



## SEPTEMBER 2007 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Two men were killed in shooting attacks in September, both in London. One victim was found in a park in Camberwell (south London), another man died when he was shot in the head in Acton (west London).
- Two men alleged to have been involved in an attempted armed raid on a bank were shot and killed by police in Chandler's Ford (Hampshire).
- Victims were injured in a number of incidents in the four areas to be targeted in a Government initiative to tackle gangs and gun crime.
  - In London there were reports of gun injuries in shootings at a party in Thornton Heath (south London), at a nightclub in Wembley (north London) (two men were injured) and outside another nightclub in the Elephant and Castle (south London) where there were two separate shootings in the space of two days resulting in two men being shot.
  - In Greater Manchester there were reports of four people being hurt: two teenagers were shot in Fallowfield, receiving minor injuries, and two men received gunshot wounds whilst they were sitting in a car in Oldham.
  - A victim was injured in a gun attack in a street in Toxteth (Liverpool).
  - In the West Midlands victims were injured in shootings in Cotteridge, Whitmore Reans and Wednesfield.
- Two teenage boys were shot in Sheffield, one in the arm in a drive-by shooting (two people have been arrested), the other in the knee in a targeted attack.
- A number of people were questioned after a man was found with gunshot wounds in Annesley Woodhouse (Nottinghamshire).
- A police officer accidentally shot himself in London.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were reports of robberies and attempted robberies on a supermarket in Paisley (Renfrewshire), an off licence in Wallsend (Tyneside), other shops in Small Heath (Birmingham) (a shot was fired) and Headington (Oxford), a bookies in Paisley, a cash office at a railway station in Cardiff and petrol stations in Pwllmeyric (Monmouthshire) and Didcot (Oxfordshire) (involving a 16-year-old brandishing a BB gun or an airgun, see below). A man was robbed of his wallet and a mobile phone at gunpoint in a travel agent's in Walworth (south London).
- Four men armed with shotgun-style weapons and an axe stole money from a hotel in Northwold (Norfolk): the raid may be linked to armed raids on other homes in various locations in Norfolk and in Wisbech (Cambridgeshire). A man demanded money at a pub in Gateshead: a ball bearing gun (see below) was recovered and a man is in custody.
- The driver of a postal van was tied and bound at gunpoint in Buckinghamshire: three armed robbers fled with cash.
- A family was threatened in their home in Southampton by three men armed with a handgun. Residents of two properties in the Bristol area (Longwell Green, Kingswood) were threatened in similar attacks by burglars armed with a stun gun: in the attack in Longwell Green a man was incapacitated. Three men were arrested after a robbery at a home in Newhaven (Sussex) in which a handgun was thought to have been seen.
- A motorcyclist, possibly armed with a handgun, stole the collection money from a church official in Darenth (Kent).

- A man in a parked car in Wandsworth (south London) was threatened with a gun and had his mobile phone and Sat Nav accessory stolen when he left the vehicle to call the police.
- **Other Incidents** - Two police officers escaped injury when they were shot at in Kirkdale (Liverpool): an 18-year-old has been charged with attempted murder.
- Police used a stun gun to subdue a man who was wielding a pistol at a pub in Chadwell Heath (east London).
- A man escaped injury after a shot was fired following an altercation at a takeaway in Stretford (Manchester).
- A man was arrested in Norwich after a five hour stand-off: armed police went to the house after reports of a man with a handgun.
- The window of a flat was shot at in Ribbleton (Preston). Shots were apparently fired at a car in Liverpool.
- A man was arrested in Brighton after pulling out a gun in a restaurant: armourers were determining whether it was a replica or real weapon.
- A lorry carrying shotgun cartridges caught fire on the M42 in Worcestershire and the motorway had to be partially closed whilst the blaze was brought under control.
- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - Weapons including a handgun and a rifle were found at a house in Wythenshaw (Manchester): a man has been charged. Police arrested a man after they found a large amount of cocaine and a firearm and ammunition at a house in Stockton (Teesside). A number of handguns, ammunition and cannabis were recovered by police at a house in Haydock (Merseyside): two men were arrested. A 15-year-old, one of four teenagers arrested in Cheetham Hill (Manchester), has been charged with possession of a firearm, ammunition and cannabis.
- Four shotguns and ammunition were stolen in a burglary in Millom (Cumbria). Three shotguns were among items stolen from a property in Kingston (Hampshire).
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun Incidents**) - Three youths convicted of murdering a leading member of a Merseyside gang were jailed for life (minimum terms of 28, 20 and 18 years). A fourth person was jailed for 20 years for manslaughter (see [August 2007 Incidents](#)).
- The mother of a girl who was shot dead in Gorton (Manchester) has admitted possessing the gun which killed her daughter. A man who had hidden two pistols in the cistern of his toilet in Longsight (also in Manchester) was given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum of four years and 35 days.
- A man believed to be the boss of a notorious gang in Peckham (south London) is facing a life sentence after being found guilty of eight charges including possession of a number of firearms and ammunition.
- A man has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after he triggered a police siege in Newton Poppleford (Devon).
- A man has been ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service after being caught in unlawful possession of a shotgun at his home in Linwood (Renfrewshire).
- A man who paralysed a teacher in a stun gun attack outside a school in Bristol has been sentenced to six years in a young offenders' institute (see [July 2007 Incidents](#)).
- A soldier has been jailed for three years for trying to sell ammunition to an undercover police officer.

- **Airguns** - More people became victims of airgun attacks in September.
  - Three people were hit in three linked airgun attacks in Burton-on-Trent (Staffordshire): at least one of the victims required hospital treatment
  - Two 13-year-old schoolgirls were injured by a shot from a gas-powered air pistol in Stafford: two men have been arrested
  - A 14-year-old was shot in the leg by an airgun in Great Wyrley (Staffordshire)
  - A 16-year-old girl was shot with an air weapon in Weymouth (Dorset)
  - A man was shot in the cheek in an air rifle shooting in Bolton
- A man had to undergo lifesaving surgery after apparently shooting himself in the head with an air rifle in Exeter.
- A man sustained a pellet wound to his chest after accidentally discharging his air rifle in Beaford (Devon).
- A man was arrested in St Mellons (Cardiff) and a firearm found in the boot of a car after an air weapon was apparently fired at a vehicle in the Rhymney Valley.
- An air rifle was recovered from a caravan in Seaton Burn (Tyneside) where a man was arrested for public order offences and firearm offences.
- A man from Aberdeen believes his family are under attack after a number of their cars were hit by pellets from air weapons.
- An air pistol was seized by police from two 9-year-old boys who were pointing the weapon at passers by in Trowbridge (Wiltshire).
- Damage estimated at £600 was caused by an airgun sniper to a window on a bus in Dartmouth (Devon). An airgun pellet shattered a window on a train between Exeter and Axminster and in Kintore (Aberdeenshire) the driver's cab of a train was cracked after someone took pot shots at it with an airgun.
- Windows of a library were smashed after being shot at with a ball-bearing gun in Worthing (West Sussex) and damage costing £800 was caused to a shop window in Mertsam (Surrey).
- **Convictions (Airguns)** - A man who shot his son with a modified air rifle and almost killed him was jailed for 18 years after admitting attempted murder and possessing the rifle without a certificate (see [April 2007 Incidents](#)).
- A man was given a jail sentence of three and a half years after he had shot one person in the leg and threatened others during an incident at a party in Sandhurst (Berkshire).
- A man who lay in wait for his father and stepmother whilst armed with an air rifle and who pleaded guilty to various charges following the incident in Weston-super-Mare has been jailed for two and a half years (see [May 2007 Incidents](#)).
- A Mansfield man who pointed an air rifle at a police officer was jailed for 15 months.
- The Crown Prosecution Service decided that a 14-year-old who shot a teenage girl in the face with an air rifle in Botley (Hampshire), causing injuries which required surgery, was too young to understand the implications of what he was doing and no case was brought against him.
- Two men were fined after a pensioner had been shot in the back with a stray air rifle pellet in Bracebridge Heath (Lincolnshire).
- A man could face jail after admitting recklessly discharging air rifle pellets in a street in Greenock.
- A York man who made threats to his wife over the phone and had an air pistol in his vehicle was given a jail sentence of two and a half years.
- A drug dealer from Roath (Cardiff) who has been jailed for three years had an air rifle in his car.
- **Imitation Guns** - Imitation guns are still being used to attack people of all ages.
  - A toddler was shot in the eye after a BB gun, apparently bought for £1, was fired at a show in Pontarddulais (Swansea).
  - A man was attacked with a BB gun whilst sitting on a bench in Great Yarmouth (Norfolk).

- An 11-year-old was shot in the torso with a ball-bearing gun in Gillingham by a group of three teenagers (Kent)
  - Two men were hit by pellets fired from a BB gun in Reading: two young men may be linked to the incidents.
  - The father of an 11-year-old old boy has only just been informed by the police that his son was the victim of a BB gun attack which took place near Wrexham in August.
  - Two teenagers burst into a pub in Preston claiming they had been shot by a gang: the shots were apparently fired from an imitation gun.
- A 16-year-old was questioned on suspicion of trying to carry out an armed robbery at a petrol station in Didcot (Oxfordshire): he was brandishing a BB gun or an airgun.
- In Lancashire two men apparently used an imitation firearm when they stole cash from a takeaway driver in Morecambe, and a man was threatened with a BB gun in Fishwick.
- A ball-bearing gun was recovered after a man demanded money at a pub in Gateshead: a man is in custody.
- The police dealt with a number of incidents involving youths carrying imitation guns in public.
  - A youth was spotted brandishing a weapon that looked like an AK47 assault rifle at Newton Station (Greater Manchester): a boy has been arrested.
  - A BB gun was confiscated from three youths after reports of a teenager brandishing a gun in Calne (Wiltshire).
  - Four youths were arrested over the summer in South Shields (Tyne-side) following incidents involving BB guns.
  - Armed police were called to a housing estate in Rushden (Northamptonshire) after a youth was spotted with a ball-bearing gun.
  - A BB gun was recovered when two youths were arrested by police after an incident in a Lincoln street.
  - Police arrested six teenagers after they were seen firing handguns (BB guns) at each other along the A158 in Lincolnshire.
  - Two young men spotted waving a BB gun out of a car in Southport were released without charge.
  - An 11-year-old was made to hand over a BB gun after two boys were spotted with a gun in Caterham (Surrey).
  - A 16-year-old handed over an imitation gun after an armed response unit was called to the centre of Nottingham.
- A man was arrested after a blank-firing firearm was found in baggage at Blackpool airport.
- A gun shop owner in York has been placed on City of York Council's Staff Warning Register after allegedly threatening a council worker with a replica rifle.
- **Convictions (Imitation Guns)** - Two BB guns were found in the getaway car of two men who have now been sentenced to 11 years and six years for offences relating to a series of armed raids on bookmakers in Raynes Park and Twickenham, a bank raid in Barnes and off licences in Acton.
- A man was jailed for three years after he had pointed an imitation AK47 at a female police officer in Corby (Northamptonshire): the man also had a replica pistol.
- Two 18-year-olds were jailed for a year each after an attack with a BB gun on a pedestrian in Carlisle. Another man was jailed for 15 months for an attack on a man in Swindon with a BB gun: one of the pellets punctured the victim's skin. A man has been sent to prison for six months after shooting a woman in the bottom with a ball-bearing gun in Rhyl (North Wales).
- A 20-year-old was found guilty of robbing a student whilst armed with an imitation gun in Strood and has been jailed for six years. A 15-year-old was

given two years probation after robbing school children in Shrewsbury whilst armed with an imitation gun.

- Two men who threatened and demanded money from victims on a bus in Derbyshire, whilst armed with an imitation handgun, were jailed for 14 months and 2 years.
- A 20-year-old man was given a caution and an 18-year-old charged with possessing an imitation firearm in public after an incident in Derby recorded by CCTV cameras in July.
- No action was taken against a Devizes (Wiltshire) man who had been seen at a supermarket with a gun stuck in his belt (police raided his home and recovered a BB gun).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - In addition to another catalogue of incidents in which cats have been shot and injured with air weapons (in Carlisle, Hartlepool, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire) there was a further report of a swan being killed with an air rifle (in York) and an airgun attack on a horse (near Peebles).

## GUN INCIDENTS – SEPTEMBER 2007

### ENGLAND

**BBC**, 30 September 2007

A 16-year-old was arrested after reports that a man had been seen with a gun in the centre of **Nottingham**. Armed police were called and the youth handed over the gun, an **imitation firearm**, after negotiations with officers.

**BBC**, 30 September 2007

Police are investigating reports of shots being fired at a car in **Liverpool**. A man was seen leaning out of a vehicle and firing at a nearby car.

**Times**, 28 September 2007

A man was arrested in **Brighton** for pulling out a gun after he ordered a bowl of soup in a restaurant. The police said that a weapon had been recovered and was being viewed by armourers to establish if it is a replica or genuine.

**BBC**, 28 September 2007

Three shotguns and other items were stolen when robbers raided a property in **Kingston** near Ringwood in Hampshire.

**BBC**, 28 September 2007

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with possession of a firearm after he was searched by police in **Cheetham Hill**, Manchester. He has also been charged with possession of ammunition and possession of cannabis. Three other teenagers were arrested at the same time and were released on bail after questioning.

**Reuters**, 26 September 2007

An 18-year-old has been charged with the attempted murder of two police officers in the **Kirkdale** area of Liverpool. Both officers escaped injury when the teenager shot at them.

**Herald Express**, 26 September 2007

An **airgun** sniper caused £600-worth of damage by taking a pot shot at a bus in **Dartmouth**, Devon. The pellet shattered a middle window on the vehicle. No passengers were on the bus at the time.

**BBC**, 26 September 2007

Armed police officers were sent to a house in **Norwich** after reports of a man with a handgun. After a five-hour stand-off a man was arrested.

**BBC**, 26 September 2007

Two boys were seen in **Caterham**, Surrey, with a **BB gun**. One of the boys, who is aged 11, was made to hand over the gun after being reported by a member of the public.

**BBC**, 26 September 2007

Guns, ammunition and cannabis were found at a house in **Haydock**, Merseyside. The 11 guns recovered included three revolvers and seven semi-automatic pistols. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of possession of firearms.

**BBC**, 26 September 2007

Two men who were sitting in a car in **Oldham** have been shot. Both received neck injuries. One of the victims is awaiting surgery while the other, aged 19, suffered minor injuries.

**BBC**, 26 September 2007

Two boys have been injured in a drive-by shooting in **Fallowfield**, Manchester. The first victim, aged 15, was shot in the leg when he was standing at a junction when a car pulled up. A 12-year-old, who had been in the garden of a house in the same street, received a graze to his leg and is thought to have been an innocent by-stander.

**Daily Mail**, 25 September 2007

A boy of 14 who shot a schoolgirl in the face with an **air rifle** has been given six hours' community work. His victim, aged 15, is still recovering from surgery after the attack which took place in **Botley**, Hampshire, in June 2007. She had a lead pellet embedded behind her right eye which nearly blinded her. The Crown Prosecution Service told the girl's family that no action will be taken against the boy because "he was too young to appreciate the dangers of his firing the rifle from 6ft away". Her father has described the decision as absurd.

**BBC**, 24 September 2007

A biker, possibly armed with a handgun, made off with the collection fund at a church in **Darenth**, Kent. A church official was just leaving with the £590 when a motorcyclist approached him and ordered him to hand it over.

**BBC**, 24 September 2007

A man was shot in the cheek with an **air rifle** as he stood at a construction site in the **Smithills** area of Bolton. He was taken to hospital where he had the pellet removed.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 22 September 2007

Two men, Joseph and Matthew Waite, both admitted discharging a firearm within 50ft of the highway, an offence under the Highways Act 1980. They were each fined £125 and ordered to pay £75 compensation together with costs and a fine. The case followed an incident in which a pensioner was shot in the back with a stray air rifle pellet from a window ledge shooting gallery in **Bracebridge Heath** in June 2007. An **air rifle** was found hidden under a settee at Mackie's home.

**BBC**, 22 September 2007 \*

A man was arrested after a gun was found in baggage on a plane at **Blackpool** airport. Officers found a **blank-firing firearm** and some ammunition. The incident was not related to terrorism. The arrested man was given a suspended jail sentence (see [July 2008 Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 22 September 2007

A man was shot in the stomach and legs during an incident outside a nightclub in **Cotteridge** in the West Midlands. He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable.

**ic South London**, 21 September 2007

A man was held at gunpoint in a travel agent's in **Walworth**, south London. A group of around 10 teenagers were involved and stole the victim's wallet and mobile phone.

**ic South London**, 21 September 2007

Marlon Granderson is facing a life sentence after being found guilty of eight charges: possession of a Mac 10 with intent to endanger life, three handguns, two silencers, 62 hollow point bullets, 379 rounds of ammunition, possession of an explosive substance, possession of a firearm to supply class-A drugs and possession of class-A drugs with intent to supply. The guns had been found in a car parked in **Peckham** in July 2006, following a tip-off (see [Incidents](#)). Ballistics experts linked all three handguns to six separate shootings. Granderson, who was caught in October 2006, is believed to have been the boss of the Peckham Boys, a notorious gang linked to hundreds of drug and firearms offences in South London.

**Express & Star**, 21 September 2007

In the West Midlands a man was shot in **Whitmore Reans** and an 18-year-old remained seriously ill in hospital after being shot in the back in **Wednesfield (Heathtown)**, see below).

**BBC**, 21 September 2007

A man has been jailed for three and a half years after he shot one girl in the leg with an **air rifle**, held the gun to the head of another person and fired pellets out of a window. The incidents occurred in October 2005 when he threw out partygoers from his daughter's party at **Sandhurst**, Berkshire. Jamie Armstrong pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of a firearm with intent and actual bodily harm. His then partner, Tracey Blowfield, was jailed for a year after admitting assault occasioning ABH and perverting the course of justice.

**BBC**, 21 September 2007

The driver of a postal van was tied and bound after he was forced to drive at gunpoint by three armed robbers. The men threatened and hit him as he made a delivery in **South Heath**, Buckinghamshire, and he was made to drive to a location near **Amersham** where he was tied up and the robbers fled with cash. The Post Office has offered a £25,000 reward for any information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the three men.

**AOL News**, 21 September 2007

A teenage boy was undergoing an operation to remove a bullet from his arm after an apparent drive-by shooting in **Sheffield**. A man and a youth have been arrested in connection with the shooting.

**This is Wiltshire**, 20 September 2007

Jonathan Clarke sparked an armed police alert when he went shopping in **Devizes**. He appeared to have what looked like a large handgun stuck in his belt. A security officer followed him home and police responded. A **BB gun** was recovered. No action was taken against him in connection with the gun because he did not "use it in a threatening manner" towards anyone, according to police.

**Oxford Mail**, 20 September 2007

Two robbers, one brandishing a knife and the other holding a gun, robbed a corner shop in **Headington**, Oxford. They raided the till and escaped with £80 in cash. Two men have been arrested in connection with the raid and have been released on bail.

**Mansfield Chad**, 20 September 2007

Kelvin Pennant from **Mansfield Woodhouse** pointed an air rifle at a police officer who had arrived at his home to arrest him on a warrant in May 2007. After officers spotted the **air rifle** Pennant was disarmed and taken to the police station. He has been jailed for 15 months.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 20 September 2007

A teenager was spotted on CCTV cameras brandishing a weapon which looked like an AK47 assault rifle at Newton Station in **Hyde**, Manchester. Another boy was seen to take the gun from a bin liner, fit it with an ammunition magazine and pass it to the teenager who aimed it at a crane driver working nearby. The youths evaded capture. A 17-year-old has since been charged with possession of an imitation firearm. The weapon was a **ball bearing gun**. A 15-year-old has also been arrested and is on police bail pending further inquiries (*Tameside Advertiser*, 26 September 2007).

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 20 September 2007

A man burst into a pub in **Gateshead** brandishing what looked like a handgun and demanded money. He was tackled by customers and detained after a chase and a struggle. A **ball-bearing gun** and property taken from the pub were recovered. A man is in custody.

**Barking and Dagenham Recorder**, 20 September 2007

Armed police used a stun gun to subdue a man who was wielding a pistol at a busy pub in **Chadwell Heath**, east London. A suspected personal disagreement boiled over outside the pub.

**Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News**, 19 September 2007

A gun was seized by police from two nine-year-old children who were pointing it at passers by in **Trowbridge**. The weapon was an **air pistol** which according to the children was bought at a market stall.

**Littlehampton Gazette**, 19 September 2007

Windows of a library in **Worthing**, West Sussex, were smashed after vandals shot at them with a **ball-bearing gun**.

**BBC**, 19 September 2007

Police are appealing for help to trace a person who shot at a flat in **Ribbleton**, Preston. A couple were woken by a shot fired at their lounge window.

**BBC**, 19 September 2007 \*

A man found with bullet wounds in a street in **Acton**, west London, has died in hospital. A post mortem examination has confirmed that the victim died from a shot to the head (*Ealing Times*, 20 September 2007). Two men are in custody and two men and a woman arrested by police previously have been bailed (*BBC*, 1 November 2007).

**ic South London**, 18 September 2007

Two 17-year-olds and a 20-year-old were arrested after a shooting in **Elephant and Castle**, south London. The 20-year-old was arrested after being taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to his foot. All three had been in a car which crashed during a getaway. Police believe the shooting was sparked by a fight in a nearby nightspot. In another shooting linked to the same nightclub two nights earlier someone let off five rounds and a man was shot in the shoulder. Police do not believe the two shootings to be connected.

**BBC**, 18 September 2007

Police have said they believe that armed raids on six homes in Norfolk have been committed by the same group of five men. The gang, armed with guns have demanded cash from householders in **Upwell, Nordelph, Stow Bridge, North Runton, Elm** and **Wereham**. They gained modest sums of cash from some of the robberies, but left empty-handed on at least three occasions. Police believe that shots were fired on at least two occasions. The gang may also be linked to a similar offence in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire, an armed robbery on a hotel in **Northwold** (see below) and an aggravated burglary at a home in **Pott Row**.

**BBC**, 18 September 2007

A shop worker was taken to hospital after he was injured in an armed raid in **Small Heath**, Birmingham, during which a shot was fired. The shot did not hit anyone but the employee was injured during a struggle. A group of masked men had entered the shop and demanded money. They escaped with a small amount of cash.

**BBC**, 18 September 2007

A teenager has been shot in the knee in what police have said was a targeted attack in the **Broomhall** area of Sheffield. The man, aged 18, took himself to hospital with a bullet wound. The injury is not thought to be life-threatening.

**Wimbledon Guardian**, 17 September 2007

Perry Campbell was jailed for 11 years after pleading guilty to six counts of armed robbery and six weapons charges. He was arrested after police watched him and his accomplice Hamid Terrachet hold up a bank in **Barnes** in June 2006. He had also been involved in armed raids on bookmakers in Raynes Park and Twickenham and off licences in Acton. Campbell was shot with a Taser gun after he refused to cooperate with police after the raid in Barnes. Two **BB guns** were found in the getaway car. He was sentenced to eight years' jail for the armed robbery in Barnes and three years for possession of an imitation firearm. He was given six years for each of five further armed robberies and two years for each of five counts of possession of an imitation firearm, to be served concurrently. Terrachet had already been sentenced to six years for robbery and two years for possession of an imitation firearm.

**BBC**, 17 September 2007

A 14-year-old boy was shot in the leg by an **airgun** as he walked along a street in **Great Wyrley**, Staffordshire. He was treated for minor injuries and had a pellet removed in hospital.

**Skegness Standard**, 16 September 2007

Police arrested six teenagers, three girls and three boys aged between 17 and 18, after a member of the public reported seeing them firing handguns at each other along the A158 at **Scremby** in Lincolnshire. They were caught at North Greetwell and police recovered three **BB guns** and two Samurai swords from two cars.

**BBC**, 15 September 2007

Police are hunting a teenager who shot at a man following an incident at a takeaway restaurant in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester. Following a "verbal altercation" the youth had pulled out a black handgun and fired a shot towards the victim. The man escaped injury.

**The Visitor (Morecambe)**, 14 September 2007 \*

Two men have been remanded in police custody after they were accused of stealing cash from a takeaway delivery driver in **Morecambe**. They threatened the driver with a handgun and have pleaded not guilty to charges of robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. Both men have now pleaded guilty and face jail sentences (see [April 2008 Incidents](#)).

**Richmond & Twickenham Times**, 14 September 2007

The trial of a gang of four who conspired to rob and burgle the home of a family in **Barnes** has begun. Police arrested the men a few days after three of them had stood up from behind a car and held up a sawn-off shotgun, telling the officers to back off. They face charges of conspiracy to rob, possessing an altered firearm without a certificate, possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. They also face a further charge of conspiracy to burgle to which two of them have pleaded guilty.

**BBC**, 14 September 2007 \*

A 20-year-old was arrested after police found an **imitation handgun** at a house in the **Lockleaze** area of Bristol. The house was raided after pictures had been posted on a website showing youths posing with what appeared to be a handgun and ammunition.

**BBC**, 14 September 2007

Two male youths, aged 17 and 18, have been arrested by armed police after an incident in a **Lincoln** street. They were seen playing with what looked like a handgun. A **BB gun** was recovered.

**BBC**, 14 September 2007

Two men, armed with what is believed to have been a handgun, entered an off-licence in **Wallsend**, North Tyneside, and demanded the till be opened. Staff escaped to the rear of the shop and raised the alarm. The men left empty handed.

**BBC**, 14 September 2007

An 18-year-old man who was shot in the back near a pub in **Heathtown**, Wolverhampton, is said to be in a critical condition in hospital.

**This is Derbyshire**, 13 September 2007

Recently installed CCTV cameras outside Silk Mill Museum in **Derby** recorded an **imitation firearm** incident in July when a gang of youths were spotted. A police armed response team arrested two men. A 20-year-old man was given a caution and an 18-year-old charged with possessing an imitation firearm in public.

**Sussex Express**, 13 September 2007

Three men have been arrested in connection with a robbery in which a gang of robbers forced their way into a house in **Newhaven**. The occupants were tied up and the gang stole £5,000 and a pearl necklace. The victims thought they saw a handgun.

**ic Surrey**, 13 September 2007

Damage costing £800 was caused to a shop window in **Mertsham** by vandals who shot an **air rifle** at it. There were two holes in the window.

**Daily Echo**, 13 September 2007

Armed police in Dorset are dealing with an average of 30 calls for help a month. In a recent incident a 16-year-old girl had been shot with an **air weapon** in **Weymouth** and had received minor injuries. The offender was not found.

**Buxton Advertiser**, 13 September 2007

Stephen Andrew Twort and Luke Ryan Wroe were jailed for 14 months and two years, respectively, after two schoolboys were robbed on a bus from **Buxton to Whaley Bridge**. They were armed with an **imitation handgun** and have been drinking vodka and Twort had taken methadone. They demanded money from the victims and threatened them with violence. Twort was convicted of affray and possessing a replica weapon, Wroe of two counts of robbery.

**BBC**, 13 September 2007 \*

Two men were shot and killed by police during an alleged armed raid at a bank in **Chandler's Ford**, Hampshire. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is conducting an inquiry. A man was later arrested in the **Raynes Park** area of south-west London. He has appeared in court charged with the attempted robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence (*inthenews*, 15 September 2007). Four men are on trial charged with conspiracy to rob in relation to this and a number of other robberies (see [August 2008 Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 13 September 2007

A 15-year-old who robbed school children with an **imitation gun** in **Shrewsbury** was given two years probation, ordered to be electronically tagged and undergo weekly counselling. He had stolen a mobile phone and admitted two charges of armed robbery at an earlier court hearing.

**The Press (York)**, 12 September 2007

A gun shop owner in **York** has been placed on City of York Council's Staff Warning Register after allegedly threatening a council worker with a rifle. He was accused of pointing the **replica rifle** at an officer when he told him to leave the premises. He admitted having a "heated discussion" with the officer but claims he had been cleaning the rifle at the time and denied pointing the gun at him.

**The Press (York)**, 12 September 2007

Ivan Rawlinson pleaded guilty to three charges of threats to kill, harassment and possession of a firearm and ammunition. He had phoned his wife and told her that he was "going to blow away everyone" and that he was "on a suicide mission" and had a shotgun and two pistols. Police traced him to a hotel in **York** and an **air pistol** was found in his vehicle. He was given a two-and-a-half year jail sentence. The police armed response team's raid on the hotel in March 2007 is estimated to have cost at least £6,000.

**The Journal (Newcastle)**, 12 September 2007

A man was arrested for public order offences and offences involving the use and possession of a firearm following a raid on a caravan in **Seaton Burn**, North Tyneside. An **air rifle** was recovered.

**Kent News**, 12 September 2007

An 11-year-old boy has been shot in the torso with a **ball-bearing gun** while playing with friends in **Gillingham**, Kent. They were approached by three teenagers, one of whom shot the victim in the ribcage. He suffered a small bruise and although he did not need hospital treatment has been greatly affected by the incident.

**Express & Echo (Exeter)**, 12 September 2007

Police have issued a warning over the dangers of air rifles after two incidents. A man had to undergo lifesaving surgery after apparently shooting himself in the head at a property in **Exeter**. He had contacted police warning them that he planned to harm himself. An **airgun** was found at the scene. The man has a pellet lodged in his head. Police were also called to **Beaford**, Devon, where a man had sustained a pellet wound to his chest whilst he had been out shooting pheasants and had slipped down a grassy slope and accidentally discharged his **air rifle**.

**BBC**, 12 September 2007

Four shotguns and ammunition have been stolen in a burglary at a property in **Millom**, Cumbria.

**BBC**, 12 September 2007

A lorry carrying shotgun cartridges caught fire on the M42 in **Worcestershire**. Motorists were hit by long delays as the northbound carriageway was closed. The fire was brought under control with advice from a military adviser.

**BBC**, 12 September 2007

Three men, one armed with a Taser stun gun, forced their way into a flat in **Longwell Green**, Bristol. The resident was incapacitated and was pushed into a room. The men left with clothes, a plasma television and two mobile phones.

**Reading Evening Post**, 11 September 2007

Two men were hit by pellets from a **BB gun** in west **Reading**. One of the victims was shot in the right shoulder, the other took a direct hit to the chest. It is thought that the gunman may have been aiming from the window of a block of flats. Two young men were seen to come out of the flats and put something in the bushes.

**ic Sefton and West Lancs**, 11 September 2007

Two young men were spotted apparently waving a shotgun out of the window of their car as they drove through **Southport**. Police uncovered an object, which turned out to be a **BB gun**. The two men were released without charge.

**Evening Telegraph (Northampton)**, 11 September 2007

John James McGhie has been jailed for three years after he pointed an **imitation Kalashnikov AK-47** at a female police officer in **Corby** and threatened to kill her. He had bought two guns after seeing an advert in a newsagent's shop window. The incident occurred after his wife, with whom he'd been drinking, called the police when he had tucked a **replica pistol** into his waistband.

**BBC**, 11 September 2007

Two women were threatened by two burglars who stole cash, a handbag, a mobile phone and other items from a house in **Kingswood**, south Gloucestershire. One of the men was armed with a stun gun which he used to force one of the victims back into her home.

**BBC**, 11 September 2007

Two 13-year-old girls were injured by a shot fired from an airgun at a school in **Stafford**. They received minor injuries. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to put someone in fear of violence and assault. A **gas-powered air pistol** was seized.

**BBC**, 11 September 2007

Police have questioned a number of people in connection with the shooting of a man found with gunshot wounds in **Annesley Woodhouse**, Nottinghamshire. The injured man remains in hospital where he was said to be in a stable condition.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 10 September 2007

Two terrified teenagers burst into a pub in **Ribbleton**, Preston, claiming they had been shot at by a marauding gang brandishing a gun. This was the latest in a catalogue of incidents involving firearms. The shots were apparently fired from an imitation gun (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 19 September 2007). The week before a business in **Fishwick** was held up at gunpoint in a robbery and two hours later a man was threatened with a **BB gun**.

**BBC**, 10 September 2007

Private Christopher Trussler has been jailed for three years. He had stolen army ammunition and tried to sell it to an undercover police officer from Operation Trident in **Chichester**, West Sussex, in May 2007 (see [June 2007 Incidents](#)). He admitted illegally possessing and stealing 21 rounds of 9mm ammunition after a Northern Ireland training exercise. The MoD have said that it would investigate whether ammunition security procedures could be tightened (*Daily Mirror*, 11 September 2007).

**BBC**, 9 September 2007

A man has been shot dead in a park in **Camberwell**, south London. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. He had received a gunshot wound to the chest.

**This is Wiltshire**, 8 September 2007

Michael Harris, 20, fired at least three pellets into a man with his **ball bearing gun** following a row about his parents' splitting up. The victim was his father's lodger and was shot on his doorstep in **Greenmeadow**, Swindon in October 2006. One pellet punctured the skin and left him with a 1mm deep wound. Harris pleaded guilty to a charge of actual bodily harm and was jailed for 15 months.

**This is Exeter**, 8 September 2007

Graham Sykes triggered a police siege in **Newton Poppleford**, Devon, in January 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He brandished a rifle and was carrying a knife. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He has been bailed to live at a hostel until he is sentenced.

**News & Star**, 8 September 2007

Andrew Hull and Jonathan O'Neil, both 18, have been jailed for a year after they took a pot shot at a pedestrian while they were driving through **Carlisle** city centre in April 2007. The victim was in pain after being hit in the temple. The gun, a **BB-type airgun** which looked like a handgun, was found by police. The teenagers both pleaded guilty to possessing the imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence.

**BBC**, 8 September 2007

Natasha Peniston, whose daughter was shot dead in her own home in **Gorton**, Manchester, in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)), has pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm. She had confessed to keeping the .38 snub-nosed revolver pistol that killed her daughter and two .38 bullets and two soft-nosed bullets. She was released on bail. A 17-year-old boy is due to stand trial for the murder. He has pleaded guilty to a count of possession of a handgun and ammunition but denies murder.

**Eastern Daily Press**, 7 September 2007

A man was attacked with a **ball-bearing gun** by a young man in a hooded top in **Great Yarmouth**, Norfolk, who is believed to have fired at the victim's head at least five times whilst the man was sitting on a bench. The victim was treated for minor injuries in hospital.

**BBC**, 7 September 2007

A man has been arrested after police found a large amount of cocaine and a firearm and ammunition at a house in **Stockton**, Teesside.

**BBC**, 7 September 2007

Gang member Leon Edwards was found with two pistols hidden in the cistern of the toilet at his home in **Longsight**, Manchester, when police raided the property in January 2007. He admitted possession of two guns with intent to cause fear of violence and possession of ammunition with the intent for another to endanger life. He was given an indeterminate sentence and will serve at least four years and 35 days.

**The Argus (Brighton)**, 7 September 2007

A dentist has been allowed to continue practising despite showing off a gun to the manager of his practice in **Worthing** in April 2005. The manager persuaded him to hand over the weapon and later threw it into a rubbish bin. The gun was an **air pistol** and the dentist told the manager that he shouldn't be worried about it. The General Dental Council cleared him of misconduct.

**Oxford Mail**, 6 September 2007

A 16-year-old boy was being questioned on suspicion of trying to carry out an armed robbery whilst brandishing a **BB gun** or **airgun**. He demanded cash from staff at a petrol station in **Didcot**.

**ic Croydon**, 6 September 2007

A man was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds to his chest and a leg after being shot in the back garden of a house in **Thornton Heath** during a party. He was discharged from hospital within days. Police had been called to the house after reports of gunshots.

**Harrow Times**, 6 September 2007

Two men were gunned down in a crowded nightclub in **Wembley**, north London. One man was seriously injured and was still in hospital. The other victim was also hit by bullets but has since recovered from his injuries. Four men walked into the club and fired indiscriminately.

**Evening Telegraph (Northampton)**, 6 September 2007

Armed police were called to a housing estate in **Rushden** after a youth was spotted with a **ball-bearing gun**. He was seen on a mini motorbike pointing a gun. The 16-year-old was later released on bail pending further inquiries.

**Shields Gazette**, 5 September 2007

Four youths have been arrested in **South Tyneside** over the summer following incidents involving **BB guns** reported to police.

**Midweek Visiter**, 5 September 2007

The police were called to a street in **Southport** after an anonymous caller claimed that a teenager was displaying a weapon to his friends. It was unclear what type of weapon was involved.

**Gazette & Herald**, 5 September 2007

A police firearms team swooped on **Calne**, Wiltshire, after residents reported seeing a teenager brandishing a gun and shouting 'stay away'. The gun was fired. Three youths were handcuffed and searched for weapons. A **BB gun** was confiscated.

**BBC**, 5 September 2007

Three linked **airgun** attacks have taken place in **Burton-upon-Trent**, Staffordshire. The guns were fired at people from a passing car. A man needed hospital treatment after being hit by at least two pellets. Later another man suffered a head wound after being hit by at least four pellets, and in the third incident a man reported that six shots were fired at him.

**Wimbledon Guardian**, 4 September 2007

A man jumped into a car in **Wandsworth** and demanded money from the driver. The victim ran off and phoned the police but on returning to his car found his mobile phone and Sat Nav accessory had been stolen. The attacker had been accompanied by a woman. Two similar armed robberies had occurred in the same street in the past three months. Police believe men are being lured to the spot under the pretence of an arranged escort meet.

**Grimsby Telegraph**, 4 September 2007

A correspondent to the **Grimsby** newspaper has written to describe how a near neighbour allows his 10-year-old son to shoot an **air rifle** in the back garden and that numerous neighbours are finding pellets in their own gardens.

**People**, 2 September 2007

A man fired an **airgun** at a train from the side of the track between **Exeter** and **Axminster**. The outer pane of a window on the train shattered.

**Lynn News**, 2 September 2007

Four men armed with three shotgun-style weapons and an axe threatened a staff member at a hotel in **Northwold**, Norfolk. The victim was ordered to open the safe before the robbers made off with a quantity of cash.

**BBC**, 2 September 2007

A man has been charged on two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon after weapons including a handgun and a rifle were found at a house in **Wythenshaw**, Manchester.

**BBC**, 2 September 2007

Three men broke into a home in **Southampton** and threatened a family with a handgun. The men demanded money. No one was injured.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 1 September 2007

William Hayward, 20, was found guilty of robbing a student at a flat in **Strood**, demanding money with menaces from the victim and having an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear. He was jailed for six years.

**BBC**, 1 September 2007

A man was shot in the back in a street in the **Toxteth** area of Liverpool. His injuries are not life-threatening.

**BBC**, 1 September 2007

A police officer accidentally shot himself in the leg as he was getting into a car in central London. He had been on duty in the **Grosvenor Square** area. He was stable in hospital.

## SCOTLAND

**Evening Express (Aberdeen)**, 15 September 2007

The window of the driver's cab of a train was cracked after pot shots taken at it with an **airgun**. The train was hit north of the level crossing in **Kintore**, Aberdeenshire.

**Press & Journal**, 11 September 2007

A man from the **Bucksburn** area of Aberdeen claims his family has been under attack by thugs with **air weapons**. Two of his cars and two of his son's cars have been hit by pellets in a six week period.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 11 September 2007

Mark Feely was caught in unlawful possession of a shotgun he had confiscated from a teenager in care. He conceded he should have taken the deadly weapon straight to the police instead of taking it to his home in **Linwood**. It was in his possession when police raided the property 24 hours later tipped off by the teenager's social worker. Feely has been ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 5 September 2007

A masked gunman terrified staff at a bookies in **Paisley**. After brandishing a handgun and demanding cash he fled the scene on a bike with more than £400.

**Greenock Telegraph**, 5 September 2007

John McGhee, who fired an **air rifle** in a street in **Greenock** in August 2007, has admitted recklessly discharging pellets 'at targets positioned in a place to which the public has access'. He has been told he could face jail.

**Herald**, 1 September 2007

A security guard was held at gunpoint during a raid on a supermarket in **Paisley**. Two men entered the store, forced their way into the office and made off with a six-figure sum. The money had been intended to replenish the store's cash machine.

## WALES

**Flintshire Standard**, 27 September 2007

A father has said he was stunned to open a letter from North Wales Police to discover his 11-year-old son had been the victim of a **BB gun** attack in August. The incident, which involved a group of youths aged about 14 or 15 occurred on **Ponciau Banks** near Wrexham. The victim was shot in the head, near his eye. The father believes his son was too scared to tell him himself but thinks that the police, who investigated the incident at the time, should have informed him.

**South Wales Echo**, 24 September 2007

Armed police swooped on the **St Mellons** estate in Cardiff when a man with a gun drove up to a house. A hunting rifle was removed from a car and the vehicle was taken away for forensic examination. No one was injured. The man was believed to be linked to an incident in which a car was fired at in **Fleur-de-Lys** in the Rhymney Valley with what was believed to have been an **air weapon**. The suspect is believed to be a keen rabbit hunter who also suffers from mental health problems.

**Evening Post (Swansea)**, 11 September 2007

Two men are on trial accused of burgling a home in **Briton Ferry** in February 2007, stealing a set of car keys, possessing a prohibited weapon, attempting to steal his car and causing the householder actual bodily harm. The victim was attacked with a stun gun. The case continues.

**Western Mail**, 11 September 2007

Craig Barker, 21, has been sent to prison for six months after shooting a woman in the bottom with a **ball-bearing gun**. He and a friend bought the gun in Towyn and started firing it at each other at the bus station in **Rhyl**. The victim remonstrated with them and Barker fired at her. He was arrested after CCTV footage of the incident was viewed.

**BBC**, 10 September 2007

Two men stole cash and cigarettes from a petrol station in **Pwllmeyric**, Monmouthshire. They produced a handgun to staff. No-one was injured during the incident.

**South Wales Echo**, 8 September 2007

Matthew Hill, a drug dealer who has been sentenced to three years after admitting possession of class A drugs with intent to supply, had an **air rifle** and kitchen knife in his car, which was parked in **Roath**, Cardiff. He never gave an explanation for the weapons.

**Evening Post (Swansea)**, 7 September 2007

A toddler was shot in the eye after a **BB gun**, apparently bought for £1, was fired at a show in **Pontarddulais**. The child could have been blinded if the pellet had hit one millimetre more into her eye.

**Wales on Sunday**, 2 September 2007

A gunman broke into the cash office at the rear of **Cardiff** Central station where he bound and gagged a cashier and made off with £6,000 in cash.

## **INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS**

**This is Gloucestershire**, 27 September 2007 \*

A rare bird of prey has been shot near **Fairford** with an **airgun**. The hobby falcon was treated at the Cotswold Animal and Bird Rescue Centre but vets were unable to save it. The hobby falcon is a protected species and it is illegal to kill it. The manager of the Centre said that they had had other birds of prey, a buzzard, a sparrow hawk and a kestrel, shot in the area.

**Norwich Evening News**, 27 September 2007

A cat in **Spixworth**, Norfolk, has been shot with an **air rifle** for the second time in three months. Following the latest attack an X-ray revealed that a pellet was embedded in his skull but it was too close to the eye to remove safely.

**News & Star**, 26 September 2007

A cat was shot with an **airgun** as it walked through a park in **Currock** in Carlisle. The pellet travelled through the cat's right hand leg, through the bladder and embedded itself in the cat's left hind leg. She had to go emergency surgery and has now returned home.

**Yorkshire Post**, 25 September 2007 \*

John Shaw of **Knaresborough** was ordered to pay a compensation order of £1500 after pleading guilty to cruelly shooting a Labrador contrary to the Protection of Animals Act and using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour. The dog was shot with an **air rifle** and only survived after a vet operated to repair four perforations in its bowel. It was claimed that this was "basically a case of protecting his livestock".

**The Press (York)**, 20 September 2007

A swan has been rescued in **York** after being shot with an **air rifle**. It is recovering at Yorkshire Swan Rescue Hospital which is offering a £1000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the conviction of the guilty party. The bird was shot in the neck and probably has a pellet is lodged in its left eye.

**Hartlepool Mail**, 19 September 2007

A pet cat has lost an eye after being shot in an **air rifle** attack in **Hartlepool**. The vet who treated the cat said that he had either been hit at close range or with a high powered air weapon.

**BBC**, 17 September 2007

Six incidents in which animals have been shot in the head and leg with an **air rifle** have been reported to police in **Boston**, Lincolnshire, in a period of three weeks. One cat has died and a number of others have been hurt in the attacks.

**BBC**, 14 September 2007

A pet cat has had to have an eye removed after being shot with an **air weapon** in **Langwith**, Nottinghamshire. The RSPCA said it had received 36 reports of air weapon attacks on cats in the East Midlands between January and August. This was almost double the 19 reports it had received in the whole of 2006.

**BBC**, 7 September 2007

A prized carriage horse has been injured in an **airgun** attack in **Peebles** in the Scottish Borders. The owner discovered a pellet embedded in the flesh of one of his animals. The wound is expected to heal without any complications.



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