

9 January 2011

PRESS RELEASE: Hidden UK Gun Crime

Ex-Royal Marine Matt Seiber claims that a curious form of gun crime is being swept under the carpet because it baffles the police and other authorities.

Following research over ten years Matt Seiber (who is also a longstanding shooting sportsman) has set down his claims in a new book, *Gunfire-Graffiti* which looks at the use of firearms to deface roadside structures and similar targets in public places.

Based on investigations by the author and subsequent academic research (the Cranfield report), the book reveals what some people may think is a disturbing picture of gun use — one which passes largely unnoticed or is for some reason downplayed by the police, highways and other authorities.

As the author shows, at the very least this kind of ‘graffiti’ is antisocial whilst it is hard to imagine circumstances in which it is not also criminal, whether as criminal damage or unlawful gun use in a public place.

Further, there are situations in which shooting in public can be highly dangerous as where perpetrators shoot right through a sign towards a road or dwelling. Further, the evidence covers all types of weapons, not just air rifles and shotguns but sometimes for example high velocity rifles.

Matt Seiber cites examples from diverse parts of the UK, painting a picture of tolerated lawlessness which some readers will find extraordinary.

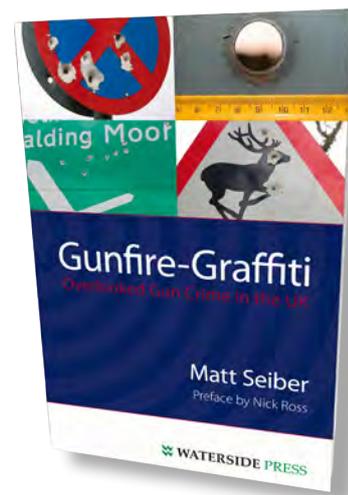
He also writes and talks with the passion of someone whose deep-held concern that something is amiss has met with indifference in various quarters leading to frustration and even to being ridiculed as some kind of amateur sleuth.

But he has found supporters in other areas including ballistics experts at Cranfield University, one or two journalists, his local BBC Oxford, broadcaster Nick Ross who notes in his Preface that ‘One way or another this book is an eye opener’ and his publisher who decided that this strange story should reach the public for them to say whether it concerns them.

Taking in visits to various parts of the UK and enlivened by a backdrop of research in areas where notorious shootings have taken place such as Hungerford and Cumbria it is to be hoped that Matt Seiber’s campaign to bring this topic out into the open will now be acknowledged for the serious work and well-informed venture that it is.

If you would like more information, or to speak to Matt please contact:

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- Also see attached Advance Information sheet



Waterside Press, Hampshire

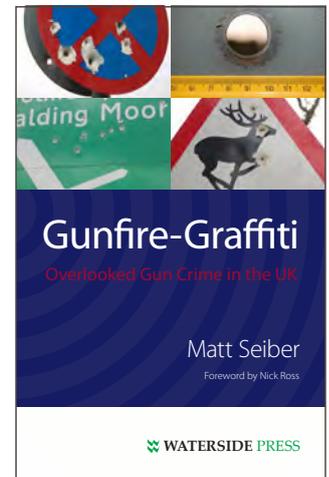
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Advance Information

Title	Gunfire-Graffiti		
Subtitle	Overlooked Gun Crime in the UK		
Author	Matt Seiber	Preface	Nick Ross
Publisher	Waterside Press		
ISBN	978-1-904380-71-9 (Paperback) 978-1-908162-05-2 (Ebook)		
Price	£16.50	Rights	Worldwide
Publication date	3 January 2012	Edition	1st
Specifications	Paperback, 198 x 129 mm, pages 160 + 8pp col. photos		
Category	JKV - Crime & criminology, JKSW1 - Police and security services		
Subjects	UK gun crime, policing, media response to crime, media crime agenda, firearms		
Who will buy it?	police, politicians, reformers, libraries, general readers.		



In this remarkable book, Matt Seiber examines the phenomenon of hidden gun crime in the UK. Emphasising the perils of unchecked gun use in public places, he also demonstrates how the police, authorities and media have sought to minimise or ignore the issue.

Gunfire-graffiti is the author's term for wanton gunfire damage to roadside structures — traffic signs, notices, warning signs and similar targets. His investigations reveal that such shootings are not juvenile pranks, but a regular activity thought to be mainly the work of determined individuals unlawfully using firearms, shotguns, handguns and rifles, including lethal, high-velocity weapons.

Stressing the threat to public safety and the dangers involved, Matt Seiber sets out to enquire 'Where, Who, When and Why?' — and given the criminality involved in such events and the malevolent nature of covert gun use asks 'How is it that gunfire damage is being deliberately overlooked by the authorities?'

The author's concerns are backed by academic research and the views of a leading criminal psychologist. Indeed, Gunfire-Graffiti raises fundamental questions concerning the extent to which unlawful acquisition and use of firearms exist in the UK, the

assumption being that the greater part of roadside gunfire damage is unlikely to be the work of unlicensed or other irresponsible gun users.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- As featured on BBC Radio, and in national and local newspapers
- Hitherto uncovered crime — which is being ignored by police and authorities
- A rare instance of a book on a completely new aspect of crime and punishment
- Colour plate section

REVIEWS

'This book is an eye-opener': Nick Ross, TV Presenter

AUTHOR

Matt Seiber is a former Royal Marine and a keen shooting sportsman. His interest in the subject matter of this book has led to media appearances and national newspaper features. He set up the Gunfire Graffiti Project in 2008.



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