



## **AUGUST 2009 - SUMMARY**

**The death of 5-year-old Jonathan Cooke, shot in what has been described as a tragic accident at the home of family friends, has once again drawn attention to the lethality of airguns. The shooting of Jonathan was not an intentional act, but during August, as in every other month, a number of other victims, many of them also young, appear to have been deliberately targeted with air weapons. Some were lucky to have escaped with only minor injuries.**

**Gun Control Network continues to question why air weapons are being treated as if they are distinct from other guns. Their different mechanism of firing should not determine how their ownership and use are controlled. As lethal weapons, which it is clear many airguns are, they should be subject to the same legislation that controls the use of other guns, in other words there should be a registration system so that ownership is restricted to those with a legitimate reason to use them. Sadly more and more people, and animals, are paying for the consequences of allowing too many of these weapons to get into the wrong hands.**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - GCN is aware of four fatal shooting incidents during August:
  - There were two homicides. One occurred in south London in Rotherhithe (the victim died in hospital - three men have been arrested) and the other in Sheffield where the victim was found shot dead at the wheel of his crashed car in Parson Cross (three men have been arrested)
  - A 5-year-old boy died after being shot with an air rifle in the grounds of the house where he was staying in Fovant (Wiltshire)
  - A farmer died in Southwick (Wiltshire), apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound
- A number of victims were injured in shooting attacks - in most cases the victim's condition was not thought to be life-threatening. The incidents occurred in:
  - Greater Manchester (1) - a woman was shot in the shoulder in Barton (a man has been charged with attempted murder)
  - Merseyside (3) - a man was shot in his home in Huyton, a teenager abducted in Huyton was found with gunshot wound to his leg in Stockbridge Village and a third male victim was shot in the leg, probably in Bootle
  - North London (5) - a man was shot in the head during a street robbery in Finsbury Park, another victim was shot in Tottenham, and three people, including one woman, received gunshot wounds during a shooting at a nightclub in Muswell Hill
  - Northumberland (1) - two men entered a house and shot a man in Darras Hall (one man has been arrested)
  - Sheffield (1) - a man was shot in the right arm
  - South London (2) - a man was injured in Lewisham and another was shot outside a nightclub in Southwark after a man was fatally injured by a car
  - West Midlands (4) - two men were injured in a shooting incident in Coventry (a teenager was arrested) and another two victims sustained gunshot wounds in Erdington
  - West Yorkshire (1) - a man was shot in the leg in Chapelton (Leeds)

- Two police officers were injured in a shooting incident near Waterloo station (central London) (a man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder and possession of a loaded firearm).
- A man from Dearham (Cumbria) was in a serious condition after a shooting, though police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.
- A bus driver was shot with a bolt gun in Henbury (Bristol).
- At least eleven people, including another five-year old child and three teenagers, were injured when they were shot at with airguns and BB guns:
  - A teenager was shot in the head with an air rifle as she walked in a park in Darlington - the pellet narrowly missed her eye socket.
  - Police are trying to trace a woman who reported that she had been shot with an air rifle while walking through a park in Tamworth (Staffordshire).
  - A young woman was shot with an air rifle as she waited near a taxi rank in Mansfield (Nottinghamshire). In a second incident in the area a teenager was shot, probably with an air rifle, in Mansfield Woodhouse and had a pellet lodged close to his kidney.
  - A teenager who was shot in the leg with an airgun whilst walking on a trail in Weymouth (Dorset) needed hospital treatment.
  - A man was shot in the leg with an air rifle and then beaten unconscious as he walked home with his wife at Liversedge (West Yorkshire).
  - A cyclist was shot with an air rifle whilst riding in Titsey (Surrey).
  - A five-year-old girl was shot in the head with an air rifle in Workington (Cumbria).
  - A man was shot in the face with an airgun as he was boarding up a window in Burnley (Lancashire).
  - A young woman was shot in the neck by an airgun sniper in Woburn Sands (Bedfordshire).
  - A roofer was struck in the head by a pellet, believed to have been fired from a BB gun, as he worked in Cambridge.
- **Armed Robberies** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks, a Bureau de Change and Post Offices** in Bilton (Warwickshire) (a man was charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm after this and another robbery at a shop - see below), Brighton (Sussex), Coventry, Salfords (Surrey) and Woodford Green (Essex), **Jewellers** in Banbury (Oxfordshire), Colchester (Essex), Harrogate (North Yorkshire) (two people including a 14-year-old boy have been arrested), Lutterworth (Leicestershire) and Mayfair (central London) (shots were fired after the robbery - two men have been charged), **Other Shops** in Bilton (Warwickshire) (see above), Chellaston (Derby), Haywards Heath (West Sussex), Kings Sutton (Northamptonshire), Kingswood (Bristol), Milton Keynes (Buckinghamshire), Portswood (Hampshire) (a teenager has appeared in court), Thornhill (Southampton) (a teenage woman has been charged), Tonbridge (Kent) and Wickford (Essex), a **Tanning Saloon** in Morden (south London), a **Petrol Station** in Felbridge (Surrey), **Pubs** in Alvaston (Derby) (a man was later arrested) and Withington (Greater Manchester) (a gang held a gun to a boy's head) and a **Restaurant** in Bracklesham (West Sussex). One man was detained for misuse of drugs and a firearms offence and another for an alleged robbery after a robbery at a pharmacy in Hamilton (South Lanarkshire).
- **Security guards** stopped a robbery by two armed men in Dargate (Kent) by locking themselves into a room. Other security men were attacked during a robbery at a bank in Flint (North Wales).
- There were armed robberies involving guns at **Homes** in Beccles (Suffolk) (two men were armed with handguns and a stun-type device), Kempston (Bedfordshire) (the owners were subjected to two robberies, one involving a gun, during the same night) and Witney (Oxfordshire) (the theft was from living quarters above a fast food shop).

- A **Car** was stolen from a couple in Denton (Greater Manchester) after an attacker fired a stun gun at the owner. Two men believed to be armed with a gun stole items from people sitting in a car in Gloucester.
- A man was shot and injured during a **Street Robbery** in Finsbury Park (north London) in which his mobile phones and car keys were stolen. A woman was robbed and hit with a gun outside her flat in Dalston (east London).
- A man has been charged with two counts of robbery after a raid at a bar in Didsbury (Greater Manchester) last month.
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired:
  - at a car in Moss Side (Greater Manchester) (an 18-year-old was charged with two counts of attempted murder)
  - in two incidents in Merseyside, in Knowsley and in Old Swan, where a garage was damaged
  - at properties in Milnrow and in Broughton (Lancashire)
  - during a fight in Winsford (Cheshire) (seven men were arrested)
  - by a moped rider at a man in Luton (Bedfordshire).
  - during an incident in Stanley (County Durham) (a man is being questioned on suspicion of attempted murder and a shotgun was recovered)
- Three men were arrested after men in a car were reportedly threatening people with a gun in Oldham (Greater Manchester).
- Three men brandishing a gun and a baseball bat threatened a woman in a flat in Westcliff (Essex).
- A man was arrested on suspicion of firearm offences after properties were searched in Preston (Lancashire).
- A man has been charged with possessing a loaded revolver in a pub in Whitby (North Yorkshire).
- A gun was allegedly pulled during a street disturbance in Halifax (West Yorkshire).
- A gun was discovered in a garden in Hillsborough (Sheffield) by police chasing a possible burglary suspect.
- Dog walkers in Ifield (Sussex) have been disturbed by gunfire and men wielding rifles.
- A teenager from Aberdeen has been accused of attacking three men with a taser gun.
- Six men arrested on suspicion of carrying a gun in Southend (Essex) were released without charge.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides the fatal shooting and those in which eleven other victims were injured (see above) there were many more incidents involving airguns and imitation guns.
  - A teenager was hit with the butt of an air rifle during an attack by a teenage gang outside Halifax (West Yorkshire).
  - An airgun pellet fired at a pensioner in Derby narrowly missed his head. Staff at a supermarket in Workington (Cumbria) were targeted with pellets from an air rifle. An air rifle was fired in a petrol station store in Chingford (north east London) - the gunman fled the scene.
  - A 13-year-old had a BB gun fired at him in a Lincolnshire village (one pellet hit the tyre of his bike). Two teenagers were arrested in Calne (Wiltshire) on suspicion of firing a BB gun at two men.
  - A man was charged with having a loaded firearm (a gas-operated handgun) and with damaging a window at his ex-partner's home in Haddenham (Cambridgeshire).
  - A pizza delivery driver was threatened with a replica handgun in Mickleover (Derby). Children playing in Houghton (Cumbria) have been threatened by youths with air rifles.
- Following other incidents involving air weapons and imitation guns:

- a 14-year-old and a man have been charged with trespassing on land with a firearm and firing an air weapon on farmland in Aspatria (Cumbria)
- two men had their weapon seized after they fired an air rifle in a park in South Woodford (north east London)
- one of four people detained after a fracas in Barrow (Cumbria) was arrested for possession of an air rifle
- a man was given a police caution after being seen with an air rifle in Whitburn (Sunderland), and a second man was later arrested
- a man from Witney (Oxfordshire) was arrested and charged with a number of offences including possession of an imitation firearm in a public place
- teenagers in Huntingdonshire who were playing in a public space with two airsoft guns, described by a police spokesman as "two of the most realistic imitation I have seen", had the weapons seized
- three teenagers with a toy gun apologised after sparking a police search when they were spotted wielding a gun in a car in Minster (Kent)
- two youths with BB guns sticking out of their pockets sparked an armed response in Benwick (Cambridgeshire)
- Among the **Armed Robberies** listed above an airgun and an imitation gun are known to have been used at a shop in Tonbridge (Kent) and at a bank and a shop in Bilton (Warwickshire). The large number of convictions for use of an imitation firearm in a robbery (see below) suggests that these will not have been the only armed robberies committed with imitation weapons during August. A man has been charged with a number of thefts, in two of which (in Hackney and Barnet, London) he is reported to have used a replica firearm.
- During a roadshow highlighting the dangers posed by trespassing and vandalism on the railway Network Rail revealed that the window of a train driven by a Leicestershire driver was shattered by an air rifle pellet.
- Windows of homes were damaged with an airgun in Huddersfield (West Yorkshire) and with a BB gun in Haverhill (Suffolk).
- An air pistol was recovered by police in Sunderland after a pursuit following an alleged break-in.
- A group of men hunting with an air rifle near Warton (Lancashire) caused a major police operation.
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Two men, one of them a serving soldier, were arrested over the theft of handguns from Ministry of Defence property in Wiltshire - eleven guns were recovered in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire).
- A number of arrests were made after police recovered firearms and ammunition:
  - A man was charged after a loaded firearm with the appearance of a pen was recovered in Rusholme (Greater Manchester).
  - A teenager was arrested after a firearm and ammunition were found in a garden in Old Swan (Liverpool).
  - Two men were arrested and one of them was charged after a firearm and ammunition were found in Loughborough (Leicestershire).
  - A handgun was recovered and eight men arrested on suspicion of firearms offences when police stopped two cars in Aylesbury (Buckinghamshire).
  - A sub-machine gun and a sawn-off shotgun were found under a bed in a flat in Burmantofts (Leeds) - a man has been arrested.
  - Ammunition was found during a police drugs raid in Reading (Berkshire) (one of two men arrested has been held for a firearms offence).
- Two firearms, a pistol and a key fob-style gun were found in a bag discovered on grassland in Preston (Lancashire).
- Four BB guns, apparently in a window display, were taken from a shop in Saundersfoot (Pembrokeshire).
- In the second such incident in Scotland in two months paintball guns were taken during a break-in at an adventure centre in Kirkintilloch (East Dunbartonshire).

- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Shooting attacks on cats continued apparently unabated during August, and there were reports from Anglesey, Angus, Berwickshire, Bolton, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Clackmannanshire, Cumbria, Essex, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire (two incidents), South London and Sussex. Most of these attacks involved airguns. Four youths were arrested after a number of cat shootings with air rifles in Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire).
  - A dog had to be put down after being shot with an air rifle in Bramley (West Yorkshire).
  - A man from Moffat (Dumfriesshire) who trapped and shot four badgers illegally received a record fine.
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- **Convictions** - Four gang members have been jailed for life (minimum sentences of 20 to 30 years) for the murder of a teenager who was shot in Burngreave (Sheffield).
- A man was jailed for life after being found guilty of attempted murder - he shot at four men in Brixton (south London).
- A man who shot at police in Ladbroke Grove (west London) has admitted two robberies and using a firearm to resist arrest. Another man who hit a police patrol car with shotgun pellets in Highgate (north London) has been given a minimum term of 5 years imprisonment after admitting a number of offences.
- A drunk teenager who fired a sawn-off shotgun at a moving car in Woking (Surrey) was given a 5 year custodial sentence.
- A man admitted three charges including carrying a firearm with intent to commit an offence of robbery after robberies at premises in Brighouse (West Yorkshire). An ex-police officer was jailed for 42 months after a robbery at a betting shop in Ilford (east London).
- A man who held an empty gun to a taxi driver's head during a robbery in Leyland (Lancashire) also pleaded guilty to rape and has been given an indefinite jail sentence.
- A man who held a stun gun to a baby's back during a burglary in Efford (Plymouth) has been sentenced to a total of 7½ years.
- A number of men were convicted for possession of firearms or ammunition:
  - One who had a modified blank-firing revolver stashed in his bedroom in Fulwood (Preston) admitted possession of a prohibited weapon.
  - An offender from Norwood (south London) admitted money-laundering, drug offences, possessing a shotgun without a licence and shortening a shotgun and has been jailed for 16 years.
  - A man has been jailed for 3½ years after admitting possessing a sawn-off shotgun without a certificate - the gun was found hidden in a shed in Northampton.
  - A man has been jailed for 12 years after a revolver containing four bullets was found under a car in Erith (Kent).
  - A teenager who kept a pistol in a safe at his home in Wolverhampton has been given a 5½ year custodial sentence.
- An ex-soldier from Jarrow (Tyneside) who tried to buy a .50 calibre rifle from the USA over the internet was given a suspended 36-week jail sentence after the weapon was intercepted by British Customs.
- A man from Aberdeen who bought a stun gun over the internet has been warned he could face a jail sentence.
- A gun owner from Stranraer (Wigtownshire) admitted three breaches of the Firearm Act and one of the Explosives Act after leaving a gun, a gun part, ammunition and gunpowder lying about his flat and has been fined £7500.

- A man from Blairgowrie (Perthshire) who removed a shotgun from his father's house without informing the police was fined £400 for breaching firearms regulations.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - Four men were jailed for their roles in the torture, abduction and murder of a man in Bradford - they were armed with an imitation gun when they broken into the victim's house.
- There were convictions for three men who injured others with airguns and imitation guns:
  - A man whose wife encouraged him to take potshots with an airgun at children in Tipton (West Midlands) has been jailed for 3½ years and his wife for 2 years.
  - An 18-year-old pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and admitted having a loaded firearm in a public place without lawful reason after a man was shot in the knee with an airgun in Whitehaven (Cumbria).
  - A man who fired a BB gun at another man's eye in Basildon (Essex) was convicted of assault and possessing an imitation gun in a public place and jailed for 2½ years.
- The following list highlights the frequent use of imitation guns in robberies:
  - A man was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after admitting a number of robberies and attempted robberies and three counts of possessing an imitation firearm - in one raid in Brighton he was cuffed with his own imitation weapon.
  - A man who was drunk attempted to rob a shopkeeper in Burslem (Staffordshire) after he picked up a toy gun - he was given a 2½ year sentence.
  - A man has pleaded guilty to two robberies in Watford (Hertfordshire) and Stanmore (north west London) during which he was armed with an imitation firearm - he faces a substantial jail sentence.
  - A man from Melksham (Wiltshire) has admitted actual bodily harm and a firearm offence after he attempted to commit a robbery with an imitation firearm and knife.
  - Two men who terrorised staff at a jewellers in Newcastle with an imitation firearm and then attempted a similar raid in Windsor (Berkshire) have been jailed for 11 and 7 years.
  - Two teenagers who carried out a series of attacks and robberies with an imitation gun in the Nottingham area were given sentences of 7½ years and 9 years.
  - A man who committed two armed robberies in Darlington using an imitation handgun has been jailed for 9 years.
  - A man has been found guilty after attempting to rob an off licence in Leyland (Lancashire) armed with an imitation firearm.
  - A man has admitted robbing a petrol station Newport and possessing an imitation firearm.
  - A man who admitted a number of charges including robbery after threatening four victims in London Colney (Hertfordshire) with a gas-powered pellet gun has been jailed for 6½ years.
  - A man was jailed for 4 years after admitting robbery and possessing an imitation firearm - he raided a shop in Blurton (Staffordshire) armed with a BB gun.
  - Two men who attacked and robbed a couple at their home in Weymouth (Dorset) whilst armed with an imitation handgun and a knife have been jailed for 7 and 6 years.
  - After admitting 18 offences, including two armed raids in Exeter, in which he used a BB gun, a man has been jailed for 13 years.

- A man pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to commit robbery following a hold up at a jewellers in York and has been jailed for 8 years.
- A man was jailed for five years after confessing to a robbery at a shop in Doncaster (South Yorkshire) when he was armed with a fake gun.
- A man who used a blank-firing revolver in robberies in Bradford and Manningham (West Yorkshire) eight years ago has been jailed for nearly 7 years.
- Another offender who pointed an imitation pistol at a security guard in Bournemouth (Dorset) has been jailed for 6 years.
- Similarly, there was plenty of evidence from court cases of how frequently imitation guns are being used to threaten victims:
  - A teenager who was drunk when he went on the rampage armed with imitation handgun in Leighton Buzzard pleaded guilty to a number of offences.
  - A man from Ribblesdale (Preston) who admitted threatening a rival with a BB gun and riding a stolen motorbike unlawfully was sentenced to 26 months in a young offenders institution.
  - Three teenagers who kidnapped a youth and put an imitation firearm in his mouth in an incident in Salford (Derby) have admitted the offences and been sentenced to three to 3½ years.
  - A teenager who threatened a policeman with an imitation gun in Bewbush (West Sussex) has been given a 12-month detention and training order.
  - Another teenager from Birkenhead who threatened a woman with a gas-powered pistol and demanded cash he thought he was owed has been sent to a young offenders institute for 3 years.
  - A man from Southend (Essex) admitted a sexual attack on a schoolgirl and one count of possessing an imitation firearm.
  - A teenager who assaulted a man and threatened him with an imitation gun in Plymouth has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 4 years.
  - Another teenager returned to the college in Bristol from which she had been expelled and pointed a BB gun at a security guard - she has been jailed for 6 months.
  - A couple from Kilmarnock (Ayrshire) confronted guests at a neighbour's Hogmanay party with air weapons have admitted a number of offences - both pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent.
- An offender has been jailed for 5 years after being found in possession of an air pistol in Rossendale (Lancashire) - he was also convicted of handling a stolen motor vehicle.
- A man with a previous conviction for having a haul of weapons, including firearms, was found with a loaded gas-powered airgun and shotgun cartridges at his house in Newcastle and has been given a 12 month sentence after admitting firearms offences.
- Another man who admitted possessing an air weapon and ammunition when prohibited from doing so at his home in Vange (Essex) has been jailed for 2 years.
- A man has been admonished for having an air pistol on him without reasonable excuse in Hawick (Roxburghshire).
- A teenager who hid two airguns and an imitation firearm before setting up camp in a park in Northampton has been told he was facing a possible custodial sentence.
- A man from St Helens (Merseyside) was given a 12-month community order for carrying an air weapon in a public place.
- A rat catcher was a 12-month conditional discharge and has had to forfeit two airguns after being spotted by police in Darlington with the weapons.

- A man who admitted shooting an air rifle on the common in Tunbridge Wells (Kent) was cleared of the charge of possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place.

## GUN INCIDENTS – AUGUST 2009

### ENGLAND

**West Sussex Gazette**, 31 August 2009

A robber made threats until he was given cash at a takeaway restaurant in **Bracklesham**, West Sussex. It is believed a weapon, which may have been a handgun, was produced. Money was handed over to the robber who ran off.

**Sky News**, 31 August 2009

One man has been killed and another is in a stable condition after a shooting close to a popular nightclub in **Southwark**, south London. Later reports indicate that the dead man was deliberately run down by a car. Three men with the victim pulled out guns and fired at the car. One man, who is believed to have been in the car, was shot (*Evening Standard*, 1 September 2009).

**Northern Echo**, 31 August 2009

A man was shot in the leg at a house in **Darras Hall**, Northumberland. Two men are being hunted by police in connection with the incident. One man is being questioned on suspicion of conspiracy to commit assault (*BBC*, 1 September 2009).

**Daily Mirror**, 31 August 2009

Six people were injured, three with gunshot wounds, after a man opened fire in a nightclub in **Muswell Hill**, north London. The shooting victims were all described as stable.

**BBC**, 31 August 2009

A man has been shot in the leg on Merseyside but is refusing to tell police what happened. It is believed that the shooting took place in the **Bootle** area. The victim is being treated in hospital for his injuries which are not believed to be life-threatening.

**BBC**, 31 August 2009

Shots were fired during a "confrontation" in **Stanley**, County Durham. One man, who was being treated in hospital, is being questioned on suspicion of attempted murder, and a second man has been charged with dangerous driving. A **shotgun** has been recovered.

**The Star**, 29 August 2009

A gun was discovered in a garden in **Hillsborough**, Sheffield, by police chasing a man believing he may have been involved in burglaries.

**Daily Echo**, 29 August 2009

Richard Angel pointed an **imitation pistol** at a security guard during a robbery in **Bournemouth**, Dorset, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He has admitted robbery and having an imitation firearm and been jailed for six years.

**Bristol Evening Post**, 29 August 2009

A man carrying a gun stole cash from a bakery in **Kingswood**, Bristol. Throughout the robbery he apologised for what he was doing.

**BBC**, 29 August 2009

A man has been found shot dead at the wheel of his crashed car in **Parson Cross**, Sheffield. A murder inquiry has been launched. Three men have been arrested.

**Whitby Gazette**, 28 August 2009

A man has appeared in court charged with possessing a loaded gun in a pub in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. He was allegedly found carrying a revolver together with five live bullets.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 28 August 2009

Mohammed Shafiq gave himself up eight years after using a **blank-firing revolver** to threaten staff during two robberies in West Yorkshire, at a bank in **Bradford** and a post office in **Manningham**. He had pleaded guilty to two attempted robberies in 2001 but failed to attend at court to be sentenced. He has now been jailed for nearly seven years.

**Shoreham Herald**, 28 August 2009

A man held a gun to a shopworker's head during a raid on a store in **Haywards Heath**, West Sussex. £249 was stolen.

**Romford Recorder**, 28 August 2009

A barmaid was held at gunpoint by a man who demanded she hand over cash from a pub in **Upminster**, east London.

**MK News**, 28 August 2009

Two members of staff at a supermarket in **Milton Keynes** were attacked by two men, one of whom had a gun. They were tied up but managed to free themselves after the offenders left empty handed.

**Hackney Gazette**, 28 August 2009

A woman was robbed and hit with a gun during an attack outside her flat in **Dalston**, east London.

**Get Surrey**, 28 August 2009

A drunk teenager fired a **sawn-off shotgun** at a moving car after a drugs deal went wrong in **Woking**, Surrey. Patrick Ryan, 18, admitted charges of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear and possession of a firearm. He has been sent to a young offenders' institute for five years.

**Echo**, 28 August 2009

Six men who were arrested on suspicion of carrying a gun at an industrial estate in **Southend**, Essex, were released without charge.

**Echo**, 28 August 2009

A couple were moved by police after three men brandishing a gun kicked in the door of a flat in **Westcliff**, Essex. They threatened a woman with a black handgun and a baseball bat.

**Bristol Evening Post**, 28 August 2009

A teenage student who had been expelled from a college in **Bristol** returned and pointed a **BB gun** at a security guard in February 2009. Samia Shakoor, 18, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. She was jailed for six months.

**BBC**, 28 August 2009

A man on a moped fired gunshots at a man in a street in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. No-one was injured in the incident.

**BBC**, 28 August 2009

Gary Griffiths, a former police officer, has been jailed for 42 months for robbing a betting shop in **Ilford**, east London, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and possessing a firearm. Bradley Donovan also pleaded guilty to one charge of robbery in relation to this case.

**BBC**, 28 August 2009

A teenager was shot shortly after he had been abducted in **Huyton**, Merseyside, by a group of five men. The wounded man was found by a passer-by in **Stockbridge Village**. He was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to his right leg. A man has been arrested on suspicion of abduction and wounding (*BBC*, 29 August 2009).

**Banbury Guardian**, 28 August 2009

A man wearing a burkha pointed a gun at staff in a jewellers in **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, during a robbery in which watches worth £270,000 were stolen. CCTV footage has been released by the police.

**This is Total Essex**, 27 August 2009

A man armed with a **shotgun** has stolen a cash box during an armed robbery at a store in **Wickford**, Essex. The box, believed to contain a five-figured sum was stolen from a security guard.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 27 August 2009

A teenage woman is alleged to have threatened shop workers in **Thornhill**, Southampton, with a handgun before stealing alcohol. She faces charges of robbery, possession of a firearm, criminal damage, breach of an anti-social behaviour order and two attempted robberies.

**Northern Echo**, 27 August 2009

A teenage rat catcher has had to forfeit two guns after he admitted charges of possession of an unloaded **air rifle** and an unloaded **air pistol**. Stephen Thompson was spotted by police among a crowd in an alleyway in **Darlington** smelling of alcohol. He was told by the judge that "People are frightened of guns. To those of us not skilled in guns, from a distance an air rifle with a telescopic lens is frightening". Thompson was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

**Local Guardian**, 27 August 2009

A pregnant woman was threatened with a gun during a raid on a tanning salon in **Morden**, south London. The robber took £37. The victim was taken to hospital suffering from shock.

**Lancaster Evening Post**, 27 August 2009

A man convicted for the rape of a teenage girl had also robbed a taxi driver in **Clayton Brook**, Lancashire, at gunpoint in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Jack Connolly pulled the trigger on an empty gun in the man's face. He pleaded guilty to rape, possession of a firearm, robbery and having a firearm and ammunition in a public place and was given an indefinite sentence with a minimum tariff of four years.

**Hastings and St Leonards Observer**, 27 August 2009

Josee Hylton-Reid has been found guilty of attempted murder. He shot at four men with a Mac-10 sub-machine pistol as they sat in a parked car in **Brixton**, south London, in October 2008. He has been jailed for life.

**BBC**, 27 August 2009

A man has been arrested after an M3 sub-machine gun and a **sawn-off shotgun** were discovered under a bed during a police raid at a flat in **Burmantofts**, Leeds.

**BBC**, 27 August 2009

A man entered a bureau de change in **Brighton**, Sussex, showed a member of staff a gun and asked for money. He left with cash. Similar robberies have occurred at two newsagents in the same area in the last two weeks.

**Winsford Guardian**, 26 August 2009

Seven men have been arrested after a gun was fired during a fight in **Winsford**, Cheshire. Nobody was harmed in the incident.

**This is Crawley**, 26 August 2009

Dog walkers at a beauty spot in **Ifield**, Sussex, are being disturbed by gunfire and men wielding rifles. Empty gun cartridges have been found lying around. A spokesperson for a local landowner said that whilst control of pests and vermin was allowed by the farmer it did not allow any unauthorised shooting of pests or game.

**Sunderland Echo**, 26 August 2009

A high-powered **air pistol** was recovered by police after a pursuit through **Sunderland**. The weapon was found on derelict land. The find followed an alleged break-in. A man has appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

**The Star**, 26 August 2009

Thomas Wright handed himself into the police and confessed to holding up a shop assistant in **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire, with a **fake gun**. He stole £200 in cash. He was jailed for four years for the robbery and a further year for possessing an imitation firearm. The Recorder said that "The very fact that you had access to an imitation gun is an aggravating feature".

**Shields Gazette**, 26 August 2009

A man has been given a police caution for being in possession of a firearm in a public place after being spotted with an **air rifle** in **Whitburn**, Sunderland. Hours later another man was arrested after being spotted at a quarry with an air weapon.

**Milton Keynes Citizen**, 26 August 2009

A young woman has been shot by an **airgun** sniper in **Woburn Sands**, Bedfordshire. The pellet penetrated the victim's neck next to the carotid artery and lodged itself just short of her spinal cord. Its position is so risky that doctors dare not remove it.

**Haringey Independent**, 26 August 2009

Gunshots were fired in **Tottenham**, north London. A man was taken to hospital with a wound to his thigh.

**Fenland Citizen**, 26 August 2009

Two youths sparked an armed response in **Benwick**, Cambridgeshire, after it was thought they had guns in their pockets. A member of the public called police after noticing they had firearms sticking out of their pockets. The weapons were **BB guns**. The guns were seized and the boys cautioned.

**Express & Star**, 26 August 2009

Daniel Thompson, 19, kept a Colt automatic pistol locked in a safe at his **Wolverhampton** home. Police also discovered drugs and paraphernalia. The court heard that the pistol had been a present from his father four years ago. He has been found guilty of possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply and possession of a prohibited weapon and having ammunition without a licence. He has been sent to a young offenders institution for five-and-a-half years.

**This is Wiltshire**, 25 August 2009

Two teenagers have been arrested in **Calne**, Wiltshire, on suspicion of firing a **BB gun** at two men. The youths were interviewed and released on bail.

**Shields Gazette**, 25 August 2009

Craig Richardson, a former soldier from **Jarrow**, Tyneside, attempted to buy a .50 calibre Wolverine 209 Muzzleloader rifle over the internet from America but the weapon was intercepted by British Customs. He claimed he believed it was an airgun. He has been given a suspended 36-week jail sentence after pleading guilty to purchasing a firearm without a licence and producing cannabis for his own consumption.

**The Press**, 25 August 2009

David Eden has pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit robbery after he held up a jewellers' in **York** in March 2009. Two other men alleged to have acted as look-outs were formally acquitted. Eden also pleaded guilty to a house burglary and an attempted theft at a store. He has been jailed for eight years (*The Press*, 29 August 2009).

**Kent News**, 25 August 2009

Akili McLean has been sentenced to 12 years in jail for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of ammunition. A revolver containing four bullets was found hidden under a parked car in **Erith**, Kent, after McLean had been seen to duck down behind it.

**Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)**, 25 August 2009

A gang of robbers burst into a post office in **Woodford Green**, Essex, and threatened the postmistress with a gun. One man said he would shoot her but fled empty handed. In October 2008 the premises were raided by two men armed with a gun and £200 was stolen.

**Guardian**, 25 August 2009

A 5-year-old boy has died after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in the grounds of a house in **Fovant**, Wiltshire. It is reported that the owner of the house helped the victim's brothers and his own two grandsons set up a firing range and that the range had been supervised at all times. Despite this alleged supervision the boy got caught in the crossfire (*Sky News*, 27 August 2009).

**Get Surrey**, 25 August 2009

A man armed with a double-barrelled shotgun raided a convenience store in **Salfields**, Surrey. He demanded money from a shop assistant who was ordered to put the contents of the till into a rucksack.

**BBC**, 25 August 2009

Three teenagers have apologised to the police after sparking a police search when they drove through Kent wielding a **toy gun**, a silver plastic PlayStation gun. A woman who alerted police saw them in a car in **Minster** pointing what looked like a handgun at passing traffic. An 18-year-old received a police caution, a 15-year-old was reprimanded and the 17-year-old was released without charge.

**BBC**, 25 August 2009

Two men have been arrested following a drugs raid at a property in Reading, Berkshire, during which ammunition was discovered. One of the men was arrested during the raid, the second man was held in **Shinfield**, Berkshire, for a firearms offence.

**BBC**, 25 August 2009

Two men armed with a machete and a long-barrelled gun stole the till drawer from a petrol station in **Felbridge**, Surrey. The cashier was threatened before the men fled the scene.

**BBC**, 25 August 2009

Several shots were fired at a property in **Broughton**, Preston. Minor damage was caused to a bungalow and a caravan. Five men are being sought by police.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 24 August 2009

Nathan Herbert has been jailed for three-and-a-half years after he admitted possessing a firearm without a certificate. A **sawn-off double barrelled shotgun** was found hidden in a garden shed in **Northampton** by a specialist police sniffer dog. Herbert claimed he had been given the gun to look after by someone he was not prepared to name.

**Liverpool Echo**, 24 August 2009

Shots were fired in two incidents in Merseyside. Police were called to **Knowsley** village after being woken up by the sound of gunfire. In a separate incident a resident in **Old Swan** reported finding a garage door damaged after hearing gunshots.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 24 August 2009

A man who was boarding up a window on the back of a property in **Burnley**, Lancashire, was shot in the face with an **airgun**. The pellet hit him in the face and lodged in his temple. The pellet has yet to be removed while doctors decide what action to take.

**Evening Courier**, 24 August 2009

A gun was allegedly pulled during a street disturbance in **Halifax**, West Yorkshire. Police are investigating.

**Evening Chronicle**, 24 August 2009

Robert Collard, a drug dealer, was found with a loaded **gas powered airgun** and shotgun cartridges at his home in **Newcastle** in October 2008. He had already served a prison sentence after he was caught with a haul of weapons, including a revolver, pistols, a double-barrelled shotgun and several airguns, in 2002. He admitted firearms offences and intent to supply amphetamine. He has been given a 12 month sentence.

**Echo**, 24 August 2009

Tony Tiller fired a **BB gun** at another man's eye during a bust up outside a pub in **Basildon**, Essex. He was convicted of one count of assault and one count of possessing an imitation gun in a public place. The weapon, an imitation M84 gun, was described by the judge as very realistic. He was jailed for two-and-a-half years. His accomplice, Sean Flynn, was given a 13 week sentence, suspended for nine months and ordered to perform 100 hours community service.

**BBC**, 24 August 2009

Two men who were believed to be armed with a gun targeted three people sitting in a car outside a club in **Gloucester**. It is believed shots were fired. The men stole mobile phones and jewellery.

**BBC**, 24 August 2009

Two firearms, a Baikal semi-automatic pistol and a key fob-style gun capable of firing .22 ammunition were found in a bag on a piece of grassland in **Preston**, Lancashire. A 9mm live bullet was also found.

**BBC**, 23 August 2009

A man was shot in his right arm in **Nether Edge**, Sheffield. A taxi driver took the victim to hospital but his injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

**Western Morning News**, 22 August 2009

Corey Jennings, 19, launched two brutal attacks on another man, threatened him with an imitation gun and threatened to blow his brains out. Trouble flared during a party in **Plymouth**, Devon, in February 2009. After the first attack Jennings went back to his home in **Efford**, Plymouth and collected a **BB gun** from his bedroom and waited for his victim to leave the party when he accosted him again. He pleaded guilty to assault causing grievous bodily harm, possession of an imitation firearm and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear. He was sent to a young offenders' institution for four years.

**News & Star**, 22 August 2009

A 5-year-old girl who was shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Workington**, Cumbria, is lucky to be alive according to her mother. The shot hit her above her ear as she was playing within shouting distance of the house. She was taken to hospital but was able to return home after treatment.

**St Helens Star**, 21 August 2009

William Chorlton has been given a 12-month community order for carrying an **air weapon** in a public place and at a later date failing to report to the authorities. He had been found with the weapon in **St Helens**, Merseyside, in April 2009.

**Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)**, 21 August 2009

An **air rifle** was fired in a store at a petrol station in **Chingford**, north east London. The armed man fled the scene. No one was injured.

**BBC**, 21 August 2009

A gang armed with hammers, a knife and possibly a handgun raided a jewellers in **Colchester**, Essex. Three men grabbed watches and other valuable items.

**BBC**, 21 August 2009

A teenager has been arrested after a firearm and "substantial" amount of ammunition was found in the back garden of a house in **Old Swan**, Liverpool. The weapon was a loaded **shotgun** (*Liverpool Echo*, 24 August 2009).

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 20 August 2009

Irfan Mahmood was found in possession of an **air pistol** at a quarry in **Rosendale**, Lancashire. He was also convicted of handling a stolen motor vehicle and jailed for five years.

**BBC**, 20 August 2009

Eight men have been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences. Police stopped two cars in **Aylesbury**, Buckinghamshire, and a handgun was recovered from one of the vehicles.

**BBC**, 20 August 2009

An armed robber escaped on a motorbike with £88,000 worth of watches from a jewellers in **Harrogate**, North Yorkshire. He brandished a silver-coloured handgun during the robbery. A 14-year-old boy is one of two people who have been arrested and two of the stolen watches have been recovered (*BBC*, 24 August 2009).

**Whitehaven News**, 19 August 2009

Carl Elliott, 18, has pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and admitted having a loaded firearm in a public place without lawful reason following an incident in which a man walking with others at **North Shore** in Whitehaven, Cumbria was shot in the knee with an **airgun** pellet. Sentencing was deferred.

**Leicester Mercury**, 19 August 2009

A train being driven by a driver from **Shearsby**, Leicestershire, had a window shattered by an **air rifle** pellet. The dangers posed by trespassing and vandalism on the railway were being highlighted at a Network Rail roadshow being held in **Wigston**.

**Express & Echo**, 19 August 2009

Stephen Jackley has admitted a series of armed raids in Devon, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. He admitted 18 offences, including five robberies, three attempted robberies, seven offences of possessing a firearm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, burglary and attempted burglary. In September 2007 he was armed with a knife and gun during an attempted

robbery at a bank in **Exeter**. In December 2007 during an attempted raid on a building society in the city he pointed a gun at a cashier. He used a **BB gun** but then went to the USA where he was jailed for trying to buy a firearm from a gun store with a fake ID. He has been jailed for 13 years (*BBC*, 21 August 2009).

**BBC**, 19 August 2009

Dell Miller has admitted three charges of robbery at businesses in **Brighouse**, West Yorkshire. He also admitted carrying a firearm with intent to commit an offence of robbery and a charge of handling stolen goods. The robberies were at a jewellers in April 2008 and pubs in October 2008. He will be sentenced later.

**BBC**, 19 August 2009

Two men raided a store in **Chellaston**, Derby, and threatened a cashier with what was believed to be a gun. They took cash from the till and also stole cigarettes.

**This is Nottingham**, 18 August 2009

A 16-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after he was shot, probably with an **air rifle**, in **Mansfield Woodhouse**, Nottinghamshire. He was walking with friends when he felt a pain in his back. A hospital examination showed that an object, suspected to be a pellet, had lodged close to his kidney. Police are warning anyone with an air rifle or pellet gun that shooting at someone can have potentially life threatening consequences.

**Loughborough News**, 18 August 2009

A man has appeared in court charged with possessing of a firearm. The weapon was found at a property in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire, after ammunition had been found in a vehicle the police had stopped. Another man has also been arrested.

**Lancaster & Morecambe Citizen**, 18 August 2009

Three men who were hunting sparked a major operation after a member of the public reported seeing them with a firearm in fields near **Warton**, Lancashire. The men had an **air rifle** and the permission of the landowner so no action was taken.

**Haverhill Echo**, 18 August 2009

Damage was caused to a window of a home in **Haverhill**, Suffolk, with a **BB gun**.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 18 August 2009

A man has been charged with robbery and two counts of possession of an **imitation firearm** after robberies at a bank (see *Rugby Advertiser*, 3 August) and at a newsagents and post office in **Bilton**, Warwickshire.

**Cambridge News**, 18 August 2009

Police have seized two replica guns from teenagers who were playing with them in a public area in **Huntingdonshire**. The **airsoft guns** looked like an Armalite M15 assault rifle and a long barrelled snipers rifle. A police spokesman said that the guns were "two of the most realistic imitations I have ever seen".

**BBC**, 18 August 2009

A woman was shot in the shoulder in **Barton**, Salford. She underwent emergency surgery but the injury is not believed to be life-threatening. A man has been charged with attempted murder and five other firearms offences (*BBC*, 19 August 2009).

**Oxford Times**, 17 August 2009

A man from **Witney**, Oxfordshire, has been arrested and charged with possession of an offensive weapon, possession of an **imitation firearm** in a public place, possession of a knife in a public place and a public order offence.

**Kent Online**, 17 August 2009

Two men armed with a knife and an **air weapon** burst into a store in **Tonbridge**, Kent. One member of staff was punched in the face before the men escaped with cash and bottles of alcohol.

**Get Surrey**, 17 August 2009

A cyclist riding in **Titsey**, Surrey, was apparently shot at with an **air rifle** and struck in the neck. The victim was then passed by a car containing three men whom he heard laughing.

**Ely Standard**, 17 August 2009

A man has been charged with possessing a loaded firearm in **Haddenham**, Cambridgeshire, in June 2009. He is alleged to have had a **gas-operated handgun** and suitable ammunition. He is further charged with damaging a window. Shane Stevens took a pot shot at his ex-partner's home and smashed a window as their daughter slept upstairs. He has admitted possessing a loaded "shotgun" and ammunition and causing criminal damage. The gun was bought two or three days before the incident. In mitigation the weapon was described as "a leisure use pistol, the sort that can be bought legitimately from sports stores" (*Ely Standard*, 26 August 2009).

**Cambridge News**, 17 August 2009

A roofer was struck in the head by a pellet fired at him as he was stripping the roof of a house in **Cambridge**. He says he was lucky he did not lose his balance and fall. The pellet was removed in hospital under local anaesthetic. It is believed that shot was fired from a **BB gun** or similar weapon.

**BBC**, 17 August 2009

A man was in a life-threatening condition after he was shot in the head in a street in **Rotherhithe**, south east London. He later died of his injuries (*BBC*, 18 August 2009). The victim was chased and beaten before he was forced to kneel and shot in the head. Three men have been arrested over the murder (*BBC*, 27 August 2009).

**BBC**, 17 August 2009

Three men held a gun to the head of a 14-year-old boy as they raided a pub in **Withington**, Manchester. They fled with a large quantity of cash after assaulting the teenager and a man.

**North-West Evening Mail**, 15 August 2009

Four people were arrested after police were called to a street in **Barrow**, Cumbria, after reports of a fracas. An air weapon was seized during the incident and two women were taken to hospital

with minor head injuries. The two women and two men were arrested, one of the men for possession of a firearm, namely an **air rifle**.

**Manchester Evening News**, 15 August 2009

A man has been charged with two counts of robbery after staff at a bar in **Didsbury**, Greater Manchester, were forced to the floor by three men with a gun in July 2009. The gang stole mobile phones and personal belongings.

**Evening Courier**, 15 August 2009

A teenager was punched and pistol-whipped with the butt of an airgun during an attack on **Beacon Hill**, Halifax, West Yorkshire. He had been approached by a gang of five teenagers, one of whom was holding what is believed to have been an **air rifle**. When he tried to calm the situation he was hit with the butt end of the weapon.

**Dorset Echo**, 15 August 2009

Shane Townsend and Keith Longhurst have been jailed after robbing a couple in their home in **Weymouth**, Dorset, in December 2008. They forced their way into the house armed with an **imitation handgun** and a knife. Longhurst stabbed the woman as she tried to escape. He was jailed for seven years and Townsend, who was found guilty of possessing an imitation firearm was given a six year sentence.

**BBC**, 15 August 2009

A man was shot by men who forced their way into his home in **Huyton**, Merseyside. The victim was hit once in the leg with a handgun and was taken to hospital. The injury is not believed to be life-threatening.

**BBC**, 15 August 2009

Two security guards locked themselves into a room behind a cash machine when they were attacked by two masked men, armed with a gun, at a service station in **Dargate**, Kent. The raiders fled empty handed.

**Teletext**, 14 August 2009

A bus driver has been shot with a bolt gun as he drove his vehicle in **Henbury**, Bristol.

**The Sentinel**, 14 August 2009

Alan Busby has been jailed for four years and ordered to serve an extended period of four years on licence after carrying out a robbery at a shop in **Blurton**, Staffordshire, in June 2009. He pointed a **BB gun** at a shop worker. He pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing of an imitation firearm.

**St Albans & Harpenden Review**, 14 August 2009

Daniel O'Diffley has been jailed for six-and-a-half years after threatening four victims with a **gas-powered pellet gun** as they sat in their cars in **London Colney**, Hertfordshire, in December 2008. He admitted robbery, breach of bail, assault causing actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm for this incident and another in which a woman was assaulted.

**Rochdale Observer**, 14 August 2009

Barry Fitzsimmons, a former British soldier accused of murdering two colleagues in Iraq, had pulled a gun on children while at his home in **Rochdale**, Lancashire. In April 2009 he was convicted of a public order offence after he pulled a flare gun and fired it in the air. Also, in

November 2008, he had been given a suspended sentence for firearms offences after being found in possession of prohibited ammunition, believed to be 5.5mm tapered NATO issue bullets.

**Independent**, 14 August 2009

Two men have been arrested over the theft of 12 handguns from a Ministry of Defence property in **Wiltshire**. Eleven of the weapons were recovered from a house in **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire. One man was arrested on suspicion of theft and the other was arrested for handling a firearm. The MoD has confirmed that one of the arrested men is a serving soldier (*Telegraph*, 15 August 2009).

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 14 August 2009

An **airgun** was used to cause three holes in the outer pane of a front window in **Dalton**, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

**Get Reading**, 14 August 2009

A jailed man is on trial accused of arranging for a group of men to hold a gun to the head of his then girlfriend when they visited her home in **Reading**, Berkshire. He and four other men all deny one count of conspiring to possess a firearm to cause fear of violence. All five men have been acquitted (*Get Reading*, 21 August 2009).

**Fleetwood Weekly News**, 14 August 2009

Three men, including one teenager, have been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after police were called to the Werneth area of **Oldham**, Greater Manchester. Men in a car were reportedly threatening people with a gun.

**BBC**, 14 August 2009

Two men burst into a home in **Beccles**, Suffolk, and attacked a teenage boy and a man and threatened a teenager woman. The men who were armed with handguns and a stun-type device forced the man to hand over cash.

**This is Lincolnshire**, 13 August 2009

A 13-year-old was left shaken after older boys fired at him with a **BB gun** in a village in **Lincolnshire**. One pellet hit his back tyre, another narrowly missed him.

**Spennorth Guardian**, 13 August 2009

A man was shot in the leg with an **air rifle** and beaten unconscious as he walked home with his wife at **Liversedge**, West Yorkshire. After he was shot he shouted to see if anyone was in nearby undergrowth and two youths ran out and beat him over the head with what he believes was the butt of the gun.

**Rochdale Observer**, 13 August 2009

A gunman fired shots through a bedroom window in **Milnrow**, Lancashire, just two feet away from a baby lying in his cot. Police later recovered six 9mm cartridges from a handgun. They also removed 50 cannabis plants found in the cellar of the house.

**Herald (Plymouth)**, 13 August 2009

Mark Gazey has been sentenced to a total of seven-and-a-half years in prison for three offences, including his part in a burglary in **Efford**, Plymouth, in January 2009 in which a family were held captive and a **stun gun** was held to a baby's back. He was one of four accomplices alleged to

have been involved and the gang was armed with two stun guns and a knife. Three other men will stand trial for aggravated burglary later this year.

**Haringey Independent**, 12 August 2009

A man has been charged with conducting a menacing campaign of car and motorcycle thefts in north London. He is accused of robbery and gun charges. It is alleged that in December 2008 he used a **replica firearm** to threaten a man in **Hackney** as he robbed him and a similar incident took place in **Barnet** in March 2009. He is also accused of stealing three cars.

**Echo**, 12 August 2009

Richard Gladwin of **Southend**, Essex, has admitted dragging a schoolgirl into bushes and groping her during an attack in March 2009. He admitted one count of false imprisonment, one count of sexual assault and one count of possessing an **imitation firearm**.

**Birkenhead News**, 12 August 2009

Mfingo Ntaka, 18, from **Birkenhead**, Merseyside, has been sent to a Young Offenders' Institute for three years after he revealed a **gas-powered pistol** when threatening a woman and demanding cash in April 2009. He had targeted her in the mistaken belief that a man who owed him money lived at her home. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

**This is Crawley**, 11 August 2009

Karim Bahaji, 17, has been jailed for threatening a policeman with an **imitation Walther PPK**. The incident occurred in **Bewbush**, West Sussex, in January 2009. He was convicted of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and has been given a 12-month detention and training order, with the first six months to be spent in a young offenders unit.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 11 August 2009

Two men pointed a pistol at a shop worker during a robbery at a store in **Portswood**, Hampshire. Police believe the two were part of a gang of four who also tried to rob bookmakers in **Lyndhurst** and **Hedge End** where they threatened staff before leaving empty-handed. A 19-year-old has appeared in court charged with one count of robbery and one of attempted robbery.

**Shropshire Star**, 11 August 2009

Terence Ecclestone has admitted robbing a petrol station in **Newport**, Shropshire, in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He was armed with an imitation firearm, a **black cap gun**, when he stole £140. He admitted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm.

**Manchester Evening News**, 11 August 2009

A man was ambushed as he and his girlfriend were getting out of his car in **Denton**, Greater Manchester. An attacker fired a **stun gun** at him, took his car keys as he fell to the ground in pain and then stole the car.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 11 August 2009

Andrew Tomlinson has been found guilty of attempted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm**. He attempted to rob an off license in **Leyland**, Lancashire, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The shop assistant refused to hand over money and Tomlinson left empty handed.

**Echo**, 11 August 2009

In June 2008 David Aitken was caught with two air rifles and cannabis at his home in **Vange**, Essex. He was subsequently banned from owning an airgun for five years. However, in March 2009 he was spotted by a neighbour with an **air rifle** and the police found cannabis plants, an airgun and cartridges. He admitted two drug offences, three counts of possessing an air weapon when prohibited from doing so and one count of possessing ammunition for an air weapon while prohibited from doing so. He has been jailed for two years.

**Dorset Echo**, 11 August 2009

An 18-year-old was walking with a friend along a trail in **Weymouth**, Dorset, when he was shot in the leg with an **airgun**. It is believed that more shots may have been fired as he fled. He was taken to hospital. There appeared to be a pellet under his skin.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 11 August 2009

A young woman was left bleeding when she was shot with an **air rifle** as she waited for her boyfriend near a taxi rank in **Mansfield**, Nottinghamshire. She has been left with a broken arm and suspected nerve damage.

**Tamworth Herald**, 10 August 2009

Police are trying to trace a woman who, in June 2009, called to report that she had been shot by an **air rifle** while walking through a park in **Tamworth**, Staffordshire. She said she had been shot in the arm.

**Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)**, 10 August 2009

Two men who fired an **air rifle** in a park in **South Woodford**, north east London, had their weapon seized. Children were playing in the area.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 10 August 2009

A **replica handgun** was used by a gang of youths to threaten a pizza delivery driver in **Mickleover**, Derby. The three offenders were aged around 17.

**BBC**, 10 August 2009

A man stole £6500 from a fast food shop in **Witney**, Oxfordshire. He entered the living quarters above the shop and threatened a man with a gun.

**BBC**, 10 August 2009

An 18-year-old man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder after shots were fired at a car in **Moss Side**, Manchester. The occupants of the vehicle escaped unhurt.

**BBC**, 10 August 2009

Two men were discovered with gunshot wounds in a street in **Erdington**, Birmingham. One victim had been shot in the back, the other in the lower leg. Their conditions were described as stable and not life threatening. A man has been arrested (**BBC**, 11 August 2009).

**Western Gazette**, 8 August 2009

Two sex offenders who admitted a sexual assault on a teenage boy have been attacked by vigilantes in **Crewkerne**, Somerset. They have been subjected to stone throwing and vandalism and their double glazing has been broken with what appeared to be an **airgun** pellet.

**Northern Echo**, 8 August 2009

Andrew Hall terrified shop staff and pedestrians when he committed two armed robberies in **Darlington** in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). On both occasions he used an **imitation firearm**, with the appearance of a handgun, to threaten his victims. He has been jailed for nine years after pleading guilty to the two offences and other separate offences of false imprisonment and affray.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 8 August 2009

Robert Griffiths, 18, hid two **airguns**, an **imitation firearm** and a knife in some bushes before setting up camp in a park in **Northampton**. He was inspired by television extreme survival shows. He had found the weapons in his parents' loft. He admitted two charges of possessing an airgun in a public place and one of possessing an imitation firearm, as well as one of possessing a knife. He has been warned he was facing a possible custodial sentence.

**Express & Star**, 8 August 2009

Darrin Fraser took potshots at children with an **airgun** while being encouraged by his wife, Angela Fraser. He used pellets made from paper, tin foil or cat litter. His targets were youngsters he felt were behaving badly in **Tipton**, West Midlands. Both of them admitted five counts of child cruelty and five of assault causing actual bodily harm. Darrin Fraser was jailed for three-and-half-years his wife for two years.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 8 August 2009

Three teenagers, Che McLeod, Lewis Saccone and Troi Brown, have been jailed for kidnapping a youth, putting an **imitation firearm** in his mouth and telling him he was going to die. The 17-year-old victim thought the gun was real. The incident took place in **Sinfin**, Derby, in March 2009. All three admitted kidnap and possessing a handgun with intent to endanger life. McLeod was sentenced to three-and-a-half years, the other two offenders to three years each.

**BBC**, 8 August 2009

Staff at a bank in **Coventry** were threatened with a gun by three men who demanded money. The gang escaped with a large quantity of cash. No shots were fired.

**Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News**, 7 August 2009

A farmer from **Southwick**, Wiltshire, appears to have taken his own life. Police were called to an incident in which a man had died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

**Sheffield Telegraph**, 7 August 2009

Shamraze Bashir has been jailed for 16 years after being found with **sawn-off shotguns** and more than half an million pounds stashed in carrier bags. Police were tipped off after sawing was heard coming from his garage in **Norwood**, Sheffield. Bashir admitted money-laundering, being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs, possessing a firearm without a licence and shortening a shotgun.

**Daily Mail**, 7 August 2009

A sales assistant at a store in **Mayfair**, central London, was grabbed by two smartly dressed men who produced a handgun. They grabbed gems and fled with the woman, firing into the floor. She

was dumped unharmed in the street. Another shot was fired at customers from a nearby pub who gave chase. Items valued at £40m were stolen. One man has been arrested (*BBC*, 12 August 2009) and a loaded firearm has been recovered (*Times*, 13 August 2009). Two men have been charged in connection with the robbery (*BBC*, 20 August 2009).

**Cumberland News**, 7 August 2009

A 14-year-old and an older man have appeared in court charged with trespassing on land with a firearm and firing a **.22 calibre Norica air rifle** beyond the boundaries of the premises. The man also pleaded not guilty to assaulting two men. The offences are all alleged to have been committed on farmland in **Aspatria**, Cumbria.

**Cumberland News**, 7 August 2009

Children as young as six playing on wasteland in **Houghton**, Cumbria, have been threatened by youths with **air rifles**. This follows the shooting of a cat in the area (see below).

**BBC**, 7 August 2009

Four gang members have been jailed for life for the murder of a teenager who was shot in **Burngreave**, Sheffield, in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)), whilst he was carrying a handgun. Michael Chattoo, Nigel Ramsey, Denzil Ramsey and Levan Menzies, 17, were found guilty and will serve at least 30 years, 35 years, 25 years and 20 years, respectively. Chattoo, Nigel Ramsey and another man were also found guilty of the attempted murder of the victim a few days before he was killed.

**BBC**, 7 August 2009

A man was shot in the head during a robbery in **Finsbury Park**, north London. Two men with handguns assaulted him, stole three mobile phones and his car keys and then shot him. He is said to be out of danger after surgery to remove a bullet.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 6 August 2009

Four men have been jailed for their roles in the torture, abduction and murder of a man from **Bradford**. Anthony Davies recruited Decosta Daniel, Errol Witter and Robert Cameron, who were armed with an **imitation gun** and a wrench when they broke into the victim's house in August 2007 and attacked him. They had been jailed for life in August 2008 for murder and conspiracy to rob. Davies and his subordinate Darren Martin, Johnny Daniels and Anthony Neale were jailed for a minimum of 35 years, a minimum of 24 years, 13 years and 12 years, respectively.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 6 August 2009

Kyle Bruney has been jailed for five years after a gun stashed in his bedroom in **Fulwood**, Preston, by his half-brother was found by police. The ME38 Compact Revolver was originally manufactured to fire blanks and gas but had been modified to fire .38 rifle ammunition. He admitted possession of a prohibited weapon. His cousin, Karl Bruney, from **Ribbleton**, whom police were investigating when they found the gun, was sentenced to 26 months in a young offenders institution after admitting riding a stolen motorbike unlawfully and threatening a rival with a replica gun, a **BB gun**, in December 2008.

**This is Nottingham**, 5 August 2009

Steven Church, 18, and Dylan King, 17, drove around **Nottingham** in a stolen car in March 2009 and carried out a series of attacks. They were armed with an **imitation gun**. They used it to threaten a man walking in the street and to rob a milkman in **Arnold**, and in **Netherfield** they forced a man out of his car and put the barrel of the gun into his mouth before stealing cash and his wallet. Church was locked up for seven and a half years and King was given nine years in a

young offenders' institution. King had also been involved in a robbery in **Sneinton** when a group of three threatened a man with a **ball bearing gun**.

**Northern Echo**, 5 August 2009

A teenager was shot in the head with an **air rifle** as she walked with her friend in the **Skerne Park** area of Darlington, County Durham. She was hit in the forehead and the pellet narrowly missing her eye socket.

**The Journal**, 5 August 2009

Raido Raaga has been jailed for 11 years after he admitted robbery and possession of **imitation firearm**. He terrorised staff at a jewellers in **Newcastle** in August 2008 but was caught when he attempted a similar raid in **Windsor**, Berkshire. Valdeko Kallaste was given a seven-year jail sentence for his part in the raids.

**Hemel Today**, 5 August 2009

Christopher Mace, 18, was drunk when he armed himself with an imitation handgun and went on a rampage through the station at **Leighton Buzzard**, Bedfordshire. He pointed the weapon at his girlfriend, himself, three men in a car and a taxi driver. He also damaged four rental vehicles by smashing windows. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, criminal damage and assault on police. The weapon was a **gas-powered airgun**.

**BBC**, 5 August 2009

Two police officers have been injured in a shooting incident after they were called to a bar and restaurant near **Waterloo** station, central London. They were fired upon when a man they approached fled from the scene. A man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, possession of a loaded firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of a firearm in a public place (*BBC*, 19 August 2009).

**BBC**, 5 August 2009

A man has been charged with firearm and ammunition possession and trying to sell a firearm after a loaded firearm, manufactured to look like a pen, was recovered in **Rusholme**, Greater Manchester.

**Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News**, 4 August 2009

Max Weston from **Melksham**, Wiltshire, has admitted actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm at the time of committing an offence. He had an **imitation firearm** as he committed an attempted robbery. He also admitted being in possession of a knife.

**Telegraph**, 4 August 2009

In recent months GCN has been highlighting the use of **shotguns** in incidents as it appeared that their use in criminal activity was increasing. The Metropolitan Police has now recorded a 57 percent rise in the use of shotguns in the past year. Shotguns, often stolen from middle class homes, are being used as police successfully take hundreds of submachine and handguns off the streets. A total of 45 shotguns have been recovered by police in **London** since January, many of which were taken from areas such as **Kensington** and **Chelsea**.

**Telegraph**, 4 August 2009

Colt Welch hit a patrol car with **shotgun** pellets after police tried to stop the vehicle he was travelling in in Stroud Green, north London, in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The shots were fired in **Highgate**, after the vehicle had sped off. Welch eventually ran off and was discovered still clutching the loaded shotgun and a black holdall. The weapon had been stolen in a burglary from a licensed holder in Surrey. Welch admitted having a firearm with intent to resist arrest, possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence, possessing a firearm when prohibited and possessing a shortened shotgun. He was given an indeterminate period of imprisonment with a minimum term of five years.

**News & Star**, 4 August 2009

Staff at a supermarket in **Workington**, Cumbria, were shot at as they unloaded a delivery. It is believed they were targeted with pellets from an **air rifle**.

**London Paper**, 4 August 2009

A man was shot in the street in **Lewisham**, south London. He was taken to hospital where he was in a stable condition.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 4 August 2009

A pellet fired from an **airgun** at a pensioner in **Littleover**, Derby, narrowly missed the man's head. The police took the pellet away.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 4 August 2009

A landlord was threatened with what is thought to be a handgun during an armed robbery at a pub in **Alvaston**, Derby. A significant amount of cash was stolen. A man was later arrested.

**Cumberland News**, 4 August 2009

A man was in a critical condition in hospital after a shooting in **Dearham**, Cumbria. Police were called after a firearm was discharged. They are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

**BBC**, 4 August 2009

Three men threatened staff at a jewellers in **Lutterworth**, Leicestershire. They were armed with what is thought to have been a handgun. They left the shop with jewellery and cash.

**BBC**, 4 August 2009

Two men armed with what was believed to be a handgun threatened staff at a store in **Kings Sutton**, Northamptonshire, before making off with an unknown quantity of cash.

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 3 August 2009

A man has been rushed to hospital with serious injuries after being seen collapsed in a street in **Chapeltown**, Leeds. He had been shot in the leg. Two shots had been fired. A man has been arrested and charged with attempted murder (*BBC*, 7 August 2009).

**Watford Observer**, 3 August 2009

Paul Wakenshaw has pleaded guilty to robbing two security guards at a newsagents in **Watford**, Hertfordshire, in October 2008 and a jewellers in **Stanmore**, north London, in December 2008

(see [Incidents](#)). He also admitted having an **imitation firearm** on both occasions. Five other charges have been left on the file. He has been warned he faces a substantial jail sentence.

***This is Sussex***, 3 August 2009

A man, described by his own counsel as "obsessed with shooting and fishing", has been cleared of the charge of possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place. He had been arrested in March 2009 when a police patrol spotted him concealing an **air rifle** behind a tree on the edge of **Tunbridge Wells Common**, Kent. He had been shooting squirrels to feed his pet ferrets. He admitted he had been shooting on the common as friends had told him it was allowed by the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall under ancient by-laws. The landowners denied such permission existed. He was given a non guilty verdict by the magistrates as it was accepted that he was "an experienced user of airguns and has demonstrated a good knowledge of gun safety".

***Rugby Advertiser***, 3 August 2009

A man entered a bank in **Bilton**, Warwickshire, and threatened a member of staff with what is believed to have been a small firearm. He stole and quantity of cash before escaping.

***BBC***, 3 August 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences after a number of properties were searched in **Preston**, Lancashire.

***BBC***, 3 August 2009

Nicholas Bidar shot at police who were following the car he was in at **Ladbroke Grove**, west London, in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). No-one was hurt in the incident which followed a robbery. Bidar admitted two robberies and using a firearm to resist arrest. Christopher Ryan, 19, who was also in the car was given a six-month suspended sentence for handling stolen goods.

***BBC***, 3 August 2009

An elderly couple were subjected to two robberies at their home in **Kempston**, Bedfordshire, on the same night. In the first incident one of three men claimed he had a gun, although one was not seen, and said he would use it. Their holiday savings were taken. Later they were tied up and robbed of £400 in a second robbery.

***The Sentinel***, 1 August 2009

Ashley Woolley was drunk when he picked up a **toy gun** he found outside a newsagents and went inside and tried to rob the shopkeeper in **Burslem**, Staffordshire, in April 2009. He was joined by another man and the two men repeatedly punched the victim. Woolley pleaded guilty to attempted robbery possessing an imitation firearm with intent and common assault. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in custody.

***BBC***, 1 August 2009

Two men were injured in a shooting incident in **Coventry**. Both men were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds to the legs. One of the victims was in a stable condition the other received superficial injuries. A 19-year-old has been arrested.

***The Argus***, 1 August 2009

Joshua Haggart has pleaded guilty to a botched armed raid in **Brighton** in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) in which he was cuffed with his own weapon, an **imitation gun**. He admitted three armed robberies, two attempted robberies and three counts of possessing an imitation firearm. He has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment (*The Argus*, 21 August 2009).

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## SCOTLAND

**Hawick News**, 31 August 2009

Jason Hook from **Hawick** has been admonished for having an **air pistol** on him without reasonable excuse in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The weapon has been confiscated.

**BBC**, 31 August 2009

John Wallace left a Webley MKIV hinged frame revolver, the cylinder and barrel from a Smith and Wesson style revolver, ammunition and gunpowder lying about his flat in **Stranraer**, Wigtownshire. They were found when police forced entry into the property in October 2007 to investigate a water leak. He has held a firearms and shotgun certificate since 1968 and had a longstanding interest in guns. It was claimed he had forgotten about the gun because he was out of the country for two thirds of the year. Wallace has admitted three breaches of the Firearms Act and one of the Explosives Act. He was fined £7,500.

**Perthshire Advertiser**, 28 August 2009

Callum Gordon from **Blairgowrie**, Perthshire, has been fined £400 after failing to notify the police that he had removed a **.410 small bore shotgun** from his father's house for "safety reasons". He had discovered unsecured and removed it to his home address to his own secure, locked gun cupboard. The gun was found when police were checking his gun cupboard in connection with an unrelated matter.

**BBC**, 27 August 2009

A couple from **Kilmarnock**, Ayrshire, have admitted using **air weapons** to confront revellers during a neighbour's Hogmanay party after guests let off fireworks. They armed themselves after they had complained to police but the police said they would not be attending because it was Hogmanay. Armed officers later called to the scene found an air rifle and a number of air pistols. James Howat-Hurst admitted committing a breach of the peace by attending a party in possession of a firearm and a bottle of methylated spirits, threatening people, assault by striking a man on the neck with the butt of a gun and having a firearm with intent to commit an offence. Sandra Howat-Hurst pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent to cause people to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them.

**BBC**, 25 August 2009

A man was detained for misuse of drugs and firearms offences and another for an alleged robbery after an armed robbery at a pharmacy in **Hamilton**, South Lanarkshire, during which drugs were taken.

**Evening Express**, 19 August 2009

A teenager from Aberdeen, who was 15 at the time, has been accused of attacking three men with a **taser gun**. He has denied the allegations. One of the victims of the attack is said to have been severely injured and permanently disfigured.

**Evening Times**, 14 August 2009

A man terrorised shop workers and customers when he fired a weapon in a takeaway in **Possilpark**, Glasgow. He made no demands for money before fleeing. The police later said that the gun was an **imitation** and that it was believed blanks were fired.

**Evening Express**, 14 August 2009

A man who had a **stun gun** in **Aberdeen** was caught after he showed it to a friend and fired it. Russell Donaldson, who bought the weapon over the internet, has been warned he could face a long jail sentence.

**BBC**, 13 August 2009

Paintball guns and pellets were among items stolen after a break in at an adventure centre in **Kirkintilloch**, East Dunbartonshire.

**BBC**, 5 August 2009

Christopher McGovern, 19, robbed two security guards of £40,000 in cash as they were re-filling a cashpoint in **Glasgow** in November 2008. He pointed what appeared to be a gun at them. He has pleaded guilty to assault and robbery. Another teenager, Andrew Paton, had also been accused of the theft but instead pleaded guilty to being in possession of a **sawn-off shotgun** in **Glasgow** in March 2009.

**Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser**, 5 August 2009

An **air rifle** was found in the parked car of Kevin Rafferty when police investigated his erratic behaviour in **Caldercruix**, North Lanarkshire, in May 2009. He was three times the legal limit for driving. He admitted possessing the air rifle in a public place "without lawful authority or reasonable excuse" and was admonished on condition that he signed a disclaimer agreeing for the weapon to be passed to safety at the Procurator Fiscal's office. He was also disqualified from driving for two years.

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## WALES

**Western Telegraph**, 24 August 2009

Thieves have stolen four **BB guns**, a Colt MK IV handgun, a Taurus Millennium gun, a Smith and Wesson M3000 gun and a Fames Tactical Version Gun, from a shop in **Saundersfoot**, Pembrokeshire, where the items were in the window display.

**News Wales**, 20 August 2009

Police are hunting for four robbers who attacked a security guard as he delivered cash to a bank in **Flint**. Two of the men carried **shotguns** and the others had baseball bats.

**BBC**, 7 August 2009

A man who has been accused of possession of a firearm and offering it for sale without proper authority has been sectioned under the Mental Health Act. The man from **Llantwit Major**, Vale of Glamorgan, is on hunger strike in protest at being refused permission to appear in court. The case

concerns a decommissioned and triggerless Lewis machine gun which came with a replica World War One biplane he had bought.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

***This is Crawley***, 28 August 2009

A cat was shot in an **air rifle** attack in **Crawley**, Sussex. Vets removed a pellet but were left with no choice but to amputate his leg. They believe he must have been shot from very close range to cause such damage to his leg.

***Daily Post***, 28 August 2009

Three kittens have been shot with an **airgun** and left for dead in an attack in **Llanfigael**, Anglesey. One of them survived despite being shot in the neck and sustaining a broken leg, but another was already dead when they were discovered and a second who was seriously wounded is believed to have crawled away to die.

***Bolton News***, 27 August 2009

A cat was shot four times with a **pellet gun** in **Barrow Bridge**, Bolton. At first his owners thought he had been attacked by a dog but X-rays revealed four pellets. One has been removed but the other three had to be left. Similar incidents had occurred in **Harwood** earlier in the month.

***Berwickshire News***, 26 August 2009

A cat has been shot in **Eyemouth**, Berwickshire. She arrived home limping and in pain and has had to undergo extensive reconstructive surgery to her right leg as her femur was completely smashed by the **airgun** pellet.

***Skegness Standard***, 25 August 2009

A cat has had to be put to sleep after being shot with an **air weapon** in **Alford**, Lincolnshire. Several pellets were found in his body, including one which had penetrated his head.

***News Shopper***, 24 August 2009

A cat had to undergo an emergency operation after she was shot in the right shoulder by an **airgun** in **Orpington**, south east London. The vet who treated her said she was the fourth cat he knew of which had been shot by an airgun recently.

***Leicester Mercury***, 19 August 2009

It is believed that a fatal injury to a pet cat whose body was discovered in fields behind her home in **Syston**, Leicestershire, may have been caused by a **shotgun**.

***Wortley Today***, 18 August 2009

A family's dog found cowering in pain and covered in blood in their garden in **Bramley**, West Yorkshire, has had to be put down. The dog had been shot with an **air rifle**, and although a pellet was removed he could not be saved.

***BBC***, 18 August 2009

Anthony Rodgers from **Moffat**, Dumfriesshire, has received a record £3,500 fine after he pled guilty to killing four badgers by capturing them in snares and shooting them in the head.

**BBC**, 17 August 2009

A cat has had her eyesight saved after being shot with an **airgun** in **St Cyrus**, Angus. A pellet was removed from behind her eye and she is said to be making a good recovery.

**Sun**, 13 August 2009

A cat was recovering after being found injured in **Alloa**, Clackmannanshire. She had suffered a badly broken leg after an **airgun** attack and a pellet was lodged in her back leg.

**Echo**, 13 August 2009

A cat was almost blinded when it was shot in the face with an **air pistol** in **Canvey**, Essex. The cat had been on the front porch of his home. Vets managed to find the pellet and remove it from his eye.

**Cambridge News**, 8 August 2009

A pensioner has been left devastated after his cat was shot dead with an **airgun** in **Shepreth**, Cambridgeshire. He believes his pet may have been the victim of a "drive-by" attack which left his paralysed after a pellet went through his spine.

**Milton Keynes Citizen**, 7 August 2009

A heavily pregnant cat thought to have been involved in a road traffic accident was found to have been shot with an **airgun** pellet lodged in her spine. She was found paralysed and traumatised in **Milton Keynes**. She is now receiving specialist surgery.

**BBC**, 7 August 2009

Four youths have been arrested after cats were shot with **air rifles** in **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire. Two owners had reported incidents. Other cat owners are being urged to check their pets for any unexplained injuries.

**News & Star**, 6 August 2009

A cat is recovering after being shot in the face with an **airgun** in **Houghton**, Cumbria. Vets removed a pellet from his jaw.

**BBC**, 6 August 2009

Police are investigating reports that a beaver reintroduced to the wild in **Knapdale Forest**, Argyll, has been shot. An adult female went missing after gunshots were reported in the area.

**This is Lancashire**, 5 August 2009

A cat was discovered dead alongside a footpath in **Blackmoor**, Lancashire, the latest victim of an **airgun** shooting. His owner had heard a couple of air rifle shots and found his pet after being tipped off by a dog walker.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 3 August 2009

A cat which had been missing for nearly two weeks from his home in **Waddington**, Lincolnshire, returned with a serious leg injury. An X-ray showed he had been shot and that an **air rifle** pellet had shattered his front left leg.



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