



AUGUST 2010 - REVIEW

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were two shooting incidents in August which resulted in fatalities. One man was shot in the head in a garden in Top Valley (Nottingham) and died at the scene (a man has been arrested on suspicion of murder). Another man, who was shot during a robbery at a house in Kensington (Liverpool), died of complications linked to gunshot wounds after collapsing four weeks later.
- Two apparent suicides that occurred in July 2010 were also reported this month:
 - A 16-year-old is believed to have shot himself in woods near Leafield (Oxfordshire)
 - An opening inquest heard how a licensed shotgun owner shot himself in the head at his home in Gildersome (West Yorkshire)
- Twenty-eight victims were shot, nearly half of them with airguns and imitation weapons (see below).
 - County Durham (1) - a man sustained shotgun injuries in Bishop Auckland (two men have been charged with attempted murder and one faces additional charges)
 - Essex (2) - two men received shotgun wounds in Basildon (Essex) (the men were arrested as was the man who drove them to hospital)
 - Greater Manchester (2) - two men were shot in Wythenshawe, one in the knee the other in the shin
 - London (4) - a teenager suffered several gunshot wounds in Hackney, and a man was shot on the doorstep of a house in Dagenham (two men were arrested) where two other men were hurt in a separate double shooting
 - Merseyside (3) - two door staff at a pub in West Derby were shot in the legs, probably with a handgun, and a man was shot in the thigh in Page Moss (a 17-year-old has been arrested)
 - Scotland (1) - a man was shot in the back in a bar in Hamilton (South Lanarkshire) (two men have been charged with attempted murder and other offences)
 - Sussex (1) - a man was shot with a shotgun at the door of his home in Pound Hill (two men have been charged with attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life)
 - Tyneside (1) - a man was shot in the leg in Willington Quay where violence flared in a street (the victim was charged with a public order offence and three men have been arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder)
- At least 13 other people, many of them children, were hit by pellets from BB guns or airguns:
 - Cambridgeshire (1) - a teenage woman was apparently accidentally shot with an air rifle in a garden in Peterborough (another woman was arrested)
 - Derbyshire (2) - an 11-year-old boy has been shot in the face in a park in Derby with a BB gun (a teenager was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm), and a man was shot in the bottom with an airgun pellet in Hadfield
 - Lincolnshire (1) - a 2-year-old boy was shot in the neck with an air rifle at his home in Winthorpe (the boy's father was arrested and the police have said that all indications were that the shooting was an accident)
 - London (1) - a PCSO was shot in the chest with a suspected airgun in Golders Green

- Oxfordshire (1) - a 13-year-old girl needed treatment after being shot in the eye with a BB gun in Barton
- Somerset (2) - two 11-year-old boys were shot with a BB pistol by a youth in Clevedon (several youths were spoken to by the police)
- Surrey (1) - a woman was shot with what was believed to be an air rifle on the balcony of her flat in Woking
- Wales (1) - a man was shot with an air rifle while he was playing golf in Penarth (South Glamorgan)
- West Midlands (1) - a bus driver was shot in the arm with a pellet gun as he was driving near Featherstone (he managed to control the vehicle and brought it to a stop) and a 12-year-old boy was injured when he was shot in the arm with an air rifle fired from a block of flats in Highgate
- Worcestershire (1) - a man was shot in the face with a BB gun by a car passenger in Redditch
- A man has been arrested after an assault in Inverness believed to have involved a stun gun.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices** (6) in Boston Spa (West Yorkshire) (stun gun), Frodsham (Cheshire) (handgun), Coventry (handgun), Herongate (Essex) (plastic bag in shape of a gun), Lostwithiel (Cornwall) (shotgun), and Winchester (Hampshire), **Bookmakers** (8) in Widnes (Cheshire), Stroud (Gloucestershire), Acocks Green (Birmingham) (imitation firearm; a man has been charged), Luton (Bedfordshire) (handgun), Old Swan (Liverpool) (metal pipe made to look like a gun), Possilpark (Glasgow) (handgun), Barlanark (Glasgow) (police believe there was no actual firearm) and a third location in Glasgow, **Petrol Stations** (2) in Oakes (West Yorkshire) (the same man tried to rob two stores in Lockwood) and Shinfield (Berkshire) (imitation firearm; two men have been charged), **Pubs** (2) in Daybrook (Nottingham) (stun gun) and Leighton Buzzard (Bedfordshire) (handgun) and **Shops** (16) in Bath (handgun), Coventry, Huddersfield (two raids in Lockwood by the same gunman who also tried to rob a petrol station in Oakes), Bloxham (Oxfordshire), Blackburn (Lancashire), Darwen (Lancashire) (air rifle; a woman was arrested), Tewkesbury (Gloucestershire) (imitation firearm; four men have been charged), Radcliffe (Greater Manchester), Nether Heyford (Northamptonshire) (handguns), East Ardsley (West Yorkshire), Harringay (north London) (imitation firearm) (two teenagers have been charged), Watford (Hertfordshire) (imitation firearm; a man has been charged), Timperley (Greater Manchester) (handgun), Penkridge (Staffordshire) (a shot was fired), and Leigh (Greater Manchester) (handguns)
- In raids on **Houses** a man was shot in the legs in Kensington (Liverpool) and died four weeks later (see above) (one man was arrested at the scene and charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition, robbery and wounding), in Dewsbury (West Yorkshire) a pensioner was threatened with a handgun and cash was stolen, two 18-year-olds have been charged with robbing a woman at her home in Grantham (Lincolnshire) where one of them produced a handgun and held the gun to the victim's head, and a man, possibly in possession of a firearm, was being sought after a robbery in Pembroke Dock (Pembrokeshire). It was reported that a woman was threatened with a gun during a robbery at her house in Streetly (West Midlands) in July 2010.
- In **Street** robberies a man was threatened with a handgun in Aylesbury (Buckinghamshire) (imitation gun; four men were arrested) and a man tried to steal a woman's bag in a park in Solihull (West Midlands) (imitation weapon; a man has been arrested).
- A **Driver** was robbed at gunpoint in Leeds after an accident between two cars (three men have been arrested), and a taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint in Ordsall (Greater Manchester) (pellet gun; two men have been charged)

- A **Security man** was robbed by a man armed with a handgun in Chorleywood (Hertfordshire).
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
 - Bedfordshire - several shots were fired in a street in Luton and a house was hit
 - Buckinghamshire - gunshots were fired outside a home in High Wycombe (a man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder)
 - Cambridgeshire - a gun went off during a domestic row in Ramsey (a man was arrested), and a man fired a shotgun over the head of a 5-year-old traveller child in Swavesey (a man was arrested on firearms offences)
 - Cornwall - police were called to a house in Liskeard after shots were heard (a man was later arrested near Taunton (Somerset))
 - London - a gunshot was fired through a window in Stepney during a petrol bomb attack which followed an earlier argument outside the house, and a car was damaged when shots were fired in a street in Stoke Newington
 - Merseyside - two men were seen firing a handgun in Kirkby
 - Nottinghamshire - shots were fired in St Ann's (Nottingham) (a man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder)
 - Scotland - shots were fired at a house in Govan (Glasgow) and there were reports of gunfire on an area of wasteland in Fauldhouse (West Lothian)
 - South Yorkshire - a funeral service in Letwell had to be halted after shotgun pellets and fireworks were fired over the heads of mourners
 - West Yorkshire - shots were fired in two incidents in Bradford which may be linked (two men have been arrested)
- A police community support officer was threatened by a man with a gun in Stoke Newington (east London). A man has been accused of threatening a police officer with a gun in East Reading (Berkshire).
- A woman was threatened with a firearm at a house in Westcliff (Essex) (three men were arrested after a stand-off with police)
- A man was in custody after allegedly brandishing a gun in Bishopbriggs (East Dunbartonshire).
- Two men were charged with possession of a firearm and other offences after they were stopped and checked by police officers on patrol in Harlow (Essex) and a shotgun seized.
- A man was arrested following a siege after reports of a man with a shotgun at a house in Moulescoomb (Brighton).
- It was reported that in July 2010 two teenagers had forced their way into a flat in Middleton (Greater Manchester) and demanded cannabis before leaving empty-handed.
- A man from Great Bentley (Essex) has been charged with possession of a firearm without a certificate and another count of possessing ammunition without a certificate.
- No firearm was found after two other incidents:
 - Police stopped a vehicle in Sunderland after it had been stolen in Durham and it was believed that one man was armed with a gun
 - A police search was conducted in Newport (Gwent) after reports that a man was carrying a firearm and acting suspiciously
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents which resulted in injury (see above) there were many other incidents involving airguns and imitation weapons. They were probably used in many of the **armed robberies** and this was certainly so in at least nine robberies in Aylesbury (Buckinghamshire), Ordsall (Greater Manchester), Shinfield (Berkshire), Acocks Green (Birmingham), Darwen (Lancashire), Tewkesbury (Gloucestershire), Haringay (north London), Watford (Hertfordshire), Solihull (West Midlands).

- An airgun has been fired at a plotholder at allotments in Leigh (Essex). In Plymouth a man narrowly missed being shot with an air rifle (a man was arrested).
- An airgun pellet missed a motorist by inches as he drove near Tiverton (Devon). A bus was apparently shot at with a BB gun in Brighton.
- Two teenagers were arrested and charged after they were found with an air rifle in Greenock (Renfrewshire).
- There were further incidents involving imitation weapons which caused alarm:
 - A Wild West re-enactment enthusiast was one of two men arrested after an incident in Skipton (North Yorkshire) in which a man was reported to be carrying a pistol in a front garden
 - Two young boys were caught with BB guns in Chippenham (Wiltshire) after police received calls from concerned neighbours
 - Armed police surrounded a block of flats in Tunbridge Wells (Kent) after paramedics who spotted a gun in one of the flats had raised the alarm - the weapon turned out to be a ball-bearing gun
 - A man seen with a gun on board a train was taken off at Peterborough station where the weapon was found to be a BB gun - he was cautioned
 - A 13-year-old caught firing a BB gun in the street in Jarrow (Tyneside) was spoken to by police officers and the gun handed over.
 - A group of youngsters including an 11-year-old were arrested following a violent brawl in Preston (Lancashire) and a toy gun resembling a pump action shotgun was discovered in the area.
 - Police were called to Marland (Greater Manchester) after residents reported gunshots and men in military fatigues - a local school was being used for paintball-style military games.
 - Twin brothers who brandished a ball-bearing handgun while filming an advert in East Tulos (Aberdeen) were arrested but not charged
 - A boy spotted with a BB gun in Cwm (Gwent) was apprehended and the weapon confiscated and destroyed.
- Bus shelters have been damaged in Plympton, Plymstock, Leigham and Estover (Devon), probably by a BB gun fired from a moving vehicle
- Windows of a building were smashed with an air rifle in Templeton (Pembrokeshire).
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which drugs were recovered in Diss (Norfolk) (imitation firearm), Rectory Farm (Northampton) (gas-powered pellet gun), Bradford (stun gun), west London (BB gun), Moss Side (Manchester), Platt Bridge (Greater Manchester) (rifle, shotgun) and Belle Vale (Liverpool) (gun parts). A man received a police caution after cannabis plants and rifle bullets were found in Butterknowle (County Durham).
- Police from Lambeth (south London) recovered a handgun, a shotgun and a BB gun during a raid. A man was arrested after a shotgun, silencer and ammunition were found at his home in Whiston (Merseyside).
- A double-barrelled shotgun was found in a bin bag in a wood by a member of the public in Stevenage (Hertfordshire).
- Police recovered a substantial amount of stolen items, including two shotguns and a rifle with ammunition, and arrested a 15-year-old from Upper Caldecote (Bedfordshire).
- A 16-year-old boy was arrested after police seized three blank-firing handguns during a series of raids in Fazakerley, Croxteth and Norris Green (Liverpool).
- Guns were stolen from a house in Malmesbury (Wiltshire) (an air rifle with silencer and telescopic sights), a hotel in Preston (Devon) (two shotguns), homes in Walpole (Suffolk) (air rifle) and Carterton (Oxfordshire) (rifle), a gun store in Eaglesham (Renfrewshire) (shotgun, rifle), another hotel in Gleneagles (Perthshire (nine air rifles), and a school in Edinburgh (air rifle; this was among hundreds of items stolen from Lothian schools during the last two years).

- A teenager was charged with possession of weapons after he was found with a stun gun disguised as a mobile phone in Peckham (south London).
 - **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were many more shootings involving animals and birds during August. Most of the weapons were airguns and the attacks took place across the country. The majority of the reports were of cats being injured, a number of them fatally.
 - Cats were shot with airguns in Clwyd (two separate attacks), County Durham, Dorset (three separate incidents), Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Renfrewshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Surrey, Tyneside and West Lothian. In Norfolk one cat is recovering after being shot with a shotgun but another cat died after being targeted with a rifle.
 - Two swans were rescued after they were shot probably with an airgun in Worcestershire and a young swan is recovering after being shot twice in the head in Fulford (North Yorkshire). It is thought that four other cygnets found dead in Wivenhoe (Essex) were also shot with an airgun. In Lancashire up to 20 ducks have been slaughtered with air rifles in Barnoldswick and three pet ducks died when they were shot in Broughton. A woman witnessed a bird being shot and killed in her garden in Sunbury (Surrey).
 - A man who shot a seagull with an air rifle in Devon pleaded guilty to killing a wild bird and was given a six-month conditional discharge.
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- **Inquests** - A coroner has concluded that a man found dead at a house in Brightmet (Greater Manchester) shot himself with a sawn-off shotgun - the gun had been stolen in a burglary in Bolton.
- A young man shot himself dead with a licensed gun at his home in North Benfleet (Essex) after getting a text message from his girlfriend to say that her father wanted them to split up - a verdict of suicide was recorded.
- A man used a wartime revolver to shoot himself in the head in Newhall (Derbyshire) - a coroner concluded that he killed himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed.
- A teenager accused of stealing a few pounds from his grandparents took a shotgun from the farm he shared with them and drove to Cornwall where he shot himself - a verdict of suicide was recorded.
- **Convictions** - Two men have been convicted of the murder of a pub landlord who was shot outside his bar in Bilton (West Midlands). A man who shot dead a student during a robbery in Longsight (Manchester) has admitted murder, robbery and possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition and will serve a minimum of 27 years.
- A man who shot another man who had deliberately run down and killed his friend outside nightclub in Southwark (south London) has been convicted of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.
- Two men involved in an attack in a pub in Edinburgh during which a man was shot in the leg with a small handgun have admitted various offences.
- A man who tried to kill himself with a sawn-off rifle in Llangollen (Denbighshire) has admitted perverting the course of justice by falsely claiming that he was shot by a stranger and possessing a prohibited weapon.
- A man who opened fire on police officers in Southwark (south London) was found guilty of possessing a pistol with intent to endanger life: along with two other men he was also convicted of various other firearms offences involving a pistol and an imitation firearm and a 17-year-old youth admitted a related firearms charge.

- A man who threatened his ex-partner and chased her in a car whilst armed with a shotgun until he was caught in Monmouth has been jailed for 4½ years after admitting possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- Another man who waved a loaded converted blank-firing pistol in his girlfriend's face and threatened her at his flat in Bristol pleaded guilty of possessing a prohibited firearm, possessing ammunition without a certificate and false imprisonment and was jailed for 6 years.
- Two men who were armed with decommissioned handguns when they carried out a robbery at a supermarket in Chichester (West Sussex) have admitted robbery and possessing a prohibited weapon and will serve a minimum of 4 years and 5½ years. A man has pleaded guilty to five counts of false imprisonment and one of attempted robbery after a family were tied up and robbed in their home in South Tottenham (north London). A man has been convicted of an aggravated burglary in Oakley (Bedfordshire) in which a couple were threatened with a gun while the house was searched - he must serve a minimum of 9 years.
- Two men were found guilty and another pleaded guilty to various offences after they were caught in a van in Coventry with a robber's kit including a deactivated AK-47 and an illegally converted pistol.
- The following convicted for possessing firearms:
 - A man who kept a semi-automatic pistol with a silencer and ammunition at his home in Pitsmoor (Sheffield) has been given a 5-year sentence.
 - A man from Worksop (Nottingham) who admitted possession of a sawn-off shotgun has been jailed for 5 years.
 - At a court in Luton (Bedfordshire) a woman who hid a gun for her ex-boyfriend has also been jailed for 5 years.
 - A teenager who had a double-barrelled shotgun and ammunition at his home in Rawthorpe (West Yorkshire) has pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and given a 2-year custodial sentence.
 - Two 19-year-olds have pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing ammunition without a certificate after a pistol was found in a car in Wyken (West Midlands) - both were jailed for 5 years.
 - A man who bought a pistol and 19 bullets from a man who came into his store in Darlington (County Durham) admitted possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition without a licence as well as pleading guilty to having two stun guns and a pepper spray.
 - A man found with a pump action rifle in his van after police were called to a domestic incident in Avonmouth (Bristol) has been jailed for 7½ years after pleading guilty to weapons and drug charges
- A man who removed a gun and bullets from a crime scene in Rayleigh (Essex) where a man had been shot admitted perverting the course of justice and was jailed for 8 months.
- A man has admitted a number of offences after he stole weapons from a gun shop in Christchurch (Dorset) and has been jailed for six years.
- A man caught with a gun silencer in a hospital in Bradford admitted two offences of having an offensive weapon (he also had a knife) and has been jailed for 16 months.
- A teenage shotgun certificate holder from Longtown (Cumbria) has been banned from possessing, using or carrying a firearm after he admitted assaulting another teenager.
- **Gun Factories** - Two men have been found guilty of running a gun factory in Leyton (north east London) where the police found Olympic 38 starting pistols in the process of being converted and various other weapons - they were given 9- and 14-year sentences.

- **Stun Guns** - Three men were sentenced to 4½ years for aggravated burglary at a home in Edmonton (north London) - one of them attacked a man with a stun gun.
- A man who attacked a takeaway owner with a stun gun in Burslem (Staffordshire) has pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and possession of a prohibited weapon and been sentenced to two years in prison.
- A man admitted drug charges and possessing a prohibited stun gun found in his bedroom in Bradley Stoke (Bristol) and was ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work, a taxi driver from Tenby (Pembrokeshire) who kept a stun gun in his cab admitted possessing the weapon and was given a 12-month low level community order, and a man who had a stun gun at his flat in Carterton (Oxfordshire) admitted possession of a prohibited weapon and has been ordered to do 80 hours' unpaid work.

- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man who shot his partner in the leg with an air rifle at their home in Tamworth (Staffordshire) admitted assault causing actual bodily harm, criminal damage and a drug offence and has been jailed for 2 years.
- A man who shot a 3-year-old boy in the chest with an air rifle at his home in Selkirk (Scottish Borders) has admitted culpable and reckless conduct and possessing a loaded weapon.
- The following cases involved the use of airguns and imitation guns to threaten:
 - A man convicted of murdering his girlfriend in Canterbury also admitted possessing a BB gun with intent to cause fear of violence - he had threatened people in a supermarket.
 - A man who threatened to kill his mother when he was armed with an imitation handgun at their home in Mickleover (Derbyshire) has been jailed for 13 months.
 - A man from Merefild (Nottingham) who threatened his ex-girlfriend with an imitation pistol has pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear and been sentenced to 4½ years.
 - A teenager who was drunk when he rang 999 while brandishing a replica handgun outside his home in Sunderland and threatened to shoot police officers has admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent and been given a 12-month youth supervision order and 12 days of community work and a 3-month curfew.
 - A teenager who threatened a police officer with an imitation handgun in Dewsbury (West Yorkshire) pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and was sentenced to 4 years in a detention centre - two other boys pleaded guilty to related offences.
 - A man who pointed an imitation sawn-off shotgun at a police officer in Kirkliston (Edinburgh) has been jailed for 8 months after admitting assaulting the officer by presenting an imitation firearm at him.
 - A man who pointed a sawn-off shotgun at a girl in a road rage incident in Preston (Lancashire) pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm and has been given a suspended 12-month prison sentence and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid community work.
 - A man who fired an air pistol in the air during a disturbance in a street in Darlington (County Durham) has pleaded guilty to affray and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
 - A teenager who pulled out an air pistol on a man in Billingham (Teesside) admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and having an imitation firearm in public and was jailed for 16 months.
 - A man who was seen brandishing an imitation gun in the street in Prenton (Merseyside) was jailed for 14 months for possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

- A man who made threats to kill himself outside his home in Scissett (West Yorkshire) has admitted possessing an imitation firearm in a public place.
- A teenager from Portsmouth who conducted a 17-day crime spree was convicted of a number of offences including possession of an imitation firearm - he was sent to a young offenders' institute for 13 months.
- A man found with an unloaded air rifle in a street in Wisbech (Cambridgeshire) has pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon with ammunition.
- A man pleaded guilty to possessing drugs, several illegal air weapons and ammunition, as well as a stun gun, which were found at his home in Slough (Berkshire).
- There were a number of convictions for robberies and attempted robberies in which the offender(s) was armed with an imitation firearm. The incidents occurred:
 - at **Shops** in Leeds where an air rifle was fired during a robbery (a man has been jailed indefinitely and must serve a minimum of 2 years and 81 days), Tottenham (north London) where one of three teenagers was armed with an imitation revolver (one of the offenders has received a 3-year prison sentence), and Thornton Heath (south London) where a 14-year-old used a ball-bearing gun (he was found guilty of armed robbery and possession of an imitation firearm)
 - at a **Bookmakers** in Ayr where a toy gun was used (a man has been jailed for five years and eight months)
 - at a **Building Society** in Cambridge (a hospital order was imposed on a man who threatened staff with an imitation firearm)
 - at **Homes** in Old Trafford (Greater Manchester) with a blank-firing handgun (a man was jailed for 3 years after being found hiding in a back garden after a burglary), and in Sharples (Lancashire) where an imitation gun was left in the house (two men including the nephew of the victim have pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 5 years and 4 months and 6 years and 8 months)
 - at a **Brothel** in Wolverhampton where three men, one aged 16, threatened to shoot a woman whilst armed with an imitation firearm (two men were given 5 year custodial sentences and the other 4 years)
 - in a **Street** robbery in Jesmond Dene (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) in which four teenagers robbed a man (three of them admitted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and a fourth teenager was found guilty of the same charges)
 - at a **Railway Station** in Lea Green (Merseyside) with a BB gun and knife (two 16-year-olds have been given a 12-month detention order and a third teenager an 18-month rehabilitation order)
 - during a **Vehicle** theft in Anerley (south London) where a minicab driver was dragged from his car at gunpoint (a man was found guilty of robbery and possession of an imitation firearm with intent and been jailed for 13 years)
 - on a **Bus** in Bradford where a driver was threatened with an imitation weapon (a man has pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and having an imitation weapon and been jailed for 2½ years)
 - on a **Security Guard** in Blackpool (Lancashire) where the victim was pushed to the floor (the man was jailed for this and another robbery for a total of 16 years)
- A man with 78 convictions asked a friend in Charford (Worcestershire) to look after a package containing an imitation pistol and blank cartridges - he was given a suspended 26-week jail term and 12-months supervision. Another man who was banned from possessing firearms for life was caught with an air rifle and ammunition at his home in Headley Park (Bristol) - the magistrates agreed it was a technical breach and gave him a 6-month conditional discharge. A man from

Dagenham (east London) found with an air rifle has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm against the conditions of his licence following his release from jail.

- A teenager pleaded guilty to a number of offences including the theft of an air rifle which was stolen from an allotment shed in Chatburn (Lancashire).
- An interim closure order has been granted on a property in Haverhill (Suffolk) which has been used as a crack house and where neighbours heard air rifle shots.

GUN INCIDENTS – AUGUST 2010

ENGLAND

Birmingham Mail 31 August 2010

A boy of 12 was injured when he was shot in the arm with an **air rifle** fired from a block of flats in **Highgate**, Birmingham. The shot went over the head of the boy's mother. His jacket absorbed most of the impact.

BBC, 31 August 2010

Jason Barnett has been jailed for seven and a half years after pleading guilty to drugs and weapons charges. He was arrested after a gun and chemicals used in cocaine production were found in his van after police were called to a domestic incident at his house in **Avonmouth**, Bristol. A pump action rifle was found in a hidden compartment.

BBC, 31 August 2010

Police are investigating reports that a gun was fired in the **St Ann's** area of Nottingham. No one is believed to have been injured. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder (**BBC**, 1 September 2010).

Liverpool Echo, 30 August 2010

Police are hunting for a man wanted in connection with firearms offences. A search of a house in **Belle Vale**, Liverpool, had revealed gun parts and quantities of crack cocaine.

Evening Chronicle, 30 August 2010

Three teenagers, Bradley Bulman, Kieron Smith and Dillon Cooper, have admitted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent and a fourth, Wayne Scott, has been found guilty of the same charges. They carried out the robbery in **Jesmond Dene**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and stole a brown leather jacket containing cash, a credit card, debit card, driving licence and a library card from their male victim.

BBC, 30 August 2010

Three men, one of them a teenager, have been arrested after a man was seen firing a gun at a car in **Halewood**, Merseyside. It has since been said by police that a gun may not have been fired (**BBC**, 2 September 2010).

Manchester Evening News, 29 August 2010

A shopkeeper in **Leigh**, Greater Manchester, struggled with two men waving handguns during a raid. He refused to open the till. One robber dropped his gun and the two men fled with the till.

Oxford Times, 28 August 2010

Mark Maisey was found to have a **stun gun** in his room at his flat in **Carterton**, Oxfordshire, in October 2009. He had found the weapon in the back of a taxi. He has admitted possession of a prohibited weapon and been ordered to do 80 hours' unpaid work and pay £1200 costs.

Express & Star, 28 August 2010

A man armed with a gun confronted a shopkeeper at a store in **Penkridge**, Staffordshire, and fired a shot. The man fled empty handed.

Express & Star, 28 August 2010

Anthony Brown, Anthony Adair and Joshua Bernard, who is 16, burst into a property in **Wolverhampton** which was being run as a brothel and threatened to shoot a woman in the head during a robbery. All three have pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. Brown was jailed for five years, Adair and Bernard were sent to a young offenders' institution for five years and four years, respectively.

Daily Mirror, 28 August 2010

A mugger wielding a gun attempted to steal a woman's bag in a park in **Solihull**, West Midlands, but was fought off by her husband with an umbrella. An **imitation weapon** was recovered nearby and a man was arrested on suspicion of robbery (*Solihull News*, 25 August 2010).

Watford Observer, 27 August 2010

A man armed with a handgun threatened a security man loading money into a van in **Chorleywood**, Hertfordshire. The man grabbed a cash box containing a small amount of foreign money before being driven off.

This is the West Country, 27 August 2010

An **airgun** pellet missed a motorist by inches and hit a bottle next to him. The pellet was fired through his windscreen as he drove on the A361 near **Tiverton**, Devon. He noticed two teenagers on a bridge and believes they had an air rifle.

Teesdale Mercury, 27 August 2010

A man was arrested and received a police caution after cannabis plants and rifle bullets were found at a property in **Butterknowle**, County Durham. The man did not have permission for the bullets.

Northern Echo, 27 August 2010

Steven Thompson has admitted possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition without a licence. He bought a Tariq short-barrelled pistol and 19 bullets from a man who came to his Army surplus shop in **Darlington**, County Durham, despite the gun not having a deactivation certificate. He also pleaded guilty to having two **stun guns** and a pepper spray. He is facing a minimum five-year jail sentence.

Manchester Evening News, 27 August 2010

Residents in **Marland**, Greater Manchester, heard gunshots and saw men dressed in military fatigues swarming all over a former school. The police were called. The school was being used for **paintball-style** military games. The games have now been stopped.

Manchester Evening News, 27 August 2010

Two men armed with a metal bar and a handgun burst into a shop in **Timperley**, Greater Manchester. They threatened two workers and hit one of them over the head with the metal bar. They fled with cash and cigarettes.

Liverpool Echo, 27 August 2010

A man has been charged with robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** after a robbery at a bookmakers in **Old Swan**, Liverpool. He had been armed with a metal pipe wrapped in a plastic bag to make it look like a gun.

Leighton Buzzard Observer & Citizen, 27 August 2010

Three men, one armed with what was believed to have been a handgun, entered a pub in **Leighton Buzzard**, Bedfordshire, and forced staff to hand over a considerable amount of cash.

Lancashire Telegraph, 27 August 2010

A teenager who caused £16,000 worth of damage as he and another youth rifled caravans at a storage site and broke locks and removed property from allotment sheds in **Chatburn**, Lancashire, pleaded guilty to a charge of the theft of an **air rifle** from an allotment and a number of other offences. Dominic Cain was committed on bail for sentence.

Lancashire Evening Post, 27 August 2010

An 11-year-old boy and four other youths were arrested following a violent brawl in **Preston**, Lancashire, thought to involve a gun. A **toy gun**, resembling a pump action shotgun, was discovered after police scoured the area. The youths were being questioned on suspicion of possession of firearms and offensive weapons.

Eastern Daily Press, 27 August 2010

Guns were among items handed in anonymously during a weapons amnesty organised in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. They included a revolver, three rifles, a **BB gun** and a handgun. There were also cigarette lighters which resemble handguns.

Watford Observer, 26 August 2010

Staff at a supermarket in **Watford** refused to hand over cash to a man armed with a gun who demanded till money. The cashier told him he couldn't open the till and eventually the man left empty-handed. A man has since been arrested. He has been charged with attempted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** (*Watford Observer*, 27 August 2010).

Muswell Hill Journal, 26 August 2010

A court has heard that a gang of raiders, armed with two guns, a knife and CS spray, tied up a family in their own home in **South Tottenham**, north London, in November 2009. The father was dragged into a car and taken to a cash and carry where he worked as manager and a security guard was threatened with a gun. The robbers fled empty-handed as the safe could not be opened. Wander Vaz pleaded guilty to five counts of false imprisonment and one of attempted robbery. The two other members of the gang are still on the run.

Lincolnshire Echo, 26 August 2010

Two 18-year-olds are on trial charged with robbing a woman at her home in **Grantham**, Lincolnshire, where they had spent the weekend. One of them is alleged to have produced a handgun and demanded cash as he held the gun to the woman's head. The other teenager then kicked the door off a cupboard where money was stored.

Evening Standard, 26 August 2010

Two men aimed a handgun at a barber and pulled the trigger during an armed robbery on a neighbouring shop in **Harringay**, north London. The gun jammed. He and five others disarmed the robbers who were arrested by the police who confirmed that two suspects had been arrested for attempted armed robbery. Two shots are reported to have been fired to threaten the shop owner who was clubbed over the head. Two teenagers have been charged with attempted robbery, possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit robbery and possessing of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (*Haringey Independent*, 27 August 2010).

Evening Post (Bristol), 26 August 2010

A man waved a loaded pistol in his girlfriend's face and threatened to slash her at his flat in **Bristol**. The gun was a Glock 8mm blank-firing pistol, adapted to fire live rounds. The woman had to be rescued by armed police. Abdizak Daoud pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm, possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate and false imprisonment and was jailed for six years.

East Anglian Daily Times, 26 August 2010

A councillor from **Great Bentley**, Essex, has been charged with possession of a firearm without a certificate and a second count of possessing ammunition without a certificate. The charges appear to related to one round of ammunition and a silencer.

This is Local London, 25 August 2010

A 14-year-old boy has been found guilty of armed robbery and possession of an imitation firearm after holding up his neighbourhood convenience store in **Thornton Heath**, south London. He forced the shopkeeper to hand over £750. He claimed the weapon had been a **ball-bearing gun**.

This is Lancashire, 25 August 2010

A rifle and silencer were recovered from a house in **Platt Bridge**, Greater Manchester, and a **shotgun** and ammunition were also recovered from another house in the area. Three men were arrested following armed raids in Golborne and Platt Bridge as part of an operation to crack a major drug dealing gang.

Nottingham Post, 25 August 2010

When police visited the flat of Damion Munn in **East Leake**, Nottinghamshire, they found a silencer which could be fitted to a 9mm pistol or .38 revolver and 61 live rounds of ammunition. Munn was funding a community centre in New Basford with his earnings from drug dealing. He pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and heroin with intent to supply, possession of cannabis and having a silencer and ammunition without a firearms certificate. He received four years and nine months for the intent to supply charges and concurrent sentences for the cannabis (two-and-a-half years) and ammunition and silencer (18 months).

Morley Observer & Advertiser, 25 August 2010

A man brandishing a gun robbed a store in **East Ardsley**, West Yorkshire. He stole money as the cash machine was being filled.

The Independent, 25 August 2010

A shopkeeper confronted a masked man at his shop in **Alwoodley**, Leeds, in June 2010. The man pointed a gun to his face but the shopkeeper attempted to grab the weapon before chasing the robber down the street. CCTV footage of the incident has been posted on YouTube. The police have said that while the actions of the shopkeeper were extremely brave "we do not encourage people to risk their own safety and would always advice ringing the police".

Ham & High, 25 August 2010

A PCSO was shot in the chest by a suspected **airgun** while he was on patrol in **Golders Green**, north London. He sustained bruising to his chest but was not seriously hurt.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 24 August 2010

Two men brandishing handguns raided a village store in **Nether Heyford**, Northamptonshire. They threatened staff members and forced them to hand over the contents of the safe.

Enfield Independent, 24 August 2010

Three teenagers who took part in an armed robbery at a newsagents in **Tottenham**, north London, in May 2010 have pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of a firearm. The 16-year-old wielded an **imitation revolver** and knife before grabbing cash. One of the teenagers has received a three-year prison sentence.

Echo, 24 August 2010

Ashley Mansaram has pleaded guilty to firearms offences and been jailed for five years and four months. He pointed a pistol at a group outside a club in **Southend**, Essex, in April 2010 and attempted to fire four shots but the gun jammed. He lowered the weapon down by his side where it went off.

Click Liverpool, 24 August 2010

Paramedics called to a house in **Page Moss**, Liverpool, treated a man for a gunshot wound to his thigh. A 17-year-old has been arrested in connection with the shooting.

Streatham Guardian, 23 August 2010

A man is on trial accused of a shooting a man in the leg with a **shotgun** in **Streatham**, south London. The shooting is alleged to have occurred after the gunman found out that the victim was dating his ex-girlfriend. The accused was on the run for more than two years after the attack. He has been found not guilty (*This is Local London*, 1 September 2010).

Maidenhead Advertiser, 23 August 2010

Melvin Williams has pleaded guilty to being in possession of a class B drug with intent to supply and possessing firearms. A **taser**, several illegal **air weapons**, which were over the legal poundage, and ammunition were found at his home in **Slough**, Berkshire.

Liverpool Echo, 23 August 2010

Two men are being hunted after they were seen firing a handgun in **Kirkby**, Liverpool. Nobody was injured and it remains unclear why the gun was fired.

Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette, 23 August 2010

A 13-year-old was caught firing a **BB gun** in the street in **Jarrow**, Tyneside. He was spotted by a resident. He and his parents were spoken to by police officers and the gun was handed over.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 23 August 2010

Dominic Mendy and Danny Palmer have been jailed for carrying out a £17,000 armed robbery at a supermarket in **Chichester**, West Sussex, in March 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). They threatened two security guards with two decommissioned 9mm handguns. Both men admitted robbery and possessing a prohibited weapon. Mendy will serve a minimum of four years and Palmer a minimum of five-and-a-half years.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 23 August 2010

Armed police swooped on the railway station in **Peterborough** after reports that a man had a gun on board a train. A passenger had called police after spotting the man loading what appeared to be a firearm as the train passed through **Grantham**, Lincolnshire. A man was found with a **BB gun** in his rucksack and was cautioned. The police had undertaken a full firearms operation and the incident had "caused great concern and distress".

Daily Mail, 23 August 2010

A drunk teenager rang 999 while brandishing a **replica Glock handgun** outside his home in **Sunderland**. He threatened to shoot police officers in an armed response team. The 17-year-old admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent. He was given a 12-month youth supervision order, 12 days of community work and a three-month curfew. Destruction of the gun was also ordered.

Coventry Telegraph, 23 August 2010

Lee Walters and Scott Warner, both aged 19, have pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing ammunition without a certificate. The police found a .22 calibre pistol and live bullets when their car was stopped at a petrol station in **Wyken**, West Midlands, in January 2010. The gun had been fired as there was a single spent cartridge in the breach. Both teenagers have been jailed for five years.

BBC, 23 August 2010

Two men were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm and class A drugs. One of the men was wanted for questioning by police and was seen by officers in a car in **Moss Side**, Manchester, with the other man. The gun, ammunition and drugs were found in the vehicle.

The Star, 21 August 2010

A funeral service at a church in **Letwell**, South Yorkshire, had to be halted after **shotgun** pellets and fireworks were fired over the heads of mourners. The pellets showered mourners at the graveside.

Sky News, 21 August 2010

A man suffered a gunshot wound in a back garden in **Top Valley**, Nottingham, and was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. Detectives do not believe that the shooting was a random attack. The victim was at a friend's party when he was killed by a single shot to the head (*Nottingham Post*, 23 August 2010). A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after voluntarily attending a police station (*BBC*, 24 August 2010).

Cambridge News, 21 August 2010

A man fired a **shotgun** over the head of a 5-year-old traveller child who was alleged to be trespassing on his land in **Swavesey**, Cambridgeshire. The incident occurred near a gypsy Christian festival. A man has been arrested on firearms offences.

This is Kent, 20 August 2010

Paramedics who spotted a gun while treating a man who had experienced breathing difficulties at his flat in **Tunbridge Wells**, Kent, raised the alarm. Armed police surrounded the block of flats for five hours. The weapon was a **ball-bearing gun** which the man used to frighten animals. A police spokesman said they could not afford to take chances when the safety of the public was at risk. "When you are looking down the barrel of a gun not even an expert would be able to tell you if it is a replica or not. Everything is treated as if it's the real thing."

News & Star, 20 August 2010

A number of road-signs between **Ennerdale Bridge** and **Calder Bridge** in Cumbria have been riddled with bullet holes. Some of the damage may have happened some years ago. It is suggested that .22 rifles are being used.

The Journal, 20 August 2010

A man was shot in the leg when violence flared in a street in **Willington Quay**, Tyneside. Neighbours said they heard several gun shots and saw three or four men running through the street before driving off. The victim's injuries are serious but not life-threatening. One man has been charged with a public order offence and a teenager is also in custody. The gunshot victim has appeared in court accused of violent disorder (*Sunday Sun*, 22 August 2010). Three men were arrested and have been charged with conspiracy to murder (*BBC*, 27 August 2010).

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 20 August 2010

Richard Gant who was making threats to kill himself outside his home in **Scissett**, West Yorkshire, in April 2010 (see [Incidents](#)) has admitted possessing an **imitation firearm** in a public place. The police recovered several replica weapons from a house at the time of the incident. Sentencing was adjourned for a report to be prepared by the probation service.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 20 August 2010

Kade Mason, 19, looked after a **double-barrelled shotgun** and cartridges at his home in **Rawthorpe**, West Yorkshire. They were found by police executing a search warrant in January 2010. He pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and was given a reduced sentence of two years detention in a young offenders' institution. He received concurrent sentences for other offences.

Get Surrey, 20 August 2010

A woman in **Woking**, Surrey, has been shot with what was believed to be an **air rifle**. She was standing on the balcony of her flat when she felt a sharp pain in her right foot. She saw four metal pellets surrounding her feet. She is now scared to leave her home.

The Gazette, 20 August 2010

Russell Grant carried out two armed robberies while on the run from the law after failing to return from home leave. In August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) he pushed a security guard to the floor as the man was delivering cash to a bank in **Blackpool**, Lancashire, and Grant held out a short barrelled handgun when the guard refused to let go of the cash box. Grant fled but was later identified by DNA. Grant and an accomplice had struck another security guard in Prescott, Merseyside in January 2006. He pleaded guilty to two robberies and possessing an **imitation gun** and was sentenced to a total of 16 years.

Daily Mirror, 20 August 2010

At a court in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, Eleanor Hughes admitted hiding a gun and ammunition for her ex-boyfriend in her bedroom. She was jailed for five years.

BBC, 20 August 2010

A shopkeeper fought off a gang of armed raiders at his off licence in **Radcliffe**, Greater Manchester, by hurling cans of beer at them. The three men had threatened him with a gun but left empty-handed.

BBC, 20 August 2010

A security guard loading a cash machine at a supermarket in **Tewkesbury**, Gloucestershire, was challenged by a man holding what appeared to be a small firearm. Cash was taken and the man and his accomplices escaped by car. An imitation firearm and a large amount of cash were later recovered, and four men have been charged with robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** while committing an offence (*This is Gloucestershire*, 23 August 2010).

BBC, 20 August 2010

Martin Shaw from **Worksop**, Nottinghamshire, has been jailed for five years after admitting possession of a **sawn-off shotgun**. He was arrested in April 2010 (see [Incidents](#)) after he was heard bragging about plans for an armed robbery. He also admitted a drugs offence.

BBC, 20 August 2010

Thieves stole a rifle during a burglary at a house in **Carterton**, Oxfordshire. The .22 calibre Anschutz target rifle was among a number of items taken.

Lancashire Telegraph, 19 August 2010

A woman brandishing an **air rifle** went into a store in **Darwen**, Lancashire, and demanded vodka. She was disarmed by an employee and a customer. The woman was arrested on suspicion of robbery. The gun turned out to be unloaded.

Independent, 19 August 2010

A man who told staff at a bank in **Winchester**, Hampshire, that he had a gun and threatened to shoot them walked out with £1600 in his hand. He then walked along the street and threw the money in the air. A number of shoppers scooped up the notes and many hurried away.

Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News, 18 August 2010

A 19-year-old has been arrested after a **shotgun**, silencer and ammunition were found at his home in **Whiston**, Merseyside.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 18 August 2010

Luke Bosworth from **Merefield**, Northampton, walked uninvited into his ex-girlfriend's home pointing what appeared to be a black handgun at her. He threatened to "blow her head off". The police were called and Bosworth calmed down and handed over the gun, an **imitation pistol**. He has pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear and been sentenced to four-and-a-half years.

Manchester Evening News, 18 August 2010

A man was shot in the bottom with an **airgun** pellet while walking in **Hadfield**, Derbyshire. He thought he had been stung by an insect but found a small hole in his trousers when he returned home. The pellet was removed at a hospital.

Lancashire Evening Post, 18 August 2010

A man pointed a sawn-off shotgun at an 11-year-old girl after her father sounded his horn at a car that undercut him at traffic lights in **Preston**, Lancashire. The car was later intercepted and the gun was found under the front passenger seat. Aniz Bhad pleaded guilty to possessing an **imitation firearm**. He was given a suspended 12-month prison sentence and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid community work.

The Enquirer, 18 August 2010

Two men were admitted to hospital in **Basildon**, Essex, with **shotgun** wounds. Armed police created a cordon around the hospital. Armed police stormed a garden centre in connection with the shootings and discovered 50 cannabis plants and seized firearms. The injured men have been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm and a third man, who drove them to the hospital, has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. Two women have been arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis (*Echo*, 21 August 2010).

BBC, 18 August 2010

A **BB gun** was among weapons recovered in an operation by the Metropolitan Police ahead of the Notting Hill Carnival in west London. They also recovered drugs and £60,000 cash in searches in **Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove and Fulham**. Three people were arrested.

This is Cornwall, 17 August 2010

A man wielding a **shotgun** attempted to rob a post office in **Lostwithiel**, Cornwall, as the owners were shutting up. He fled the scene after his demands for cash were refused by staff.

Telegraph & Argus, 17 August 2010

A **Taser gun** was recovered by police during dawn raids in **Bradford** in connection with a drugs conspiracy which resulted in 11 arrests.

Telegraph & Argus, 17 August 2010

Gary Foote was caught with a large knife and a gun silencer at a hospital in **Bradford**. He claimed it was to protect him from his drug dealer. He admitted two offences of having an offensive weapon and has been jailed for 16 months.

Telegraph & Argus, 17 August 2010

Shots were fired at homes in **Bradford** in two incidents which detectives believe may be linked. In the second incident in which two bullets were fired a glass panel in the front door was smashed. Two men have been arrested.

Press Association, 17 August 2010

Callum Hall has been found guilty of possessing a 9mm pistol with intent to endanger life. During an incident in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) he opened fire after being chased by two police in **Southwark**, south London. He was cleared of two counts of attempted murder after claiming he did not mean to hit the officers. They had approached him about an incident earlier that month in which he was alleged to have threatened a mother at gunpoint and demanded money. Hall was also convicted with firearm possession, unlawful wounding and attempted aggravated burglary with a pistol and hunting knife on July 28 2009. Deniz Ozdil was found guilty of the same offences. He was also found guilty with Anthony Babalola of an aggravated burglary carried out with an **imitation firearm** on 22 July 2009. Babalola was also convicted of two counts of intimidation. A 17-year-old youth admitted a separate firearms charge. All four have been remanded in custody to be sentenced in September.

Halesowen News, 17 August 2010

Conrad Powell and Kieron Campbell took part in a robbery at a supermarket in **Halesowen**, West Midlands, in which one of three men who entered the store claimed they had a gun. Both men admitted robbery and have been jailed for 40 months. The judge accepted that neither of the men were aware of any gun. The other two men have yet to appear before a court.

The Enquirer, 17 August 2010

A man with a plastic bag in the shape of a gun demanded cash from two women at a post office in **Herongate**, Essex. He made off with just £40. An image of the man has been released by police (*BBC*, 1 September 2010).

Enfield Independent, 17 August 2010

Police want a club in **Enfield**, north London, to be shut after a series of violent incidents which culminated in June 2010 when a DJ was shot from a passing car. He received wounds to the arm and buttocks. In May there had been a mass brawl involving firearms.

Chippenham People, 17 August 2010

Police in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, are warning youngsters of the danger of **BB guns** after two boys, aged 10 and 11, were caught with the weapons. The weapons which had been bought at a local shop were confiscated by officers who were called to the scene by concerned neighbours.

BBC, 17 August 2010

A two-year-old boy is to undergo surgery after being shot in the neck with an **air rifle** in **Winthorpe**, Lincolnshire. The boy's father is believed to have fired the gun without knowing it was loaded. He was arrested and released on bail (*Independent*, 18 August 2010). The boy has now been released from hospital. The police have said all indications were that the shooting was an accident (*BBC*, 23 August 2010).

Press Association, 16 August 2010

Dwayne McPherson has been convicted of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. He took out a gun and fired several rounds at a man who had deliberately run down and killed McPherson's friend outside a nightclub in **Southwark**, south London, in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). One bullet struck the man but he survived. The man he shot has now been convicted of murder.

Mirfield Reporter, 16 August 2010

A pensioner was surrounded by four men who threatened him with what is thought to have been a handgun. The incident occurred at the victim's home in **Dewsbury**, West Yorkshire. The men left with cash.

Haverhill Echo, 16 August 2010

Residents of a street in **Haverhill**, Suffolk, were left feeling like 'prisoners in their own home' after anti-social behaviour at a neighbouring house. One said he heard **air rifle** shots from the house. An interim closure order has been granted on the property which had been used as a crackhouse.

Express and Star, 16 August 2010

A bus driver swerved as he was shot in the arm while he was driving a bus near **Featherstone**, West Midlands. He managed to control the vehicle and brought it to a safe stop. The shot was fired by someone with a **pellet gun** who was hiding in the woods. He did not require hospital treatment.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 16 August 2010

Jamie Hand threatened to kill his mother while pointing an **imitation handgun** at her head after an argument was sparked by the smell of her cooking. The incident took place at the home in **Mickleover**, Derbyshire. His mother escaped to a neighbour's where the police were called. Police found a BB gun and a blank-firing pistol. Hand has been jailed for 13 months.

BBC, 16 August 2010

Two door staff at a pub in **West Derby**, Liverpool, have been shot in the legs. Both men were taken to hospital where they were being treated for their injuries. It is thought that a group of young men who had been ejected from the pub on a previous night might have been responsible. Police think a handgun was used (*Liverpool Echo*, 17 August 2010).

BBC, 16 August 2010

A man threatened staff with a handgun at a bookmakers in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. He got away with an undisclosed amount of money. The raid took place in the street where a house was hit by gunfire 48 hours earlier (see below) (*Bedford Today*, 16 August 2010).

Reading Post, 13 August 2010

A man has been accused of threatening a police officer with a gun in **East Reading** in July 2010. He is also charged with one count of resisting arrest.

Luton Today, 13 August 2010

A gun was fired in a street in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. No one was injured but several shots are said to have hit a house (*Bedford Today*, 16 August 2010).

Lancashire Telegraph, 13 August 2010

A female shopkeeper was threatened with a gun at an off-licence in **Blackburn**, Lancashire. Four men entered the shop, two of them carrying firearms. The victim was punched by one of the offenders who stole a quantity of money and cigarettes.

Dewsbury Reporter, 13 August 2010

A crime spree by a teenage gang in **Dewsbury**, West Yorkshire, came to an end when one of the boys threatened a police officer with an **imitation handgun**, pushing it into the officer's face. Three boys have pleaded guilty. The one with the gun pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and was sentenced to four years in a detention centre.

Bucks Free Press, 13 August 2010

Gunshots were fired outside a home in **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire. The occupants were not at home at the time. It is thought that the shots are linked to a series of incidents in Slough. A man has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder.

Birmingham Mail, 13 August 2010

A man has been charged with robbery and possession of an offensive weapon and one attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. The latter charges were in relation to an incident at a betting shop in **Acocks Green**, Birmingham, in which a soldier confronted the gunman when he realised the gun wasn't loaded. The gunman had demanded money.

Beccles & Bungay Journal, 13 August 2010

An **air rifle** was stolen in a burglary at a home in **Walpole**, Suffolk. A silencer and scope/sight were attached to the gun. Nothing else was stolen.

BBC, 13 August 2010

A handgun was seen during an armed robbery at a sub post office in **Coventry**. One man demanded cash while another offender waited outside. They escaped with a large quantity of cash.

BBC, 13 August 2010

William Dunbar has been convicted of aggravated burglary in **Oakley**, Bedfordshire, in October 2009 and a separate burglary in Clapham, south London. In Oakley a couple were forced at gunpoint to remain on the sofa while the house was searched. Dunbar was given an indeterminate sentence for public protection and must serve a minimum of nine years.

BBC, 13 August 2010

Two men both armed with handguns burst into a petrol station in **Shinfield**, Berkshire, and stole an amount of cash after threatening two employees. Two men have been charged with robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** (*Reading Chronicle*, 16 August 2010). One of them, a teenager, has also been charged with a burglary and possession of cannabis (*Reading Post*, 16 August 2010).

Tamworth Herald, 12 August 2010

Richard Jackson shot his partner in the leg during a drunken assault. The attack happened when he returned drunk to their home in **Tamworth**, Staffordshire. He threw two punches at her and then ran upstairs to get his **air rifle** to find her cornered in the back garden. He has admitted assault causing actual bodily harm, criminal damage and cultivating cannabis and been jailed for two years.

Southwark News, 12 August 2010

An 18-year-old was found in possession of a **taser gun** disguised as a mobile phone when he was stopped by police in **Peckham**, south east London. He faces two charges of possession of weapons.

Echo, 12 August 2010

Armed police stormed a house after an hour-long stand-off in **Westcliff**, Essex, after a tip-off a woman had been threatened with a firearm. One man was arrested. Two further suspects were taken from the building and arrested (*Echo*, 13 August 2010).

Daily Mail, 12 August 2010

A 19-year-old suspected of stealing a few pounds from his grandparents used a **shotgun** from the farm he shared with them to kill himself. In February 2010 he drove from his home in **Bristol** to a lay-by in **Cornwall** where his body was found in a van. A verdict of suicide was recorded at the inquest.

BBC, 12 August 2010

Matthew Rennison fired a rifle in front of a couple and their two-year-old daughter as he robbed a shop in **Leeds** in November 2009. He was with an unknown accomplice and fled with cash and cigarettes. He has been jailed indefinitely and must serve a minimum of two years and 81 days. The weapon was an **air rifle** later recovered from a property linked to Rennison (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, 16 August 2010).

BBC, 12 August 2010

An 11-year-old boy has been shot in the face with a **BB gun** while he was playing in a park in **Derby**. A 14-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm.

BBC, 12 August 2010

A man narrowly missed being shot in **Plymouth**. Armed police officers arrested a man and seized an **air rifle**.

BBC, 12 August 2010

A 13-year-old girl needed hospital treatment after being shot in the eye with a **BB gun** in **Barton**, Oxford. The pellet hit the iris in her eye and bounced off.

Telegraph & Argus, 11 August 2010

A man who tried to rob a bus driver in **Bradford** has pleaded guilty to charges of attempted robbery and having an **imitation weapon**. In November 2009 Danny Mavin had been drinking all day when he pointed what looked like a black handgun at the driver and threatened him. He was recognised from CCTV images. Mavin has been jailed for two and a half years.

Streatham Guardian, 11 August 2010

Guns and ammunition were seized by armed police officers from **Lambeth**, south London, during an operation. They uncovered a handgun, a **shotgun** and a **BB gun**.

Oxford Times, 11 August 2010

A gunman escaped with the contents of the safe at a supermarket in **Bloxham**, Oxfordshire. After he entered the store he took out a gun and rounded up staff and customers before getting one of the employees to empty cash from the safe into a bag.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 11 August 2010

A cannabis factory and an unlicensed gas-powered pellet gun were discovered by police in raids on two houses in **Rectory Farm**, Northampton. The officers confiscated the weapon after the owner voluntarily gave it up.

News Shopper, 11 August 2010

David Sieni beat up a minicab driver and dragged him from his vehicle at gunpoint before stealing the vehicle. The attack took place in **Anerley**, south London, in December 2009. He was found guilty of robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent and given a 13 year prison sentence.

Hackney Gazette, 11 August 2010

Shots were fired in a street in **Stoke Newington**, east London, causing damage to a parked car.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 11 August 2010

An 18-year-old woman is thought to have been accidentally shot with an **air rifle** in the garden of a house in **Peterborough**. She was stable in hospital. Another woman was arrested in connection with the incident.

Daily Echo, 11 August 2010

Jordan McKenna has admitted a number of offences after he stole weapons from a gun shop in **Christchurch**, Dorset, in April 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). Five revolvers, three **shotguns** and an **air rifle** were recovered from a getaway car. He admitted burglary, driving while disqualified, aggravated vehicle taking and possessing firearms at the time of his arrest and has been jailed for six years.

Bolton News, 11 August 2010

Reece Smith and Ashley Burns have been jailed for their part in an armed robbery at the house of Smith's estranged uncle in **Sharples**, Lancashire, in February 2009. Three men attacked the victim as Smith kept lookout. The men believed they would find £20,000 in a safe which only contained personal documents. One of the robbers left an **imitation gun** inside the house. Burns pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and was sentenced to five years and four months, Smith pleaded guilty to robbery and was sentenced to six years and eight months. The other two men have not been caught.

BBC, 11 August 2010

A 16-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences after a series of raids in **Fazakerley, Croxteth** and **Norris Green**, Liverpool. No further action will be taken against the teenager. The police seized three **blank-firing handguns** during the raids (*Liverpool Echo*, 13 August 2010).

Redditch Advertiser, 10 August 2010

A man was shot in the face with a **BB gun** in **Redditch**, Worcestershire. He was walking when a car pulled up alongside him and a male passenger shot at him before the car sped off.

Herald Express, 10 August 2010

Two men burst into a country hotel in **Preston**, Devon, and threatened and tied up the family who run it. One of the men was armed with a gun. They escaped with cash and two **shotguns**. Two men have been arrested on being involved with the robbery (*BBC*, 23 August 2010).

Hackney Gazette, 10 August 2010

A gunman threatened a police community support officer who was patrolling the streets of **Stoke Newington**, east London. The man was standing in the middle of the road when approached by the officer he pulled out a gun. The officer chased him when he ran off but lost sight of him.

Evening Post (Bristol), 10 August 2010

Ben Edwards who had been banned from possessing firearms for life was caught with an **air rifle** and ammunition at his home in **Headley Park**, Bristol. He claimed he thought the ban was only for five years and had expired and that he had borrowed the gun to control rats in the garden. The magistrates agreed that it was a "technical breach" of the law and gave him a six-month conditional discharge.

Evening Post (Bristol), 10 August 2010

Two boys, aged 11, suffered bruising after they were shot with a **BB pistol** by a youth in **Clevedon**, Somerset. One victim was struck twice in the ribs, the other was hit in the bottom. Police are speaking to several youths in connection with the incident.

Bromsgrove Advertiser, 10 August 2010

Stephen Bradley asked a friend to look after a package containing an **imitation pistol** and blank cartridges wrapped in a nylon bag but the friend suspected what the contents were and the police became involved. The gun and cartridges were found at a house in **Charford**, Worcestershire. Bradley had 78 convictions including a number for firearms and weapons offences. He said that the gun was brought to his house by another man and that he had panicked because of his record for firearms and took the weapon to the Charford address. He was given a suspended 26 week jail term with 12 months supervision by the probation service.

BBC, 10 August 2010

A CCTV operator has received a commendation after witnessing a man who shot another man in the face in **Ramsgate**, Kent, in December 2009. The victim received a puncture wound 2mm below his eye and could have been blinded. The gunman was caught after the operator tracked him to an address. He was sentenced to six years in prison for possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to endanger life (*Thanet District Council*, 10 August 2010).

Rochdale Online, 9 August 2010

Police are appealing for information following an incident at a flat in **Middleton**, Greater Manchester, last month in which two teenagers forced their way in and pointed a handgun at two men and a woman and demanded they give them cannabis. The offenders searched the flat and smashed a window before leaving empty handed.

Nottingham Post, 9 August 2010

A bar worker had a **stun gun** pressed to his head during an armed robbery at a pub in **Daybrook**, Nottingham. The raiders escaped with over £3,000.

Manchester Evening News, 9 August 2010

Two men, aged 18 and 21, have been charged with robbery after a taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint in **Ordsall**, Greater Manchester. A **pellet gun** was apparently recovered nearby.

Echo, 9 August 2010

Douglas Wright removed a gun and bullets from a crime scene in **Rayleigh**, Essex, where a man had been shot in the head in September 2009. Grant Westgarth took the gun and bullets and hid them from the police. The victim survived but still has a bullet lodged inside his head. Wright was the man's cleaner and told the court he had been asked by Westgarth and another man to hide the gun. Wright admitted perverting the course of justice and was jailed for eight months. Westgarth who handed himself into the police with the gun admitted possession of a prohibited firearm, and possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate and was jailed for 18 months. The judge told them that they had both hindered a police investigation into a very serious offence.

Chester Chronicle, 9 August 2010

Two men, one of them carrying a handgun, made off with £20,000 from the post office in **Frodsham**, Cheshire. They were already inside the premises as the sub postmistress entered the property. She was left unhurt but badly shocked.

BBC, 9 August 2010

Police were alerted to an incident at a property in **Liskeard**, Cornwall, after residents reported hearing gunshots. A man was later arrested near **Taunton**, Somerset. He had been stopped for drink-driving but officers later discovered a handgun (*Cornishman*, 11 August 2010).

BBC, 8 August 2010

Two men have been hurt in a double shooting in **Dagenham**, east London. One man found at the scene had been shot in the leg. The other victim was traced to Romford. He had gunshot wounds to the neck and leg. Both are in a stable condition (*Romford Recorder*, 9 August 2010).

Yorkshire Evening Post, 7 August 2010

Two police officers have been honoured for disarming and subduing a man at a house in **Weetwood**, Leeds. The man was pointing a handgun at them when they responded to a 999 call from the man's partner who had taken refuge in the bathroom. The gun was later found to be a **replica** which appeared entirely real. The man, who was high on cocaine, was convicted of affray and given a 12-month sentence suspended for two years, a 12-month supervision order and ordered to do 250 hours of community service.

Star, 7 August 2010

Steven Keeley claimed he kept a semi-automatic pistol for protection in the wake of his son's murder. The gun was found together with a silencer and ammunition at his home in **Pitsmoor**, Sheffield. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years for possessing the gun and was given a concurrent 12 month sentence for drug offences.

News & Star, 7 August 2010

A teenager from **Longtown**, Cumbria, has had a special disqualification imposed that bans him from possessing, using or carrying a firearm. John Sisson, 18, was the holder of a **shotgun** certificate. He had admitted assaulting another teenager and was given a 10-month suspended jail term for the offence.

Manchester Evening News, 7 August 2010

Lee Bamford has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition, going equipped to commit burglary and handling stolen goods. He was found hiding in a back garden in **Old Trafford**, Greater Manchester, after an elderly woman had been burgled and called the police. A **blank-firing handgun** was recovered nearby. Bamford was jailed for three years. Another man who pleaded guilty to burglary was jailed for 15 months.

Liverpool Echo, 7 August 2010

Phillip Lilliot has been jailed for 14 months for possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was seen brandishing a gun in the street in **Prenton**, Merseyside, in July 2010. His wife, with whom he had broken up, and daughter had rung police saying that he had made threats and that he had a gun. He pointed a handgun at a driver who was stopped when Lilliot was standing in the middle of the road. He was stopped by his neighbour who grabbed him in a lock during a police stand-off. The court heard that he had been drinking and had no recollection of the incident. The gun was an **imitation** (*Wirral Globe*, 9 August 2010).

Huddersfield Daily Express, 7 August 2010

A gunman targeted two shops in the Huddersfield area on the same night. He left empty-handed after two raids on the same shop in **Lockwood** and a service station in **Oakes**.

Birmingham Mail, 7 August 2010

Leon Walters has been found guilty of conspiracy to rob and firearms offences and his accomplice Joseph Clifton of conspiracy to rob. Another man Fitz O'Brian Mahoney pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob and firearms offences. Police officers in **Coventry** swooped on a van in which the three men were travelling in October 2009. The police found a robber's kit of masks and guns, including a **deactivated AK-47** and a Walther PPK-type pistol which had been illegally converted to fire bullets. The pistol has been linked by the National Ballistics Intelligence Service to a shooting in **Kings Heath**, Birmingham, in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) when two shots were fired at police officers. Only Walters has been linked to that incident.

BBC, 7 August 2010

Two men were shot, one in the knee and the other in the shin, in **Wythenshawe**, Manchester. Both were treated in hospital and released.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 6 August 2010

An opening inquest has heard that a man shot himself in the head after a drunken argument with his wife at their home in **Gildersome**, West Yorkshire, in July 2010. The man was a licensed **shotgun** owner. A full inquest will be held at a later date.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 6 August 2010

A driver was allegedly robbed of an iPod at gunpoint in **Leeds** after an accident involving two cars. Three men have been arrested.

Waltham Forest Guardian, 6 August 2010

Two men have been found guilty of running a gun factory in **Leyton**, north east London. Police officers found a number of guns, including a pen and a key-ring which had been modified to fire ammunition in premises under a railway arch in May 2010. The found two Olympic 38 starting pistols in the process of being converted and uncovered self-loading pistols, revolvers and a **stun gun** as well as ammunition and weapon parts. Fatmir Kadena and Paul Coke were found guilty of conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition with intent to enable others to endanger life. Kadena has been jailed for nine years, Coke to 14 years (*Press Association*, 10 August 2010).

This is Gloucestershire, 6 August 2010

A man thought to be carrying a firearm threatened a member of staff at a bookmakers in **Stroud**, Gloucestershire. He stole an amount of cash, believed to be between £300 and £400. A witness has said that when the gun was cocked it sounded like a **BB gun** (*Stroud News & Journal*, 6 August 2010).

Press Association, 6 August 2010

A gunshot was fired through a window during a petrol bomb attack on the neighbouring house in **Stepney**, east London. The incidents followed an earlier argument between a cyclist and a driver outside the house. The driver had threatened to shoot the cyclist.

Liverpool Echo, 6 August 2010 *

A man was shot twice in the legs and robbed of jewellery at a house in **Kensington**, Liverpool. Three men burst into the house. The victim was undergoing surgery for gunshot wounds to both legs and was in a stable condition. Police later found a man hiding under a caravan and discovered items of jewellery. A man has been charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition, robbery and wounding (*BBC*, 7 August 2010). A murder investigation is underway after the victim collapsed and died four weeks later (*Liverpool Echo*, 6 September 2010).

The Herald (Plymouth), 6 August 2010

More than a dozen bus shelters in **Plympton, Plymstock, Leigham** and **Estover** in Devon have been smashed, causing nearly £4,000 of damage. Police believe the damage may have been caused by a **BB gun** or similar weapon, fired from a moving vehicle.

Bucks Herald, 6 August 2010

A man was threatened with what appeared to be a handgun in **Aylesbury**, Buckinghamshire. Two men demanded his wallet and mobile phone but returned the wallet when found there was no money in it. Four men have been arrested on suspicion of robbery and the police seized two **imitation guns**.

Biggleswade Today, 6 August 2010

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of handling offences in **Upper Caldecote**, Bedfordshire, following a raid by officers from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and British Transport Police. A substantial amount of stolen items were recovered including two **shotguns** and a rifle with ammunition and medical equipment believed to have been stolen from an ambulance in **Bedfordshire** earlier this year.

BBC, 6 August 2010

Ali Mahmood shot a student dead for a laptop and £10,000 during a robbery outside a money exchange in **Longsight**, Manchester, in December 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He admitted murder, robbery and possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition and has received a life sentence and will serve a minimum of 27 years. Two other men, Junaid Anjum and Sufyan Butt, both admitted robbery and were jailed for 18 and 13 months, respectively.

This is Walsall, 5 August 2010

A woman was threatened with a gun when four men raided her house in **Streetly**, West Midlands. They ransacked several rooms in the property but left empty-handed. The incident took place in July.

Telegraph, 5 August 2010

A woman found a **double-barrelled shotgun** in a black bin bag in a wood in **Stevenage**, Hertfordshire.

St Helens Star, 5 August 2010

A woman has been charged with being armed with an **imitation gun** and a knife at a psychiatric unit in **Rainhill**, Merseyside, in March 2009.

Diss Mercury, 5 August 2010

A man was arrested after an **imitation firearm** and drugs were seized during a raid at a house in **Diss**, Norfolk.

Burton Mail, 5 August 2010

An inquest has heard that a man from **Newhall**, Derbyshire, shot himself in the head with a wartime revolver in March 2010. He had a broken ankle and had just left his job because he was "fed up" with the way he was being treated. He had also had an argument with his partner. It was not revealed how he had an illegal handgun in his possession. The coroner concluded that he killed himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

BBC, 5 August 2010

Jasbir Singh Takhar and Sukwinder Singh Sanghera have been convicted of the murder of a pub landlord who was shot outside his bar in **Bilston**, West Midlands, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Four men and a woman were found guilty of conspiracy to commit violent disorder and two other defendants were convicted of intimidating a witness before the trial.

BBC, 5 August 2010

Firearms officers were called to a house in **Moulescoomb**, Brighton, following reports of a man with a **shotgun**. A two-hour siege ended peacefully with the arrest of a man.

The Argus, 5 August 2010

Armed police were called out after reports that a bus had been shot at with a **BB gun** in **Brighton**. No-one was injured and no damage had been found.

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, 4 August 2010

A **.22 air rifle** fitted with a silencer and telescopic sights has been stolen from a house in **Malmesbury**, Wiltshire.

Wisbech Standard, 4 August 2010

Ashley Richards has pleaded guilty to possessing an unloaded **air rifle** with ammunition suitable for use with the firearm in a street in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire, in June 2010. He will be sentenced later this month.

Sunderland Echo, 4 August 2010

Police were called after reports that a car had been stolen from **Durham** and one of the men inside was armed with a gun. After a chase the vehicle was stopped in **Sunderland**. No gun was found and three men were arrested on suspicion of theft.

The Sentinel, 4 August 2010

Kane Watkins attacked a takeaway owner with a **stun gun** after a night out drinking in **Burslem**, Staffordshire, in December 2009. Watkins was with a group of other men who came into the shop as it was closing. He fired the Taser at his victim during a scuffle after a window had been broken. He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and possession of a prohibited weapon. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

St Helens Star, 4 August 2010

Two 16-year-olds who robbed two younger boys at **Lea Green** station, Merseyside, in January 2010 (see [Incidents](#)), have been handed 12-month detention orders. They were armed with a **BB gun** and a knife when they robbed the 13-year-old victims of £1.90, a mobile phone and a silver chain. A third teenager has been given an 18-month rehabilitation order and will be subject to electronic tagging for three months and a curfew.

Northern Echo, 4 August 2010

Teenager Michael Downs pulled out an **air pistol** and threatened to shoot an innocent man as he walked past him in **Billingham**, Teesside, in April 2010. The man said he feared for his life when he heard the gun being fired behind his back. Downs, who had previous convictions, admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and having an imitation firearm in public. The gun had the same appearance as a 9mm self-loading pistol. He has been jailed for 16 months.

North London Today, 4 August 2010

Edmond Messenger-Mammy, Richard Abatan and Aiden McGowan were sentenced to four and a half years for aggravated burglary. They stormed into a home in **Edmonton**, north London, in February. Messenger-Manny attacked a man who ran from the house with a **Taser**.

The News, 4 August 2010

Thomas Marriott, 18, from **Portsmouth** conducted a 17-day crime spree. After he rammed a stolen car into another car police found an **imitation firearm** in the boot and a magnetic blue flashing light. He was convicted of a number of offences including possession of an imitation firearm and has been sentenced to 13 months in a young offenders' institute.

Hunts Post, 4 August 2010

A man has been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences after a gun went off during a domestic row in **Ramsey**, Cambridgeshire. No one was injured.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 4 August 2010

A man is on trial charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. It is alleged he threatened another man with a handgun outside the victim's girlfriend's home in **Peterborough** in January 2010. A row appears to have broken out over drugs. The trial continues.

Daily Mail, 4 August 2010

A young farmer shot himself dead minutes after getting a text message from his girlfriend saying her father wanted them to split up the day after he had crashed the car in which they were travelling whilst drunk. An inquest heard that he killed himself with a gun licensed to be used by himself and his parents in his room at his home in **North Benfleet**, Essex, in January 2010. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

Crawley Observer, 4 August 2010

A man heard a tap on the door of his home in **Pound Hill**, West Sussex, and saw a man pointing a **shotgun** at him. He acted instinctively and quickly slammed the door shut as the gunman fired two shots. The victim received pellet wounds to his knee for which he needed treatment. He has now left hospital. Two men have been charged with attempted murder and with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life in connection with the attack (*This is Sussex*, 29 August 2010).

Cambridge News, 4 August 2010

Robert Wheatley held up a building society branch in **Cambridge**. He was immediately recognised by staff as a regular customer. He threatened staff with an **imitation firearm** contained inside a plastic bag. He pleaded guilty to one count of robbery. The judge imposed a hospital order.

Northern Echo, 3 August 2010

Pawel Luczak, one of seven men who pleaded guilty to affray after a disturbance in a street in **Darlington**, County Durham, in May 2009, has also pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He fired an **air pistol** in the air several times during the incident. All seven have been warned to expect a jail sentence.

Evening Post (Bristol), 3 August 2010

George Pointing admitted possessing a prohibited **stun gun** and three charges of possessing a controlled drug. Police found the gun and the drugs in his bedroom in **Bradley Stoke**, Bristol, in November 2009. He was ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

Echo, 3 August 2010

Among incidents of vandalism, arson and theft at allotments in **Leigh**, Essex, which have made plodders scared to work on them, one plodder was shot at with an **airgun**.

Coventry Telegraph, 3 August 2010

A pillion passenger on a motorcycle pointed a gun at two workers at a supermarket in **Coventry** and demanded they hand over cash they were taking to the nearby petrol station. The motorbike sped from the scene after he was given money.

BBC, 3 August 2010

Three youths armed with a **stun gun** have stolen money from a building society in **Boston Spa**, West Yorkshire. Staff were threatened with the gun before the youths made off in a car later found abandoned.

BBC, 3 August 2010

A 16-year-old boy is believed to have shot himself while on the phone to the police. A shot was heard when police contacted the boy after fears were raised for him. He was later pronounced dead at the scene in woods near **Leafield**, Oxfordshire.

Runcorn and Widnes World, 2 August 2010

A man threatened a cashier at a bookmakers in **Widnes**, Cheshire, with a gun hidden in his rucksack. He fled in a waiting car after money had been handed over.

Harlow Herald, 2 August 2010

Two men have been charged with possession of a firearm and other offences after they were stopped and checked by police officers on routine patrol in **Harlow**, Essex. A search revealed a **shotgun** that was seized.

Bolton News, 2 August 2010

A coroner warned that a combination of cocaine and mephedrone may cause people to commit suicide after he found that a man from **Brightmet**, Greater Manchester, shot himself in the head with a **sawn-off shotgun** in March 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). The shotgun was stolen in a burglary at a house in Bolton in the summer of 2009 (*Bolton News*, 4 August 2010).

BBC, 2 August 2010

A man who admitted possessing a **BB gun** with intent to cause fear of violence and attempted false imprisonment after he threatened people in a supermarket in **Canterbury**, Kent, in November 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) has been convicted of murdering his girlfriend. The woman had been strangled at their flat before the incident at the supermarket. Tomas Uptas will serve at least 18.5 years.

BBC, 2 August 2010

Two men were arrested and four weapons seized after an incident in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire in which a man was reported to be carrying a pistol in a front garden. The weapons were undergoing tests. Three weapons taken from the house were all found to be **replicas** (*Craven Herald & Pioneer*, 2 August 2010). One of the arrested men is the chairman of the local Wild West re-enactment society. Inquiries are ongoing and the man has been released on bail (*Sun*, 18 August 2010).

Bath Chronicle, 2 August 2010

Two men waved a handgun at staff at a shop in **Bath** before making off with handfuls of cash.

Barking & Dagenham Post, 2 August 2010

A man was shot on the doorstep of a house in **Dagenham**, east London. He was rushed to hospital in an ambulance. The victim's condition was serious but stable. It is understood that the weapon used was a handgun. Two men were arrested in the vicinity of the shooting and later bailed (*Barking & Dagenham Post*, 3 August 2010).

Barking & Dagenham Post, 2 August 2010

Paul Gregan pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm against the conditions of his licence. He kept an **air rifle** with a telescopic sight in his cupboard at his home in **Dagenham**, east London. He claimed the weapon was for hunting and even though it was described as a broken pellet gun a weapons expert said it was classified as a firearm. Gregan had been released from jail on licence and could face a further jail sentence.

Northern Echo, 1 August 2010

Two men have been charged with attempted murder following a shooting in **Bishop Auckland**, County Durham. One of them has also been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of a **shotgun** when prohibited from doing so for five years. A man was in a stable condition after sustaining shotgun injuries.

BBC, 1 August 2010

A 19-year-old man was airlifted to hospital with life-threatening injuries after he suffered several gunshot wounds in **Hackney**, east London.

SCOTLAND

Kirkintilloch Herald, 31 August 2010

A man was in police custody after allegedly brandishing a gun in **Bishopbriggs**, East Dunbartonshire. He was arrested after firearms officers discharged a **Taser**.

Evening News, 31 August 2010

An **air rifle** was among hundreds of items stolen from schools in Lothian in the past two years. The school in **Edinburgh** has subsequently improved its security.

Daily Herald, 31 August 2010

Nine high-powered **air rifles** were stolen from the fishing and shooting lodge at the hotel in **Gleneagles**, Perthshire.

Evening News, 30 August 2010

Dean Scott has pleaded guilty to discharging a loaded firearm and shooting a man in the leg to danger of his life and also repeatedly striking a man on the head with the gun to his permanent disfigurement. David Coutts has admitted stabbing the same victim on the buttock with a knife to his severe injury and breaching bail by committing the offence. The men attacked another man after threats had been exchanged at a pub in **Edinburgh** in March 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). The gun was a small handgun, described to police as being a 9mm pistol.

Press & Journal, 28 August 2010

A man is alleged to have attacked and injured three people including a former girlfriend at a flat in **Inverness**. The incident is believed to have involved a **stun gun**. A man has been named in connection with the attack and is being sought by police. A man has been arrested and accused of abduction and assault involving a stun gun and pepper spray (*BBC*, 2 September 2010).

BBC, 28 August 2010

A man carrying a firearm threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Glasgow**. He made off with a four-figure sum of money.

Evening News, 27 August 2010

Police are investigating reports of gunfire and "gangsters" on an area of wasteland in **Fauldhouse**, West Lothian. A man had been seriously assaulted but had not suffered gunshot wounds.

Evening Times, 26 August 2010

Shots were fired at a house in **Govan**, Glasgow. A family of five, including two children, were inside the house at the time but no one was injured.

Evening Times, 26 August 2010

Two men stole a **shotgun** and a rifle after breaking into a gun store in **Eaglesham**, Renfrewshire. They smashed a window to get inside the store.

Scotsman, 20 August 2010

Two police officers from **Barra**, Outer Hebrides, have been honoured for outstanding bravery after they confronted a man who aimed an air rifle at them and threatened to shoot them. The incident occurred in December 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). John Christie had stolen the **air rifle** from a house and frightened people by carrying it in public. In March 2010 he was jailed for two years for theft and firearms offences.

stv, 19 August 2010

A man brandishing what is thought to be a gun has robbed a bookmaker in **Barlanark**, Glasgow. He threatened an employee before taking hundreds of pounds. Police believe he was not in possession of a firearm but used items to give the impression he was.

BBC, 18 August 2010

Michael Thomson has admitted culpable and reckless conduct and possessing a loaded weapon. A three-year-old boy was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** at Thomson's home in **Selkirk** in February 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). Sentencing was deferred.

Press Association, 13 August 2010

A man has been shot in the back while in a bar in **Hamilton**, South Lanarkshire. The victim was later discharged from hospital. Two men have been charged with attempted murder, a firearms offence, assault and breach of the peace (*BBC*, 18 August 2010).

Evening News, 13 August 2010

Stuart McNeill pointed an **imitation sawn-off shotgun** at a police officer when police brought his son home to their house in **Kirkliston**, Edinburgh, in April 2010. He had been drinking at the time. He claimed he regularly used it to frighten his son but would never have pointed a gun at a police officer. He admitted assaulting the officer by presenting an imitation firearm at him. He was jailed for eight months.

BBC, 12 August 2010

Christopher McSorley used a **toy gun** when he held up a bookmakers in **Ayr** in May 2010. He was arrested after being wrestled to the ground by three customers. He has been jailed for five years and eight months.

Press and Journal, 10 August 2010

Teenage twins staged a mock car chase and brandished a handgun while filming an advert for a competition in **East Tulos**, Aberdeen. The gun was a **ball-bearing firing handgun**. They were arrested along with their older sister and father who were helping them after calls from concerned members of the public. They were going to be charged with breach of the peace but although he said there was enough evidence to bring the case to court the procurator fiscal decided not to take proceedings.

Greenock Telegraph, 4 August 2010

Armed police responded to two gun scares in **Greenock** in the same day. In the first incident a member of the public reported possible gun shots but nothing suspicious was found. In the second incident two teenagers were arrested and charged after they were found on open ground with a **.22 air rifle**.

stv, 4 August 2010

A man threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Possilpark**, Glasgow, with a handgun and demanded cash. He took a four figure sum of money.

WALES

Western Telegraph, 27 August 2010

Vandals firing an **air rifle** are thought to be responsible for damage to windows at a water treatment plant in **Templeton**, Pembrokeshire. Every window in the building had been smashed.

BBC, 27 August 2010

Police are searching for an armed man, whom they describe as dangerous, after a robbery in **Pembroke Dock**, Pembrokeshire, in which cash was stolen from an elderly woman's safe in July 2010. The man is possibly in possession of a firearm. A second man was involved in the robbery.

The Leader, 16 August 2010

Philip Morris has admitted perverting the course of justice by falsely claiming to the police that he had been shot by a stranger. He has also admitted possessing a prohibited weapon, a sawn-off .22 rifle (although elsewhere the weapon is described as a **shotgun**). He says he had tried to kill himself by shooting himself in the chest in **Llangollen**, Denbighshire, in May 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). He said that he had bought the gun at a car boot sale. Sentencing was deferred but he may be facing a mandatory five year prison sentence.

Western Telegraph, 13 August 2010

A police search was conducted in **Newport**, Gwent, following reports that a man was carrying a firearm and acting suspiciously. No trace was found of anyone with a firearm.

Penarth Times, 12 August 2010

A man was shot while he was playing golf at a club in **Penarth**, South Glamorgan. He was shot in the arm by a pellet fired from an **air rifle**. The victim needed hospital treatment.

South Wales Argus, 11 August 2010

A 15-year-old boy was seen carrying a **BB gun** in **Cwm**, Gwent, by a CCTV operator who spotted him putting the weapon, which the operator thought was real, in his mouth. The boy was apprehended and the weapon confiscated and destroyed.

Western Telegraph, 4 August 2010

Gerald Harris carried a **stun gun** in his taxi in **Tenby**, Pembrokeshire, for personal protection after another driver had been beaten up. He admitted possessing a weapon with an electronic incapacitation device. He was given a 12 month low level community order including 60 hours of unpaid work.

BBC, 4 August 2010

In January 2010 Peter Slaughter chased his ex-partner in her car whilst armed with a **double-barrelled shotgun**. She eventually attracted police attention by driving repeatedly round a roundabout in **Monmouth** (see [Incidents](#)). Earlier Slaughter had burst into her stables and said he would kill her, a local farmer and then himself. She managed to get away and sped off in the car. Slaughter admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and placed under indefinite restraining order preventing him from contacting his ex-partner or the farmer. He was jailed for four-and-a-half years.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Daily Echo, 29 August 2010

A cat from **Three Legged Cross**, Dorset, has died after being shot with an **air rifle**. She had survived for four days before being put to sleep because of the pain and discomfort she was in. Her owner is now faced with a bill for £830.26.

Lancashire Evening Post, 28 August 2010

Three pet ducks have been shot dead in **Broughton**, Lancashire, and a further nine of the flock have gone missing. Their owner believes they have been killed with a **pellet gun**.

Bridport News, 26 August 2010

A cat was left fighting for his life after being shot through the bladder in a street in **Lyme Regis**, Dorset. An **airgun** pellet had caused the puncture. Treatment has cost his owners hundreds of pounds.

stv, 25 August 2010

A cat had to have its back leg amputated after being shot at least twice with an **airgun** in **Bridgend**, West Lothian. She suffered a shattered tibia and fibula as well as a collapsed lung.

The Press, 25 August 2010

A young swan is being nursed back to health after being shot twice in the head on a riverbank in **Fulford**, North Yorkshire. Vets discovered two **airgun** pellets lodged in its head, and one of them had shattered the cheekbone. Both pellets were removed and the bird is making a steady recovery.

Darlington & Stockton Times, 24 August 2010

A cat suffered life threatening injuries after it was shot with an **air rifle** in **Ripon**, North Yorkshire. Vets found a pellet lodged in the cat's gun after she had been found howling in pain. The shot had caused three perforations to the bowel amongst other injuries.

Paisley Daily Express, 23 August 2010

A cat was left soaked in blood after she was hit with an **airgun** pellet in an attack in **Lochwinnoch**, Renfrewshire. After she had been rushed to the vets a pellet was removed from her colon. Her family were left with a £520 vets bill.

Telegraph, 22 August 2010

Thomas Cook shot and killed a seagull with an **air rifle** which he pointed out of a top floor window. At a court in **Exeter** he claimed the seagulls had been making a noise on his roof all night. The shooting occurred at half time during the England World Cup game against Germany in June 2010, and Cook claimed he had been frustrated with the game and would not have shot the bird had "it been a really good match". He pleaded guilty to killing a wild bird and was given a six month conditional discharge.

Evening Post (Bristol), 21 August 2010

A cat is lucky to be alive after being shot in the back with an **air rifle**. He came back to his home in **Chipping Sodbury**, Gloucestershire, limping, covered with blood and with a hole in his shoulder. An X-ray revealed that he had a metal pellet lodged in his spine between two vertebrae. A police spokesman said that the matter was being treated as criminal damage.

Evening News (Norwich), 21 August 2010

A young cat has died after being shot with a rifle in **Great Hockham**, Norfolk. The socket at the top of his right front leg had been shattered with a bullet and he had to be put down. The incident is being investigated by police.

Evening Chronicle, 21 August 2010

A pet cat was shot dead and another badly injured after being targeted with an **airgun** in **Walker**, Tyneside. A pellet had gone straight through the abdomen and intestine of the dead cat and into her bowel and vets were unable to save her. The other cat had a pellet lodged behind his ribcage. The pellet has been left inside him as it is too dangerous to remove.

Evening News (Norwich), 18 August 2010

A family's pet cat found with **shotgun** wounds is now back home recovering after treatment which has cost his owners from **Brundall**, Norfolk, more than £4,200. A shot from a high-velocity gun went through muscle and the middle of his femur. He was found injured by a dog walker.

Get Surrey, 17 August 2010

A cat has been shot dead in her garden in **Coldharbour**, Surrey. It is believed she was shot with an **air rifle** which was no more than 10ft away from her.

Sunderland Echo, 12 August 2010

A cat has had to be put to sleep after she was attacked with an **air weapon** in **Peterlee**, County Durham. She was found injured near her home. A pellet had struck near her spine.

Pendle Today, 12 August 2010

Up to 20 ducks have been slaughtered by youths with **air rifles** on a canal in **Barnoldswick**, Lancashire. A dog walker witnessed a group of youths driving round in a car, brandishing air rifles and shooting at ducks.

The Sentinel, 11 August 2010

A cat was shot and wounded with an **airgun** in **Chell Heath**, Stoke on Trent. He has had to have his front left leg amputated after a pellet had shattered his shoulder bone.

Rhyl Journal, 11 August 2010

A cat in **Kinmel Bay**, Clywd, was wounded when a pellet clipped her back. Her owner said that she is the third cat on the estate to have been shot with an **air rifle**.

Daily Echo, 11 August 2010

A cat is fighting for his life after being shot in **Verwood**, Dorset. An **air rifle** pellet punctured his kidney, stomach and spleen.

Daily Gazette, 10 August 2010

The bodies of four cygnets have been found on the Essex University campus in **Wivenhoe**, Essex. Rumours are circulating that they were shot with some sort of **airgun**.

Get Surrey, 6 August 2010

A woman was in her garden in **Sunbury**, Surrey, when she saw a bird shot dead in front of her. The dove was in a nearby tree. As many as three other birds may have been killed in recent weeks. Some shells, possibly containing ball bearings, were found nearby.

Evesham Journal, 5 August 2010

Two swans have been found at **Abbots Salford**, Worcestershire, with shot wounds to their heads. They have been taken to a rescue centre. The injuries are believed to have been inflicted by **airgun** pellets.

Grimsby Telegraph, 3 August 2010

A cat has lost his right eye after an **air rifle** attack in **Humberston**, Lincolnshire. He was shot in the eye at close range and could easily have been killed. He required an operation costing £400.

The Leader, 2 August 2010

A family cat was left fighting for her life after being shot in the face in **Holywell**, Clwyd. She was found in their garden covered in blood after being shot with an **airgun**.



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