# Norfolk woman speaks out after wrongful accusation in air rifle shooting leaves lasting scars



Mandy French, a 55-year-old woman from Hemsby, Norfolk, has opened up about her harrowing experience of being wrongfully accused in connection with a shocking shooting incident that left two 13-year-old boys injured. The impasse followed a sunny bank holiday on May 4 last year, when chaos erupted on the dunes near the village’s shoreline as shots were fired from an air rifle owned by her neighbour, Jason Davis, a 51-year-old man with a troubling criminal past.

Despite the evidential presence of the real gunman, Ms French found herself at the centre of a police investigation that upended her life. Following the shooting, she was arrested and subjected to months of police bail as officers puzzled over the incident. During this time, the local community turned against her, with many believing she was responsible for the crime. Ms French described her ordeal as one of intense isolation, saying, “I just felt like I was on my own and nobody cared and nobody believed me.”

The incident's details add layers to the distress. Ms French recounted that on the day of the shooting, she had been advocating for the safety of children playing on the dunes, as concerns over coastal erosion were prominent among local residents. After politely warning the boys to play elsewhere, she was taken aback when, upon returning home, she found police swarming the beach. “When I was being arrested, I genuinely didn’t believe there had been a shooting,” she remarked, still grappling with disbelief.

In a troubling turn of events, police seized a replica blunderbuss—once an ashtray—from Ms French's home, mistakenly believing it to be connected to the crime. This despite the fact that officers had retrieved Davis's air rifle, which was used in the attack, within the same timeframe. Davis was not arrested until two months later, a delay that has bewildered Ms French. “I saw them take the air rifle from Jason's house. But he was not arrested, something I will never understand,” she said.

Ultimately, Davis was convicted on multiple counts not only for the shooting but also for breaching a sexual harm prevention order, illustrating a pattern of alarming behaviour. His criminal record spans decades, having been placed on the sex offenders register in 2003 after being convicted of serious sexual offences against minors. As Ms French expressed her relief when Davis was finally imprisoned for two years, she also reflected on the enduring stigma that lingered long after her name was cleared.

Sadly, the ramifications of the wrongful accusations weighed heavily on her mental health, leading to severe anxiety and a sense of alienation. She became a target for bullying in her village, with many residents not realising the truth until it was published. “My health hasn’t been great, but this house was detached in a quiet area and suited my health needs… It has not turned out that way,” she lamented, signalling the profound impact the ordeal has had on her life.

Ms French's disturbing experience underscores a broader issue regarding the judicial system's handling of accusations and the sometimes devastating effects of public perception. In the wake of the media coverage revealing Davis's true role, she has cautiously begun to reclaim her life, but the scars of the incident remain. Her story serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of reputation and the critical importance of thorough investigations to ensure that justice prevails.

**Reference Map:**1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 2. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 3. Paragraph 2, 3, 5 4. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 5 5. Paragraphs 2, 4, 6 6. Paragraphs 1, 4, 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25158595.woman-falsely-accused-hemsby-dunes-shooting-speaks/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25158595.woman-falsely-accused-hemsby-dunes-shooting-speaks/?ref=rss> - An article detailing the case of Mandy French, a 55-year-old woman from Hemsby, Norfolk, who was wrongfully accused of a shooting incident involving two 13-year-old boys. The piece describes how French was arrested and spent months on police bail before being cleared of any wrongdoing. It also highlights the real perpetrator, Jason Davis, a 51-year-old convicted paedophile who lived next door to French. The article discusses the impact on French's life, including being 'bullied' and 'ostracised' by her community, and the seizure of a replica antique blunderbuss from her home by police. The piece also touches upon Davis's criminal history, including his previous convictions for sexual offences against minors.
3. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25158595.woman-falsely-accused-hemsby-dunes-shooting-speaks/?ref=rss> - An article detailing the case of Mandy French, a 55-year-old woman from Hemsby, Norfolk, who was wrongfully accused of a shooting incident involving two 13-year-old boys. The piece describes how French was arrested and spent months on police bail before being cleared of any wrongdoing. It also highlights the real perpetrator, Jason Davis, a 51-year-old convicted paedophile who lived next door to French. The article discusses the impact on French's life, including being 'bullied' and 'ostracised' by her community, and the seizure of a replica antique blunderbuss from her home by police. The piece also touches upon Davis's criminal history, including his previous convictions for sexual offences against minors.
4. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25158595.woman-falsely-accused-hemsby-dunes-shooting-speaks/?ref=rss> - An article detailing the case of Mandy French, a 55-year-old woman from Hemsby, Norfolk, who was wrongfully accused of a shooting incident involving two 13-year-old boys. The piece describes how French was arrested and spent months on police bail before being cleared of any wrongdoing. It also highlights the real perpetrator, Jason Davis, a 51-year-old convicted paedophile who lived next door to French. The article discusses the impact on French's life, including being 'bullied' and 'ostracised' by her community, and the seizure of a replica antique blunderbuss from her home by police. The piece also touches upon Davis's criminal history, including his previous convictions for sexual offences against minors.
5. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25158595.woman-falsely-accused-hemsby-dunes-shooting-speaks/?ref=rss> - An article detailing the case of Mandy French, a 55-year-old woman from Hemsby, Norfolk, who was wrongfully accused of a shooting incident involving two 13-year-old boys. The piece describes how French was arrested and spent months on police bail before being cleared of any wrongdoing. It also highlights the real perpetrator, Jason Davis, a 51-year-old convicted paedophile who lived next door to French. The article discusses the impact on French's life, including being 'bullied' and 'ostracised' by her community, and the seizure of a replica antique blunderbuss from her home by police. The piece also touches upon Davis's criminal history, including his previous convictions for sexual offences against minors.
6. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25158595.woman-falsely-accused-hemsby-dunes-shooting-speaks/?ref=rss> - An article detailing the case of Mandy French, a 55-year-old woman from Hemsby, Norfolk, who was wrongfully accused of a shooting incident involving two 13-year-old boys. The piece describes how French was arrested and spent months on police bail before being cleared of any wrongdoing. It also highlights the real perpetrator, Jason Davis, a 51-year-old convicted paedophile who lived next door to French. The article discusses the impact on French's life, including being 'bullied' and 'ostracised' by her community, and the seizure of a replica antique blunderbuss from her home by police. The piece also touches upon Davis's criminal history, including his previous convictions for sexual offences against minors.