. Sentencing was deferred (*Scotsman*, 7 September 2006).

Peterborough Today, 5 September 2006

A man who was part of an organised duck shoot shot himself in the face with his own shotgun near **Fraserburgh**. It is believed that he was struck in the face by a blast of shot killing him instantly. The incident has been described as a freak shooting accident.

WALES

BBC, 10 September 2006

A member of the armed forces was critically injured in a shooting at **Ogmore-by-Sea** near Bridgend. Armed police were called following reports of gunshots in a car. There were no arrests and police are not looking for anybody else. It was reported that a high-powered rifle was involved (*Wales on Sunday*, 10 September 2006).

South Wales Echo, 7 September 2006

Following the seizure of an **airgun** in **Penyfai**, near Bridgend, the police have warned that a crackdown on air weapons will continue. Officers will continue to work in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch.

South Wales Argus, 4 September 2006

Two brothers were shot in their garden in **Govilon**, near Abergavenny. Both received injuries to their legs. The body of a man, a next door neighbour, was found in a field close to the house with a sawn-off double barrelled shotgun next to his body. According to the police the dead man did not have a shotgun certificate. They are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

BBC, 29 September 2006

A man from **Lauder** in the Scottish Borders has been arrested and charged in connection with various wildlife and firearms offences.

BBC, 28 September 2006

Four slaughtered pregnant grey seals and a pup were discovered at **Point of Vastray**, Orkney. All had been shot in the head. The Sea Shepherd Conservation charity has offered a reward of £5,000 for information.

Whitby Today, 21 September 2006

Another swan has been found shot in **Whitby** harbour. Last month another bird was found with four airgun pellets lodged in its head. After the latest incident a swan was found swimming in circles and gasping from air. It died before it could be operated on and a post mortem found the swan had been shot twice in its neck with an **air rifle**.

News & Star, 20 September 2006

A reader had responded to reading reports of domestic animal cruelty in **Carlisle** by suggesting that a 'pet watch' should be set up to report groups of **airgun**-carrying people to police.

ic Solihull, 20 September 2006

The owners of a cat who was shot through the neck in **Castle Bromwich** have warned their neighbours to beware. The cat could be paralysed after the pellet from an **air rifle** shot through his neck and got lodged in his spine.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 14 September 2006

Cats are being killed and seriously injured by youths shooting them with **airguns**. In the last month three cats in one street on an estate in **Weston-super-Mare** have been shot. One of them has had to be put down because of its internal injuries.

BBC, 14 September 2006

A cat from **Sherwood**, Nottinghamshire, had to have his leg amputated after being shot with an **airgun** pellet. An RSPCA has dealt with 43 air weapon attacks in the East Midlands this year.

Evening Telegraph & Argus, 6 September 2006

In what the Scottish SPCA have described as a sickening attack, two kittens in **Longforgan** have been left nursing horrific **airgun** injuries. One kitten lost an eye while the other suffered a puncture wound to the stomach.



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