



AUGUST 2008 - SUMMARY

The incidents recorded in August have provided a stark reminder that generalisations about gun crime being the preserve of "criminals with illegally-held weapons" do not provide an accurate description of all the problems created by guns in Britain. Gang- and drug-related shootings continue to be very serious issues, and there were worrying spates of shootings in Birmingham and Liverpool, although Merseyside police demonstrated swift action with the arrest of 31 people for gun-related offences in August. However, it is some of the other incidents that GCN wishes to highlight in order to dispel the view that gun users can be divided into two mutually-exclusive categories, those who use illegal weapons and are responsible for all firearms offences and those who obtain their guns legally and whose weapons will never be used inappropriately.

- A father used his airgun, presumably bought legally, for target shooting in his back garden in front of his young children, and left the gun briefly. The result was the death of his 18-month-old son, apparently shot by his 5-year-old daughter who had picked up the gun.

There were many other incidents in August in which victims were hit with pellets fired from air weapons, and there can be little doubt that many of these weapons would have been obtained legally, making it all too easy for them to be used in a dangerous and irresponsible manner.

- A husband and father, the owner of a legally-held rifle and regular attendee at the local clay pigeon shooting club, is believed by the police to have been responsible for shooting dead his wife and daughter before killing himself.

The majority of women fatally shot in Britain in recent years have known the gunman well, while the man responsible has had easy access to the murder weapon, often through his or a friend's legal ownership of the gun. In many instances the perpetrator has then shot himself. This would appear to so in this case.

- A firearms dealer, the chair of the Registered Firearms Dealers Committee, sold ninety replica Mac-10 machine pistols to a man who was able to convert them into lethal weapons. The buyer who set up a gun factory, has now been convicted and given a life sentence, but the guns he was able to convert have already been linked to at least 50 shootings, eight of which resulted in fatalities.

This case has highlighted a very grey area between legal gun dealing and the arming of criminals.

- A gamekeeper, who died in custody, had been jailed for two years for keeping prohibited weapons at his home.

We often hear that those given licences for firearms and shotguns can always be trusted to be law-abiding, yet this is the latest of a number of cases in which gun owners have broken the rules to accumulate weaponry

and ammunition for which they have no permission. A casual attitude towards licensing laws can easily lead to guns falling into inappropriate hands.

- A clay pigeon shooter who has competed for Great Britain was convicted of possessing a shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence after he fired the weapon to scare a driver who had inadvertently called at his property: he was fined £2500 and has been told he risks having his shotgun licence revoked.

Whilst the incident was not as serious as those listed above it demonstrates further how some owners of licensed guns choose to use them dangerously, putting innocent members of the public at risk.

- There was a long list of incidents and court cases involving the misuse of airguns and imitation guns by youths and children, one as young as eight who damaged the sight of a young girl.

Although laws controlling the sale of these guns have recently been tightened and it is also an offence to carry them in public, it is likely that many of those involved in these incidents were purchased legally by parents who have subsequently failed to take responsibility for their children's use of the weapons.

We highlight these incidents because it is GCN's view that too many firearms policies are still framed by the view that so long as a gun is traded and owned legally it will always be far removed from the tragic and frightening consequences of gun misuse. Clearly that is not so, and appropriate policies will only be fully implemented when the full spectrum of gun use and abuse is taken into account.

- **Gun Deaths** - There were fourteen apparent fatalities from gunshot wounds in August.
- Police believe that a man shot and killed his wife and daughter before killing himself with a legally-owned rifle at their house in Shropshire. The circumstances are still being investigated.
- An 18-month-old boy from Washwood Heath (Birmingham) has died a few days after being shot in the head with his father's airgun, apparently by his sister.
- There were seven other fatal gun attacks reported during August:
 - Birmingham - a man was gunned down in the Newtown area in an apparent gang-related murder, and a man shot in Ladywood Middleway died four weeks after the incident
 - Bradford - a man was shot dead outside a nightclub - a man has been charged with murder
 - Hull - a drug dealer was shot and killed at a flat in the east of the city
 - London - two innocent bystanders were the victims of fatal shootings, one outside a pub in Forest Gate (east London), the other at a supermarket in Walworth (south London) (the victim was aged 18, and a 19-year-old has been charged with murder): another man was the victim of a second fatal shooting in Walworth
- There were three shooting deaths in which there were apparently no suspicious circumstances:

- A farmer was found shot dead at his home in Hutton Buscel (north Yorkshire)
 - Another man was found dead with shotgun wounds in his car near Ellastone (Staffordshire)
 - A man was found dead with shotgun wounds in Stoke Hill (Wiltshire)
- **Gun Injuries** - Other shooting incidents that resulted in injury occurred in:
 - Birmingham - a man was shot in the Handsworth area, two people (a man and a woman) were injured in a shooting in Digbeth and a man was hit in the arm in Small Heath
 - Bradford - a man was in hospital with serious injuries after a shooting in Thornbury
 - Bristol - an 18-year-old was dumped outside a Bristol hospital with suspected gunshot wounds
 - London - a security guard was injured during an attempted robbery on a cash van in Enfield (north London), a man was shot in the face in Beckton (east London) and a man needed hospital treatment after being shot in Peckham (south-east London)
 - Merseyside - there were shootings, some of them reported to have been targeted, in Knowsley, Dingle (the victim was a woman), Stockbridge Village, Kirkby and Toxteth
 - In addition to the above there were a significant number of incidents in which victims were wounded by shots from Airguns and Imitations Guns (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on stores in Trafford (Greater Manchester) (three shops were targeted by the same lone gunman), Northampton, Leyland (Lancashire), Swalwell (Tyneside), Port Talbot (South Wales), Herne Bay (Kent), Birkenhead (an imitation gun was involved and two men and a teenage boy have been arrested) and Chantry (Suffolk). Three men raided a jewellers in Newcastle upon Tyne. A 10-year-old attempted to rob an opticians in Thornbury (Bristol) whilst armed with a BB gun (see below).
 - Two banks in Sussex were raided (in Henfield and Seaford - a man and a woman were arrested after the latter robbery) and a man stole a cash box from a bank in Blackpool. A security guard was injured during an attempted robbery in Enfield (north London) (see above).
 - More betting shops were targeted in August, four in Glasgow (two separate robberies in the west end, one on the south side and one in Govanhill) as well as premises in Oldham (where a pensioner was hit with the butt of a gun), York and Gateshead.
 - A filling station manager was robbed at gunpoint in Southampton.
 - A ball-bearing gun was fired during an attempted robbery on a takeaway in Motherwell (Lanarkshire) (see below).
 - Two people in a flat in Neath (South Wales) were threatened with a gun and a knife during a robbery. A landlord and a barwoman were held up at gunpoint as two men stole around £3,000 from a pub in Torquay (Devon).
 - A taxi driver was robbed of around £180 by three youths who attacked him in Preston. A man was robbed of over £10,000 in burger van takings as he parked outside his home in Rumney (Cardiff).
 - A couple in a car park in Moreton (The Wirral) were forced to hand over a wallet and a handbag at gunpoint. Another couple walking in a park in Derby were robbed by a man apparently armed with a handgun.

- **Other Incidents** - On Merseyside, shots were fired through the windows of a home in Huyton and a ground-floor flat in Norris Green, and a house in Croxteth Park was damaged in a shooting incident. A shot was fired through a kitchen window of a house in Radford (Nottingham).
- A number of vehicles travelling along the A47 near Norwich were hit by a gunman. A man was arrested in Rugby after the windows of a parked car in Rugby (Warwickshire) were smashed by a shotgun.
- A pedestrian had a long-barrelled firearm pointed at him by a woman passenger after he was in collision with a car in Middleton (West Yorkshire).
- A man posing as a customer in a car accessory shop in Halliwell (Lancashire) pulled the trigger of a gun but no bullets were fired.
- Police sealed off an area around a block of flats in Milton (Glasgow) after two men were seen with firearms - no shots were fired. Armed police surrounded a flat in Fishponds (Bristol) after reports that a gunman had sexually assaulted a woman - a man was arrested.
- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - A 13-year-old was arrested after a 9mm Baikal pistol, two silencers and a bag of 9mm cartridges were found in a house in New Cross (south London).
- A man was charged with firearms offences after 300 bullets were found in a bag at a house in Digmaor (Lancashire). A cache of bullets for use in handguns was found in cars in a car park in Hunts Cross (Merseyside) where the ammunition was to be sold. Six guns were recovered by police from a car in central Manchester after a rifle was spotted by CCTV.
- A number of firearms and hand grenades were seized when police called at a house in St Agnes (Cornwall).
- An SA80 rifle found at a house in Alvechurch (Worcestershire), where the body of a murder victim was discovered, was one of two automatic rifles that went missing from Army barracks in London.
- Firearms were recovered in a number of police raids in which drugs were also found:
 - In Greater Manchester a firearm, rounds of ammunition and a large quantity of drugs were discovered at a home in Kirkholt (a man has been charged), and six guns were seized together with ammunition, a crossbow and drugs in Longsight
 - Two men have been arrested, one in Arbroath and the other in Liverpool, by police investigating the smuggling of firearms and drugs in Lancashire
 - In Honley (West Yorkshire) three people, including two teenagers, were arrested after police found a sawn-off shotgun, ammunition and cocaine
- A slaughtering pistol was stolen during a burglary in Sutton Weaver (Cheshire).
- **Airguns - The tragic death of an 18-month-old boy, shot in the garden of his house in Washwood Heath area of Birmingham, was yet another reminder that air weapons can be lethal. Although the outcomes were not as tragic, there were many other incidents in August with potentially serious consequences in which victims were shot with airguns:**
 - Two boys were shot in Wisbech (Cambridgeshire) in separate incidents: a 15-year-old was shot in the top of his leg whilst he was out walking, and a 9-year-old was hit in the arm after climbing a tree in his own back garden
 - A nine-year-old boy was shot in the eye with an airgun in Bridgeton (Glasgow)

- A woman underwent surgery to her hand after being shot with an airgun in Sighthill (Glasgow)
- A boy, aged 10, was shot in the head whilst he was playing in a field in St Helens (Merseyside)
- A woman from Lowestoft (Suffolk) was struck in the head with an airgun pellet
- A man from Broseley (Shropshire) was hit by a pellet in his garden
- A woman was shot in the back in a shopping street in Llandrindod Wells (Powys) - a man was being held by police
- A man had to undergo treatment in hospital after being hit by an airgun pellet in Middleton (Leeds)
- A cyclist was hit in the face with an airgun pellet in Eaton (Norfolk) and required hospital treatment - four people have been arrested
- A garage worker in Houghton (County Durham) was injured by a drive-by gunman armed with an air rifle
- A man was injured on the hand after an airgun was fired at a group outside a church in Braunstone (Leicester)
- A carer and the pensioner she looks after have had their home in Canvey (Essex) attacked for a third time - a kitchen window was damaged, probably by an airgun or BB gun. A minibus used by elderly and disabled people has been damaged in an air rifle attack in New Elgin (Moray). A car and homes were shot at with an air rifle in Clitheroe (Lancashire) and an airgun or pellet gun was fired at windows of a home in Abington (Northampton). A hairdressers in Scarborough (North Yorkshire) is thought to have been targeted by yobs firing air rifles.
- A bus travelling on the Trowse by-pass (Norfolk) may have been shot at with an airgun.
- Two youths suspected of firing an airgun from a car being driven around Minsterley and Pontesbury (Shropshire) were arrested on firearms offences after being involved in a three-car smash.
- Armed youths carrying an air rifle were spotted walking along a disused railway line near Market Harborough (Leicestershire).
- A community council in Fairlie (Ayrshire) heard that there had been one charge of reckless conduct with a firearm in the village involving an airgun offence.
- **Imitation Guns - This month's incidents showed that very young children armed with imitation guns have been involved in serious gun incidents which happened in a month when reports were released about the worrying number of imitation guns found by police called to incidents in schools in both Greater Manchester and Islington (North London).**
- An eight-year-old boy was being questioned by police after an 11-year-old girl was shot with a ball-bearing gun in Blyth (Northumberland) - she will need surgery and was lucky not to be permanently blinded. A 10-year-old with a BB gun was arrested after he demanded money in an opticians in Thornbury (Bristol) - he was given a reprimand.
- A ball-bearing gun was fired during an attempted robbery on a takeaway in Motherwell (Lanarkshire). One of three people arrested on suspicion of robbery at a shop in Birkenhead (Wirral) was armed with an imitation handgun.
- Two women were threatened with a gun, reported by the police to have been a BB gun, by two men who burst into a house in Seaham (County Durham).
- Two men have been charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, one after someone was thought to be carrying a handgun in Shirley (Southampton) and the other after an

incident in the centre of Colchester (Essex). A ball-bearing gun was pointed at police officers during an incident in Barnstaple (Devon).

- More than 70 ball-bearing shots were fired at a business premises in West Reading (Berkshire).
 - Police recovered BB guns from the home of two teenagers in Derby who posted images of themselves with the weapons on the internet.
 - **Incidents Involving Animals** - Nothing seems to be stemming the tide of brutal airgun attacks on cats reported each month from across the country. In August there were reports from Bristol (two incidents in four months in Kingswood), Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall (six incidents reported in five months in St Austell), Devon, Flintshire, Herefordshire, Lancashire (three separate incidents, two in St Michael's), Lincolnshire, Sussex and Worcestershire (two separate incidents)).
 - Four dogs and three horses were all shot dead at the house in Maesbrook (Shropshire) where three human bones have been found. Dogs were also shot in Allensmore (Herefordshire) (the dog had to be put to sleep after being shot with an airgun), St Michael's (Lancashire) (injured with an airgun pellet) and Navestock (Essex) (two dogs killed with hollow tipped bullets used for hunting). Eight horses were shot with air rifles and slashed in an attack on an equine centre in Lincolnshire. A ferret found in Worcester had suffered an airgun wound.
 - A court heard how a gamekeeper from Shropshire was shooting buzzards with a shotgun to protect the pheasants he was looking after: he pleaded guilty nine charges involving the killing of buzzards and badgers.
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- **Convictions** - A number of murder cases were concluded during August:
 - A teenager was jailed for life for murdering a student in Stockwell (south London) with a converted Mac 10 sub-machine gun
 - Two brothers, small time drug dealers, were convicted of the murder of three men and the attempted murder of two women following a multiple shooting in Bishop's Stortford
 - A man who killed a fellow drug dealer with a shotgun on Chislehurst Common, south-east London, has been found guilty of murder
 - A man has pleaded guilty to the murder of a man and the attempted murder of a woman in a double shooting in Blyth (Northumberland)
 - Barry George was cleared of the fatal shooting in 1999 of TV presenter Jill Dando: he had spent eight years in prison
- Two men have been jailed for eight and seven years for firearms offences after a police officer was shot in Peckham (south London).
- After two trials eight men have been jailed for supplying guns that were used in crimes. One man was jailed for a minimum of 11 years after being found guilty of setting up a gun factory at Three Mile Cross (Berkshire) to convert replica Mac 10 machine pistols to fire live ammunition: the guns have been involved in at least fifty shooting incidents including eight murders. Following the conclusion of another case seven men were jailed for up to 20 years for their parts in a scheme to import and convert blank-firing Baikal self-loading gas handguns which were then sold as part of "assassin kits": the weapons were used in crimes in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and Scotland.
- Three teenagers face jail sentences after an incident in which a shotgun was fired in a busy Leicester street during the afternoon. A man from

Lincoln has admitted firing a loaded shotgun in the air in view of his neighbours and will be sentenced later.

- Two men who conducted a seven month "reign of terror" in and around Cambridge have been found guilty of a catalogue of robbery, conspiracy and firearms charges: they held up a number of shops and post offices.
- An 18-year-old has been sentenced to six years' detention after admitting possessing a shotgun with intent: he pointed the loaded weapon at police when they arrested him at an address in Handsworth (Birmingham). A 17-year-old found with a loaded pistol tucked into his trousers in Derby has been sentenced to four years. A man has been jailed for seven years after a machine pistol and ammunition were discovered in his bag in a hotel room in Almondsbury near Bristol.
- A gamekeeper was jailed for two years for keeping prohibited weapons at his home in Alkington (Derbyshire): he died in custody shortly afterwards.
- A member of a gang of four who kidnapped a car salesman from Darlington and stole a car, threatening the victim with a Taser and a gun, has been jailed for nine-and-a-half years.
- A man on weekend leave from prison robbed a petrol station in Hawick, telling the cashier that he had a gun - he has admitted the offence.
- A clay pigeon shooter who has competed for Great Britain was convicted of possessing a shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence after he fired the weapon to scare a driver in Lighthorne (Warwickshire): he was fined £2500 and has been told he risks having his shotgun licence revoked.
- A woman has been given a conditional discharge for 12 months after failing to comply with a shotgun certificate condition after moving to Abbotskerswell (Devon).
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - One of two brothers jailed after attacking a man in Blantyre (Lanarkshire) fired an air rifle at their victim: he has been jailed for two years and three months.
- A teenager who admitted shooting a 10-year-old boy with an air pistol in Walney (Cumbria) has been given a 12-month referral order after pleading guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and possession of an air rifle.
- A man who shot and injured a Doncaster teenager with a gas-powered airgun has had his sentence reduced from nine months to four, angering the victim's mother
- A man who injured a friend when he fired an air rifle down the stairs of his house in Chippenham (Wiltshire) was given a 24 week suspended sentence - the victim has a pellet lodged in his skin
- A man who was heard threatening to kill someone after an argument over drugs outside a nightclub in Pontypridd (South Wales) admitted possession of a loaded air weapon and a drugs offence and was jailed for two years.
- Two 16-year-olds who took part in a raid at a house in Ipswich during which an air pistol was fired have been given detention and training orders - another teenager received one earlier in the year.
- A former Tory councillor, who threatened and intimidated a woman from Ullesthorpe (Leicestershire) who wanted to stop seeing him, has been given a 12-month suspended prison sentence: he held up an airgun and told her he would "deck her if she was a man". A man who threatened a couple in a street in Peasedown St John (Somerset) whilst armed with an air rifle has been jailed for two-and-a-half years.
- A man was jailed for three months for carrying a potentially lethal air pistol in public in Ferndale (South Wales).

- A father from Egremont (Cumbria) who bought an air pistol for his 12-year-old son has been fined £100 as he was banned from owning a firearm for life but was technically the gun's owner.
- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A teenager has been sentenced to four months in a youth detention centre after pleading guilty to a number of charges - he fired a BB gun at a female member of staff at a supermarket in Biggleswade (Bedfordshire).
- A man who threatened two members of staff at a Grimsby bookmakers with an imitation handgun has been jailed for six years and nine months (he also admitted breaching a suspended prison sentence).
- A man has been given a six-and-a-half year sentence after admitting breaking into a house in Moortown (Leeds) armed with a fake gun (a cigarette lighter shaped like a gun) and stealing cash, knives and jewellery: the victims were tied up and one was stabbed.
- A man from Crick (Northamptonshire) who threatened his partner's daughter and her friends with a blank-firing pistol has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- A man who pointed a toy gun out of a car window on the outskirts of Perth has been fined £500.

GUN INCIDENTS – AUGUST 2008

ENGLAND

Sunday Mercury, 31 August 2008

A man who was shot in the arm is recovering in hospital after being attacked in **Small Heath**, Birmingham.

BBC, 31 August 2008

Post-mortem tests on one of two bodies found at a burnt-out home in **Maesbrook**, Shropshire, have revealed that the female victim was shot in the head. A rifle, identified as being legitimately owned by the woman's husband, was recovered near the two bodies. Further tests will be needed before it can be established whether it was the murder weapon. A dog recovered near the bodies had also been shot. Other post-mortem examinations carried out on three horses and three dogs found in nearby outbuildings showed they too had been shot. For more details see [September 2008 Incidents](#).

BBC, 31 August 2008

A man was injured on the hand by an **airgun** pellet after shots were fired at a group outside a church in **Braunstone**, Leicester. Another person had clothing damaged.

This is Derbyshire, 30 August 2008

A man and a woman were robbed at gunpoint as they crossed a park in **Derby**. A man approached on a push-bike, asked they wanted to buy drugs and then pulled a handgun. He stole a wallet, money and tobacco.

Sunderland Echo, 30 August 2008

A garage worker in **Houghton**, County Durham, was injured when he was hit by a drive-by gunman armed with an **air rifle**.

Leicester Mercury, 30 August 2008

A woman and a taxi driver who tackled an armed robber in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester, in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)), have spoken about the incident along with the victim of the initial attack. The driver had jumped from the taxi after seeing Paul Knight pull a gun on a passenger he had just dropped off and the woman came to his rescue. Knight pulled the trigger on the gun but it did not go off. All three have received police bravery awards. Knight was jailed for six years for the robbery in March 2008.

BBC, 30 August 2008

A man was taken to hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries after being shot in **Peckham**, south-east London. Police have said the shooting could easily "have resulted in a fatality".

This is South Devon, 29 August 2008

A judge has ordered police to find a man, last living in **Newton Abbot** and who it is claimed illegally had a 9mm self loading pistol with the intention of putting a teenage girl 'in fear' in January 2007. He was due to be tried next month. He had previously pleaded not guilty to possessing the **blank firing pistol** with intent that the 16-year-old would fear that violence would be used against her.

Lancashire Telegraph, 29 August 2008

David Church stashed away a sawn-off shotgun and cartridges at his home in **Crawshawbooth**, Lancashire. He was arrested when his former partner called police who found the shortened shotgun in two parts in a holdall in June 2007. He admitted possessing the gun, which he said he found during a house clearance in Oxfordshire, and will be sentenced later.

Birmingham Post, 29 August 2008

A man was arrested when police attended an incident in **Rugby** in which a car was fired at with a shotgun. All the windows in the parked car had been smashed. Nobody was hurt. The man has been released on conditional bail (*Rugby Advertiser*, 30 August 2008).

BBC, 29 August 2008

A number of firearms and hand grenades were seized when police were called to a house in **St Agnes**, Cornwall, after a man was reported to have made threats with a knife.

BBC, 29 August 2008

A man who robbed a bookmakers in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester, earlier this month hit an 83-year-old man over the head with a gun. The man threatened staff with a handgun and hit his victim as the latter tried to stop him escaping with money. CCTV images have been released.

BBC, 29 August 2008

Zhong Guo has pleaded guilty to murdering a man in a double shooting in **Blyth**, Northumberland, in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He also admitted attempted murder and firearms offences. The murder victim died from a single gunshot wound to the head, his partner survived despite being shot twice. Police dubbed it as a "crime of passion". Sentencing will take place in September.

BBC, 29 August 2008

Six guns have been seized by police during a raid on a house in **Longsight**, Manchester. The weapons were an AK-47 assault rifle, a homemade sub-machine gun, two Ingram Mac-10 machine guns, an Enfield revolver and an Urwin Dale self-loading pistol. Officers also seized 460 bullets, a crossbow and drugs. Two men were arrested.

Bath Chronicle, 29 August 2008

Duane Smith yelled at a pregnant woman and her boyfriend "I'm going to blow your head off" as he wielded an **air rifle** in **Peasedown St John**, Somerset. He told the couple to turn around if they didn't believe he had a gun, before running. He then fired the gun in the direction of a car but was spotted by the police and arrested. He told one of the officers he would shoot him when he saw him next. He has been jailed for two-and-a-half years.

This is Bristol, 28 August 2008

A 10-year-old boy was arrested after he walked into a **Thornbury** opticians and demanded money at gunpoint. The boy, who brandished a **BB gun**, has been let off by police with a reprimand.

Evening Telegraph (Derby), 28 August 2008

Police in **Derby** recovered two plastic **BB guns** from the home of two teenagers who posted images of themselves with the weapons on the internet.

Evening Star, 28 August 2008

Two 16-year-olds who took part in a "gang raid" at a house in **Ipswich** in April 2008 during which an **air pistol** was fired have been sentenced to periods of detention. One who admitted robbery was sentenced to a 12 month detention and training order and the other who was found guilty of robbery was sentenced to an 18 month detention and training order. Another youth, aged 17, had already been given a three year custodial sentence for his part in the robbery.

BBC, 28 August 2008

Three men and a woman, three of them teenagers, have been arrested and weapons recovered after a cyclist was shot in the face with an **airgun** in **Eaton** near Norwich. The victim was taken to hospital with a facial injury. Police have said that the victim could have been fatally wounded (*Eastern Daily Press*, 29 August 2008).

West Sussex Gazette, 27 August 2008

The court has heard how a teenager from **Horsham**, who is accused of murdering a schoolboy, had threatened to shoot another teenager. He claimed he hadn't made the threat and couldn't have carried it out as he didn't have a gun, but police found an **air rifle** and crossbow in his bedroom. The accused claimed that the air rifle barely kills rabbits, let alone humans. The trial continues.

Scarborough Evening News, 27 August 2008

A hairdressers in **Scarborough** is thought to have been targeted by jobs firing **air rifles** after a hole appeared in its window. The owner described how there had been problems in the area before with people using pellet guns.

Northern Echo, 27 August 2008

Zeeshan Butt has been jailed for nine-and-a-half years for his part in the kidnap of a car salesman who was held at gunpoint before being released in field. Butt was part of a gang of four who posed as buyers for a car who met the victim at a station in **Darlington**. After taking over the car the gang told the salesman he would be shot if he tried to get help: he was threatened with a Taser and a gun. He was dumped in **Barwick-in-Elmet** near York. Butt was caught after a police officer became suspicious of a BMW outside a house in **Swinton**, Greater Manchester, in January 2008.

News Shopper, 27 August 2008

John Seton killed a fellow drug dealer by shooting him with a 12-bore shotgun on **Chislehurst Common**, south east London, in March 2006. He has been found guilty of murder and will be sentenced next month.

Liverpool Echo, 27 August 2008

A house in **Croxteth Park**, Liverpool, was slightly damaged after shots were fired.

Eastern Daily Press, 27 August 2008

A double-decker bus is believed to have been shot at as it travelled on the **Trowse** bypass in Norfolk. Early indications are that it was a weapon of some sort, a gun or an **airgun**.

BBC, 27 August 2008

Grant Wilkinson has been convicted of converting firearms in a shed in **Three Mile Cross**, Berkshire and supplying firearms and ammunition (for more details see [July 2008 Incidents](#)). The **replica Mac-10 submachine guns** were converted into live weapons later linked to more than 50 shootings. The jury found him guilty of seven offences including conspiracy to convert an imitation firearm into a firearm, conspiracy to sell or transfer firearms and ammunition, possession of a firearm with intent to enable another person to endanger life and possessing a prohibited firearm. Another man was cleared of all offences. Wilkinson has been sentenced to a minimum term of 11 years (*BBC*, 28 August 2008).

BBC, 27 August 2008

Four men have denied charges of conspiracy to rob between April 2006 and September 2007. Three other men have pleaded guilty. The charges relate to a series of security van robberies. There were striking similarities between robberies in **Gloucester**, **Cherry Hinton** in Cambridgeshire, **Colchester**, **Bath** and **Ipswich**. Getaway cars were used after two men grabbed or tried to grab a box containing £25,000 from guards while brandishing a gun. During another attempted robbery in **Chandler's Ford**, Hampshire, in October 2007 (see Incidents) two alleged armed robbers died from gunshot wounds after armed police opened fire when a gun was pulled on a security guard. The trial continues.

BBC, 27 August 2008

A man thought to have been armed with a gun carried out a raid on a bank in **Seaford**, Sussex. A man and a woman were later arrested in Lewes and cash and a firearm were recovered.

Gazette & Herald, 26 August 2008

Mark Hamblin, a former soldier, shot a friend who had come to a barbecue at his house in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, in May 2008. He fired the pellet from an **air rifle** down the stairs of the house. He pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful wounding. He had taken possession of the gun from a youngster at the party who had been shooting it out of a landing window. The judge considered it had been a reckless accident and imposed a 24 week suspended jail sentence. The victim still has a pellet lodged in his skin.

Southern Daily Echo, 25 August 2008

A filling station manager was threatened at gunpoint during an armed robbery in **Southampton**. He handed over a large quantity of cash when confronted by an armed robber brandishing a handgun.

Evening Star, 25 August 2008

A teenager made off with just £30 after a robbery at a newsagents in **Chantry**, Suffolk. The robber demanded money before brandishing a handgun.

BBC, 25 August 2008

Two men have been charged in connection with an armed raid on a bookmakers in **Gateshead**. Staff were threatened with a gun during the robbery but nobody was injured.

BBC, 25 August 2008

An 18-month-old boy is critically ill after being shot with an **airgun**, apparently by his five-year-old sister. In what the police have described as a 'tragic accident' the boy was shot in the head while playing in the garden of his home in **Washwood Heath**, Birmingham. It appears that the gun was left unattended by the children's father. See [GCN Press Release](#). The boy has since died in hospital (*BBC*, 1 September 2008).

The Journal, 24 August 2008

An 11-year-old girl may need surgery after being hit in the eye by a pellet fired from an **airgun** or **BB gun**. The girl was taken to hospital after the incident which occurred in **Blyth**, Northumberland. Police are speaking to an eight-year-old boy, believed to be a neighbour of the girl's family, in connection with the shooting. The victim must now have an operation and doctors have told her she may suffer permanent damage. Her iris has been torn, which is letting light in (*Evening Chronicle*, 29 August 2008).

BBC, 23 August 2008

A man who was shot in the **Newtown** area of Birmingham died after being taken to hospital. He is believed to have been a senior member of the Johnson Crew who may have been lured to his death by women linked to another gang (*Sunday Mercury*, 31 August 2008).

This is South Devon, 22 August 2008

Pamela Wakeham has pleaded guilty to a summons issued under the Firearms Act 1968 of failing to comply with a shotgun certificate condition and notify her change of address. He was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and order to pay costs. Magistrates ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the 16 bore guns. The offence arose when she moved to a mobile home in **Abbotskerswell**, Devon.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 22 August 2008

A gun-toting robber escaped on a push bike after carrying out a raid on a bank in **Blackpool**. He wrestled a cash box free from a security guard before escaping with thousands of pounds. Police have named the wanted man as Russell Grant who is suspected to have carried out several violent robberies and is wanted by a number of police forces (*The Citizen* (Blackpool), 26 August 2008).

Shropshire Star, 22 August 2008

Two youths suspected of firing an **airgun** from the window of a car being driven around **Pontesbury** and **Minsterley**, near Shrewsbury, were arrested on firearms offences after a three-car smash.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 22 August 2008

Darryl Phillips of **Crick**, Northamptonshire, threatened his partner's daughter and her friends with a **blank-firing pistol**. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent cause fear of violence but denied putting the gun against his partner's daughter's temple. He will be sentenced in September. Phillips was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Middleton Today, 22 August 2008

Chakka Williams has been jailed for six-and-a-half years after admitting breaking into a home in **Moortown**, Leeds, in January 2008 and stealing more than £300 in cash and knives and jewellery. He accomplice has never been caught. Williams was carrying a **fake gun**, a cigarette lighter shaped like a handgun. During the robbery, which was believed to be linked to a drugs-related argument two victims were tied up and one of them was stabbed and slashed several times with a knife.

BBC, 22 August 2008

An 18-year-old was dumped outside a hospital in **Bristol** with suspected gunshot wounds. He was found by staff and underwent surgery. He remained in a stable condition. Two men were arrested in connection with the incident and have been bailed.

BBC, 22 August 2008

A man has died after being found with gunshot wounds in a street in **Walworth**, south east London. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

This is Bristol, 21 August 2008

Following reports that a gunman had sexually assaulted a woman, armed police surrounded a flat in **Fishponds**, Bristol. A man was arrested after a 15-minute stand-off. No shots were fired.

Harborough Mail, 21 August 2008

Youths armed with an air rifle were spotted walking along a disused railway line near **Market Harborough**, Leicestershire. The police were called but could find no trace of the youths.

Gazette & Herald, 21 August 2008

A man has been discovered dead at **Stoke Hill** near Westbury, Wiltshire. A shotgun was found at his side. Police are not looking for anyone in connection with the death at this stage and there are no suspicious circumstances.

BBC, 21 August 2008

Armed robbers stole luxury watches valued at thousands of pounds in a raid on a jewellers in **Newcastle upon Tyne** city centre. One of the three men was armed with a gun. CCTV images have been released.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 20 August 2008

A hand-made, double-barrel section of a hunting rifle has gone missing whilst being transported between **Yeovil** and **Bristol**. Work was only partially complete so it cannot be used in its present two-tube state and is unable to hold cartridges.

The Standard (Ellesmere Port & Neston), 20 August 2008

A 14-year-old boy and two men have been arrested on suspicion of robbery after a till was taken from an off-licence in **Birkenhead**, The Wirral. One man was armed with what is believed to be an **imitation handgun** and another man with a knife. The till and an imitation gun were recovered nearby.

Kent Online, 20 August 2008

A gunman and another man wielding a knife tried to hold up a shop in **Herne Bay**, Kent, but fled empty-handed when the store owner raised the alarm.

Fenland Citizen, 20 August 2008

A nine-year-old boy required almost 24-hours of hospital treatment after he was shot in the arm with an **air rifle**. He had climbed a tree in his back garden in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire, after he had heard people laughing and playing. The pellet was a matter of half an inch from going through his arm.

Evening Telegraph (Derby), 20 August 2008

Duane Gregory, 17, has been given a four year sentence after being stopped by police in **Derby** in March 2008 and found to have a 9mm pistol with silencer attached tucked into the waistband of his trousers. The gun had been used to fire a shot into a room at a house in Derby two days earlier. Gregory was also found to be the "custodian" of another pistol found in a friend's garden. He admitted two charges of possessing a prohibited firearm, having a silencer attached and having ammunition.

BBC, 20 August 2008

A man armed with a gun threatened staff and then fled with cash from a bookmakers in **York**.

This is South Devon, 19 August 2008

A landlord and a barwoman at a pub in **Torquay**, Devon, were left traumatized after being robbed at gunpoint of thousands of pounds. Two men armed with a pistol ordered them to open a safe which was then cleared of cash.

Sun, 19 August 2008

Police swooped on a car in **Manchester** city centre after a CCTV camera had picked up a rifle on the passenger seat. Other weapons were then found in the boot. Police retrieved an AK47, a Desert Eagle self-loading pistol, a Glock 17 pistol, a revolver and an **air rifle**. A man was arrested and later charged with drink driving and bailed on firearms matters.

Newham Recorder, 19 August 2008

A man suffered a non life-threatening injury to his face when a single shot was fired in **Beckton**, east London. The victim was treated in hospital but was expected to be discharged.

Liverpool Echo, 19 August 2008

Police stopped a cache of bullets being sold in a car park at a shopping park in **Hunts Cross**, Merseyside. When officers searched the vehicles around 500 rounds of ammunition for use in handguns were found. The homes of those arrested were later searched. Three men were still in police custody and a woman was released on bail pending further inquiries.

Liverpool Echo, 19 August 2008

A window of a ground-floor flat in **Norris Green** was shattered in a shooting. A teenager suffered cuts to his face from flying glass. A number of people were at the home when the shots were fired. Police believe the shooting was targeted.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 19 August 2008

A sawn-off shotgun and cocaine were found during a police raid in **Honley**, West Yorkshire. A woman, a 17-year-old youth and a 16-year-old were arrested for drugs and firearms offences.

The Argus, 19 August 2008

A man carrying what was believed to have been a gun walked into a bank in **Henfield**, Sussex, and demanded money. He was handed an unknown quantity of cash. No one was injured in the incident.

This is Grimsby, 18 August 2008

Robert Brown has been jailed for six years and nine months after a raid at a **Grimsby** bookmakers in which he threatened two members of staff with a **fake pistol** in March 2008. He fled with a haul of more than £3100. Brown also admitted breaching a suspended prison sentence.

The Standard, 18 August 2008

A man has threatened a shop assistant with a handgun in **Leyland**, Lancashire. She refused to hand over money and told the man that the police had been alerted, at which point he fled.

Northwich Guardian, 18 August 2008

A .32mm calibre slaughtering pistol was stolen during a burglary in **Sutton Weaver**, Cheshire. No ammunition was taken.

Middleton Today, 18 August 2008

A man taken by ambulance from an address in **Middleton**, West Yorkshire, underwent treatment in hospital after being hit by an **airgun** pellet. Hospital X-rays showed that the pellet, which was lodged in his stomach, had been filed down to make a point.

Liverpool Echo, 18 August 2008

A 10-year-old boy is recovering after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** while he was playing with friends in a field in **St Helens**, Merseyside. Two teenagers have been arrested on suspicion of wounding (*BBC*, 20 March 2008).

BBC, 18 August 2008

A man was shot in the stomach and a woman was shot in the arm in an incident in **Digbeth**, Birmingham. The man remains in hospital.

Fenland Citizen, 17 August 2008

A man is to appear in court after being charged in connection with a firearms incident in the centre of **Colchester**, Essex. No shots were fired and no-one was injured. The man has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

Evening Chronicle, 16 August 2008

A shop worker was threatened with a shotgun and beaten during an armed raid in **Swalwell**, Gateshead. The raider ordered the man to hand over cash but when he refused he beat him repeatedly.

This is Bristol, 15 August 2008

Mark Sanclemente has admitted possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition without a firearms certificate after cleaners at a hotel in **Almondsbury**, near Bristol, discovered a machine pistol in his bag in January 2008. A stun gun was also in the bag. He has been jailed for seven years.

Sunderland Echo, 15 August 2008

Two women were threatened at gunpoint by masked raiders who burst into a home in **Seaham**, County Durham. One of the women was punched in the face. After a brief struggle both men ran off. Police have revealed that one man had a **BB gun** which resembled an authentic pistol.

Birmingham Mail, 15 August 2008

It has been revealed that an SA80 rifle, stolen from the British Army, was found at a house in **Alvechurch**, Worcestershire, where the remains of a murder victim were buried (see 8 August 2008 below). Police also found two sawn-off shotguns, another rifle and ammunition including dum-dum bullets. The home owner Michael Oliver has been jailed for 15 years. The SA80 rifle was one of two automatic rifles that had gone missing from the Irish Guards regimental barracks in London, four years ago. The other had been found hidden under the bed of a guardsman who had gone AWOL. In April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) L/Cpl James Piotrowski pleaded guilty to possessing and handling it after another soldier had stolen the rifle and was jailed for seven years.

BBC, 15 August 2008

Thirty one people have been arrested as part of a crackdown on gun crime across **Merseyside** following a spate of shootings. Among those arrested were three men on suspicion of the attempted murder of a man who was shot in **Stockbridge Village** (see below).

BBC, 15 August 2008

Two men have been charged as part of a police investigation into the smuggling of firearms and drugs into **Lancashire**. One was arrested in Arbroath, Scotland, the other in Liverpool. Both have been charged with two drug-related offences as well as conspiracy to transfer or sell ammunition and conspiracy to transfer or sell firearms.

Skelmersdale Advertiser, 14 August 2008

A man has been charged with firearms offences after police discovered a huge stash of bullets at a house in **Digmoor**. Police found 300 9mm bullets in boxes in a black bin liner inside a handbag in the house. The police were at the house carrying out a drugs search warrant.

The Comet, 14 August 2008

Police have issued a warning about the dangers of carrying imitation guns in public following a serious incident at a supermarket in **Biggleswade**, Bedfordshire. A 14-year-old was recently sentenced to four months in a youth detention centre after pleading guilty to a number of charges. He went into the store with a loaded **BB gun** and fired it at a female member of staff twice. The woman was not injured but was shocked by her ordeal.

BBC, 14 August 2008

Three men have been arrested for a botched armed raid on a cash van in **Enfield**, north London. A security guard was left with a gunshot wound. His injuries were not to be life-threatening. Shots were fired by the suspects, and the police also discharged a firearm. The IPCC is investigating.

The Star, 13 August 2008

The Criminal Appeal Court has reduced the sentence of Darren Kelly from nine months for four. Kelly shot and injured a 14-year-old from **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire, with a **gas-powered airgun** in 2007. The teenager had to undergo surgery to remove a pellet which had lodged beneath his skin. Kelly had been jailed after pleading guilty to wounding. The victim's mother is furious about the cut in sentence and plans to contact her MP.

BBC, 13 August 2008

A man was being treated in hospital after being shot in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. A cul-de-sac, the scene of other shootings over the last few years, has been cordoned off.

Ashbourne News Telegraph, 13 August 2008

A man has been found dead with shotgun wounds in his car on a country road near **Ellastone**, Staffordshire. He had suffered serious head injuries. Police confirmed there were no suspicious circumstances and an inquest would be held within a few days.

News Shopper, 12 August 2008

A 13-year-old has been arrested in **New Cross**, south east London, on suspicion of possessing a converted firearm. Police found a 9 mm Baikal and a bag of 9mm cartridges in the stairwell of a house.

Mail, 12 August 2008

A gunman has fired on five motorists as they travelled along the A47 near **Norwich**, Norfolk. Shots were fired from the side of the dual carriageway. Windows were smashed in five cars and a lorry. Armed police who went to the scene were unable to find the person responsible.

West Yorkshire Police, 11 August 2008

A pedestrian walking along a street in **Middleton**, West Yorkshire, was in collision with a car which knocked to the floor but left him uninjured. A female passenger got out of the car and is then alleged to have pointed a long barrelled firearm at him.

Southern Daily Echo, 11 August 2008

A 20-year-old has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. Armed response teams had swooped on a street in **Shirley**, Southampton, after a man was spotted carrying what was thought to be a handgun. Hampshire Police, who continue their "Fake Gun, Real Trouble" campaign, are driving home the dangers of carrying imitation weapons. A spokesman commented that it was "a needless waste of police resources to respond to somebody who should know better. *One hour of armed response equates to 27 hours of regular policing* - just think what these officers could have been doing with that time".

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 11 August 2008

A man armed with what appeared to be a small silver gun entered a bakery in **Northampton** and forced staff into handing over an amount of cash from the till.

Manchester Evening News, 11 August 2008

Thirty two **fake guns** were among 112 weapons seized by police at schools in **Greater Manchester** in the last two academic years. In 2007/08 officers found 53 weapons including 15 **BB guns** and two other imitation firearms.

BBC, 11 August 2008

In another targeted shooting in Merseyside and man was shot in the chest in **Toxteth**. He was taken to hospital where his injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

BBC, 11 August 2008

A man was shot in the leg in an attack in **Kirkby**, Merseyside. He is being treated in hospital but his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. It is believed he was the victim of a targeted attack.

BBC, 10 August 2008

A shot was fired through the kitchen window of a house in **Radford**, Nottingham. Police were investigating after a residents reported a shot had been fired. No-one was injured.

Liverpool Echo, 9 August 2008

A mother and her two daughters woke in terror when a drive-by gunman blasted two windows at their home in **Huyton**, Merseyside. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Evening Telegraph (Derby), 9 August 2008

Graham Key died in custody after being jailed for two years for keeping firearms and ammunition without licences at his home in **Alkington**, Derbyshire. The possibility that the gamekeeper poisoned himself is being investigated. The weapons found were a rusty 38.5cm-long sawn-off rifle and a modified Bruni semi-automatic pistol.

Telegraph, 8 August 2008

Paul Peccioli, a former Tory councillor, became possessive and overbearing and "reacted badly" when a woman told him she thought they should stop seeing each other. He banged his head against a wall then held up an **airgun** and told her he would "deck her if she was a man". He slapped her legs and threatened to take an overdose. A few days later he chased after her and two colleagues in his car after she escaped from her home in **Ullesthorpe**, Leicestershire. Peccioli pleaded guilty to putting a person in fear of violence by harassment and has been given a 12-month suspended prison sentence and a restraining order.

North West Evening Mail, 8 August 2008

A teenager who shot a 10-year-old boy in the ankle has admitted the shooting his victim with a G10 repeater **air pistol** in **Walney**, Cumbria. The gun has since been destroyed and the boy has been given a 12-month referral order, which requires him to agree and sign a contract with the youth offending team. He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and possession of an air rifle.

Lowestoft Journal, 8 August 2008

A woman was injured when she was struck in the head with what officers believe to have been an **airgun** pellet in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. It is thought that someone was using an air rifle to warn off seagulls.

Liverpool Echo, 8 August 2008

A robber pulled a suspected handgun on a couple in a car park in **Moreton**, The Wirral. He forced them to hand over a wallet and a handbag.

Islington Tribune, 8 August 2008

The number of weapons found in schools in **Islington**, north London, has increased from 14 in 2005 to 42 in 2008. Twelve of the incidents 99 incidents reported over three years involved **replica, pellet** and **BB guns** and **airguns**.

Birmingham Mail, 8 August 2008

Two men who in September 2005 abducted a man from his home in **Weoley Castle**, Birmingham, at gunpoint and then killed him, possibly by shooting him, have been jailed for life. Michael Weldon and Mark Price will serve minimum sentences of 23 years and 15 years, respectively. The body of the murdered man, who was not the intended victim, was burnt and buried on land in **Alvechurch**, Worcestershire, belonging to Michael Oliver. Oliver was convicted of perverting the course of justice for allowing his land to be used for the body to be buried and also admitted possessing rifles, shotguns and ammunition. He was jailed for 15 years (see also 15 August 2008 above).

Birmingham Mail, 8 August 2008

Gavin Parry, 18, has been sentenced to six years' detention after admitting possessing a shotgun with intent. He pointed the loaded shotgun at an officer when police went to an address in **Handsworth** in April 2008 looking for the defendant because he had previously failed to turn up in court. Parry was eventually arrested by armed police.

Leicester Mercury, 7 August 2008

Three teenagers are on trial following an incident which took place in the afternoon in **Leicester** in November 2007. A gunman was seen to produce a double-barrelled shotgun from a shoulder bag and take aim at a car full of young men. The car was sprayed with pellets. A 19-year-old denies possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, claiming the gun went off by accident. Mohammed Warsame has been found guilty of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life (*Leicester Mercury*, 9 August 2008). A 17-year-old, Ali Karim, has pleaded guilty to possessing the shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence and is awaiting sentence. Karim's brother Mohammed was convicted of possessing the shotgun after the incident. Warsame faces a minimum five year sentence and the Karim brothers each face minimum terms of three years (*Leicester Mercury*, 12 August 2008). The incident was linked to drug dealing.

Get Reading, 7 August 2008

More than 70 **ball-bearing shots** were fired at a cleaning business's premises in **West Reading**, Berkshire, causing hundreds of pounds of damage.

Cambs Times, 7 August 2008

A 15-year-old boy has been shot at with an **airgun** in **Wisbech**. He was walking along a street when a car pulled up next to him and he felt something hit the top of his leg and saw a gun being pulled back into the car.

Cambridge News, 7 August 2008

Two robbers who were part of a seven month "reign of terror" in and around Cambridge between January and August 2007 have been convicted. Matthew Miller has been found guilty of a catalogue of robbery, conspiracy and firearms charges. Terry Griffiths was convicted of conspiracy to rob, raiding a post office and gun offences. Sentencing was adjourned. The robberies occurred in **Cambridge** (four different shops), **Impington** (post office), **Stow-cum-Quy** (post office, twice) and **Newnham** (shop). On more than one occasion they were armed with a sawn-off shotgun. Police officers found a shotgun, a homemade balaclava mask, two pairs of gloves and ammunition in Miller's shed in **Tevensham** (*Cambridge News*, 8 August 2008).

BBC, 7 August 2008

An 18-year-old has been shot dead in a supermarket in **Walworth**, south-east London. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Police have said that the victim was an innocent bystander who had been caught in the line of fire. The shots were fired at two males who barged past the teenager, his brother and cousin by two men on scooters who then drove off (*BBC*, 8 August 2008). A 19-year-old male has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 10 August 2008). A gun recovered by police from an address in Brixton, south London, is believed to be the murder weapon. Eight people were held on suspicion of possessing a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life and were later bailed (*BBC*, 15 August 2008).

Whitehaven News, 6 August 2008

A father who bought his 12-year-old son an **air pistol** has been fined £100. Anthony Wilson from **Egremont**, Cumbria, is banned from owning a firearm for life and was technically the gun's owner when it was found by police in February 2008. He admitted the offence. A boy of 12 cannot own the gun; some degree of possession and control must remain with the person who bought it, according to the prosecution. Wilson received a firearms ban when he was sentenced to five years' custody for a drugs offence.

This is Lancashire, 6 August 2008

A man who posed as a customer in a car accessory shop in **Halliwell** threatened the store owner with a gun and pulled the trigger, but no bullets were fired. When the man took out a magazine and appeared to start loading the gun again his victim ran off and called the police.

Liverpool Echo, 6 August 2008

Police believe a man was grabbed from the street before being driven to a community garden in **Stockbridge Village**, Merseyside, and shot. The victim is in a serious condition in hospital after being found by paramedics lying among bushes.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 6 August 2008

Police are hunting a lone gunman who targeted three shops in the **Trafford** area of Manchester. On all three occasions he pointed a black handgun at the cashiers and demanded cash. He took money from two of the shops but fled empty handed from the third.

Echo (Essex), 6 August 2008

A carer and the pensioner she looks after have had their home in **Canvey**, Essex, attacked for the third time in a year. After the latest attack she noticed a hole in the kitchen window which she believes was caused by a **BB gun** or **airgun**.

Clitheroe Advertiser and Times, 6 August 2008

Homes and a car in the **Henthorn** area of Clitheroe, Lancashire, have been shot at with an **air rifle**.

BBC, 6 August 2008

Miran Thakrar, a small time drug dealer, has been convicted of three counts of murder following the shooting dead of three other drug dealers at a house in **Bishop's Stortford**, Hertfordshire, in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He has been jailed for a minimum of 42 years. Kevan Thakrar was also found guilty and will be sentenced later. Both brothers were also found guilty of the attempted murders of two women and possessing a firearm (*BBC*, 11 August 2008). Amanda Dansie, Yilay Tufensoy and Atul Thakrar (the brothers' father) were found guilty of assisting an offender and each was jailed for four years.

BBC, 6 August 2008

A man is in hospital in a critical condition after what is believed to have been a drive-by shooting near **Ladywood Middleway**, Birmingham. Police found the victim, a passenger in the car, with a gunshot wound. The victim died four weeks later (see [September 2008 Incidents](#)).

This is Nottingham, 5 August 2008

A man is in court accused of being part of a gang who shot dead a drug dealer in **London** in July 2002. He denies murder. Four other men stood trial for murder in 2003.

Shropshire Star, 5 August 2008

A man from **Broseley** is believed to have been shot with an **airgun** while in his garden. He was struck by a pellet but not seriously injured.

Mid Devon Star, 5 August 2008

Police say a man pointed a **ball-bearing gun** at officers during an incident in **Barnstaple**. They had been called to a house to help paramedics with a suspected overdose victim who proved obstructive and produced a handgun.

Lincolnshire Echo, 5 August 2008

Michael Brown has admitted firing a loaded shotgun in the air in view of his neighbours in **Lincoln**. He also had two knives when he was arrested by police in connection with the disturbance in July 2008. He was given conditional bail and committed to the crown court for sentencing on a date to be fixed.

Rochdale Online, 4 August 2008

A man from **Kirkholt** has been charged after a large quantity of drugs, a firearm and rounds of ammunition were found in his home by police.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 4 August 2008

Shots have been fired at the windows of a home in **Abington**, Northampton. An **airgun** or **pellet gun** was used.

BBC, 4 August 2008

David English and Faybian Nembhard have been jailed for firearms offences after a police officer was shot while on patrol in **Peckham**, south London, in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). English was found guilty of two counts of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and two counts of possession of prohibited weapons and will serve a minimum of eight years and Nembhard will serve seven years after being convicted of two counts of possession of a prohibited firearm.

BBC, 4 August 2008

A man fatally shot outside a pub in **Forest Gate**, east London, was an innocent bystander, according to police. Two groups of males clashed and the victim was hit in the head by a stray bullet.

BBC, 3 August 2008

A man has been shot dead outside a nightclub in **Bradford**. Police have appealed to a woman who rang the police to get back in touch. A man has been charged with murder, while a second man who was also arrested has been released on bail (*BBC*, 16 August 2008).

Leicester Mercury, 2 August 2008

A shop worker was treated for shock after he was held up at gunpoint during a robbery in **South Wigston**, Leicestershire. The raider made off with £100 after threatening the victim with what he described as a handgun.

West Yorkshire Police, 1 August 2008

Sean Kavanagh and Nathan Smith who were responsible for an armed robbery on a bookmakers in **Bradford** in November 2007 have been sentenced to 10 years and 8 years in prison, respectively.

Scarborough Evening News, 1 August 2008

A farmer from **Hutton Buscel**, North Yorkshire, was found dead at his home with gunshot injuries. There are believed to be no suspicious circumstances.

Lancashire Evening Post, 1 August 2008

A taxi driver had a gun pushed in his neck and was repeatedly punched by youths in an estate in **Preston**. The three attackers stole around £180. A 17-year-old is being quizzed by detectives.

Liverpool Daily Post, 1 August 2008

A woman was injured by pellets from a shotgun in an attack in **Dingle**, Merseyside. The victim was taken to hospital where she was treated and then discharged. A man has been arrested.

Hull Daily Mail, 1 August 2008

A convicted drug dealer has been killed at a flat in east **Hull**. It is reported that he was gunned down. The gun used to kill him has not been found (*BBC*, 2 August 2008).

Birmingham Mail, 1 August 2008

Isaac Watson, who has competed for Great Britain in clay pigeon shooting, has been convicted of possessing a Browning automatic shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence. He was fined £2500 and ordered to pay costs and told that he risked having his shotgun licences revoked. He had used the weapon to scare a skip delivery driver who had been wrongly directed to his address in **Lighthorne** in February 2008 (see [May 2008 Incidents](#)). Watson fired three shots, claiming that he did it to get the man's attention and denied doing so to cause him fear.

BBC, 1 August 2008

Barry George, who has served eight years in jail, has been acquitted of the murder of BBC TV presenter Jill Dando who was shot dead on her doorstep in **Fulham**, west London, in April 1999.

BBC, 1 August 2008

A man was being treated for gunshot wounds after being shot in the legs, face and hand in **Knowsley**, Merseyside. Police believe that the victim was targeted.

BBC, 1 August 2008

A man was in hospital with serious injuries after a shooting in **Thornbury**, Bradford. His injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. The victim has now been released from hospital but the injuries to his legs will take at least 18 months to heal (*Telegraph & Argus*, 20 August 2008).

BBC, 1 August 2008

Seven men have been jailed for up to 20 years for their parts in a scheme to import and convert **blank-firing guns** (Baikal self-loading gas handguns) from Lithuania. The guns were made into "assassin kits" with silencers and bullets and sold for £1700. Police have seized some 56 guns and 856 bullets but believe this is "only a proportion" of those in circulation. They have been used in crimes in **Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford** and **Scotland**. The gang was led by Kaleem Akhtar who was found guilty of conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life and has now been sentenced to 20 years in jail. Mudassar Ali pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life and was jailed for 18 years. Paul Wilson, one of Akhtar's customers who bought guns to sell on pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge and was sentenced to eleven and a half years imprisonment. Asaid Saleem packaged the weapons and had pleaded guilty to a number of charged and was sentenced to a total of 10 year. Agnius Malcevas pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge, and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, was jailed for 12 years and Edgaras Malcevas pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and possession of ammunition without a certificate and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. Michael Peake, who was employed by Wilson, had pleaded guilty to possessing firearms with intent to endanger life and possession of a prohibited weapon was given a nine year sentence. For more details see [May 2008 Incidents](#).

BBC, 1 August 2008

A teenager who called himself "Killa" has been jailed for life with a minimum of 19 years for murdering a student in **Stockwell**, south London, in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Jermaine Clapham, 18, used a converted Mac 10 sub-machine gun to kill his victim in a cold-blooded execution. Another 18-year-old has also been charged with murder and awaits trial.

SCOTLAND

Daily Record, 29 August 2008

Two men are being sought after a woman was shot with an **airgun** in **Sighthill**, Glasgow. She was hit on the hand and underwent surgery.

Hamilton Advertiser, 28 August 2008

Thieves have attempted to rob a takeaway in **Motherwell**. Two people wearing masks demanded money and then threatened the staff with what appeared to be a firearm. One staff member sustained a minor injury when he was struck by a pellet fired from a **ball-bearing gun**. The raiders ran off empty handed.

BBC, 27 August 2008

Stephen Holt was on weekend leave from prison to visit a girlfriend when he robbed a petrol station in **Hawick** in May 2008, telling the cashier that he had a gun. He has admitted the offence. He was serving a five-year sentence for robbery. Sentencing was deferred.

BBC, 27 August 2008

A man armed with a firearm threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Govanhill**, Glasgow. A three-figure sum of cash was stolen. No one was injured

BBC, 26 August 2008

An armed raider robbed a bookmakers on the south side of **Glasgow**. Police confirmed that the firearm was not discharged. He made off with a three-figure sum.

BBC, 22 August 2008

David Nellis pointed a **toy gun** out of a car window on the A9 on the outskirts of **Perth**. He admitted picking up the toy and breaching the peace in the incident earlier in the month. He was told by the Sheriff that the police had no idea it was a harmless toy gun when they responded to the call from a motorist. He was fined £500.

BBC, 20 August 2008

There have been two armed robberies at bookmakers in the west end of **Glasgow**. In both armed men made off with a three-figure sum of cash after threatening staff. In neither incident was a firearm discharged. Police do not believe the two robberies are linked, but one of them may be linked to previous robberies in the local area.

Largs & Millport Weekly News, 13 August 2008

Police announced to **Fairlie** Community Council that there had been a charge of reckless conduct with a firearm in the Ayrshire village, confirming that it had been an **airgun** offence.

Evening Times, 12 August 2008

A 9-year-old boy has become the latest victim of an **airgun** shooting. He was shot in the eye in a street in **Bridgeton**, Glasgow. He was taken to hospital for treatment but his condition is not known.

The Northern Scot, 8 August 2008

A minibus used by elderly and disabled people has been vandalised in a suspected **air rifle** attack outside the home of one of the charity's volunteer drivers in **New Elgin**, Moray. The minibus was rendered unusable and resulted in a three-figure repair bill.

BBC, 8 August 2008

An area around a block of flats in the **Milton** area of Glasgow was sealed off following reports of two men with firearms. There had, however, been no reports of a gun being fired.

Evening Times, 6 August 2008

Peter McQueen and John Paul McQueen have been jailed after attacking a man with a crossbow and an air rifle: they believed their victim had been involved in the death of their brother. John Paul McQueen pleaded guilty to assaulting the man by firing an **air rifle** at him in February 2008 in **Blantyre**, Lanarkshire and was jailed for two years and three months: he also admitted a charge of causing malicious damage. His brother received a three years and nine month sentence.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 27 August 2008

A father was robbed at gunpoint in front of his two children as he pulled up at his home in **Rumney**, Cardiff. He was returning in his mobile burger van after working at festivals and events around the UK when a gang of four men confronted him. One of them had a handgun. They demanded he hand over a cotton bag containing over £10,000 in takings.

South Wales Echo, 20 August 2008

Marek Tarasiewicz has been jailed for two years for a firearm offence and four months, to run concurrently, for offering to supply drugs. He was heard to threaten to kill someone outside a nightclub in **Pontypridd** with a loaded **air weapon** in June 2008 after the man, to whom he had offered pills, became aggressive but subsequently walked away. Another man alerted bouncers who detained Tarasiewicz until the police arrived.

Evening Post (Swansea), 19 August 2008

A gunman terrorised female staff at a store in **Port Talbot**. The man, who had a silver and black handgun, demanded cash but nothing was stolen. There had been a similar offence at the same shop in April 2008.

BBC, 15 August 2008

A woman was shot in the back by an **air rifle** on a busy shopping street in **Llandrindod Wells**, Powys. The victim was being treated in hospital for her injuries which were not life-threatening. A man is being held by police.

BBC, 11 August 2008

Two people in a flat in **Neath** have been threatened with a gun and a knife by two men who stole cash and jewellery.

Rhondda Leader, 7 August 2008

Stephen Davies has been jailed for three months for carrying a "potentially lethal" lethal **air pistol** in public. The judge told him that his case was alarming because he had drunk four cars of lager before being spotted by police in **Ferndale** in a car. A police officer noticed a bulge under his right armpit but after being asked several times what it was admitted carrying a Webley Tempest 0.22 calibre air pistol. Davies pleaded guilty to unauthorised possession of a loaded firearm in public.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

This is Total Essex, 27 August 2008

Two pet dogs have been shot dead in an early morning attack in **Navestock**, Essex. The pets were shot with hollow tipped bullets, a favoured ammunition for hunting deer. One of the dogs died instantly, the other had to be put down as a result of its injuries.

This is Bristol, 21 August 2008

Two cats have been shot with **airguns** in **Kingswood**, Bristol. One cat shot in May survived, although was badly injured, but the second cat, which was shot this month, had to be put to sleep as a result of injuries sustained by pellets.

BBC, 21 August 2008

Kyle Burdon had admitted killing buzzards and badgers to protect pheasants he was looking after at the **Kempton Estate** in Shropshire. He pleaded guilty to a total of nine charges. The court was told that he used a shotgun to kill buzzards. He admitted possessing a shotgun while committing two of the offences he admitted. He has been warned he could be jailed.

North Devon Gazette, 20 August 2008

A cat from **Northam**, Devon, was shot in the back with an **airgun**. The pellet travelled through his body into one of his back legs. It is lucky that the pellet missed his vital organs.

Milton Keynes Citizen, 19 August 2008

A cat has been left paralysed by an **air rifle** shot following an attack in **Grange Farm**, Milton Keynes. Her owner initially thought her pet had been hit by a car but the vet found that she had been hit by a pellet.

Metro, 17 August 2008

A cat has been blinded in one eye after being hit by **airgun** pellets in **St Austell**, Cornwall. Five other cats have been killed in similar attacks in the area over the past five months.

Worcester News, 16 August 2008

A number of pets have been injured and one has died after a spate of shootings in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. Three cats, a dog and a ferret have been shot with **air rifles** or **BB guns**. One cat was found bleeding from a wound in his side in **Much Cowarne**. A second cat who was shot in the head with an airgun in **Grafton Flyford** is still fighting for his life. Earlier in the month a cat was a victim of an airgun attack in **Stoke Prior** and bones in his right leg and chest were shattered. A dog had to be put down after an airgun pellet lodged in his chest after he was shot in **Allensmore**. The ferret was found in **Worcester** and had been shot in the leg with a BB gun.

Garstang Courier, 15 August 2008

A pet cat has had to have a leg amputated after being hit by at **airgun** pellet near her home in **St Michael's**, Lancashire. Her owner has warned other residents to be on their guard. Police have since revealed that in recent weeks another cat and a dog have also suffered injuries after being shot by an airgun in St Michael's (*Garstang Courier*, 20 August 2008).

Evening Leader, 15 August 2008

A cat walked into the family home in **Connah's Quay**, Flintshire, visibly hurt and covered in blood. An x-ray confirmed that he had been shot and that an **airgun** pellet had passed through his intestines. A life-saving operation was performed to remove the pellet.

Wisbech Standard, 13 August 2008

The owner of a cat killed by an **air rifle** wound in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire, has pleaded with other residents to take extra care of their pets. Her cat was found wounded near the garage of the family home.

Lincolnshire Echo, 11 August 2008

Eight horses were shot with **air rifles** and slashed in an attack at an equine welfare centre in **Washingborough**, Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Echo, 11 August 2008

A family cat from **Lincoln** died after an operation to remove an **airgun** pellet which had penetrated his gall bladder and stomach. He died two days after being attacked.

The Citizen (Blackburn), 8 August 2008

A sniper shot dead a pet cat with an **airgun** in **Clayton-Le-Moors**, Lancashire. Residents say a number of cats have gone missing from the area over the past few years, and that owners are worried their pets met a similar fate.

Eastbourne Today, 4 August 2008

A cat needed emergency surgery after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** on a patch of ground near a children's playground in **Lower Horsebridge**, Sussex.