



APRIL 2009 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Four people were reported to have been killed in shooting incidents during April.
 - Following a double shooting in Dousland (Devon) it was reported that a man who collected antique guns had shot his partner and then killed himself.
 - A man was shot dead and a second victim injured in a targeted attack in Huddersfield (West Yorkshire): two men have been arrested.
 - A 20-year-old man was shot in a street in Handsworth (Birmingham).
- Other shooting incidents which resulted in injury occurred in:
 - Bedfordshire (2) - there were two separate shootings in Luton, one in which a teenager was shot whilst getting out of a taxi and another in which the victim was shot on his doorstep - there was also a third shooting in the town involving an airgun (see below)
 - London (4) - a teenager was shot in the lower back in Hainault, another teenager was shot in an estate in Brixton, a man was shot in the head in Thornton Heath and another was in a life-threatening conditioning after a shooting in Gospel Oak
 - Merseyside (4) - shooting incidents which resulted in injury occurred in Kensington (a gunman went into the victim's house), Croxteth (three men shot a teenager in a pub) and Prescot (two victims were shot)
 - Strathclyde (1) - a man was seriously injured when he was shot on his doorstep in Paisley: a man has been charged
 - West Midlands (1) - a man arrived at hospital with gunshot wounds, and his shooting may be linked to reports of a gun fired in Lee Bank and the arrest of three people after police found drugs
 - West Yorkshire (1) - a second man was injured during the fatal shooting in Huddersfield (see above)
- There were also a number of incidents involving airguns and imitation weapons in which the victims were injured (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies in which a gun is alleged to have been used at:
 - Bookmakers - in Shaw (Greater Manchester), Worthing (West Sussex) and Walsall (West Midlands)
 - An Estate Agents - in Kingswood (Surrey)
 - An Hotel - in Walsall (West Midlands)
 - A Petrol Station - in North Shields (Tyneside)
 - Post Offices - in Bleasby and Watnall (Nottinghamshire) (a man was later arrested in connection with these and an earlier raid in the county) and Padstow (Cornwall)
 - Shops - in Cardiff, Portsmouth (a man has been charged with attempted robbery and possession of a firearm), Colchester (Essex), Brighton (the perpetrator, who wielded an imitation gun, was tackled by staff and customers) and Drumchapel (Glasgow)
- Security guards were robbed in Thornaby (Teesside) (the suspects were chased to Manchester by police where one man was eventually caught) and Pudsey (West Yorkshire).

- A car was stolen at gunpoint in Anfield (Merseyside) and a man was later arrested after it crashed into a lamppost. Another car was stolen by two men armed with a gun in Rochdale (Greater Manchester).
- One man was robbed when two men threatened the occupants of a car in Bromsgrove (Worcestershire) with a crossbow and a ball bearing gun or air weapon. Another man, who was in his car in Hook Heath (Surrey), was injured when he was robbed of a large sum of money by two men who threatened him with what is thought to have been a gun.
- A man who presented what appeared to be a firearm at another man in Paisley stole the victim's bank card.
- **Other Incidents** - A teenager charged with the murder of his girlfriend, who died following a fire in Arbroath, has also been charged with discharging a firearm.
- A man escaped injury after his car was shot at in Prestwich (Greater Manchester). Shots were fired from a handgun at a taxi in Coventry (a man was charged with two counts of attempted murder and possession of a firearm). Another man was lucky to survive an attack on his doorstep in Barton (Oxford) when his attackers fired a shot at point-blank range which missed him and hit the wall behind. Another victim was targeted on his doorstep in Gilmerton (Edinburgh) by two men, probably armed with a shotgun, but he slammed the door in their face - the gun was fired in the street.
- Four men were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life after a shotgun was reportedly fired from a car in Woking (Surrey). Several gunshots were fired in Possilpark (Glasgow), but police were uncertain whether they were aimed at anyone in particular. A shotgun was fired at a car in a street in Halifax (West Yorkshire).
- A man was charged with a public order offence after allegedly making threats with a legally-held firearm near a school in Hooke (Dorset).
- Shots were fired at houses in Wavertree (Merseyside), Duncroft (South Yorkshire) and Low Moor (Bradford) (the shooting may be related to a dispute over a bike).
- An historic cross at Stocksbridge (South Yorkshire) had its bulbs shot out twice, probably with a shotgun.
- Police responded to other incidents in which firearms were apparently seen:
 - A passer-by saw a small black handgun carried by a group in Stoke-on-Trent: no weapon was found.
 - A man was arrested after he had barricaded himself into a loft in Girvan (Ayrshire) after police received a report of a man with a gun.
 - Armed police were called to a church and a college in Bridgwater (Somerset) after reports of a man being spotted with a firearm.
 - A man was arrested after a "domestic report" that someone had a gun at an address at Southsea (Hampshire).
- Bus windows have been shattered in Stanway (Essex): one driver said the impact marks suggested that it was "not just an airgun".
- A man was cautioned after trying to sell a shotgun from his car boot in Swineshead (Lincolnshire).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Further evidence that, in spite of recent legislation, some traders are still selling imitation firearms came from Blackpool where trading standards officers took various goods off sale including ball bearing guns.

- **There were more victims of airgun and BB gun attacks during April. GCN is aware of at least 18 people hit with pellets, nine of whom were females, three of them young girls.**
 - Three women were shot in the head, one in her garden in Lincoln, another whilst walking in Harwich (Essex) (she needed stitches after the pellet was removed in hospital) and the third in Aberdeen.
 - Another woman was with her baby when she was shot in the hand at a bus stop in Rainscough (Greater Manchester) (two boys have been arrested for causing grievous bodily harm with intent). A teenage woman had to have a pellet removed in hospital after being shot with an airgun in Wyberton (Lincolnshire).
 - A young girl was shot in the leg with an "air rifle-style pellet" in Frimley (Surrey) and an 11-year-old girl was shot with an airgun whilst she queued for an ice cream in Huyton (Merseyside).
 - A 9-year-old was shot three times in the face, neck and leg with BB gun pellets as she played near her home in Grimsby.
 - A man was shot in the eye with an airgun in a park in Luton (Bedfordshire) and another was hit whilst he was walking in a street in Loughborough (Leicestershire) (two teenagers have been arrested). Another male victim suffered leg injuries when he was shot in Whitehaven (Cumbria) and a school caretaker was shot in the forehead with an air weapon in Middlesbrough.
 - Two footballers were hit with airgun pellets at the end of a match in South Wales.
 - Three people, two men and a woman, were hit with what they believe were airgun pellets in separate incidents in Norwich.
 - A man was hit in the face after a BB gun was fired from a car in Pangbourne (Berkshire).
- A boy who shot at an aerosol can with an airgun in his back garden in Pentre (Flintshire) suffered serious burns when the can exploded.
- Two men repeatedly fired a ball bearing gun at a man on a street and at a house in Barrhead (Renfrewshire).
- Police had to deal with a number of other incidents involving imitation guns:
 - Two BB guns were seized from two boys who were seen waving them in Epsom (Surrey)
 - A man was arrested after reports he was taking potshots with a BB gun and wielding a samurai sword in Plymouth
 - A man who resisted arrest in Shoebury (Essex) whilst armed with an imitation gun is due to appear in court
 - A youth involved in a game with realistic-looking replica firearms sparked a firearms response when he was seen with two guns
 - Two men found with two plastic BB guns were arrested in Wolverhampton
 - Five men were arrested after a man was threatened with a handgun in Crewe (Cheshire) (an imitation firearm was found later)
- Police also had to deal with a number of other incidents involving airguns:
 - A man has been charged with two counts of common assault and possession of an air weapon after allegedly being seen with a gun in Hull
 - A man was arrested in Grimsby and an air weapon recovered after a man was reported getting into a car with what looked to be a firearm
 - Police conducted house-to-house inquiries in Dundee after a man was seen brandishing an air rifle

- A man was charged under the Explosive Substances Act 1883 and the Firearms Act after he was found to be in possession of several bottles of fluid and an airgun in Motherwell.
 - A man who confronted two engineers with an air rifle when they went to fix an electrical fault at a caravan site near Belbroughton (Worcestershire) was given advice by police
- A man tried to carry two guns into court in Consett (County Durham): when he was barred from entering he took the air pistol and air rifle back to a limousine.
- In Cambridgeshire, a number of shop windows in Chatteris were damaged (it is thought the damage could have been caused by an air rifle) and in Eaton Socon the rear window of a property was shot with what was believed to be an air rifle. A church in Northfields (west London) was damaged in an airgun attack.
- Damage worth £35,000 was caused to a windows at a school in Poole (Dorset) by slingshots and BB guns
- It was reported that an air pistol had been confiscated from a girl at a school in Sandwell (West Midlands) earlier this year.
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Two officers from Durham Constabulary have been arrested or suspended during an inquiry into the sale of firearms (shotguns and rifles) that had been handed into the force.
- A shotgun and cartridges were recovered from houses in Dalton and Crosland Moor (West Yorkshire): a man was arrested.
- Guns were also recovered from properties during raids in which drugs were found:
 - In Wigan where a stun gun and cash were recovered: a man and a teenage girl were arrested
 - At five addresses in Carlton, Bestwood and Broxtowe (Nottinghamshire) where drugs and two firearms were found
 - In Chapeltown (Leeds) where a gun and heroin were seized
 - In Swallowwell (Tyneside) where cash, an air rifle and blue tablets were recovered
 - In Wetherby (West Yorkshire) where heroin and a stun gun were found: a man was in custody
- Nine people were detained on a variety of charges after raids on four suspected brothels in London and Hertfordshire during which a stun gun was recovered.
- Police in Preston have seized two genuine guns and eight imitation weapons since January.
- A rucksack contained a ball-bearing gun and a Stanley knife was found in a car park in Tring (Hertfordshire).
- A gun collection was stolen from a remote farmhouse near Wray (Lancashire). A pair of shotguns was stolen from a car in Owston Ferry (Lincolnshire) and a shotgun, rifle and ammunition were taken from a house in Framlingham (Suffolk).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There has been no let up in the attacks on animals and birds, especially cats. There were reports of at least 15 cats being shot with airguns in Aberdeen, Cornwall, Coventry, Devon, Dorset, Herefordshire, Hull, Kent (two incidents), Lancashire, Nottingham (two incidents), Somerset, Sussex and Wiltshire. Another missing cat is believed to have been shot dead in Angus.
- An animal care complex in Bath has appealed for help in looking after a dog found riddled with airgun pellets.

- Two birds, a swan rescued in Buckinghamshire and a goose that had been attacked by a dog in Staffordshire, were both found to have airgun pellets in their bodies.
 - A 13-year-old boy was convicted of repeatedly shooting at two dogs and a cat with a ball-bearing gun in Whitley (Reading).
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- **Court Cases** - A number of men were convicted of murder and attempted murder following the deaths of two men who were shot in Manchester: five of them received sentences of more than 32 years.
- A man who put a gun to a woman's mouth in woods near Banbury (Oxfordshire) because she owed him money was convicted of various offences: he had previously been found guilty of shooting a man who also owed him money.
- A man was jailed for seven years for a robbery in Stevenage (Hertfordshire) in which the victim was pistol whipped. A man pleaded guilty to charges of robbery and possessing a firearm after he handed himself in, ten years after the incident in Bath: he was given a 2 year jail sentence.
- Two brothers were each jailed for eight years for storing guns at a property in Haydock (Merseyside). A teenager who kept a loaded submachine gun in a rucksack at his home in Tulse Hill (south London) has been jailed for nine years.
- A man was jailed for six years (five for a firearm offence) after an illegal revolver and child abuse images were found at his home in Standish (Greater Manchester).
- A number of men admitted or were found guilty of offences involving shotguns:
 - Four men have been convicted of robbery and two of them were found guilty of wounding with intent following the shooting of a female police officer at a pub in Bamber Bridge (Lancashire): she was hit 12 times in the thigh when one of the men fired a sawn-off shotgun.
 - A third man has been jailed, for six years and nine months, after he admitted possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after a sawn-off shotgun was pointed at a family in Elland (West Yorkshire)
 - A man who was shot in the street in Chapeltown (Leeds) but fired back with a sawn-off shotgun has admitted possession of a prohibited firearm and has been jailed for five years
 - Another man was found guilty of possessing a banned weapon (a sawn-off shotgun) at his home in Huddersfield (West Yorkshire) and was jailed for five years
 - A man from Walton (Merseyside) was jailed for five years nine months for possessing a sawn-off shotgun that was found in his loft
 - A man from Worksop (Nottinghamshire) has admitted robbing a petrol station and possessing a sawn-off shotgun
 - A man from Little Downham (Cambridgeshire) who kept a shotgun in his kitchen with a box of ammunition without having a certificate was fined £250
 - A man from Exmouth (Devon) has admitted possessing a shotgun without authority but a charge of possessing the gun with intent to cause fear of violence to his wife was dropped.

- After police found a sawn-off shotgun in a wardrobe at a home in Houghton Regis (Bedfordshire) a man has been convicted of possessing a firearm.
- A Lithuanian who was caught trying to enter the UK at the Channel Tunnel control zone with a 9mm semi-automatic pistol and three blank cartridges has been given a five year jail sentence.
- A man from Buxton (Derbyshire) has appeared in court charged with possession of a shortened single barrel .420 shotgun and also faces an allegation of purchasing cartridges without a firearm certificate.
- A gun collector from West Bridgford (Nottingham) was given a 12-month suspended prison sentence after admitting three offences of possessing a firearm and ammunition without a certificate.
- Two teenagers from Pinehurst (Wiltshire) pleaded guilty to drugs charges and one admitted having a stun gun and they have been jailed for a year and 14 months.
- **Inquests** - A coroner recorded that a man, who was a keen shooter and held a firearms licence, killed his wife and daughter at Maesbrook (Shropshire) by shooting them in the head before killing himself, dying of smoke inhalation.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases) - A recent research paper (Wheal & Tilley, *Howard Journal* 48, 172-189) has confirmed GCN's perspective that a high proportion of gun-enabled crime involves imitation guns. There was further evidence from court cases this month that imitation weapons are being used in armed raids:**
 - Two cousins who robbed a bank in Bebington (The Wirral) were armed with a ball bearing gun: they have been jailed for seven years four months
 - A man, who was one of a gang of three that attempted to rob a shop in Barnoldswick (Lancashire) whilst armed with a fake military rifle, has been given a five year custodial sentence
 - A man responsible for three robberies in the Bristol area who was caught on CCTV wielding a toy gun has been jailed for seven years
 - A man who used a water pistol when he held up a bank in Brentwood (Essex) was given a three and a half year sentence
 - Two men were sentenced to four years and six years for an armed robbery in Newport in which the assailant was armed with an imitation firearm
- A teenager, who shot his friend in the arm with an air rifle in Shevington Nook (Lancashire) and immediately regretted it, was given a suspended 12 month prison sentence and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.
- A man who shot at a neighbour and police in Dumbarton with an air rifle has been given a 40 months prison sentence
- A man who took an imitation handgun to a pub in Highcliffe (Dorset) has admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and been jailed for two and a half years.
- A man from Cheltenham (Gloucestershire) who fired an air rifle from his bedroom window has been given a £200 fine, and his weapon will be forfeited and destroyed. A man who fired an air rifle at a house name sign in Callander (Perthshire) awaits sentence.
- A man spotted by police with an air rifle in a car park in Cardigan pleaded guilty to possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place was give a six month community order.

- An alcoholic found with an air pistol in a bag in a car park in Aspley (West Yorkshire) admitted being drunk and disorderly but was found not guilty of carrying an air weapon in public without reasonable excuse.
- There are frequent cases of men who are prohibited from possessing a weapon through previous convictions being in possession of airguns. There were two more this month:
 - A man from Rugby (Warwickshire) was jailed for ten months for possessing an air pistol which he claimed he had bought for target practice in his garden
 - A man from Scarborough (North Yorkshire) was given a 21 month sentence after he was caught in possession of an air rifle and for a later incident involving a hammer

APRIL 2009 – GUN INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

Norwich Evening News, 30 April 2009

A number of people have been injured after being shot at with an **air pellet gun** in **Norwich**. One man was walking along a street when heard a sound and felt what he thought was an air pellet hit his leg. A second incident took place two days later when a man was left with a bruised stomach and a short time later a woman was left with a bruised leg when she was also hit by what she thought was an airgun pellet.

Northumberland Gazette, 30 April 2009

A shop door in **Alnwick**, Northumberland, has been shot with an **air rifle**. The owner found her floor covered with glass when she opened up the shop.

Kent Online, 30 April 2009

A Lithuanian who had armed himself with a loaded pistol when entering the UK has been jailed for five years. Aurimas Radzevicius was found to have a 9mm semi-automatic pistol in his shoulder bag together with three blank cartridges and one CS cartridge when he arrived at the UK **Channel Tunnel** control zone.

Buxton Advertiser, 30 April 2009

A man from **Buxton**, Derbyshire, has appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm, a shortened **single barrel .420 shotgun**. He also faces an allegation that he purchased or acquired 47 .410 shotgun cartridges without a firearm certificate being in force.

BBC, 29 April 2009

A man was injured when he was shot in the face with a **BB gun** fired from a passing car. The incident took place in **Pangbourne**, Berkshire.

BBC, 29 April 2009

A robber has been found guilty of shooting a police officer during a raid on a pub in **Bamber Bridge**, Lancashire, in December 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The female officer was hit about 12 times in the thigh when Wayne McDonald fired a **sawn-off shotgun**. McDonald was cleared of attempted murder but found guilty of wounding with intent as was a second man, David Tyrell. Tyrell had earlier admitted the robbery and McDonald was found guilty of robbery. Two others, Rudolph Mancini and Peter Plaskowski, were also convicted of robbery. Sentencing will take place in May.

This is Gloucestershire, 28 April 2009

William Maskell has pleaded guilty to firing an **air rifle** into the street from his bedroom window in **St Mark's**, Cheltenham. A shot hit a lamppost near where two witnesses were standing. He claimed to have been trying to hit a pigeon. Maskell was given a £200 fine and the bench also ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the air rifle.

Streatham Guardian, 28 April 2009

A teenager who kept a loaded submachine gun in a rucksack in his loft has been jailed for nine years. Rhys Palma, 18, was caught with the Mac-10 submachine gun, ammunition and two fired cartridges during a raid on his home in **Tulse Hill**, south London, in May 2008. The gun was one of many made by arms dealer Grant Wilkinson who was jailed in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)).

Dunstable Today, 28 April 2009

A man has been convicted of possessing a firearm after police discovered a **sawn-off shotgun** inside a wardrobe at his home in **Houghton Regis**, Bedfordshire. Philip Davis has been remanded in custody and is facing a custodial sentence.

Bridgwater Mercury, 28 April 2009

Armed police were called to a church in **Bridgwater**, Somerset, after reports a man had been spotted carrying a firearm. Earlier police riot vans and a police helicopter were seen at Bridgwater College where police had received another report of somebody holding a firearm. One man was arrested who was later released without charge.

BBC, 28 April 2009

A man was arrested by armed police after a "domestic report" that someone had a gun at an address at **Southsea**, Hampshire. A nearby address is also being searched.

BBC, 28 April 2009

A school caretaker is recovering after being shot in the forehead with an **air weapon** in **Middlesbrough**. The previous week cars parked at the school were targeted in a similar attack.

Worksop Guardian, 27 April 2009

Darren Smith has admitted robbing a petrol station in **Worksop**, Nottinghamshire, in March 2009 and possessing a firearm when prohibited. Smith was armed with a **sawn-off shotgun** when he stole £250 during the raid.

This is Grimsby, 27 April 2009

A 9-year-old girl was shot three times in the face, neck and leg with pellets from a **BB gun** as she played near her home in **Grimsby**. The gun has been recovered and the police say that inquiries are continuing.

Metro, 27 April 2009

One of the two men accused of torturing and murdering two French students at their home in **New Cross**, south east London, has previous convictions for a series of robberies in which he used an **imitation firearm**.

Hunts Post, 27 April 2009

Police have apologised for taking nearly two hours to attend the scene of an alleged airgun attack in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire. The rear window of a property had been shot through with what was believed was an **air rifle**.

Hull Daily Mail, 27 April 2009

A man has been charged with two counts of common assault and possession of an **air weapon** after allegedly being seen with a gun in west **Hull**.

Evening Courier, 27 April 2009

A **shotgun** was fired on a street in **Halifax**, West Yorkshire, where children were playing football. A car drove up and three men got out carrying what witnesses described as a shotgun. They blasted the front nearside wing of the car before driving off. The incident is being link to another four incidents in which windows were broken and a car was smashed.

Diss Express, 27 April 2009

A **shotgun**, a rifle and ammunition were among items stolen when a house was broken into in **Framlingham**, Suffolk.

BBC, 27 April 2009

Warwickshire Police have described Luke Nathaniel Jones from **Rugby**, who is wanted on suspicion of firearms offences and not answering bail, as one of the county's most wanted criminals.

BBC, 27 April 2009

A man has been cautioned by Lincolnshire Police after trying to sell a shotgun from his car boot at **Swineshead**. He was cautioned for possession of a **shotgun** without a firearms licence.

BBC, 27 April 2009

Two men, one of whom had a gun, stole a car in **Rochdale**, Greater Manchester. They pointed the gun through the driver's side window and threatened another man with a knife. The vehicle was later found in **Urmston**.

BBC, 27 April 2009

A man was injured when two attackers robbed him of a large amount of money as he sat in his car in **Hook Heath**, Surrey. The attackers hit him about the head and threatened him with what is thought to have been a gun.

Rye & Battle Observer, 26 April 2009

A man wielding a suspected **imitation gun** was overpowered by staff and customers during an attempted robbery at a store in **Kemptown**, Brighton. The man sustained an injury during the scuffle and was taken to hospital while under arrest.

BBC, 26 April 2009

A shopkeeper was tied up by a robber believed to be armed with a handgun during an attack in **Colchester**, Essex. The man fled in the business's van with a four-figure sum in cash and a large amount of cigarettes. The van was later found burnt out.

Liverpool Echo, 25 April 2009

Paul Kane's sister went to the police after she spotted a **sawn-off shotgun** at his house in **Walton**, Merseyside. It was found that the weapon was in full working order and had been fired recently. Kane admitted possessing the prohibited weapon and a butterfly knife. He was jailed for five years and nine months.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 25 April 2009

Joseph Liburd has been found guilty of possessing a weapon banned under the Firearms Act and sentenced to five years in prison. He was caught with a **sawn-off shotgun** at his home in **Sheepridge**, Huddersfield, when police executed a search warrant in November 2007.

BBC, 25 April 2009

An 11-year-old girl was shot with an **airgun** in **Huyton**, Merseyside, as she queued at an ice cream van. A youth on a bike fired the pellet at her. She was taken to hospital but is now recovering at home.

Bromsgrove Advertiser, 24 April 2009

Two men threatened the occupants of a car in **Bromsgrove**, Worcestershire, with a crossbow and a **ball bearing gun** or **air weapon**. Two men in the car were made to get out, get on the floor and empty their pockets. A number of items were stolen from one of the victims.

BBC, 24 April 2009

A candidate for the British National Party (BNP) has been arrested by armed police in connection with an incident in **Halesworth**, Suffolk, and questioned on suspicion of handling stolen goods. It is believed that this relates to selling illegal firearms.

BBC, 23 April 2009

Two men fired a shot at a man on the doorstep of his home in **Barton**, Oxford. The victim was lucky to survive the attack which is being treated as attempted murder. The shot was fired at point-blank range but missed and hit the wall behind.

BBC, 23 April 2009

A man suffered leg injuries when he was shot with an **air rifle** in **Whitehaven**, Cumbria. The shot was fired by a man seen getting out of a car.

BBC, 23 April 2009

A man has undergone surgery after being shot in the chest after answering a knock at his door in **Luton**, Bedfordshire.

Wigan Today, 22 April 2009

Nicholas Sealey, 18, shot his friend in the arm with an **air rifle** when his friend smoked cannabis at **Shevington Nook**, Lancashire, in September 2008. Sealey regretted what he had done and took the victim to hospital. He has pleaded guilty to wounding and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

This is Lincolnshire, 22 April 2009

An 18-year-old woman was shot with an **airgun** as she walked along a street in **Wyberton**, Lincolnshire. She was taken to hospital where a pellet was removed.

Wetherby News, 21 April 2009

A man is in custody after police found heroin and a **stun gun** in his home in **Wetherby**, West Yorkshire.

This is Walsall, 21 April 2009

A porter was threatened with a gun and crowbar by a robber who stole cash from a hotel in **Walsall**, West Midlands. The money was taken from the till and safe.

Crewe & Nantwich Guardian, 21 April 2009

A man was threatened with a handgun after a gang of men burst into his home in **Crewe**, Cheshire. The men escaped with cash and valuables. Five men were arrested after a search of the area and parts of the M6 resulted in the discovery of various items of discarded clothing and an **imitation firearm**.

BBC, 21 April 2009

Nine people have been detained on suspicion of trafficking, controlling prostitution for gain, money laundering and possession of a prohibited weapon, a **stun gun**. This follows raids on four suspected brothels in **London** and **Hertfordshire**.

Scarborough Evening News, 20 April 2009

David Harrison has been given a 21 month prison sentence for carrying a hammer and an airgun in public. He pleaded guilty to charges of using threatening abusive behaviour and having an offensive weapon in his possession. In the first of two incidents he was in a shop in **Scarborough** with his girlfriend who was found carrying a case containing an **air rifle** along with its ammunition while he was purchasing alcohol. He identified to police officers that the gun belonged to him. He was banned from possessing firearms as a result of many previous convictions. The forfeiture of his weapons was ordered.

Ely Standard, 20 April 2009

John Smith kept a **shotgun** propped against a kitchen cabinet with a box of ammunition nearby at his home in **Little Downham**, Cambridgeshire. He did not have a certificate for the gun. He pleaded guilty to possessing a shotgun without a certificate and was fined £250 and ordered to pay costs. The weapon and ammunition were forfeited and will be destroyed.

BBC, 20 April 2009

Two teenagers have been arrested after a man was hit by an **airgun** pellet as he walked along a street in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire. The victim was treated in hospital for minor injuries to his leg.

BBC, 19 April 2009

A substantial reward has been offered for information leading to the conviction of armed robbers who stole cash from a filling station in **North Shields**, Tyneside. The men, one carrying a handgun, ambushed a van carrying money to fill a cash machine. No-one was injured but the raiders escaped with a quantity of cash.

BBC, 19 April 2009

A man has been charged with attempted robbery and possession of a firearm after a sales assistant in a toy shop in **Portsmouth** was allegedly threatened with a handgun.

BBC, 19 April 2009

A man has been killed in a shooting incident in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. He was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to the chest where he was later pronounced dead. It is reported that the victim was seen arguing with another man seconds before the shooting (**BBC**, 21 April 2009). Another man was shot in the leg in a shooting in the same stretch of the road in June 2008 (*Birmingham Mail*, 23 April 2009).

Romford Recorder, 17 April 2009

Noel Grant used a green **water pistol** in a hold up a bank in **Brentwood**, Essex, in December 2008. A teller handed over £770 in cash. Grant handed himself into the police sometime later. He admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent and robbery and was given a three and a half year sentence.

Liverpool Echo, 17 April 2009

Brothers Peter Moogan and Michael Moogan have both been jailed for eight years for storing a stash of guns at a property in **Haydock**, Merseyside. The weapons were recovered after police acted against underworld armourer Mark Watts, who was jailed for 15 years in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The brothers rented the property from Watts and their fingerprints were found on the guns. Michael Moogan admitted seven firearms charges including selling and transferring prohibited weapons, Peter Moogan pleaded guilty to possessing a gun and ammunition. A fourth man Neil Johnstone who was arrested with Watts had pleaded guilty to a number of offences and was jailed for eight years last March.

Express & Star, 17 April 2009

Armed police went to a street in the centre of **Wolverhampton** after witnesses reported seeing a man brandishing a gun. Two men found with two plastic **BB guns** were arrested. They have been charged with possession of imitation firearms in a public place.

Exmouth Journal, 17 April 2009

Michael Densham from **Exmouth**, Devon, has admitted possessing a **9mm bolt action shotgun** without authority. He pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing the gun with intent to cause fear of violence to his wife in December 2008. His wife is refusing to help the police and the charge has been dropped. Sentencing was deferred.

Evening Chronicle, 17 April 2009

An **air rifle**, blue tablets and £600 cash were among property recovered from a property at **Swallowwell**, Gateshead.

Ealing Gazette, 17 April 2009

A church in **Northfields**, west London, was attacked by a vandal armed with an **airgun**. Six windows were damaged and a ball bearing was found nearby.

BBC, 17 April 2009

A man is on trial over a double murder in **Southall**, west London. The victims were shot dead at a nightclub in 2002. The man, who denies two charges of murder, was named as one of the gunmen by a criminal. Another gunman alleged to have been involved has since been shot dead himself.

BBC, 17 April 2009

A gun and £30,000 of heroin were seized by police during a raid at an address in **Chapelton**, Leeds.

BBC, 17 April 2009

Two men are recovering in hospital after being shot in a car park at a leisure centre in **Prescot**, Merseyside. Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

BBC, 17 April 2009

A man has been arrested in connection with a series of post office raids across Nottinghamshire, the latest in **Watnall** when a man threatened staff with a **shotgun** before escaping with cash. Similar robberies have taken place in **Trowell** and **Bleasby**.

BBC, 17 April 2009

Engineers who turned up to fix an electrical fault at a caravan site near **Belbroughton**, Worcestershire, had to leave when a resident confronted them with an **air rifle**. West Mercia Police say that advice has been given to the air rifle owner. The engineers returned later, but in the meantime up to 200 homes were without power.

Whitchurch Herald, 16 April 2009

A postman who helped track down an armed robber is to be awarded a commendation. He noted the registration number of a van whose driver was acting suspiciously. The driver was about to rob a post office in **Loppington**, Shropshire. The incident took place in November 2007. The offender, Aaron Scane, who brandished an **imitation handgun** and escaped with £760, admitted robbery and possessing a firearm and was later jailed for six years (*Whitchurch Herald*, 22 January 2008).

This is Walsall, 16 April 2009

Staff at a betting shop in **Walsall** were threatened with a gun by a masked robber who demanded money. He escaped with a quantity of cash.

This is Staffordshire, 16 April 2009

A firearms response was deployed after a report was received of a teenage boy, dressed in combat trousers, a khaki top and balaclava, carrying what was believed to be two firearms in **Stoke-on-Trent**. Following enquiries it was thought that the youth was involved in some kind of game using **realistic looking replica firearms**. The police have urged parents not to buy their children air weapons and imitation firearms as toys.

Telegraph & Argus, 16 April 2009

A family in **Low Moor**, Bradford, have had their windows blasted with a **shotgun** after a row over a stolen bicycle. At least two shots were fired at the house, and a motorcycle was seen speeding away from the scene. The shooting followed shortly after a girl had accused a member of the family of stealing a bike and said "He's had it". Police recovered an **air rifle** but the shotgun has not been found.

London Daily News, 16 April 2009

Three men have been injured, two seriously, in separate shootings in London. A man was shot in his car on Parliament Hill, **Gospel Oak**, and is in a life-threatening condition. The shooting is thought to be drug-related. Another man was shot in the head in **Thornton Heath** and is in a serious but stable condition. The third victim was a teenager who was shot in an estate in **Brixton**.

Ilford Recorder, 16 April 2009

A 15-year-old boy was walking with friends in **Hainault**, north east London, when he was shot in the lower back. He was rushed to hospital where he is recovering from serious injuries. A gang of youths is thought to have been responsible for the shooting.

The Gazette, 16 April 2009

Ball bearing guns were among items immediately taken off sale when trading standards officers raided a market-style shop in **South Shore**, Blackpool, and seized £20,000 worth of goods.

Daily Echo, 16 April 2009

Damage worth £35,000 has been caused by slingshots and **BB guns** to a school in **Poole**, Dorset. Around 40 panes of glass were peppered with more than 100 holes and pock marks. An 11-year-old was arrested at his home in connection with the incident.

Daily Echo, 16 April 2009

Wayne Osborn was drunk when the landlord of a pub in **Highcliffe**, Dorset, told him his foul language would not be tolerated. He returned to the pub with a black handgun which he thrust into the landlord's face threatening "You're going to die now". Following the incident in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) Osborn has admitted possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. He has been jailed for two and a half years.

Bolton News, 16 April 2009

David Kay of **Great Lever**, Greater Manchester, has been jailed for 240 days for attacking his partner in August 2003. He admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and three counts of failing to surrender. The attack occurred when Kay became upset after his partner had confiscated an **air rifle** he had bought for their son.

BBC, 16 April 2009

Drug dealer Andre Singh made a woman who sold drugs for him kneel in woods near **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, in March 2008, and then put a gun in her mouth before wrestling her to the floor and cutting off part of her ear. She owed him £10. He was convicted of wounding with intent, of having cocaine with intent to supply and possession of a firearm without a certificate. Last year he was also found guilty of shooting a man who owed him money twice in the leg (see [October 2008 Incidents](#)).

BBC, 16 April 2009

Joseph Shaw, a former local councillor, has been jailed for six years after police found an illegal gun, a Smith & Wesson revolver with ammunition, and child abuse images at his home in **Standish**, Greater Manchester. Five years of the sentence were for the firearm offence.

BBC, 16 April 2009

Staff in a betting shop in **Worthing**, Sussex, were threatened by a man with a handgun who made off with a large amount of cash.

Shields Gazette, 15 April 2009

A man accused of stealing a £3m book attempted to carry two guns into court in **Consett**, County Durham, while dressed as Che Guevara. He was barred from entering the court and took the **air rifle** and **air pistol** back to the limousine he arrived in.

BBC, 15 April 2009

A robber armed with what was believed to be a gun and a container of liquid stole thousands of pounds from a post office in **Padstow**, Cornwall. He threatened to set fire to the building with staff in it. The members of staff were shocked but unhurt in the incident.

BBC, 15 April 2009

A man was shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet as he was searching for his dog in a park in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. The pellet is lodged in his eye and he will have to undergo an operation to remove it later. Police said he would require further treatment for several months.

BBC, 15 April 2009

Two gunmen raided a bookmakers in **Shaw**, Greater Manchester, and stole all the money from the till. They made off with the cash in a car driven by a woman.

This is Scunthorpe, 14 April 2009

A pair of **shotguns** were stolen from a car in **Owston Ferry**, Lincolnshire. They were unloaded at the time and no ammunition was stolen. A pair of binoculars was also taken. The guns were stolen from a secured vehicle whilst the owner went away pigeon shooting.

Lancaster Guardian, 14 April 2009

A gun collection has been stolen from the cellar of a remote farmhouse near **Wray**, Lancashire. The six guns, two **shotguns** and four rifles, were worth over £8000.

Grimsby Telegraph, 14 April 2009

A man was arrested in **Grimsby** after police received a call from the public reporting a man seen getting into a car with what looked to be a firearm. An **air weapon** was recovered.

Farsley Today, 14 April 2009

Two men armed with what was believed to be a **shotgun** and a handgun followed two security guards into a bank in **Pudsey**, West Yorkshire, before threatening them and escaping with a cash cassette containing cash. No shots were fired and no-one was injured in the incident.

BBC, 14 April 2009

Staff at an estate agents in **Kingswood**, Surrey, were told to get on the floor during an attempted robbery as security guards filled a cash machine. The guards locked themselves in the room with the machine and the suspects left empty handed. The car was found later along with the gun used.

Harwich & Manningtree Standard, 13 April 2009

A woman was shot in the head with an **airgun** pellet in **Harwich**, Essex. At the time she was with her husband and son, a parliamentary Labour candidate. She was taken to hospital and needed stitches after the pellet was removed.

BBC, 13 April 2009

A historic cross on a hill at **Stocksbridge**, South Yorkshire, which is lit up every Easter had its bulbs shot out twice. It has been suggested that the damage was probably done by a **shotgun**.

Fenland Citizen, 12 April 2009

Glass in a number of shops in **Chatteris**, Cambridgeshire, has been smashed or damaged. It is believed that a group of youths were responsible and that the damage could have been caused by an **air rifle**.

BBC, 12 April 2009

A gunman who escaped an armed police cordon in **Shoebury**, Essex, has apologised to the town on the local paper's website. Officers had gone to an address in Shoebury to arrest the man but set up a cordon around the area when they discovered he had a gun. A man is now due to appear in court accused of using an **imitation firearm** to resist arrest (*BBC*, 28 April 2009).

BBC, 12 April 2009

Parts of **Coventry** city centre were sealed off by police after shots were fired from a handgun at a taxi. The incident occurred after a dispute at a nightclub in the Burges area which spilled out into the street. No-one was injured. A man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder and possession of a firearm (*BBC*, 13 April 2009).

Derby Evening Telegraph, 11 April 2009

Gun collector Clive Hadley has been given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years after admitting three offences of possessing a firearm without a certificate and one of possessing ammunition without a certificate. He had been charged after his wife handed police a loaded revolver at an antiques fair at the **University of Derby**. Two flare guns and 96 rounds of live ammunition were found at his home in **West Bridgford**, Nottingham, for which he did not have certificates.

BBC, 10 April 2009

A teenager suffered a gunshot injury to his face in a shooting in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. The incident happened as the victim and two friends were getting out of a taxi.

This is Bristol, 9 April 2009

An armed robber who was caught on CCTV brandishing a **toy gun**, which he claimed he had bought for his son, whilst demanding cash from a receptionist at his uncle's massage parlour in **Brislington**, Bristol, in 2003 has been given concurrent jail sentences of seven years and two-and-a-half years for this and other raids. Two years later Kurt Scarlett had carried out a similar raid on a supermarket in **Bristol**. He admitted another armed robbery on a second massage parlour in **Bedminster**.

Lancashire Telegraph, 9 April 2009

Jamie Smith was one of three men who burst into a shop in **Barnoldswick**, Lancashire, in November 2008 and demanded that the proprietors open the till. His face was revealed when his hat was pulled off in a struggle. The gang fled empty-handed. Smith, who was wielding a **fake military semi-automatic rifle**, has been sent to a young offenders' institution for five years.

Hemel Today, 9 April 2009

A rucksack containing a Stanley knife and a **ball-bearing gun** was discovered in a car park in **Tring**, Hertfordshire.

Doncaster Free Press, 9 April 2009

Suspected shots were fired at a bungalow in **Dunscroft**, South Yorkshire, while the occupants were at home. The front pane of a double-glazed window broke. The holes were consistent with damage from a **shotgun**.

BBC, 9 April 2009

A man was arrested after a car which was stolen at gunpoint in **Anfield**, Liverpool, crashed into a lamppost in Walton. The car was taken by a group of men, one of whom threatened the owner with a handgun.

BBC, 9 April 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after gunshots were fired during a disturbance in a pub in **Didsbury**, Greater Manchester, in September 2008.

Swindon Advertiser, 8 April 2009

Two teenagers, Ryan Thomas and David Barnes, were found with hundreds of pounds of cannabis and cocaine when they were stopped in a car in April 2008. A Taser **stun gun** was found in the boot. The men from **Pinehurst**, Swindon, pleaded guilty to drugs charges and Thomas admitted having a prohibited weapon. They were jailed for a year and 14 months, respectively.

BBC, 8 April 2009

Two men have been charged after police seized millions of pounds of drugs and two firearms at five addresses in **Carlton**, **Bestwood** and **Broxtowe** in Nottinghamshire.

BBC, 8 April 2009

Shots were fired at a house in **Wavertree**, Liverpool. No-one was injured.

Manchester Evening News, 7 April 2009

Police have recovered drugs, a **stun gun** and cash during a raid on a house in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester. A man and a teenage girl were arrested on suspicion of possessing heroin with intent to supply and possessing a firearm without a certificate.

This is the West Country, 6 April 2009

Armed police have arrested a man after reports he was taking potshots with a **BB gun** and wielding a samurai sword in the **Keyham** area of Plymouth. Other weapons were seized during a search of the flat from which the shots were reported to have been fired.

This is Bath, 6 April 2009

Paul Holcombe handed himself in to the police nearly 10 years after he held up a shop in **Bath** and terrified a 15-year-old female shop assistant with a gun. Holcombe was 16 at the time and was with another teenager. He pleaded guilty to charges of robbery and possessing a firearm and sentence to a two-year jail sentence.

Lancashire Evening Post, 6 April 2009

Police in **Preston** have seized two genuine guns and eight imitation weapons since January. A .38 blank firing Brocock revolver was found partly buried and wrapped in a plastic carrier bag in woodland, close to a location where a teenager was shot in July 2007. They also recovered a live **shotgun** cartridge, components parts of a Glock 9mm handgun and a magazine containing live ammunition.

Fenland Citizen, 6 April 2009

A man threatened post office staff with a **shotgun** during a robbery in **Bleasby**, Nottinghamshire. He stole cash before escaping on a motorbike ridden by another man. A man has been arrested in connection with this and other raids in Nottinghamshire (see above).

Express & Star, 6 April 2009

An education boss has only just found out that an **air pistol** was confiscated from a girl at a school in **Sandwell**, West Midlands, following an incident in January 2009.

Coventry Telegraph, 6 April 2009

Paul Turner has pleaded guilty to possessing a weapon while prohibited. Police found an **air pistol** with ammunition, gas cartridges and a holster whilst searching his apartment in **Rugby**, Warwickshire. He claimed that he bought the gun for target practice in his garden, but he was banned from possessing any type of firearm as a result of previous criminal convictions. He has been jailed for ten months.

The Comet, 6 April 2009

Treymaine Davis has been jailed for seven years for a robbery on a pizza delivery driver in **Stevenage**, Hertfordshire, in May 2008 in which the victim was pistol whipped. Davis stole £15, a sat nav system and a mobile phone. Four days later he also robbed a young clubber. He was convicted of two offences of robbery and possessing a firearm.

BBC, 6 April 2009

A number of men have been convicted of murder and attempted murder following the deaths of two men who were shot dead in **Manchester** in 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Colin Joyce and Lee Amos were convicted of the murder of one victim who was killed at the wake of the first victim. Joyce was found guilty of murdering the other man. Both of the convicted men were involved with the Gooch Gang who were rivals of the Longsight Crew with whom the murder victims had links. Senior Gooch Gang members Aaron Campbell, Narada Williams and Ricardo Williams were also found guilty of murder and attempted murder. Six other men were convicted of a range of gang-related offences including gun possession and drug dealing. The men have been sentenced to lengthy minimum jail terms, Joyce (minimum 39 years), Amos (minimum 35), Campbell (minimum 32), Narada Williams (35) and Ricardo Williams (34). The other men were given sentences of between five-and-a-half and 13 years (*BBC*, 7 April 2009).

BBC, 6 April 2009

One of two men wanted in connection with a robbery in **Thornaby**, Teesside, where security guards were threatened with a handgun, was arrested at the Trafford Centre in **Manchester** after the pair were chased there by police. The men had stolen a quantity of cash. The second man was still at large.

BBC, 6 April 2009

Four men have been arrested after a **shotgun** was reportedly fired from a car in **Woking**, Surrey. The car was followed by an armed response vehicle and a police helicopter to the Hog's Back where the occupants ran into woodland. They were all located and arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

BBC, 5 April 2009

Two men have been shot in separate incidents on Merseyside. A man was shot when a gunman went into a house in **Kensington**, and three men who went into a pub in **Croxteth** shot a 19-year-old man. The police believe both were "targeted" shootings. The injuries to neither victim are thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 5 April 2009

A man escaped injury after his car was shot at as he waited to collect his wife in **Prestwich**, Greater Manchester. He was unhurt, but his car was damaged.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 4 April 2009

A man has been cleared of keeping a **.22 air rifle** without the required firearms certificate. He told the jury that he had previously been cautioned for possessing it but that police officers had handed it back to him, without checking to see if a certificate was required. He assumed none was necessary, but a firearms specialist concluded that it was classed as "specially dangerous". The rifle was used to shoot a passer-by in the thigh in **Long Buckby**, Northamptonshire, in July 2007.

BBC, 4 April 2009

Three people have been arrested after police found drugs and heard reports of a gun being fired in **Lee Bank**, Birmingham. The gunshot may be linked to a man arriving at a hospital with wounds from a gun.

Halstead Gazette, 3 April 2009

The windows of buses have been shot out in **Stanway**, Essex, showering passengers with glass two nights in a row. One driver felt that impact marks left on the window suggested that it was not just an airgun, but something "more serious".

Bury Times, 3 April 2009

Two boys aged 17 and 10 have been arrested for causing grievous bodily harm with intent after a woman was shot in the hand with an **air weapon**. The victim was taken to hospital where surgeons removed a pellet from her finger. She says she feared for her baby's life when the gun was fired at them whilst she stood at a bus stop in **Rainscough**, Greater Manchester. The boys have been bailed pending further inquiries (*BBC*, 4 April 2009).

BBC, 3 April 2009

A man has been charged with a public order offence after allegedly making threats with a firearm near a school in **Hooke**, Dorset. A legally-held firearm was seized by police.

BBC, 3 April 2009

A man has been shot dead in a targeted attack in the **Thornton Lodge** area of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. He was a back seat passenger and died of his injuries after being taken to hospital. A second man in the back of the car suffered injuries in the attack. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of murder (*BBC*, 20 April 2009).

BBC, 3 April 2009

A young girl was shot in the leg with an "air rifle-style pellet" while walking with her mother in **Frimley**, Surrey. She was taken to hospital where an x-ray revealed the pellet.

BBC, 3 April 2009

A coroner has recorded that Christopher Foster killed his wife and daughter by shooting them in the head while they slept before killing himself at their home in **Maesbrook**, Shropshire, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Contrary to earlier reports Foster died as a result of smoke inhalation, but a loaded rifle was recovered from near his body. His brother said the family were "shocked" that police were not informed about the mental state of his brother who held a firearms licence. The inquest heard that ACPO and the BMA were planning guidelines to improve communication between GPs and police forces.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 2 April 2009

Nicholas Webb who was shot on his street in **Chapelton**, Leeds, in September 2008 fired back with a sawn-off **shotgun**. Four shots from a handgun had been fired at his car and one bullet hit him. He was wearing a bullet proof vest at the time. He hid the shotgun in his back garden. Webb admitted possession of a prohibited firearm and has been jailed for five years.

Wirral Globe, 2 April 2009

Two cousins who forced an elderly pensioner to the floor during a robbery at a bank in **Bebington** have both been jailed for seven years four months. Andrew Colley admitted buying a **ball bearing gun** for the robbery and throwing it in the River Mersey. He and Samuel Horner both pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.

The Sentinel, 2 April 2009

Armed police were dispatched after a passer-by reported seeing a small black handgun being carried by a group gathered in a street in **Stoke-on-Trent**. A number of men were searched but no weapon was found.

BBC, 2 April 2009

A police officer in County Durham has been arrested during an inquiry into the sale of firearms that were handed into the force to be destroyed. The investigation began after a gun was stolen during a burglary at a farm in **Derwentshire**. It is believed that more than 100 weapons are involved, mainly **shotguns** but also rifles (*Sunday Sun*, 3 April 2009). A second police officer who has worked in firearms licensing has been suspended and will be questioned on suspicion of the theft of shotguns (*BBC*, 22 April 2009).

BBC, 2 April 2009

The bodies of a man and a woman have been discovered in a garden at a property in **Dousland**, Devon. They had both been shot dead. The deaths are being treated as suspicious, but no-one else is being sought in connection with the incident. Police have recovered four guns from the property, a Smith and Wesson Magnum pistol, two other pistols and a rifle (*BBC*, 3 April 2009).

Telegraph & Argus, 2 April 2009

A third man has been jailed after an innocent family were caught up in a gun ordeal outside a pub in **Elland**, West Yorkshire, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). A sawn-off double-barrelled **shotgun** was pointed at the family's car. Paul Murphy has been jailed for six years and nine months after he admitted possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. In January Shaun Harper and John Kerry were jailed for seven years each.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 1 April 2009

An alcoholic who was found collapsed in the car park of a supermarket in **Aspley**, West Yorkshire, had an **air pistol** in a bag. He said he had bought the gun in a pub that day. He admitted being drunk and disorderly but was found not guilty of carrying an air weapon in public without reasonable excuse.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 1 April 2009

A **shotgun** and shotgun cartridges were recovered during a search of houses in **Dalton** and **Crosland Moor**, West Yorkshire, by the Kirklees Drugs and Gun Crime Team. An explosive device was also seized. A man was arrested.

Epsom Guardian, 1 April 2009

Police seized two **BB guns** after two boys were seen waving the weapons in **Epsom**, Surrey, by a member of the public. The boys admitted carrying a BB gun.

BBC, 1 April 2009

A woman was taken to hospital for treatment after she was shot in the head in her garden in **Lincoln** with what police believe was an **air rifle**. It is not believed her injuries are life-threatening.

SCOTLAND

Paisley Daily Express, 27 April 2009

A man presented what appeared to be a firearm at another man who was about to withdraw cash from an ATM in **Paisley**. The robber demanded cash then grabbed the victim's bank card before any money had been withdrawn and ran off.

BBC, 27 April 2009

A teenager who has been charged with the murder of his girlfriend, who died following a fire at a flat in **Arbroath**, has also been charged with assault and discharging a firearm.

BBC, 25 April 2009

Several gunshots were fired in the **Possilpark** area of Glasgow. Detectives believe two men fired the weapon before running off. They said there was nothing to suggest the weapon was aimed at anyone in particular. No-one was reported injured.

Teletext, 23 April 2009

A woman has been treated in hospital for a facial injury after an **airgun** was fired at her in **Aberdeen**.

BBC, 14 April 2009

A man threatened a female member of staff at a convenience store in **Drumchapel**, Glasgow, with a gun. He stole a two-figure sum of cash.

BBC, 12 April 2009

Police are looking for two men after reports of a gun being fired in a street in the **Gilmerton** area of Edinburgh. No-one was injured, but the men were seen running from the street wearing scarves pulled up over their faces. The intended target is said to have slammed the door on the gunmen moments before they opened fire. Neighbours have suggested that a **shotgun** was used (*Evening News*, 14 April 2009).

Hamilton Advertiser, 9 April 2009

A man has appeared in court charged under the Explosive Substances Act 1883 and the Firearms Act. The charges follow an incident in **Motherwell** after police received a report of a man carrying a firearm outside a tower block. The man was said to be in possession of several bottles containing fluid and an **airgun**.

Evening Telegraph & Post, 9 April 2009

Police carried out house-to-house inquiries following a report of a man seen brandishing an air weapon in **Dundee**. He was seen in a grassy area near a roundabout with what appeared to be an **air rifle** with an orange strap.

BBC, 9 April 2009

Billy Mills, who was jailed for a bank robbery in **Partick** in May 2007 during which a masked man pointed a handgun at staff and customers, has had his conviction quashed after it was ruled he had suffered a miscarriage of justice. In his defence he linked a convicted criminal Michael Absalom to the robbery. In March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) Absalom was jailed for eight and a half years for two robberies in **Glasgow** and **Troon**, Ayrshire.

BBC, 8 April 2009

A man was seriously injured after he was shot on the doorstep of his home in **Gallowhill**, Paisley. He was approached by a lone gunman while he was letting his dog out. Detectives are treating the incident as attempted murder. A man has been charged and is expected to appear in court (*Paisley Daily Express*, 10 April 2009).

Stirling Observer, 3 April 2009

Martin Campbell fired an **air rifle** at a house name sign in **Callander**, Perthshire, in June 2008. The sheriff deferred sentence and said that the Crown's request for the weapon to be forfeited would be dealt with at the time of sentencing.

Paisley Daily Express, 3 April 2009

Two men repeatedly fired a **ball bearing gun** at a man on a street in **Auchenback** in Barrhead, Renfrewshire. The victim took shelter at a house and further shots were fired at a number of window panes.

Daily Record, 2 April 2009

Ex-soldier Anthony Connelly fired an **air rifle** at a neighbour in **Castlehill**, Dumbarton, and then shot at police during a four-hour siege. He had been drinking a day after leaving the army. He admitted recklessly discharging an air weapon and was given a 40 months prison sentence.

BBC, 1 April 2009

A man was arrested following an incident at a house in **Girvan**, Ayrshire. The police received a report that a man, who may have been armed with a gun, had barricaded himself into the loft area.

WALES

BBC, 24 April 2009

Robert Davies has admitted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** after he held up a bookmakers in **Newport**. He and his accomplice Colin Chapman made off with £200. Chapman, the getaway driver, was found guilty of the same charges. Their weapon was a metal bar. Davies was jailed for four years, Chapman for six years.

Wales on Sunday, 19 April 2009

A 14-year-old boy from **Pentre**, Flintshire, has suffered serious burns after an aerosol canister exploded. He had shot the aerosol with an **airgun** in his back garden.

Tivy-Side Advertiser, 19 April 2009

Robert Lech was spotted by police in a car park in **Cardigan** with a loaded **.22 calibre air rifle** in his hands. He was accompanied by four youths and his three-year-old daughter. He told then he was shooting at a marker in the river. He had purchased the air rifle a few days previously and "nobody told him he couldn't use it in public". He pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place and was given a six months Community Order.

BBC, 11 April 2009

A man armed with what appeared to be a long black handgun demanded money from a shopkeeper in **Cardiff**. He fled the shop with the money with an accomplice who had been standing outside the shop.

BBC, 6 April 2009

One footballer was shot in the neck and another in the stomach with **airgun** pellets at the end of a cup match between Gwent League sides **New Inn** and Sebastopol.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Sussex Express, 27 April 2009

A family was left distraught after their pet cat was shot in the leg with an **airgun** in **Newhaven**, Sussex. After hearing a scream her owner found her injured on the sofa. A metal pellet was found in her leg by an emergency vet. The vet bill looks set to cost over £2,500.

Evening Express (Aberdeen), 27 April 2009

A cat was left howling in pain after being shot twice in an **airgun** attack in **Aberdeen**. The pellets will have to be removed by a vet.

This is Nottingham, 24 April 2009

Police and the RSPCA are hunting thugs who have been shooting at cats with **airguns** in **The Park**, Nottingham. There have been three incidents in the last six months, two of which involved the same cat.

Thanet.co.uk, 24 April 2009

A cat was shot twice with an **air rifle** in two separate incidents in **Ramsgate**, Kent. The RSPCA is appealing for information.

This is Lancashire, 22 April 2009

A cat in **Little Lever**, Lancashire, has survived horrific injuries after being shot with an **airgun**. The pet is recovering after an operation to remove a pellet, which pierced his stomach and intestines.

Coventry Telegraph, 22 April 2009

A cat is slowly recovering after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Chapelfields**, Coventry. The pet had to undergo a life saving operation after the pellet went through her body and lodged in her spine.

BBC, 21 April 2009

RSPCA inspectors in Cornwall are investigating several incidents involving cats. In one of these a cat from **Menheniot** has had one of its back legs amputated after it was shot with an **airgun**.

BBC, 21 April 2009

A pet cat may need to have one of his legs amputated after being hit with what is believed was an **airgun** pellet near his home in **Allhallows**, Kent.

This is Wiltshire, 17 April 2009

A pet cat in **Mildenhall**, Wiltshire, was shot and injured by an **airgun**. His owner found his crying to be let in and in obvious pain. An x-ray showed he had an airgun pellet embedded in his side.

This is Nottingham, 16 April 2009

A cat was nearly killed after it was shot in the head with an **airgun** in **Gedling**, Nottingham. He was found unconscious with a large cut on his head in a neighbour's garden. An X-ray revealed an airgun pellet lodged in his skull.

This is Hull and East Riding, 17 April 2009

A cat has lost its eye after being shot with a pellet in west **Hull**. Initially staff at the PDSA hospital thought he had been dealt a heavy kick or blow to his face but an x-ray revealed an **airgun** pellet was lodged in his face.

Express & Echo, 15 April 2009

A cat has been shot in **Exmouth**, Devon. The family pet lost a leg in the shooting and is being cared for by its owners. A spokesperson from the RSPCA comments that "incidents of animals being shot with **air rifles** are more common than you would think".

BBC, 14 April 2009

It is thought that a cat belonging to singer Sandi Thom has been shot dead. Pet detectives Animal Search UK have been tipped off that the cat, which disappeared from **Edzell**, Angus, has been shot by a local person and the body disposed of. The singer is said to be devastated.

Western Daily Press, 7 April 2009

A charity-run animal care complex is appealing for help with the cost of treating a dog which had received severe gunshot wounds to her head and back and was riddled with **airgun** pellets. The dog was found wandering as a stray and was taken to the home at **Claverton Down**, Bath.

Daily Echo, 7 April 2009

A cat has died in agony a week after she was shot with an **air rifle** in **Poole**, Dorset. Her owners spent £800 trying to save her after finding her in pain and bleeding. She had been playing in their garden just minutes before.

The Sentinel, 3 April 2009

An x-ray of a goose which had to be put to sleep after being attacked by a dog near **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, Staffordshire, revealed five **airgun** pellets in her body.

BBC, 3 April 2009

A swan rescued after a fishing hook became embedded in its cheek was later found to have been shot with an **airgun** five times. The RSPCA said the bird, which was found in **Newton Longville**, Buckinghamshire, had been used for "target practice".

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 2 April 2009

A cat was shot in the face in **Weston Village**, Somerset, and a pellet went through his eye. It is thought that a child with an **airgun** probably took a pot shot at the pet.

Reading Evening Post, 2 April 2009

A 13-year-old boy has been convicted of repeatedly shooting at two dogs and a cat with a **ball-bearing gun** during a dispute with a neighbour in **Whitley**, Reading. He laughed as he took pot shots at the pets from his bedroom window. The cat was hit on one occasion. The boy was ordered to return to court later this month for sentencing.

BBC, 2 April 2009

A cat will have to have its right leg amputated after it was hit with an **airgun** pellet in **Hinton**, Herefordshire.