



DECEMBER 2008 - SUMMARY

Gun deaths in 2008

The following Summary is derived from the reports recorded by GCN in 2008. The number of apparent gun homicides was the lowest for at least twenty years.

- There were 42 apparent homicides reported during 2008 (this includes one that took place on 31 December 2007), 41 in England and Wales and 1 in Scotland. The corresponding figures for 2007 were 51 and 4, respectively.
- Fifteen of these occurred in London, 6 in the West Midlands, 4 in Merseyside and 4 in Greater Manchester. There were two homicides in both Kent and Shropshire (the latter in same incident in which the gunman also took his own life), and one each in Bradford, Cornwall, Derby, Hertfordshire, Hull, Leeds, Northumberland and Sheffield. The one gun homicide in Scotland occurred in Glasgow.
- One third of the victims were under-21, including six young men in London. Two of the young victims died in Greater Manchester, the others were killed in shootings in Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Merseyside, Sheffield and Shropshire, where the 15-year-old victim was killed by her own father. She and a 15-year-old boy shot in Derby were the youngest victims.
- There were four female victims, three of whom were killed in two separate incidents by family members with links to gun clubs who then shot themselves. The fourth was a teenager shot with an air rifle at a party.
- Three other men were shot dead by armed police officers in two incidents in London and one in Guildford (Surrey). In each case the dead man had been seen brandishing a gun, in one instance firing a shotgun from the window of a flat.
- Airguns killed four people. As well as the teenage girl shot at a party, a toddler died after being accidentally shot by his sister with their father's gun in the family garden. Two men took their own lives with air rifles.

December 2008 Incidents

The Incidents reported in December showed a similar pattern of gun crime and misuse as in recent months. They continue to reflect the worrying fact that, despite a fall in gun crime, a disproportionate number of incidents involve teenagers as victims and/or perpetrators.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were fatal shootings reported in South London (Camberwell) and West London (Shepherd's Bush) (two teenagers have been charged with the shooting). An 18-year-old died two weeks after she was shot in the eye with an air rifle at a party in Bury (Greater Manchester).
- Shooting incidents that resulted in injury also occurred in:
 - Edinburgh (1) - a 19-year-old was shot in the stomach in a drive-by shooting in Broomhouse - it is believed the shooting was related to a drug feud
 - Greater Manchester (4) - two men were shot in the leg in separate incidents in Levenshulme and Pendleton, a teenager was shot in the buttock in Bury and a man was shot in the chest in Oldham
 - Lancashire (1) - a security guard was shot in the leg by robbers as he delivered to a cash machine in Blackburn

- London (1) - a 14-year-old boy was shot in the chest in Greenford
- Merseyside (2) - a 17-year-old boy was shot in the leg in a park in Everton and a 15-year-old was shot as he walked along a disused railway line in Knotty Ash
- West Midlands (1) - a man was in hospital with stomach injuries after being shot in Foleshill (Coventry)
- West Yorkshire (3) - a teenager was seriously injured in a shooting in Ravensthorpe, and two people, a woman and a teenage man, were injured in a shooting incident in Huddersfield.
- There were other incidents in which victims were injured with airguns and imitation guns (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A security guard was shot and injured during a robbery in Blackburn (Lancashire): a man has been arrested. In another attack on security men a money container was grabbed by a masked gunman in Bothwell (South Lanarkshire).
- There were a number of raids on homes in December:
 - County Durham - Armed men, one with a handgun, stole hundreds of pounds from a house in North Magdalene.
 - Dorset - A couple were robbed of £1000 at gunpoint at their home in Ashington.
 - Greater Manchester - Three men held a gun to a man's head, hit him on the head with a machete and stabbed him in the back when they broke into a house in Middleton.
 - Hertfordshire - Robbers armed with a shotgun stole thousands of pounds from a home in Goffs Oak. A woman was held up at gunpoint during a robbery at her home in Brookmans Park.
 - West Yorkshire - A man was punched in the face by a gang of five who forced their way into his home in Barkerend (Bradford) armed with a knife and what is believed to have been an imitation firearm.
- There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on:
 - a Bank - in Walkden (Greater Manchester)
 - Betting shops - in Caversham (Berkshire), Godmanchester (Cambridgeshire) (linked to a robbery at a store in the town), Headington (Oxford), Huntingdon (Cambridgeshire), Llanedeyrn (Cardiff) and Openshaw (Greater Manchester) (a shot was fired),
 - a Food outlet - in Woodthorpe (Nottinghamshire)
 - Post offices - in Capel St Mary (Suffolk) (there were two robberies at the same premises during December), Wingate (Country Durham), Christchurch (Cambridgeshire) and Stotfold (Bedfordshire) (a long-barrelled gun was fired towards the ceiling)
 - a Pub - in North Shields (Tyneside)
 - a Service station - in Thame (Oxfordshire)
 - Shops - in Broadstairs (Kent) (a man was later arrested at Victoria station in London), Cambridge, Cardiff (an air rifle was fired, injuring a shop assistant), Coseley (West Midlands) (the offender chased a woman customer down a road), Godmanchester (Cambridgeshire) (linked to a robbery at a bookmakers in the town) and Minehead (Somerset)
- A man has been charged with a string of robberies and possession of firearms and imitation firearms in connection with a series of alleged raids, the latest this month on a jewellers in Stanmore (north London).
- Two men have been arrested after a series of incidents in Oxfordshire in which two bus drivers were held up at gunpoint in Wheatley and Headington and a woman was robbed of her car in a pub car park in Stanton St John. Another woman was robbed of cash whilst she was sitting in her car in Hexthorpe (South Yorkshire).

- A taxi driver was threatened with a shotgun on a remote stretch of road in West Yorkshire.
- **Other Incidents** - Two men have been charged after shots were fired at police officers from the back of a car in Ladbrooke Grove (west London).
- A car driver was shot at after an argument in a lay-by near Kilmacolm (Inverclyde). A man was seen with a gun and at least one shot fired in Crabbs Cross (Worcestershire): a man has appeared in court charged with firearms offences.
- A 19-year-old has appeared in court in Bolton accused of firing a warning shot from a converted blank-firing revolver at a witness's front door.
- A man and a woman were charged with possession of a firearm (a shotgun) with intent to cause fear of violence and also with possession of a firearm with intent to resist arrest after police were called to a domestic incident in Didcot (Oxfordshire). A man was arrested in connection with an alleged firearms incident at a farm in Kildary (Easter Ross). A man has appeared in court accused of threatening his wife with a rifle at their home in Exmouth (Devon).
- Three men were charged after a gun and a stun gun were found in a car pulled over in Southampton.
- Three teenagers and an older man were arrested in Hartlepool (Teesside) for being in unlawful possession of a firearm.
- A Plymouth teenager was charged by police after allegedly being found in possession of a stun gun and cocaine.
- **Gun Finds and Thefts** - A number of weapons were found in raids in Ashington, Blyth and Cramlington in Northumberland: these included a Glock replica handgun re-activated to fire live rounds and two BB guns. Police seized replica weapons and drugs during raids on properties in Buttershaw (Bradford).
- A shotgun was stolen from a parked Land Rover in Penmaen (South Wales). Four shotguns have been stolen from a house near Botus Fleming (Cornwall) but the theft could have occurred at any time between April and December.
- A small air weapon was stolen from a farm in Clayton West (West Yorkshire).
- **Airguns** - An 18-year-old woman who was shot in the eye in an incident at a flat in Bury (Greater Manchester) died two weeks later: a man had been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and was bailed until February 2009.
- There were other injuries, mostly to teenagers, as a result of airgun shots in:
 - Basingstoke (Hampshire) - a teenager was shot in the hand with an air rifle
 - Bedford - a 17-year-old girl was shot in the leg as she walked along a footpath
 - Cardiff - a shop assistant was shot during an attack on a store
 - Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) - a young man shot a woman in the stomach on the doorstep of her house
 - Looe (Cornwall) - a teenager was in hospital after he was apparently shot in the eye with an air rifle (criminal charges are apparently being considered against three teenagers)
- Two airgun attacks took place in as many days in a street in Beaumont Leys (Leicester): a car and a bus carrying elderly people were fired at. An air rifle was fired from a car window as it was driven around Ingleton (North Yorkshire), and an airgun pellet shattered a bus window in Chaddesden (Derby).
- A spate of airgun shootings occurred during one night in Aberdeen: three men, including two teenagers, have been arrested.
- A rear window of a house was damaged with an air weapon in Almondbury (Huddersfield). Lampposts in parks in Seaham (County Durham) have been damaged with an air weapon. An advertising airship has been shot twice with

airgun pellets in Ditching (East Sussex). A 15-year-old boy was arrested after allegedly firing an airgun at road signs in South Shields (Tyneside).

- Three people, all teenagers, were arrested in Newton Abbot (Devon) after two air rifles were found in their car. A man has appeared in court after allegedly causing a breach of the peace whilst possessing an air weapon in Hawick (Scottish Borders).
- **Imitation Guns** - Imitation guns were responsible for injuries to:
 - an 11-year-old schoolboy who was almost blinded when fellow students fired ball bearings at his head in the playground of a school in Market Drayton (Shropshire)
 - a 14-year-old girl who was shot in the eye with an ball-bearing gun as she waited for a friend in Pontefract (West Yorkshire): a 14-year-old boy was arrested
- A 14-year-old boy was arrested after a paramedic and ambulance crew were shot at with plastic pellets while they were treating a patient in Portsmouth
- Police had to deal with a number of incidents caused by suspects armed with imitation guns:
 - A group of teenagers filming themselves with fake guns for a project in Plymouth
 - Two people, a man and a 12-year-old, brandishing a handgun in Little Harwood (Lancashire), found to have two ball-bearing guns
 - A youth who fired pellets at shop windows in Market Drayton (Shropshire) and were spoken to by police officers
 - A man who threatened staff at a supermarket in Taunton (Somerset) with a ball-bearing gun
 - A police helicopter had to be scrambled over Westwood (East Kilbride) after two boys with a replica gun or an airgun were spotted
- Two men have appeared in court accused of carrying an imitation firearm and a sword in Horley (Surrey).
- The Parks Constabulary of the London Borough of Haringey has seized an imitation Kalashnikov and ball-bearing guns during the past three months.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Airgun attacks on cats show no signs of abating with incidents reported from Cheshire (three attacks, two in the Widnes area), East Lothian, Kent, Oxfordshire, West Midlands, West Sussex (three separate attacks) and Worcestershire.
- Two swans died after being shot in Derbyshire (Ironville, Codnor), at least one with an airgun.
- Two rare breed animals were killed in separate attacks at a smallholding in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (Oxfordshire).
- Two teenagers, aged 18 and 14, who were armed with a .22 rifle and a shotgun when they killed two pet Shetland ponies in Whitchurch, Shropshire, admitted a number of offences and have been remanded in custody and local authority care.

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- **Convictions** - A number of people, most of them teenagers, were convicted following the murder of 11-year-old Rhys Jones: the gunman, who was 16, at the time of the murder was found guilty of murder and has been sentenced to a minimum of 22 years in prison.
 - A man who shot a man 16 times in an "execution style" murder in Birmingham will serve a minimum term of 22 years after being found guilty of murder. Another man found guilty of killing a man who was shot in Leeds will serve a minimum of 30 years.

- A convicted murderer will serve an additional five years in prison after admitting attempting to defeat the ends of justice and possessing firearms and ammunition: he had fled from the dock when he was found guilty of murder and had a cache of weapons and ammunition hidden in a car parked in a car park in St Rollox (Glasgow).
- A man has been jailed for eight years after he was found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life after he threatened staff at an Oxford nightclub.
- A number of men were convicted of crimes involving shotguns:
 - A pub landlord from Congleton (Cheshire) who shot two of the regulars before turning his shotgun on himself has been jailed for 10 years
 - A man who fired a shotgun outside another man's house in Perth admitted a number of offences, including possessing a firearm with intent to cause his victim to believe unlawful would be used against him or another: he is aware that a custodial sentence is inevitable
 - A man who was found to have a double barrelled sawn-off shotgun during a police search in Bury (Greater Manchester) and was sentenced to four years after pleading guilty to a number of offences
 - A man from Gateacre (Liverpool) who admitted carrying a loaded shotgun in a public place and will be sentenced in January
 - A man from Wootton (Northamptonshire) who shot at his own burglar alarm and has been given a year's conditional discharge after admitting having a firearm in public
 - A man from Warndon (Worcester) who pleaded guilty to possession of a shotgun when prohibited by a previous four-year jail sentence and of 15 shotgun cartridges
- A man who admitted carrying out six armed raids in Glasgow had presented a handgun or imitation handgun during five robberies at bookmakers: he will be sentenced later.
- A former policeman from Offord Darcy (Cambridgeshire) has been jailed for fourteen years for a string of offences including fraud and firearms charges.
- A 20-year-old who has represented Scotland at shooting faces a minimum five years' detention after he admitted a series of offences under the Firearms Act: police found an arsenal of illegal firearms he had been assembling from imported parts at his home in Longniddry (East Lothian).
- Two men were jailed for three years after pleading guilty to actual bodily harm and false imprisonment following an incident in Blackpool in which they stripped their victim and shot him with a stun gun: one of the men was given an additional 18 months for possession of an offensive weapon to run concurrently.
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - In a second such case this year a coroner in Wrexham has recorded a verdict of suicide at the inquest into the death of a man who shot himself with an air rifle.
- A woman from Tonbridge (Kent) who tried to kill her teenage son by firing an airgun at his head has been jailed indefinitely for public protection with a minimum term of three years.
- A man who shot a young girl in the eye with an airgun pellet in an incident in Hersden (Kent) has been sentenced to 18 months in prison.
- A man who terrified his wife's ex-husband in Fraserburgh (Aberdeenshire) when he turned up with an authentic-looking air pistol has been jailed for 12 months.
- A gamekeeper who pointed a loaded air rifle at a bouncer at a nightclub in Stowmarket (Suffolk) has been jailed for three years.
- A man seen in possession of a .22 air rifle in Lancaster was also responsible for criminal damage at a church in Morecambe and has been given an eight month suspended prison sentence and ordered to do 120 hours of unpaid work.
- A man who admitted possessing an over-powerful air rifle, a knuckleduster and cannabis has been warned he faces a prison sentence.

- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man raped a woman in Stevenage (Hertfordshire) whilst he was armed with an imitation gun and will serve at least five years in jail.
- Imitation guns were used by men who committed robberies in:
 - Blackpool - a robber who was armed with an imitation handgun when he got trapped in a bank has been jailed for six years and four months
 - Glasgow - a man has been jailed for five years after carrying an imitation gun in one of two raids on bookmakers
 - Northamptonshire - three men received long prison sentences for a series of shop robberies, during one of which a teenager was injured with a shot from a BB gun
 - Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire - a man who robbed council offices in Eastwood and bookmakers in Heanor and Skegness whilst armed with an imitation gun has been jailed for nine years
- A man who threatened a car dealer with an imitation handgun in Rhyl (North Wales) has been sentenced to three years youth custody. A woman who made a threat to kill her husband's mistress whilst armed with an imitation pistol in Rugeley (Staffordshire) has been given a three year community order.
- A man, who is now the subject of a Hospital Order, was found guilty of being in possession of a sawn-off shotgun after being charged with possessing an imitation firearm and ammunition: the weapon was produced when police called at his home in Brierley Hill (West Midlands).
- A man pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm after being caught with a loaded pistol in Risley (Warrington): he was given a 6-month suspended jail sentence and a 12-month supervision order.
- Six members of a gang which caused thousands of pounds of damage to cars in drive-by shootings in Oxfordshire (Witney, Carterton, Eynsham) using a ball bearing gun have all been given community orders of between 40 hours and 100 hours.
- A 15-year-old from Royston (Hertfordshire) has been given a two-year ASBO which prevents him, among other things, from being in possession of any BB gun, soft air pellet gun or imitation weapon in a public place.

GUN INCIDENTS – DECEMBER 2008

ENGLAND

BBC, 31 December 2008

A 14-year-old boy was shot in the chest in **Greenford**, west London. He was taken to hospital by two males and later transferred to another hospital where his condition is said to be stable.

This is Exeter, 30 December 2008

A man has appeared in court accused of threatening his wife with a rifle at their home in **Exmouth**, Devon. He was charged with having a firearm, a bolt-action 9mm rifle, and ammunition without a certificate and also with having a firearm and ammunition with intent to cause his wife to believe unlawful violence would be used against her.

Shields Gazette, 30 December 2008

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of firing an **air weapon** at car park signs out of the window of a car in **South Shields**, Tyneside. He was charged with having an air weapon in a public place.

Hemel Today, 30 December 2008

A woman was shot in the stomach with an **airgun** on her doorstep in **Hemel Hempstead**, Hertfordshire. The attacker was a young man. She had been woken by the sound of banging on the window of her house. The victim had to spend hours in hospital after the attack.

BBC, 30 December 2008

A man holding what appeared to be a gun in a plastic bag demanded cash at a bookmakers in **Headington**, Oxford. Police believe a three figure sum was stolen.

BBC, 30 December 2008

A man was being treated in hospital after being shot in the chest in a street in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Worcester News, 29 December 2008

Kenneth Lundy of **Warndon**, Worcester, has pleaded guilty to possession of a **shotgun** when prohibited by a previous four-year jail sentence and possession of 15 shotgun cartridges when prohibited. The weapon and ammunition were seized by police in September 2008. A psychiatric report is being prepared while Lundy is held in prison on remand.

Coventry Telegraph, 26 December 2008

Rikki Doakes was trapped in a bank during an armed raid in **Blackpool** in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) when he had stolen over £9000 in cash whilst armed with a **ball bearing gun**. He has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession an imitation firearm and been jailed for six years and four months.

BBC, 25 December 2008

A man was shot dead in a street in **Shepherd's Bush**, west London, just after he parked his car. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Two boys, aged 16 and 15, are accused of murder and another man have been released on bail pending further inquiries (*BBC*, 29 December 2008).

BBC, 25 December 2008

A 16-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after he was shot in the buttock in **Bury**, Greater Manchester. A man shouted to the victim before firing at him. The boy's injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 24 December 2008

A 14-year-old boy has been arrested after a paramedic and ambulance crew were shot at with **plastic pellets** while they were treating a patient in **Portsmouth**. None of the men were injured.

Kent Online, 23 December 2008

Jane Pentney of **Tonbridge**, Kent, tried to kill her teenage son by firing an **airgun** at his head in January 2008. His injuries were described as "not so great". She was "extremely intoxicated" when she decided to kill her two sons and then herself. She has been jailed indefinitely for public protection and will have to serve a minimum of three years.

BBC, 23 December 2008

A store in **Godmanchester**, Cambridgeshire, was robbed by a man armed with a gun. Police are linking it to a robbery at a bookmakers in the same town three nights earlier.

BBC, 23 December 2008

A 17-year-old girl was shot in the leg with an **airgun** as she walked along a footpath near a play area in **Bedford**. The victim will need surgery on her lower leg to remove the pellet (*Luton Today*, 24 December 2008).

This is Litchfield, 22 December 2008

Jane Easton threatened to kill her husband's mistress, who was her best friend, to the woman's former partner the bus station at **Rugeley**, Staffordshire. She lifted up her clothing to show a realistic-looking gun in her waistband and said "It's loaded, I'm going to kill her. The weapon was a **BB gun** made to resemble a Glock pistol and had been bought as a toy for the children. Easton admitted a charge of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. She was given a three year community order.

Redditch Advertiser, 22 December 2008

The police sealed off several roads in Redditch, Worcestershire, as they launched a hunt for a man seen with a gun in **Crabbs Cross**. It is known that at least one shot was fired but there were no reports of any injuries. A man has appeared in court charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possessing a firearm when prohibited (*Redditch Advertiser*, 30 December 2008).

Oxford Mail, 22 December 2008

A man robbed a woman of her car in a pub car park in **Stanton St John**, Oxfordshire. He claimed he had a gun. He is believed to be the same man wanted for raids on buses, a bookmakers, a shopper and a taxi driver in the past ten days. Two men, one aged 18, have now been arrested over this and other armed robberies in Oxfordshire (*BBC*, 23 December 2008).

Local Guardian, 22 December 2008

Three men have been charged after a gun and stun gun were found in a car pulled over in **Southampton**. They were charged with possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and also possession of a handgun. One of them has been charged with possession of ammunition.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 22 December 2008

A gunman is being hunted after two people were shot in **Huddersfield**. A 19-year-old man was shot in the lower leg and a woman received a gunshot wound to her foot. Both victims have been discharged from hospital (*Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 23 December 2008).

BBC, 22 December 2008

Two masked raiders threatened a woman employee with a weapon, thought to be a handgun, at a betting shop in **Caversham**, Berkshire. The woman managed to escape and the offenders left empty-handed.

BBC, 22 December 2008

An 18-year-old was allegedly found in possession of a stun gun and cocaine and has been charged by the police in **Plymouth**. Police had been called to an incident at a nightclub.

The People, 21 December 2008

A service station shop owner in **Ancaster**, Lincolnshire, carrying an **air rifle** chased off masked ram-raiders who tried to snatch a cash machine.

BBC, 21 December 2008

A man has been shot in the leg in an attack in **Pendleton**, Salford. He remains in a stable condition in hospital. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

BBC, 21 December 2008

A man pointed a handgun at a shop assistant's face as he tried to rob a store in **Minehead**, Somerset. He repeatedly demanded money but left the store empty handed when the shopkeeper was unable to open the till.

The Star, 20 December 2008

Armed police were called to **Hexthorpe**, South Yorkshire, after a woman was robbed at gunpoint by a hooded raider whilst she was in her car. The robber opened the driver's door whilst she was talking on her mobile phone. The man produced what may have been a handgun and demanded money. The woman handed over some cash.

Press Association, 20 December 2008

A man has been shot dead in **Camberwell**, south London. He may have been shot in a flat and then ran into the street where he collapsed.

East Anglian Daily Times, 20 December 2008

Taroo Westgate pointed a loaded **air rifle** at a bouncer at a nightclub in **Stowmarket**, Suffolk, in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was fuelled with alcohol at the time and was in a rage after meeting up with his ex-girlfriend who worked at the club. He took the high velocity air rifle from his car after being restrained by the bouncer. He has been jailed for three years.

Cambridge News, 20 December 2008

A robber terrified two women by threatening them with a handgun as he stole cash from a betting shop in **Huntingdon**.

BBC, 20 December 2008

A shot was fired during a robbery by four men at a bookmakers in **Openshaw**, Greater Manchester. The shot was fired from a silver handgun. No one was injured but a cashier and customers were left extremely shaken. The men escaped with money.

BBC, 20 December 2008

A couple have been robbed at gunpoint by three masked men in their home in **Ashington** near Wimborne in Dorset. The husband was tied up and assaulted during the raid. His wife had a handgun pushed into her face, causing bruising. No shots were fired. £1000 was stolen.

Western Morning News, 19 December 2008

Three people have been arrested outside a supermarket in **Newton Abbot**, Devon, after a search of their car revealed two **air rifles**, one of which with its barrel shortened. Two boys, aged 16 and 17, and a teenaged woman were arrested.

This is Staffordshire, 19 December 2008

Landlord Paul Cooper has been jailed for 10 years for shooting two of the regulars at the pub he ran in **Congleton**, Cheshire, in December 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He was convicted of two counts of wounding with intent and had pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause a person to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. After he had shot the customers he had attempted to take his own life by placing his **double-barrel shotgun** in his mouth.

Pontefract & Castleford Express, 19 December 2008

A mother is calling for **BB guns** to be banned after her 14-year-old daughter was shot in the eye with an imitation handgun. A boy fired a ball bearing at her as she waited for a friend in **Pontefract**, West Yorkshire. The girl collapsed in pain and was left temporarily blind in her right eye. A 14-year-old boy was arrested and bailed on suspicion of assault in connection with the shooting which took place in November 2008.

Bolton News, 19 December 2008

A 19-year-old who is accused of firing a warning shot from a gun at a witness's front door has been charged with possessing a German Cuno Melcher ME .38 converted blank revolver, which is a prohibited weapon, possessing a firearm without a certificate, having a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and witness intimidation. He was remanded in custody by magistrates in **Bolton**.

BBC, 19 December 2008

Armed men, one of whom had a handgun, entered a house at **North Magdalene**, near Consett in County Durham and made a woman hand over hundreds of pounds. The woman was alone in the house with her two-year-old daughter.

BBC, 19 December 2008

A gang of robbers fired a long-barrelled gun towards the ceiling during a raid at a post office in **Stotfold**, Bedfordshire. Customers were told to get on the floor as the gang ordered staff to hand over cash. A substantial sum was taken.

BBC, 19 December 2008

Four **shotguns** have been stolen from a house near **Botus Fleming**, Cornwall. The weapons were stored in a secure cabinet but could have been taken anytime in between April and December when the crime was discovered.

BBC, 19 December 2008

Sussex Police have received two reports of an airship advertising a warehouse in **Ditching**, East Sussex, being shot at and have recovered **airgun** pellets. The owner said it cost £500 to repair and re-inflate it on each occasion. There have been complaints that the blimp was spoiling people's views.

BBC, 19 December 2008

Two men, one of them a teenager, have been charged with using a firearm to resist arrest after shots were fired at police officers from the rear window of a car. The officers were attempting to stop an allegedly stolen car in **Ladbroke Grove**, west London. A second teenager was arrested in connection with the incident but released on bail.

This is Surrey Today, 18 December 2008

Two men have appeared in court accused of carrying a Samurai sword and an **imitation firearm** in a street in **Horley**, Surrey, in July 2008. They were remanded on bail.

This is Plymouth, 18 December 2008

A teenager was flown to hospital after he was apparently shot in the eye with an **air rifle** in **Looe**, Cornwall. Police said that initial reports suggested that his injury was "an accident as teenagers played in woodlands in the town". Police and prosecutors are considering criminal charges against three teenagers for firearms offences (*Evening Herald (Plymouth)*, 20 December 2008).

This is Derbyshire, 18 December 2008

A woman has told how she narrowly avoided being hit in the head after an **airgun** pellet was fired through a bus window. The bus was travelling down a street in **Chaddesden**, Derby, when the shot was fired. Glass smashed and an airgun pellet was found on the floor of the bus.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 18 December 2008

Glyn Medcraft, Adrian McGrail and Joshua Jones have each received long sentences for a series of armed shop robberies in Northamptonshire. They were caught after another member of the gang, Lee Cutter, told police of their involvement. The gang first robbed a shop in West Haddon in November 2006 after threatening staff with a crow bar, and the following month, after an aborted raid in Byfield, they attacked a shop in **Long Buckby** armed with a metal bar and a **BB gun** (see [2006 Incidents](#)). The gun was fired at a teenager causing a minor injury. Medcraft admitted conspiracy to commit four robberies, possessing an imitation firearm and assault and was given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum of six years. Jones admitted involvement in three robberies and attempted robbery and was jailed for seven years. McGrail acted as the getaway driver and was also jailed for seven years.

The Comet, 18 December 2008

Mandell Mullings was convicted of raping a woman in February 2008 after he turned up at her home in **Stevenage**, Hertfordshire, armed with an **imitation gun**. He must serve five years less time on remand before he can apply for parole and will be on licence indefinitely.

BBC, 18 December 2008

Alan Kennedy has admitted robbing Broxtowe Borough Council offices in **Eastwood**, Nottinghamshire, and two betting shops in **Heanor**, Nottinghamshire (see [September 2008 Incidents](#)), and **Skegness**, Lincolnshire (see [July 2008 Incidents](#)), between June and August 2008 and has been jailed for nine years. He was armed with an **imitation handgun**. Another man, Steven Guest, who admitted driving a car for Kennedy in one of the robberies was jailed for four years.

BBC, 18 December 2008

An 18-year-old has been seriously injured in a shooting in **Ravensthorpe**, Dewsbury, in West Yorkshire. He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as serious but stable. Four males, all aged under 20, have been arrested (*BBC*, 19 December 2008),

Westmorland Gazette, 17 December 2008

Police are trying to trace the occupants of a car after an **air rifle** was fired from its window as it was driven around **Ingleton**, North Yorkshire. An airgun pellet was fired at a house window.

Hornsey & Crouch End Journal, 17 December 2008

A Parks Constabulary in the London Borough of **Haringey** has seized a number of weapons in the last three months including an **imitation Kalashnikov** and **ball-bearing guns**. The information has been revealed as plans to axe the force were given the final go ahead.

BBC, 17 December 2008

Marcus Alder, a former policeman of **Offord Darcy** in Cambridgeshire, has been jailed for 14 years for a string of offences including fraud and firearms charges. He was convicted in October of perverting the course of justice, perjury, fraud and other offences. He was said to be "so motivated by greed that he used threats of violence, guns, swords and other weapons to intimidate and blackmail his victims".

BBC, 17 December 2008

Darren Johnson has been jailed for eight years after he was found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. He had threatened staff at a nightclub in **Oxford** in May 2008 after he was told to leave. He was arrested close to the scene.

Telegraph & Argus, 16 December 2008

Police seized replica weapons and drugs during dawn raids on two adjoining properties in **Buttershaw**, Bradford, and a third property in the area. One person linked to the addresses will need to be questioned in relation to the seizure of replica firearms, an **air weapon** and a **replica handgun**, and other offensive weapons, according to the police.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 16 December 2008

John Hlustik fired a **double-barrelled shotgun** at his own burglar alarm to silence the device at his home in **Wootton**, Northamptonshire, in August 2008. Police recovered the shotgun and two spent and two live cartridges, all of which were legally owned. Hlustik admitted having a firearm in public and was given a year's conditional discharge and ordered to pay prosecution costs.

Harrow Times, 16 December 2008

A man has been charged with a string of robberies and possession of both firearms and **imitation firearms** in connection with a series of alleged raids, including one this month at a jewellery shop in **Stanmore**, north London. Police have accused him of holding up a post office in **Kings Langley**, Hertfordshire, in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) and two armed robberies in north **Watford**.

BBC, 16 December 2008

Michael Rungen has been found guilty of killing a man outside a takeaway in **Leeds** in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He will serve a minimum of 30 years. Rungen had acted as the driver in a group of three men who had shot and stabbed the victim in a targeted assassination.

BBC, 16 December 2008

Mohammed Rafiq, who shot a man 16 times in **Birmingham** in April 2003 (see [Incidents](#)) in an "execution style" murder, has been jailed for life and will serve a minimum term of 22 years. He had pleaded not guilty to murder and firearms offences.

BBC, 16 December 2008

Sean Mercer has been convicted of the murder of 11-year-old Rhys Jones who was shot in a pub car park in **Croxteth**, Liverpool, in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) as he walked home from football practice. Mercer, who was aged 16 at the time of the murder and a member of the Croxteth Crew gang, had armed himself with a Smith and Wesson .455 revolver and was attempting to fire shots at friends of a Strand Gang member when Rhys was hit. Fellow gang members James Yates, Nathan Quinn, Gary Kays, Melvin Coy and a 16-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons were convicted of assisting an offender after they helped Mercer evade the police for months. Dean Kelly, 17, was convicted of four related charges. Quinn, who is 18, is already serving five years for gun-related offences. Mercer has been sentenced to a minimum of 22 years in prison (*Guardian*, 16 December 2008).

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 15 December 2008

A woman was held up at gunpoint after a robber burst into her home in **Brookmans Park**, Hertfordshire. He stole jewellery and cash from the property.

Telegraph & Argus, 15 December 2008

A man was punched in the face by a gang of five armed raiders who forced their way into his home in **Barkerend**, Bradford. Two of the men were armed with a knife and what is believed to have been an **imitation firearm**. The gang escaped with a DVD player, a mobile phone, a digital camera and a small amount of cash.

The Citizen (Lancaster & Morecambe), 15 December 2008

Jonathon Dagger was in possession of a **.22 air rifle** which he was seen pointing a gun into the River Lune from a bridge in **Lancaster**. He was later seen trying to hide the gun in his jacket and was detained. A month earlier he had been involved in causing damage at a Morecambe church. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage and possessing a firearm in a public place. He was given an eight month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

BBC, 15 December 2008

Two men armed with a handgun escaped with a "substantial amount of money" after a raid at a post office in **Christchurch**, Cambridgeshire. One of the men threatened a female member of staff with the gun.

BBC, 15 December 2008

A 15-year-old boy was shot as he walked along a disused railway line in **Knotty Ash**, Liverpool. He was treated in hospital for back and arm injuries but has since been discharged.

Crawley Observer, 14 December 2008

Two men robbed a service station at gunpoint in **Thame**, Oxfordshire. They demanded the cashiers opened the tills and took some money.

Asian Image, 14 December 2008

A taxi driver feared for his life when a **double-barrel shotgun** was pointed at him during an incident on a remote stretch of road between **Stanbury** and **Colne**, West Yorkshire. His passenger said he had no money but went into a house and re-emerged with the gun which he pointed at the driver and threatened to kill him. The driver escaped by driving off, leaving the door hanging open.

Sunderland Echo, 13 December 2008

An **air weapon** has been used to shoot at bulbs in lampposts in parks in **Seaham**, County Durham, leaving the council facing a repair bill of £5,750.

BBC, 13 December 2008

Masked men who broke into a house in **Middleton**, Greater Manchester, held a gun to a man's head and hitting him on the head with a machete. The victim was stabbed in the back. The gang of three were disturbed by the sound of police sirens and ran off.

BBC, 13 December 2008

A man was arrested at **Victoria** station in London in connection with an armed robbery in **Broadstairs**, Kent. There had been reports a man tried to rob an off-licence with a handgun. Nothing was taken in the incident.

The Gazette, 12 December 2008

Lee Broadbent and Calum Holmes have been jailed following an attack on a man in **Blackpool** in which they stripped their victim naked before shooting him with a stun gun. The men had apparently argued over a drug debt. Both men had pleaded guilty to actual bodily harm and false imprisonment. Broadbent admitted illegally possessing a stun gun and was sentenced to three years with an additional 18 months for possession of an offensive weapon to run concurrently. Holmes was also sentenced to three years.

BBC, 12 December 2008

A bank worker was dragged by her hair by two men with **shotguns** who threatened staff at a bank in **Walkden**, Salford. The men escaped with what police say was a "large" amount of money.

BBC, 12 December 2008

The jury at the inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes, who was shot dead by armed police at **Stockwell** underground station, south London, in July 2005 (see [Incidents](#)), has returned an open verdict.

BBC, 12 December 2008

A man was taken to hospital with stomach injuries after being shot in the **Foleshill** area of Coventry. The victim is in a stable condition.

Warrington Guardian, 11 December 2008

Kyle Barnes was caught with a loaded pistol after a police chase in **Risley**, Warrington. The gun was found to be a close replica of a police Glock 17 pistol which had a metal object lodged inside to stop it from firing. There were three rounds of blank-firing ammunition. He said he had been asked to dispose of it by a person who had made threats to members of his family. Barnes had been given a reprimand in 2001 for possessing an **air weapon** and had spent time in a Young Offenders Institution. He pleaded guilty to possessing an **imitation firearm** and was handed a six-month suspended prison sentence and a 12-month supervision order.

BBC, 11 December 2008

A security guard was shot in the leg by robbers as he delivered to a cash machine in **Blackburn**, Lancashire. The victim is seriously ill in hospital but his condition is not thought to be life threatening. A man has been arrested and is being questioned by the police (*BBC*, 12 December 2008).

BBC, 11 December 2008

Two bus drivers in Oxfordshire have been held up at gunpoint on the same night. A man who got on a bus in **Wheatley** threatened the driver with a gun before fleeing with his takings. In the second attack a driver in **Headington** was hit over the head and his money taken.

Sky News, 10 December 2008

A package delivered to a woman at her home in **Winfrith**, Dorset, contained a **realistic-looking Heckler and Koch machine gun** which should have been sent by the gun supply company to Dorset Police HQ. The gun is used for training purposes. Had it been a real firearm it would have been transported by hand. Nevertheless the police are seeking assurances from the unnamed supplier that such a mistake could never happen again.

BBC, 10 December 2008

A man is in a stable condition in hospital after being shot in the leg in **Levenshulme**, Manchester. The injury is not believed to be life-threatening.

BBC, 10 December 2008

Three alleged members of an armed gang are on trial accused of conspiring to kidnap and blackmail a man in **Finchley**, north London, in December 2007. They deny the charges and have pled not guilty to two counts of possessing a "silver **imitation firearm**" with intent to commit those offences. The trial continues.

Liverpool Daily Post, 9 December 2008

Ronald Carroll of **Gateacre**, Liverpool, has admitted carrying a loaded **shotgun** in a public place. He will be sentenced in January.

Northern Echo, 9 December 2008

A man pointed a **shotgun** at the face of a village postmaster during a robbery in **Wingate**, County Durham. He demanded money and he and another robber escaped with an undisclosed quantity of cash.

BBC, 9 December 2008

Three men robbed a sandwich shop in **Woodthorpe**, Nottinghamshire, after threatening staff with what police believe was a **shotgun**. They got away with a quantity of cash.

This is Leicestershire, 8 December 2008

Two **airgun** attacks have taken place in as many days in a street in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester. A man's car was shot at as he was driving and two days later a bus carrying elderly people was fired at. At least three passengers were badly shaken by the latter incident.

Stourbridge News, 8 December 2008

Ryan McGee has been found guilty of being in possession of a sawn-off **shotgun**. He produced the weapon when police officers called at his home in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands, after he complained he had been burgled. The gun was found to have been deactivated. He was charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** and ammunition. He has now been made the subject of a Hospital Order.

Somerset County Gazette, 8 December 2008

A man threatened staff at a supermarket in **Taunton**, Somerset, with a **ball-bearing gun**. Police are appealing for witnesses.

Manchester Evening News, 8 December 2008

An 18-year-old is apparently fighting for her life after she was shot in the eye with an **air rifle** at her home in **Bury**. Her condition is described as serious but stable. The air rifle pellet appeared to have been fired through an eye and into her brain. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. The girl died in hospital two weeks after the incident (*BBC*, 24 December 2008).

Express & Star, 8 December 2008

A man wielding a gun chased a woman customer down a road in **Coseley**, West Midlands, after she walked into a shop during a raid. The attacker threatened to shoot her but no shots were fired. The man stole a small sum of money, estimated to be less than £100.

The Standard, 7 December 2008

A 17-year-old boy was shot in the leg in a park in **Everton**, Merseyside. He was being treated in hospital and is said to be in a stable condition. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening (*Liverpool Echo*, 8 December 2008).

Oxford Mail, 6 December 2008

Police were called to a property in **Didcot**, Oxfordshire, following reports of a "domestic" incident involving a man behaving erratically with a shotgun. A man and a woman were arrested and a **shotgun** was recovered from the scene. They have been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and also with possession of a firearm with intent to resist arrest (*BBC*, 7 December 2008).

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 December 2008

An air weapon was used to damage a living room window in **Almondbury**, Huddersfield.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 December 2008

A small **air weapon** was stolen from the side of a farm building in **Clayton West**, West Yorkshire.

BBC, 5 December 2008

A robber thought to have been carrying a handgun concealed under his jacket demanded cash and restrained a worker's hands at a shop in **Cambridge**. He then took the man's wallet and £45 from the till.

BBC, 5 December 2008

Three teenagers and an older man have been arrested on suspicion of being in unlawful possession of a firearm by armed police acting on a tip-off in **Hartlepool**.

BBC, 5 December 2008

The police spoke to youths after pellets were fired at shop windows with **toy guns** bought from a stall in **Market Drayton**, Shropshire. The guns were confiscated. The police said that the pellets were hitting nearby premises and causing a nuisance.

Evening Chronicle, 4 December 2008

A man wielding a **shotgun** threatened staff and customers during a raid on a pub in **North Shields**, Tyneside. The man demanded money and made off with what is believed to be a small quantity of cash.

YourCanterbury.co.uk, 3 December 2008

Tristram Keen has been sentenced to 18 months in prison after he shot a girl in the eye with an **airgun** pellet. The incident happened in **Hersden**, Kent, in July 2007. His victim, now aged 12, has been left with a pellet lodged behind her eye socket and has lost the sight in the eye.

Oxford Times, 3 December 2008

A gang which caused thousands of pounds of damage in drive-by shootings with a **ball bearing gun** have been dealt with by magistrates. Six people, aged between 16 and 19, were responsible for damage to 32 cars in **Witney**, **Carterton** and **Eynsham** in Oxfordshire, in May 2008. Following an appeal for information a tip-off led to the discovery of a gun at a house in Witney. Aaron Deakin-Harse, David Jessiman, Callum Johnson, Neil Hull and two youths all admitted criminal damage and some of them asked for similar offences to be considered. They were given community orders of between 40 hours and 100 hours and ordered to pay compensation. The gun has been destroyed under a magistrates' order.

Hertfordshire Mercury, 3 December 2008

Antony Taylor, 15, from **Royston**, Hertfordshire, has been given a two-year anti-social behaviour order which prevents him, from other things, to be in possession of any **BB gun**, **soft air pellet gun** or **imitation weapon** in a public place.

Evening Chronicle, 3 December 2008

A Glock **replica handgun**, re-activated to fire live rounds, was seized along with drugs and stolen goods in a police crackdown targeted against suspects in **Ashington**, **Blyth** and **Cramlington** in Northumberland. Two **BB guns** were also seized.

Basingstoke Gazette, 3 December 2008

A teenager was shot in the hand with an **air rifle** by a group of boys in **Basingstoke**, Hampshire. The victim was walking with two friends at the time. The boys in the group with the air rifle are described as aged between 17 and 18.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 2 December 2008

Robbers stole thousands of pounds after forcing their way into a home in **Goffs Oak**, Hertfordshire. The two men, who were armed with a **shotgun**, knocked on the door before forcing their way into the house.

This is Lancashire, 2 December 2008

Wayne Catterall has been sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to selling or transferring ammunition unlawfully, possessing ammunition without a certificate and possession of a firearm. Police had found a double-barrelled sawn-off **shotgun** and cartridges during a search in **Bury** in January 2008. See also [July 2008 Incidents](#).

BBC, 2 December 2008

A man holding a gun walked into the post office in **Capel St Mary**, Suffolk, and threatened staff before leaving with money. He was wearing a Halloween mask during the raid. In a second raid on the same post office a masked man armed with a handgun made off with cash after demanding money (*BBC*, 20 December 2008).

Shropshire Star, 1 December 2008

An 11-year-old schoolboy was "almost blinded" when fellow students fired ball-bearings at his head when he was in the playground of his school in **Market Drayton**, Shropshire. Two other students fired a **ball-bearing gun** they had brought to the school. Three pupils have been suspended.

Lancashire Telegraph, 1 December 2008

Armed police surrounded a car in **Little Harwood**, Blackburn, after reports of two men brandishing a handgun. Officers found two **ball bearing guns**. A 20-year-old man and a 14-year-old boy were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences.

BBC, 1 December 2008

A group of teenagers filming themselves with **fake guns** for a project sparked an armed operation in **Plymouth**. Police surrounded a property and two teenagers and a youth were detained. Officers found an imitation handgun and rifle inside. They were given a warning and released.

SCOTLAND

Press & Journal, 31 December 2008

There has been a series of **airgun** shootings in **Aberdeen**. Three people, including two 17-year-olds, have been arrested. The shootings happened in Bridge of Don, in the city centre and at the beach and harbour areas. The pellets were fired from a vehicle.

BBC, 31 December 2008

A man has appeared in court accused of possessing an **air weapon** in **Hawick** and causing a breach of the peace. He has been released on bail.

BBC, 24 December 2008

A man has been arrested in connection with an alleged firearms incident at a farm in **Kildary**, Easter Ross.

Daily Record, 23 December 2008

A 19-year-old was hit in the stomach in a drive-by shooting in **Broomhouse**, Edinburgh, over a suspected drug feud. It is believed a **double-barrelled shotgun** was used. The victim's condition was described as stable.

stv, 22 December 2008

Paul Campbell has admitted carrying out six armed raids in **Glasgow** between July and September 2008. At each of five bookmakers he brandished what appeared to be a gun and demanded cash. At the sixth robbery he threatened staff with a knife. He admitted carrying out five armed raids on bookmakers by presenting a handgun or **imitation handgun** to staff and also pleaded guilty to presenting a knife at a member of staff at a store and robbing her. Sentencing was deferred.

Scotsman, 20 December 2008

Ramsay Scott, who has competed in shooting at under-19 level for Scotland, faces a minimum five years' detention after he admitted a series of offences under the Firearms Act. A mini-arsenal of illegal weapons was found by police at his home in **Longniddry**, East Lothian. Scott was described as having become obsessed with firearms and had used his mother's credit card to order components of prohibited guns on the internet. The police raid was conducted after customs officers had intercepted a parcel from the United States which was found to contain the barrel of a Glock pistol, a prohibited weapon. Police found assembled Glock and Sig Sauer pistols, and parts of Colt pistols, Heckler & Koch submachine guns and Custom rifles, as well as illegal "dum dum" bullets. Scott held a firearms licence for a rifle and silencer.

BBC, 19 December 2008

A masked man threatened two security men with what appeared to be a gun and grabbed their money container as they were delivering cash to a bank in **Bothwell**, South Lanarkshire. The security men were uninjured but left badly shaken by the incident.

East Kilbride News, 17 December 2008

A police helicopter was scrambled over **Westwood**, East Kilbride, after reports of two teenagers with a gun. A concerned resident had called after spotting two boys with what looked like an **airgun** or a **replica gun**. Nothing was found and officers decided to call off the hunt.

BBC, 14 December 2008

A car driver was shot at after an argument in a lay-by on the A761 near **Kilmacolm** in Inverclyde. The incident is being treated as attempted murder. The victim ran off and was not injured.

BBC, 8 December 2008

Michael Ross who has already been convicted of the murder of a waiter who was shot dead in **Kirkwall**, Orkney, in 1994 will serve an additional five years in prison after admitting to defeat ends of justice and possessing firearms and ammunition. He fled from the dock at the High Court in Glasgow after he was found guilty of murder in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He had a cache of weapons, a Scorpion machine pistol, a hand grenade and ammunition hidden in a hired car parked in a car park in **St Rollox**, less than a mile away. Although he said he intended to use the gun and grenade to catch fish and game whilst on the run a weapons expert said they were military rather than hunting weapons.

Perthshire Advertiser, 6 December 2008

Thomas Pryde fired a **shotgun** outside a man's house in **Perth** because he was owed thousands of pounds. The man was left "shaken" by the incident and described members of his family as being "petrified". Pryde admitted committing breaches of the peace at the house and at the man's business premises four days earlier in September 2004. He also admitted offences under the Firearms Act, including possessing a firearm with intent to cause his victim to believe unlawful violence would be used against him or another. Pryde is aware that a custodial sentence is inevitable.

Press & Journal, 5 December 2008

Andrew Jones terrified his wife's ex-husband by turning up on his doorstep in **Fraserburgh** holding an authentic-looking **air pistol**. The air pistol was kept in a shed to control vermin. He had just had a drink-fuelled row with his now estranged wife. In court he admitted having the gun with the intention of causing his victim to believe unlawful violence would be used against him as well as other offences. He was jailed for 12 months.

BBC, 4 December 2008

Christopher Murray carried out armed robberies on two bookmakers in **Glasgow**. In the second hold up in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) he used an **imitation gun**. He admitted the robberies and has been jailed for five years.

WALES

BBC, 31 December 2008

Two men, one of whom is believed to have been carrying a **shotgun**, threatened a cashier at a betting shop in **Llanedeyrn**, Cardiff. The men left after a cashier screamed to a colleague and nothing was stolen.

BBC, 19 December 2008

Carl Taylor has been sentenced to three years youth custody for threatening a car dealer with an **imitation handgun**, a Webley blank-firing revolver, in October 2008. He admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The incident happened when he forced the dealer in **Rhyl**, Denbighshire, to return his car keys when he was unhappy with the part-exchange deal he had done hours earlier. His female victim has suffered flashbacks and nightmares since the incident.

Western Mail, 13 December 2008

Gary Young has admitted possessing an over-powerful **air rifle**, a knuckleduster, and a small quantity of cannabis and has been warned he faces a prison sentence. He had been found not guilty of possessing an 8mm handgun, a silencer and cartridges which were found at a clubhouse owned by the West Wales chapter of the Hell's Angles in **Haverfordwest**.

Daily Post, 12 December 2008

A coroner has recorded a verdict of suicide at the inquest into the death of a man who shot himself in the head with an **air rifle** in July 2008. The man was found in his van, parked and locked in **Wrexham**. He was found dead inside with his air rifle at his side.

BBC, 2 December 2008

A shop assistant was shot with an **air rifle** during an attack at a store in **Cyncoed**, Cardiff.

This is South Wales, 1 December 2008

A Franchi over-and-under double-barrel 12 bore **shotgun** has been taken from a Land Rover parked in **Penmaen**, Gower. It was stolen while the owner was on an organised pheasant shoot in the area.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Your Thanet News, 23 December 2008

A cat was shot and injured in **Westgate-on-Sea**, Kent. The vet has confirmed that it had been most likely injured with a pellet from an **airgun**. The cat had a pellet lodged in its body from an earlier injury.

Oxford Mail, 20 December 2008

A cat was shot at point blank range with an **air rifle** in an attack in **Headington**, Oxford. The pellet tore through the muscle of her back leg and shattered the bone. She has had to have a metal rod inserted in her leg, the treatment costing £1200. The family's other cat is missing and her owner fears that the missing cat may also have been attacked and killed.

Runcorn and Widnes World, 17 December 2008

One cat has been killed and another seriously injured by **air rifles** in Cheshire. The dead cat was found in **Widnes**, the other attack took place in **West Bank**, where a cat lost its eye and may not survive owing to the pellet being lodged in its jaw.

West Sussex Gazette, 12 December 2008

A cat has been left fighting for her life after an **airgun** pellet passed through her body, narrowly missing all of her vital organs. The pet was left in agony following the attack in **Horsham**, Sussex.

Whitchurch Herald, 8 December 2008

Two teenagers killed two pet Shetland ponies at a care home in **Whitchurch**, Shropshire, in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). They had a .22 rifle and a **shotgun**. One of the ponies died instantly. The other which had internal injuries caused by the shotgun took a while to die. Daniel Walker, 18, and a 14-year-old boy both admitted handling a firearm with intent to commit a criminal offence, having a loaded gun in a public place and killing a pony, intending to kill or being reckless as to whether the animal would be destroyed. Walker was remanded in custody, the other teenager was remanded in local authority care.

This is Sutton Coldfield, 6 December 2008

A family from **Sutton Coldfield** are appealing for witnesses after their pet cat was shot in the leg with an **air rifle** and viciously kicked.

East Lothian Courier, 4 December 2008

A cat has been so badly injured in an **airgun** attack that she had to be put down. The cat from **Pencaitland**, East Lothian, suffered a shattered knee.

Bognor Regis Observer, 4 December 2008

Two cats have been shot with **airguns** in recent attacks in West Sussex. One cat was found in the garden shed at her home in **Burgess Hill**. A pellet had gone through her spleen, stomach and three parts of her bowel and vets have removed part of the bowel. At another vets in **Ardingly** a cat had his eye removed after being shot with an air rifle.

This is Derbyshire, 3 December 2008

A £1200 reward is being offered after four swans were killed in Derbyshire. In the latest attack a swan which had been shot was found in **Ironville**. The bird died later. Another swan was found shot by an **airgun** at a golf club in **Codnor**. The incidents could be linked to an earlier incident when a swan, thought to have been shot, was found with severe head injuries in **Jacksdale**. Nine **air weapon** pellets were found in the bird's head and three in its neck. Another pellet had entered through the throat into the stomach. The swan was still alive but had to be put down (*This is Derbyshire*, 17 December 2008).

Mid Cheshire Chronicle, 3 December 2008

An **airgun** sniper has blinded a cat in one eye in an attack in **Rudheath**, Cheshire.

Bromsgrove Advertiser, 3 December 2008

A cat has had its leg shattered after being shot with an **airgun** pellet in **Cofton Hackett**, Worcestershire. An RSPCA described the shooting as a mindless act of cruelty which is becoming more common.

Banbury Cake, 2 December 2008

The owner of a smallholding in **Brightwell-cum-Sotwell**, Oxfordshire, has lost two of his rare-breed animals in separate attacks over the past five months. The white rhea and a Patagonian cavy were both shot in the leg by what is thought to be a rifle. He believed the shootings are linked.



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