

## **DECEMBER 2009 - SUMMARY**

### **Gun Deaths in 2009**

- On the basis of the media reports seen by GCN there were 44 gun homicides in Great Britain in 2009, one of which involved a bolt gun which is no longer subject to firearms legislation. The total is two greater than in 2008 but remains significantly lower than for most years during the previous two decades.
- Seventeen of the gun victims died in London, 5 in Greater Manchester, 3 in each of South Yorkshire, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire and 2 in Hampshire (a domestic double shooting). Despite a number of shooting incidents in Merseyside that resulted in injury there was only one gun homicide, which occurred in January. The only gun homicide in Scotland during 2009 was also in January. There was a single gun homicide in each of Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Essex, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk and Worcestershire.
- Seven of the victims were female. Five women were shot by their partner or ex-partner and a young girl was shot by her father who also killed her mother. Four of the men killed themselves. The other woman was shot with a bolt gun by a man who had stalked her. In a seventh domestic incident a man was reportedly shot dead by his wife.
- Two of the fatalities occurred during armed robberies – in Worcestershire in January and in Greater Manchester in December.
- The youngest victim was a 4-year-old girl, shot by her father, and there were four victims aged between 16 and 20. Half of the victims (22 of the 44) were males in their twenties. Of the six victims aged 50 or over, four were killed in domestic shootings, three women and one man.
- Two men were shot dead by armed police officers in County Durham and Sussex, both incidents occurring in May after shots were reported to have been fired with a crossbow and a handgun during the respective incidents.
- Air weapons killed four more people in 2009. Three boys aged 5, 10 and 15 died after being shot in incidents described as accidents. One woman shot herself with an air rifle.

## December 2009 Incidents

**Three of the domestic shootings described above took place during December and resulted in the deaths of three women and a child. The one other homicide victim was a man who was shot dead during a robbery. Overall, however, there were fewer incidents reported this month that resulted in gunshot injuries, although the incidence of robberies involving guns appeared to have increased.**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were nine shooting fatalities during December, six of them occurring in domestic incidents in which four female victims died, one of them a child. Five of the deaths were probable homicides:
  - A man died after being shot during a robbery in Longsight (Manchester) - a number of men were arrested.
  - Two women were shot dead in Brabourne Leas (Kent) and Rochford (Essex), apparently by their husbands who used shotguns and then apparently committed suicide, one by shooting himself and the other by drowning.
  - In another murder-suicide in Aldershot (Hampshire) a woman and her 4-year-old daughter were killed by her ex-partner who was also the child's father - the man shot himself with what is believed to have been a handgun.
- There were two other probable suicides involving firearms, one near Eastbourne (East Sussex) and the other in Cricklade (Wiltshire).
- Inquests into the deaths earlier this year of two other men who died from shotgun wounds concluded that their injuries were self-inflicted - an open verdict was recorded for a man found dead in Dorchester (Dorset), suicide in the case of a man found in Wootton (Lincolnshire). Another inquest heard how a man had taken his own life at a farm in Whitestone (Devon) using a bolt gun.
- Ten other victims were injured in shooting attacks:
  - Cambridgeshire (1) - a man was injured in a shotgun attack at a nightclub in St Neots (a man has been charged with attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to cause an offence)
  - Kent (1) - a man was critically injured after a hit-and-run incident in Maidstone which left another man dead - the injured man was hit by the vehicle but also suffered gunshot wounds (a woman has been charged with murder and two other men arrested)
  - London (4) - two men were shot in a shotgun attack in Ladbroke Grove, a man was badly injured when he was shot at a nightclub in Farringdon, and a man who entered hospital with a wound to the shoulder is believed to have been shot in Walthamstow
  - Merseyside (1) - a man was shot in the leg after being approached by two men in a street in Huyton
  - Suffolk (1) - a man was shot at a club in Ipswich, probably with a handgun
  - West Midlands (2) - a man and a woman were injured in a double shooting in Wood End (Coventry)
- Five people were injured in airgun shootings:
  - a railway repair man was hit in the wrist when shots were fired at a group of workers in Middleton (West Yorkshire)
  - a man was apparently shot in Ellacombe (Devon)
  - two men were shot in Greater Manchester, one as he was collecting money for charity in a street in Cadishead and the other as he used a cash machine in Whalley Range, where a man was later arrested
  - a resident was shot when he went to investigate someone firing an air weapon in a street in Workington (Cumbria)

- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - A man was fatally injured during a robbery outside a money exchange firm in Longsight (Manchester) (see above).
- This month there was a spate of armed robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns, particularly at bookmakers and shops. It seems likely that many of the weapons, especially those described as handguns, were imitations. The incidents occurred at:
  - **Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices** in Balham (south London), Cheadle (Cheshire) (involving a sawn-off shotgun), Islington Green (north London) (the man responsible is believed to have raided a number of other banks in London and Essex since September; no weapon has been seen), Northampton (handgun; a man has been questioned about this and two other robberies in Northampton and Wellingborough), Rayleigh (Essex) and Smethwick (West Midlands) (no weapon seen)
  - **Bookmakers** in Bothwell (South Lanarkshire), Burnham (Berkshire) (handgun), Leeds (handgun), Slough (Berkshire) (two separate premises; one involved a handgun), Sunderland (handgun), Swindon (Wiltshire) (two separate premises; after the first raid three men were charged with conspiracy to steal and possessing an imitation firearm; a handgun was seen in the second raid), Walker (Tyneside) (handgun) and Wigan (two separate premises; handgun reported in one of the raids)
  - **Cafés and Restaurants** in the Bluewater shopping centre (Kent), Colchester (Essex) (a man who was armed with an airgun was charged) and Knott End (Lancashire) (handgun)
  - **Car Dealership** in Dunston (Tyneside) (handgun)
  - **Offices** in Leamington Spa (Warwickshire) (handgun) and Moortown (Leeds) (handgun)
  - **Petrol Stations** in Eastleigh (Hampshire), Fenay Bridge (West Yorkshire), Hebburn (Tyneside) (handgun) and Worthing (West Sussex) (a shot was fired)
  - **Shops** in Canvey (Essex) (handgun), Clydebank (West Dunbartonshire), Duston (Northampton) (handgun), Kidsgrove (Staffordshire) (shotgun, hammer) (two people have been arrested), Liverpool, Llysfaen (North Wales) (handgun, knife), Milton Keynes (a blank-firing gun was fired), Monsall (Manchester) (shotgun, pistol and machetes), Tantobie (County Durham) (handgun), Tooting (south London), Walsall (handgun, crowbar), Wigan (sawn-off shotgun), Wolverhampton and Worthing (West Sussex) (believed to have involved a BB gun). A shotgun may also have been used to break a window during a robbery at a jewellers in Birkenhead (The Wirral)
  - **Warehouse** in Philadelphia (County Durham) (handgun, metal bar).
- There were armed robberies at **Homes** in Bournemouth (Dorset) (two different properties), Chorlton (Greater Manchester) (there were a number of incidents in the area - a 15-year-old has been arrested), Kirby (Merseyside) (a car was stolen), Pickmere (Cheshire) (three men armed with a sawn-off shotgun and a handgun) and Portslade (East Sussex) (the weapon was a BB gun and a man was arrested)
- A pensioner who was visiting a **Hospital** in Liverpool was attacked by a man believed to be carrying a gun who demanded money.
- There was an attempted robbery during a cash delivery at a **Bus Depot** in Wigan (one man was hit on the head with a shotgun, two men were later arrested). A **Delivery Van** driver was robbed in Newcastle upon Tyne and a **Bus Driver** in Billingham (Teesside). A man has been accused of a firearms offence and making off without payment following an incident in which a **Taxi Driver** was allegedly threatened with a gun in Consett (County Durham).
- A man was dragged off the street and into a car at gunpoint in West Hampstead (north west London) and forced to withdraw money from two cash machines.

- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
  - Cheshire - the windows of a family's car were smashed by an apparent shot fired in Warrington
  - Greater Manchester - shots were fired and a bullet casing found in Whalley Range.
  - London - a man on a motorcycle fired at a group of people outside a club in Finsbury, and a shot was fired during an incident in Norwood in which a man had his ear bitten
  - Merseyside - A shot was fired at a property in Croxteth, two cars were found damaged in Norris Green after residents reported hearing gunshots and shots were heard in a street in Belle Vale (a man was arrested)
  - West Midlands - two windows were smashed at separate premises in Coventry
  - West Yorkshire - shots, believed to come from a shotgun, were fired from a vehicle in Manningham (Bradford) damaging parked vehicles
  - Worcestershire - A firearm was discharged in Redditch - one man has been arrested
- A man from Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) has been accused of threatening to shoot his elder daughter with a shotgun.
- Two men were arrested on suspicion of assault and having a shotgun and baseball bat after police found a man with the weapons at a car crash in Basildon (Essex).
- After a second incident in a hospital this month (see Armed Robberies above) a man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence - he was seen with a rifle at a hospital in Crumpsall (Greater Manchester).
- A number of other people were charged with possession of firearms:
  - Two men from south London appeared in court charged with possession of three firearms, possession of a handgun with intent to endanger life and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence
  - Four teenagers have been charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life after a firearm was discovered in a vehicle in Kensington (Liverpool)
  - A man was charged with possessing a firearm after being arrested outside the home of ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair in central London
  - Three men were arrested and a loaded revolver was seized in a police operation in Tottenham Hale (north London)
- Following a number of incidents, including one in which a gun was said to have been displayed, a pub in Easton (Bristol) was shut down.
- There were other incidents in which guns were reported to have been seen but no firearms were recovered:
  - Police found a cannabis factory in Addiscombe (south London) after a gun was reported to have been seen there (one man was arrested).
  - A man gave himself up after a siege at a property in Blackpool (Lancashire).
  - Streets in Newton Abbot (Devon) and Bishopbriggs (East Dunbartonshire) were closed after reports of men being seen with a firearm.
- Firefighters had to deal with exploding ammunition when a fire at a house in Carluith (Wigtownshire) penetrated a metal gun cabinet.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents which resulted in injury (see above) the following also involved airguns and imitation weapons.
- Shots were fired from an airgun at a vehicle in Halifax (West Yorkshire) causing damage to the windscreen.
- A man faced charges after he allegedly threatened to shoot police officers with an air rifle in Castlebay (Outer Hebrides). Another man was charged after a police officer was threatened with a blank-firing pistol in Trafford (Greater Manchester).

- Staff at a kebab van in Otterbourne (Hampshire) were threatened with an air rifle.
  - Much of the village of Abbots Bromley (Staffordshire) was brought to a halt after reports of a man waving a gun later found to be an imitation handgun - three juveniles were arrested. In another incident which caused an armed police response two teenagers pointed a BB gun out of a window in Hastings (East Sussex) - they were arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm in a public place.
  - Imitation guns and airguns were probably used in many of the **Armed Robberies** (see above) and this was so for robberies from Colchester (Essex), Portslade (East Sussex), Milton Keynes, Swindon (Wiltshire) and Worthing (West Sussex)
  - Windows were damaged, probably by shots fired from airguns in incidents in Minera (Clywd) (at a church), South Shields (Tyneside) (at the home of an elderly couple) and Winsford (Cheshire).
  - A pupil accused of shooting a fellow student with a ball-bearing gun at a school in Kerry (Powys) has had to be invited back to school after police dismissed the case for lack of evidence.
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which drugs were recovered in Swansea (an airgun), northern Scotland (a replica handgun) and Port Glasgow (Renfrewshire) (a revolver).
  - In other police raids guns were recovered in Gravesend (a shotgun), Leeds (an M-16 assault rifle - three people were arrested), Leicestershire (in Hinckley and Bosworth; air rifles and an imitation firearm) and Manchester (two blank-firing handguns).
  - A number of air weapons, including a replica AK47 rifle, were taken from a parked car in Dalkeith (Midlothian), a thief stole a pick-up truck containing shotgun cartridges and jewellery in Kirby Muxloe (Leicestershire), shotguns were among items taken from two farms in Cambridgeshire and two air rifles were among goods stolen from a farm in Kington (Worcestershire).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Compared with recent months there were fewer incidents involving animals and birds reported during December. A number of cats were, however, targeted with airguns and pellet guns in London (in Newham, Putney and South Tottenham), one cat was injured in Warrington (Cheshire) and two cats were shot in an airgun attack in Kirkcaldy (Fife).
  - Five men were arrested and a number of guns seized during a crackdown on poaching in Sussex. Three men were arrested on suspicion of poaching when a routine police patrol in Penkridge (Staffordshire) stopped their van which was found to contain three dead deer and a modified air rifle.
  - A red kite was shot and injured near Braco (Perthshire). A heron was shot and badly injured by two airgun pellets in Haversham (Buckinghamshire).

- **Convictions** - Three men were convicted of the fatal shooting of a man and the attempted murder of his father during a robbery at a post office in Fairfield (Worcestershire) - all three were sentenced to a minimum of 34 years.
- A man found guilty of murdering a man who was shot dead in Newtown (Birmingham) will serve a minimum of 25 years.
- Two men were each sentenced to 35 years in jail after an attack in New Cross (south London) in which a teenager was run down and then shot with a shotgun and stabbed - the victim remains in a coma.
- A man has admitted a shooting at a pub in Greenwich (south east London) in which two people were injured - he pleaded guilty to a number of charges

including two counts of wounding with intent. A man from Forest Gate (east London) who shot off his victim's thumb when he opened fire with a shotgun has been convicted of attempted murder, assault and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. Another man who shot a rival outside a restaurant in Wolverhampton was jailed for 12 years and his accomplice for 6 years.

- A man who shot at two men in Coventry has been found guilty of their attempted murder and been jailed for 11 years.
- Three men have been found guilty for their part in the torture, robbery and rape of a couple in Clapham (south London) during which a gun was held to a woman's head - two of the men have each been jailed for 9 years, the other will be sentenced later.
- A man who forced two officers from their police van at gunpoint in Peterborough and then hijacked another vehicle was given a 14 year sentence after pleading guilty to eight charges.
- A teenager who held a handgun to the head of a drinker outside a pub in Manchester and threatened to shoot him pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and was jailed for a minimum of 3 years.
- Seven men and one woman have been jailed for a total of more than 57 years, some for firearms offences, for their roles in a drugs gang responsible for shooting incidents in Huyton (Merseyside).
- Two men who were part of a cocaine-smuggling gang have been convicted of firearms offences - they were responsible for preparing to rob a series of cash vans in Hertfordshire.
- The following convictions involved offences with shotguns:
  - Three men have been jailed for between 3 and 11½ years for kidnap, false imprisonment and possessing a firearm with intent after their victim was kidnapped in Birmingham and threatened with a shotgun.
  - A man who terrorised his lover at her house in Rossington, South Yorkshire, whilst armed with a sawn-off shotgun was given an 18-month community order.
  - A man who was armed with a shotgun has been given a 12-year jail sentence after attempting to rob a filling station in Blaydon (Tyneside).
  - Three men have been jailed for between 4 years and 8 years for their part in raids on post offices and bookmakers in Wingate, Trimdon Station and Elwick (County Durham) in which one man was armed with a sawn-off shotgun.
  - A man who hid a sawn-off shotgun at his home in Northampton after he found it in his brother's garden has been jailed for 5 years.
  - A man who had a sawn-off shotgun and cartridges outside a Middlesbrough flat where police discovered drugs was jailed for 3 years after pleading guilty to possessing a shotgun without a certificate.
  - A man whose photograph, in which he posed with a sawn-off shotgun, was found on his son's phone admitted illegal possession of the gun and was jailed for 5 years.
  - A man who took a shotgun to a field in Wootton (Bedfordshire) intending to kill himself after assaulting his wife pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and having a shotgun in a public place - he was given a suspended 46 week prison sentence and 100 hours unpaid work together with a fine.
- There were a number of convictions for possessing illegal firearms:
  - Two gang members were convicted of possessing a Mac-10 machine pistol found by police in Aston (Birmingham).
  - A man from Luton (Bedfordshire) has been given a 5 year prison sentence after admitting possessing a pistol which he had been asked to keep in return for £300 but then lost.

- A teenage woman pleaded guilty to possessing a handgun she had been asked to look after at her flat in Beckenham (south east London) and was sentenced to 3 years detention.
- Another woman was sentenced to 5 years after police found two pistols, a sawn-off shotgun, a silencer and ammunition at her home in Isleworth (west London).
- A man caught in Harrow (north west London) with a modified imitation handgun loaded with three bullets has been found guilty and jailed for 6½ years.
- A man from South Shields was jailed for 9 years after cocaine, cash and a loaded pistol were found at his home.
- A 19-year-old pleaded guilty to possessing a 9mm pistol and ammunition found at his home in Derby - he was sentenced to 2 years and 9 months, a lesser sentence because he had been a key witness in a murder trial
- A man described as a passionate gun collector was jailed for 5 years after pleading guilty to nine firearm offences - he had more than 50 guns at his cottage in Heywood (Greater Manchester) some of which were unlicensed
- A man who was banned from owning a firearm as a result of a previous offence but was found with a rifle at his home in Kentish Town (north London) has been jailed for 5 years.
- A man from Blyth (Northumberland) was given a conditional discharge after he told the police he had a .22 round in his pocket in a bid to get help to kick a drug habit - he was banned from having guns and ammunition as a result of a previous conviction.
- The following cases involved stun guns:
  - Three students caught with a Taser gun in a Swansea nightclub were each fined £50.
  - A man was jailed for 12 months for a number of offences including having a prohibited stun gun which was found during a police search of his property in Althorpe (Lincolnshire).
  - A man has pleaded guilty to possessing a stun gun, which was found in his car in Wellingborough (Northamptonshire), and has been given a suspended 40 week prison sentence and 120 hours community service.
  - A man from Walcot (Wiltshire) has been jailed for 3 years and 10 months after a stun gun and cocaine were found in a car.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A teenager who has been convicted of murdering his girlfriend at their flat in Arbroath (Angus) was also found guilty of pointing an airgun at two men and pulling the trigger.
- A 16-year-old youth who shot and injured a woman on a night out in Mansfield (Nottinghamshire) claimed he was aiming at flower pots with an air rifle he had been given as a gift - he was given a 12-month community order and ordered to pay compensation to the victim who has suffered long-term injuries.
- A man who fired an air rifle at a teenager while he was high on drink and drugs in Lye (West Midlands) has been jailed for 5 years - the victim may lose sight of one eye.
- A man from Lye (West Midlands) who attacked his love rival and his mother whilst armed with an imitation handgun has been jailed for 8 years - his brother and another man who were involved in the attack and were armed with a hammer and a baseball bat were jailed for 6 and 5½ years.
- A man who was waving an airgun outside a home in Middlesbrough where he threatened to kill his ex-partner has been jailed for 3 years after admitting affray and possessing ammunition without a firearm certificate (police had also found 68 rounds of .22 ammunition)
- There were other incidents in which airguns and imitation guns were used to cause fear:

- A man pleaded guilty of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear during an incident at Gatwick Airport - the weapon was reported to be an imitation.
- A man who brandished a loaded air pistol at a police officer in Sunderland admitted possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear and has been given a suspended 36 week jail sentence and 150 hours of unpaid work.
- A man who armed himself with a ball bearing pistol for a meeting with two people in Swindon (Wiltshire) has been given a suspended 51 week sentence and 150 hours community service, and his teenage friend who owned the gun admitted a firearms offence and was given a suspended 40 weeks sentences and 130 hours community service.
- A woman was given a 12-month supervision order after threatening two other women with her husband's air rifle in Bretton (Peterborough).
- A man who pointed an air pistol at his step-son in East Ham (east London) and threatened to kill him has been jailed for 15 months.
- A teenager who fired shots from an air rifle in Inverurie (Aberdeenshire) put people in danger and has admitted a charge of culpably and recklessly discharging an airgun.
- Two teenagers have admitted repeatedly firing a ball-bearing gun in a play park in Oldmeldrum (Aberdeen).
- A man pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace by discharging an air pistol causing fear and alarm in Edinburgh - he was sentenced to 200 hours community service.
- A teenager who fired a ball-bearing gun at a fellow motorist in Peterlee (County Durham) pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a fear of violence.
- A man mugged two homeless people in Leicester whilst armed with an airgun and awaits sentence.
- There were a number of convictions for **robberies and attempted robberies** in which the offender(s) was armed with an imitation firearm or airgun. The incidents occurred:
  - at **shops, banks and post offices** in Bilton (Warwickshire) (a man pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and was jailed for 10 years), Castle Bromwich (West Midlands) (one man was found guilty of attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm, and another man pleaded to guilty to both charges), Johnstone (Renfrewshire) (a teenager was armed with a BB gun and a hatchet), Rochdale (Greater Manchester) (a 17-year-old has been sentenced to an 8-month detention and training order) and Southampton (a teenage woman has been jailed for 5 years after a number of incidents involving an air pistol)
  - at a **bookmakers** in Hull (a man was been jailed for 5 years)
  - at **bars or restaurants** in Paisley (a man committed two robberies using a replica revolver and has been jailed for 4 years) and West Didsbury (Greater Manchester) (a man who admitted possessing an imitation firearm has been jailed for 7½ years)
  - at a **service station** in Southampton (a man was jailed for 6 years and received a 2 year extended licence)
  - on **security guards** in two robberies in Shawlands (Glasgow) (a man has been jailed for 6 years and 5 months) and one in Newmains (Lanarkshire) (an airgun was used - the getaway driver has admitted his involvement)
  - in a **street robbery** in Portsmouth (two men have been jailed for 6 years and 5 years after they attempted to rob a man whilst armed with an imitation firearm)
  - on a **taxi driver** in Winson Green (Birmingham) (the offender has pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery and one of possessing an imitation firearm)

- A 17-year-old who aimed a "toy" AK47 gun at passers-by in Paignton (Devon) has been given "suitable advice" about his conduct and given an £80 fine.
- A man who had been drinking when he was seen with an air rifle on a playing field in Newmarket (Suffolk) pleaded guilty to having an unloaded air weapon in a public place and has been given a 12-month community order including 40 hours unpaid work.
- A father and his son have been jailed for 7½ and 8 years after being found with drugs and an air rifle at their home in Gateshead (Tyneside).
- One man was jailed for 10 months and another fined £250 after air rifles, including two which would have needed firearms certificates, were found by police at a house in Eaton Socon (Cambridgeshire).
- A man has admitted possessing an air rifle in Pershore (Worcestershire) when prohibited because of a previous jail sentence.
- Two men who robbed a teenager of his air rifle in Eston (Teesside) were jailed for 3 years and 2½ years and a 14-year-old was given a 12-month referral order.
- A physiotherapist from Sunderland was given a caution by the Health Professional Council after he encouraged a road accident victim to fire an air pistol.

## GUN INCIDENTS – DECEMBER 2009

### ENGLAND

**Southern Daily Echo**, 31 December 2009

A man has escaped with an unknown amount of cash after holding up a petrol station in **Eastleigh**, Hampshire. He threatened the cashier with what appeared to be a handgun.

**Newmarket Journal**, 31 December 2009

Keith Thompson was seen with a gun on a playing field in **Newmarket**, Suffolk. One witness described how he heard it being fired. Thompson was arrested and the gun shown to be a **.177 calibre air rifle**. Thompson pleaded guilty to possession of an unloaded air weapon in a public place. He said he had been shooting on private land with family members earlier that day, had been drinking and was travelling back from his sister's home. The sound was of the barrel clicking open. He was given a 12-month community order to include 40 hours unpaid work. As part of the order he was banned from carrying an air rifle.

**Great Yarmouth Mercury**, 31 December 2009

A man from **Hemsby**, Norfolk, has appeared before magistrates and denied threatening to shoot his girlfriend. He is alleged to have called 999 and told an operator he had a gun.

**Echo**, 31 December 2009

A man held up a post office in **Rayleigh**, Essex, where the staff were threatened with a gun. A man was arrested a short time later.

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

Two **air rifles** were among items stolen from a farm in **Kington**, Worcestershire.

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

A man had his ear bitten by two men who then produced a gun and fired a shot. No-one was struck by the bullet. The incident took place outside a house in **Norwood**, south London.

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

A sandwich bar worker at the **Bluewater shopping centre**, Kent, was threatened with a gun by robbers who fled with more than £20,000. She was made to watch as the robbers emptied the safe.

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

A man was shot in the head with an **air rifle** as he used a cash machine in **Whalley Range**, Greater Manchester. He was shot at from a nearby block of flats. The victim was taken to hospital where he had to undergo surgery to remove a pellet. An airgun was seized from a flat and a man arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

**Telegraph**, 30 December 2009

Roy Bennett, described as a passionate gun collector, amassed more than 50 guns at his cottage in **Heywood**, Greater Manchester. He pleaded guilty to nine firearm offences. He had firearms licences for some of the rifles but he had unlicensed rifles, a **shotgun** and a home-made cannon. Police had been alerted after he fired the cannon at a local gun club and found the weapons when they searched his home in March 2009. He was jailed for five years after the judge said she could not find exceptional circumstances and applied the minimum sentence.

**Newham Recorder**, 30 December 2009

Mohammed Waseem pointed an **air pistol** at his step-son, telling him "I'll kill you", as his victim was walking to work in **East Ham**, east London, in September 2009. He had bought the weapon the day before. In threatening his step-son he had broken a court order banning him from contacting his estranged wife and children. Waseem has been jailed for 15 months.

**Newham Recorder**, 30 December 2009

Babar Ali Shah from **Forest Gate**, east London, had been convicted of attempted murder and found guilty of assault and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. In July 2008 Shah had opened fire on his victim with a **shotgun** and shot off his thumb.

**Bristol Evening Post**, 30 December 2009

A landlord has been refused permission to re-open his pub in **Easton**, Bristol, after it was shut down following a number of incidents including one earlier this month in which a gun was said to have been displayed.

**BBC**, 30 December 2009

Three men have been arrested following an armed robbery at a cash and carry in **Duston**, Northampton, during which the manager was threatened by two men, one of whom had a handgun. The men only took his mobile phone. The men were arrested after a pursuit along the M1 motorway.

**Guardian**, 29 December 2009

A 4-year-old girl has been shot dead and her mother has serious head injuries and is in a critical condition after a shooting at a house in **Aldershot**, Hampshire. A man, believed to be the girl's father, was also found dead with a gun beside him. The police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the shootings. The woman died from her injuries a day later (*Guardian*, 30 December 2009). The weapon is believed to have been a handgun (*Times*, 31 December 2009).

**Evesham Journal**, 29 December 2009

Steven Hinton has admitted possessing a firearm when prohibited as part of the terms of his release from a prison sentence. He was seen sitting in a bus shelter in **Pershore**, Worcestershire, with a **.22 air rifle**. A pre-sentence report was ordered. The air rifle had been bought from a friend at Pershore market.

**Cranswick Today**, 29 December 2009

Two 17-year-olds sparked a full-scale police firearms response after they pointed a handgun out of a window in **Hastings**, East Sussex. A **BB gun** was recovered. Both teenagers were interviewed under suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm in a public place.

**BBC**, 29 December 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after reports of someone being seen with a rifle at a hospital in **Crumpsall**, Greater Manchester. He has been released on bail.

**Press Association**, 28 December 2009

A gunshot was heard in the vicinity of an incident in **Maidstone**, Kent, in which one man died and another was left critically injured after an apparent hit-and-run. The dead man was crushed by a Land Rover and the injured man, his brother, was hit by the vehicle but also suffered gunshot wounds. In what police have described as a "serious domestic incident" a woman was seen to sprint down the road with a gun and dump it in a bin. A woman has been charged with murder and two men have been arrested on suspicion of murder (*This is Kent*, 31 December 2009).

**Hartlepool Mail**, 28 December 2009

Adam Bone, 18, pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a fear of violence. He fired a **ball-bearing gun** three times at a fellow motorist after a confrontation in **Peterlee**, County Durham, in May 2009.

**Evening Gazette**, 28 December 2009

A man who terrified people as he threatened to kill his ex-partner has been jailed for three years. In August 2009 John Connelly waved an **airgun** outside a home in **Middlesbrough** whilst his ex-partner climbed into the loft to hide. When police went to his home they found 68 rounds of .22 ammunition. He admitted affray and possessing ammunition without a firearm certificate. He had 54 previous offences on his criminal record.

**Sunday Sun**, 27 December 2009

A man who was banned from having guns or ammunition following a previous conviction for possessing a **shotgun** shopped himself to the police in a bid to get help in kicking a drug habit. Mark Hepples from **Blyth**, Northumberland, phoned the police after finding a .22 round and carrying it around for two days. He told them he had live ammunition in his pocket. He was given a conditional discharge.

**This is Derbyshire**, 26 December 2009

Shannon Rivers, 19, has pleaded guilty to possessing a 9mm pistol and ammunition. He was arrested after police found the gun wrapped in plastic bags in a box in an outbuilding near his home in **Sunny Hill**, Derby. The ammunition was found inside the house. He was given a reduced sentence of two years and nine months because he had been a key witness in a recent murder trial. The usual term would be five years.

**The Sun**, 26 December 2009

A man has been accused of stealing several hundred pounds after waving an **airgun** at staff at a restaurant in **Colchester**, Essex. He was caught whilst eating at the restaurant 20 minutes later. He has been charged with possessing a weapon in a public place, theft and using threatening behaviour in a public place.

**News & Star**, 25 December 2009

A resident who went outside to investigate someone who was firing an air weapon at windows on the street in **Workington**, Cumbria, was shot with an **air rifle**. The victim was taken to hospital for treatment but the extent of the injuries is not known.

**BBC**, 25 December 2009

A man, believed to have been carrying a gun, attacked a pensioner as he was visiting a hospital in **Liverpool**. The man demanded money before producing what was thought to be a handgun. The victim was assaulted when he refused to hand over cash. The incident happened when the victim was in the toilets close to the main reception of the hospital.

**Wigan Evening Post**, 24 December 2009

In a second raid this month on a bookmakers in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester, staff were threatened at gunpoint by a gang who tried to smash their way through a security door. One of the three men produced a handgun. The staff handed over £200 but the robbers demanded more and fled when they couldn't kick down the reinforced door.

**Newham Recorder**, 24 December 2009

A man entered a hospital in **Leyton**, north east London, with a gunshot wound to his shoulder. It is believed he was shot in **Walthamstow** and police have confirmed sightings of a group of men in the area wielding a **shotgun**. Police later arrested two men, one aged 18, in **Maryland**, east London.

**Manchester Evening News**, 24 December 2009

A pensioner was held at gunpoint in her home in **Chorlton**, Greater Manchester. She had fallen asleep in a chair but awoke to find a man pointing a gun in her face. The man demanded cash and a second man appeared and emptied her handbag. A third man was involved and the gang stole two TVs and a car. A gang of five men had earlier been seen trying to open car doors. Shortly afterwards a gang smashed a patio door of another house in **Chorlton** but were disturbed a neighbour. One of the gang showed a gun but did not threaten her. The gang using the stolen car were seen later running from another house in **Chorlton-cum-Hardy** and trying to steal a TV from a house in the area. The car was found abandoned. A 15-year-old boy has been charged with aggravated burglary, burglary of a dwelling and attempted aggravated burglary (*BBC*, 27 December 2009).

**Ham & High**, 24 December 2009

Two men dragged another man into a car in **West Hampstead**, north west London, pointed a gun at him and drove him to a nearby cash point where he was forced to withdraw money from two cash machines. The victim was set free when the car became stuck in traffic.

**Express & Star**, 24 December 2009

Three men from **Lye**, West Midlands, have been jailed for an attack on a teenager and his mother. Darren Harding orchestrated the attack at the home of a love rival. He and his brother Luke, together with Anthony Hadley left his victim with a leg injury and his mother severely shaken. Harding was armed with an **imitation handgun** and the other two men had a hammer and a baseball bat. The victim was hit on the head with the gun. Windows of a car were smashed. Darren Harding pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and well as wounding with intent, criminal damage and possession of an imitation firearm. He had also been involved in an earlier incident of aggravated vehicle taking and was chased by police. He was jailed for eight years. His brother was jailed for six years and Hadley for five-and-a-half years.

**Express & Star**, 24 December 2009

Three masked men armed with a gun rounded up staff at a supermarket in **Pendeford**, Wolverhampton, and stole cigarettes.

**Evening Gazette**, 24 December 2009

A bus driver was forced to hand over his takings at gunpoint by a youth in **Billingham**, Teesside, who held a gun close to his forehead when he refused to hand over his cash bag. The robbery occurred when the driver opened the door to let two men onto the bus.

**BBC**, 24 December 2009

A man and a woman have been arrested in connection with an armed robbery at an off licence in **Kidsgrove**, Staffordshire, where two men armed with a firearm and a hammer threatened two female workers and stole a quantity of cash. The firearm was apparently a **sawn-off shotgun** (*The Sentinel*, 26 December 2009).

**BBC**, 24 December 2009

Two men armed with what is thought to have been a handgun robbed a bookmakers in **Burnham**, Buckinghamshire. The weapon was pointed at a worker who was ordered to open the safe. The men made off with a large amount of cash.

**West Yorkshire Police**, 23 December 2009

A man entered a bookmakers in **Leeds** and threatened two members of staff with a black handgun and demanded cash. He left the shop after a quantity of cash was handed over.

**Manchester Evening News**, 23 December 2009

A 17-year-old boy has been sentenced to an eight-month detention and training order after he admitted possessing a firearm, possessing of class A drugs and handling stolen goods. He had pulled out an **imitation handgun** when a shopkeeper in **Rochdale** refused to sell him drink. The shopkeeper floored the teenager with a baseball bat.

**Evening Courier**, 23 December 2009

A semi-automatic M-16 assault rifle was recovered by police from an outbuilding in **Little London**, Leeds. It was found in two pieces. Two adults and a 15-year-old were arrested on suspicion of possessing an illegal firearm.

**Northern Echo**, 22 December 2009

Two men burst into the village store in **Tantobie**, County Durham, but a shopworker who was locking up at the time refused to back down and grabbed their handgun. The men jumped over the counter and grabbed cigarettes but left without any money.

**Liverpool Echo**, 22 December 2009

A man is in hospital after he was shot in the leg in **Huyton**, Merseyside. He had been approached by two men on foot. He is in a stable condition and his injury is not thought to be life-threatening.

**Liverpool Echo**, 22 December 2009

Two men smashed their way into a home in **Kirkby**, Merseyside, and threatened a couple with a gun. One of the men demanded their car keys and had to be shown how to use the key unit before they left. The husband needed seven stitches after being hit in the arm when the front door was forced.

**The Journal**, 22 December 2009

When police investigated an armed raid on the house of Paul Lee's mother in **South Shields**, Tyneside, in September 2009 they searched Lee's own home nearby and discovered cocaine, cash and a loaded pistol. He has admitted possessing the prohibited firearm, possessing cocaine with intent and possessing more than 40 9mm bullets. He has been jailed for nine years.

**Gazette & Herald**, 22 December 2009

A man from **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, has been accused of taking a mobile phone and a wallet from another man in October 2009. He has pleaded not guilty to one charge of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm**.

**Hull Daily Mail**, 21 December 2009

Eric Mills held a gun to the heads of staff and customers at a bookmakers in **Hull** during a robbery in August 2009. He was armed with an **imitation firearm**. He was arrested after an armed siege on his home. He has pleaded guilty to robbery and has been jailed for five years.

**Birmingham Mail**, 21 December 2009

Roy Garner held a gun to the head of an elderly customer at a post office in **Castle Bromwich**, West Midlands, in February 2009. He was found guilty of attempted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm**. His accomplice Marcus Hughes pleaded guilty to both charges and was found to be in contempt in court for failing to answer questions about the gunman.

**BBC**, 21 December 2009

Two windows were smashed when they were shot at separate premises in **Coventry**. On both occasions a small car was seen.

**BBC**, 21 December 2009

A shot was fired during an attempted robbery at a filling station in **Worthing**, West Sussex. Two men fled empty handed after being challenged by a member of staff.

**BBC**, 21 December 2009

Three men raided a newsagents in **Walsall**, West Midlands. They threatened a customer with a crowbar and a handgun before escaping with cash and cigarettes.

**Sunday Mirror**, 20 December 2009

George Charlton has been jailed for seven and a half years and his son David for eight years after they were caught cutting cocaine at their house in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. Amphetamines and an **air rifle** were also found.

**BBC**, 20 December 2009

In another robbery at a bookmakers two men armed with a suspected knife and handgun threatened staff members in **Sunderland**. The men made off with a quantity of cash.

**This is South Devon**, 19 December 2009

A 17-year-old who aimed a **"toy" AK47 gun** at passers-by in **Paignton**, Devon, and also waved the weapon at a superstore, has been issued with a fixed penalty notice for causing alarm and distress to others. He was given 'suitable advice' about his conduct and given an £80 fine.

**Sunderland Echo**, 19 December 2009

A gang of three men armed with a metal bar and a small handgun smashed their way into a warehouse in **Philadelphia**, County Durham. They held up the owner while demanding money and attacked him with the metal bar.

**Manchester Evening News**, 19 December 2009

A gang threatened and newsagent and two shop assistants with a **shotgun**, pistol and machetes during a robbery in **Monsall**, Manchester. A large amount of cash was taken.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 19 December 2009

A man was left with a gunshot wound following a brawl at a club in **Ipswich**. The injury is not believed to be life threatening. Four other people were treated in hospital with minor cuts and bruises. It is believed the victim was shot in the groin with a silver handgun (*Evening Star*, 24 December 2009).

**Cambridge News**, 19 December 2009

**Shotguns** were among items stolen during burglaries at farms in **Castle Camps** and **Balsham**, Cambridgeshire. In the first burglary a metal gun cabinet was ripped from a wall and forced open. Three guns were taken. In the second incidents a shotgun cabinet was pulled from the wall and four guns taken.

**Cambridge News**, 19 December 2009

A man was injured in a drive-by shooting at a nightclub in **St Neots**, Cambridgeshire. A **shotgun** blast punched a hole in a door. The victim is believed to have been hit by flying splinters. The premises has now been closed. A man has been charged with attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to cause an offence (*News & Crier*, 24 December 2009).

**Birmingham Mail**, 19 December 2009

Daytron Johnson and Damien Brade have been convicted of kidnap, false imprisonment and two charges of possessing a firearm with intent and a third man Aneel Tahir admitted a charge of kidnap. In July 2007 a man was lured into a car in **Birmingham** by Tahir and then driven to a petrol station where three men, one armed with a **shotgun**, got in. The victim was threatened and bound in parcel tape. He was released after the kidnappers got £15000. Johnson, who admitted another firearms offence, was jailed for 11 and a half years, Brade for a minimum for six years and Tahir for three years.

**BBC**, 19 December 2009

A delivery van driver was robbed by two men in **Newcastle upon Tyne**. The men were armed with a machete and what is believed to be a firearm. The men made off with hundreds of pounds of takings money.

**BBC**, 19 December 2009

Following an incident in which a group of people entered a bank in **Balham**, south London, five people, including two teenagers, one aged 15, and a woman have been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and firearm possession.

**Wigan Evening Post**, 18 December 2009

Two women cashiers at a bookmakers in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester, were threatened by a man who pointed a gun at them and ordered them to fill a bag with money. He stole about £900.

**Warrington Guardian**, 18 December 2009

The window of a family's car was smashed by an apparent shot fired in **Whittle Hall**, Warrington, Cheshire. The shot missed a baby's head by inches. The police were unable to find the item responsible and are investigating the case as criminal damage.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 18 December 2009

Two men threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Pinehurst**, Swindon, with a handgun. The police have not said how much cash was stolen.

**Leicester Mercury**, 18 December 2009

Rico Costello mugged two homeless people at gunpoint. He was in possession of an **airgun** in the centre of **Leicester** at the time of the two incidents in August and September 2009. He also admitted assault by beating another man. Sentencing was deferred.

**The Journal**, 18 December 2009

A masked teenager burst into a service station in **Hebburn**, Tyneside, and demanded money from a female member of staff. He was brandishing what is believed to be a handgun and fled with a quantity of cash.

**Evening Star**, 18 December 2009

Staff at a bookmakers in **Frinton**, Essex, were forced to hand over cash by a man armed with a shotgun. The man stole a three-figure sum.

**Daily Echo**, 18 December 2009

A couple were threatened at gunpoint by a gang of armed raiders in **Kinson**, Bournemouth in Dorset. Three men demanded money but fled empty-handed. The previous weekend two men held up a woman and her brother at another property in **West Howe**, Bournemouth. In both cases the victims were overpowered by the intruders on their doorstep. Police are keeping an open mind as to whether the raids are linked.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 18 December 2009

Joseph Thompson has been jailed for 11 years for the attempted murders of two men. He had pleaded not guilty and had also denied having a handgun with intent to endanger life during an incident in **Coventry** in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Birmingham Mail**, 18 December 2009

Dani Watson has been found guilty of murdering a man who was shot dead outside a house in **Newtown**, Birmingham in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He must serve a minimum of 25 years.

**Bedfordshire on Sunday**, 18 December 2009

Mark Smith took a **shotgun** to a field in **Wootton**, Bedfordshire, intending to kill himself after he had assaulted his wife in **Marston Moretaine** in August 2008. He has pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and having a shotgun in a public place. He was given a 46 week prison sentence suspended for 12 months with 100 hours unpaid work and a total of £1500 for a fine, compensation and costs.

**Winsford Guardian**, 17 December 2009

Damage to a window in **Winsford**, Cheshire, is thought to have been caused by an **air rifle**.

**Stourbridge News**, 17 December 2009

Dean Tromans fired an air rifle at a 19-year-old while he was high on drink and drugs. The victim had to undergo emergency surgery and has been told by doctors it is likely he will lose the eye. Tromans, who had previous convictions, admitted wounding and also possessing a **.22 calibre air rifle** which had been fitted with a crude silencer. He and another man used the gun for target practice using tin foil and pellets as ammunition at a premises in **Lye**, West Midlands, before turning the gun on the victim. He has been jailed for five years.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 17 December 2009

A man was arrested following a gun raid at a bank in **Northampton**. A clerk was threatened with what appeared to be a handgun. The arrested man was also being questioned in connection with an attempted armed robbery at a bank in **Wellingborough**, Northamptonshire. A man, who has been questioned about three robberies in Northampton and the one in Wellingborough, has been charged with firearms offences (*BBC*, 21 December 2009).

**Manchester Evening News**, 17 December 2009

A man who was collecting money for charity next to a float carrying Father Christmas was hit by a pellet from an **air rifle** in **Cadishead**, Manchester. The victim was not hurt.

**The Journal**, 17 December 2009

Two men armed with a small black handgun burst into a second hand car dealership in **Dunston**, Tyneside. They demanded money before fleeing with a three-figure sum.

**Islington Gazette**, 17 December 2009

One man was badly injured when he shot at a nightclub in **Farringdon**, central London. The man had already left the scene when police arrived but found in a hospital with a gunshot wound in his lower back. He is now in a stable condition. In a separate incident a man on a motorcycle opened fire on a group of people outside a nightclub in **Finsbury**, central London. Both nightclubs have been temporarily closed following an emergency meeting of Islington Council. Although it was first suggested that the two incidents were not connected they are not thought to be linked (*Islington Gazette*, 30 December 2009).

**Express & Echo**, 17 December 2009

Richard Beckles shot a rival outside a fast food restaurant in **Wolverhampton** in February 2009. A bullet from his revolver tore through his victim's hand. Beckles was jailed for 12 years after admitted wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. His accomplice Lee Bernard, who did not know the gun was loaded, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was jailed for six years.

**Dorset Echo**, 17 December 2009

An inquest has heard how a man found dead in his flat in **Dorchester**, Dorset, in September 2009 had died of 'massive head injuries due to a gunshot wound'. A **shotgun** was found between his legs. The coroner recorded an open verdict and said that although 'the injury was self-inflicted' there was not enough evidence to legally record suicide.

**BBC**, 17 December 2009

An 80-year-old man has been charged with attempted rape, robbery, aggravated burglary and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit a schedule 1 offence. The charges relate to an incident in January 2000 when he pushed his way into the home of an elderly woman in **Amphill**, Bedfordshire, apparently armed with a handgun.

**Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard**, 16 December 2009

A police officer from **Cricklade**, Wiltshire, who was on suspended leave was found dead after sustaining fatal head injuries. It is understood he killed himself with a **shotgun**.

**Stroud News & Journal**, 16 December 2009

A charge of possessing a lead pellet which could be used as ammunition in an **air weapon** was dropped after a man who was banned from owning any sort of ammunition following a four year jail sentence explained how he used the pellets to add weight to his model trains. He had pleaded guilty to being in possession of a lead pellet in **Standish**, Gloucestershire, in November 2009, but the plea was disregarded. The prosecutor who revoked the charge described the move as 'highly unusual'.

**Peterborough Evening Telegraph**, 16 December 2009

Maureen Slack threatened two other women with her husband's old **air rifle**. She has pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing of a firearm with intent to cause fear. The incident followed harassment suffered by her and her husband at the hands of youths in her neighbourhood in **Bretton**, Peterborough. A judge ruled she was driven by stress and gave her a 12-month supervision order.

**London Informer**, 16 December 2009

Two men were shot in a **shotgun** attack in **Ladbroke Grove**, west London. They sought refuge in a pub. One of the victims was shot in the back and the other in the legs.

**Leicester Mercury**, 16 December 2009

Three **air rifles** and an **imitation firearm** were among weapons recovered by police during raids in the **Hinckley** and **Bosworth** areas of Leicestershire. Eight people were arrested.

**Hounslow Chronicle**, 16 December 2009

Police found two semi-automatic pistols, a **sawn-off shotgun**, a silencer and ammunition hidden under a wardrobe in the home of Marlena Ocran in **Isleworth**, west London, in June 2009. The discovery followed a tip off. She eventually admitted knowing the guns were there but that two other people had access to the flat and that they must have hidden them there. She admitted possession of a firearm, ammunition and a shortened shotgun and was sentenced to five years in prison.

**BBC**, 16 December 2009

Anselm Ribera, Christopher Morrissey and Declan Morrissey have been found guilty of the murder of a sub-postmaster's son and the attempted murder of the sub-postmaster during an armed raid in **Fairfield**, Worcestershire, in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). A fourth man was cleared of both charges. The three convicted men have been jailed for at least 34 years each (*BBC*, 18 December 2009).

**BBC**, 16 December 2009

A bus depot worker was hit on the head with a **shotgun** during a raid in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester. It is believed that a gang was targeting a cash delivery van, but escaped without any money. Two men were later arrested.

**Slough & Langley Observer**, 15 December 2009

A third bookmakers in **Slough**, Berkshire, has been targeted by a gunman. Staff were threatened by a man with a handgun who stole approximately £125.

**Shoreham Herald**, 15 December 2009

A man was found dead in a car in a lay-by in **Eastbourne**, East Sussex, with a chest injury consistent with being shot. A handgun was found in the car. A dog which also appeared to have been shot was also found. No other person is suspected. The death is being linked to a fire at a house in **Shoreham**. It was reported elsewhere that the weapon was a **shotgun** (*BBC*, 14 December 2009).

**Pendle Today**, 15 December 2009

A man from **Nelson**, Lancashire, denies possessing a prohibited firearm, a modified .22 rimfire calibre double barrelled over and under Derringer starting pistol with a barrel of less than 30 cm. He also denies possessing prohibited ammunition, cartridges with bullets designed to explode on or immediately after impact, making a threat to kill and common assault. Police discovered the weapon and bullets when they search the house where the man was said to be living or lodging.

**Garforth Today**, 15 December 2009

The boss of a taxi firm had a handgun pointed at his neck during a robbery as he left the offices in **Moortown**, Leeds. He handed over a bag containing cash and the two gunmen fled.

**Echo**, 15 December 2009

A woman was found shot dead in at an address in **Rochford**, Essex. A short time later the body of a man was found in a deep water lake. His death is not being treated as suspicious and detectives are not looking for anyone else in connection with the woman's death. It is believed the man owned two **shotguns** and shot his wife before throwing himself in the water (*Daily Mail*, 15 December 2009).

**BBC**, 15 December 2009

A man has been charged after a police officer was threatened at gunpoint in **Trafford**, Greater Manchester. The gun was recovered and found to be a **blank-firing pistol**.

**The Argus**, 15 December 2009

A man was confronted by a gunman after answering the door of his home in **Portslade**, East Sussex. The gunman demanded cash and bank cards but had the door slammed on his arm. He dropped the weapon, shown later to be a **BB gun**, and fled empty-handed.

**This is South Devon**, 14 December 2009

A road in **Newton Abbot**, Devon, was closed when armed police swooped on an address after reports that a man might have a firearm. No gun was seen or recovered during the incident, but a man was arrested.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 14 December 2009

Dean Casey armed himself with his friend's **ball bearing pistol** for a meeting in March 2009 in **Penhill**, Swindon, during which he was alleged to have held the weapon to a woman's head and her boyfriend's throat. However, the allegations were not supported by an independent witness. However, Casey pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He also admitted possessing amphetamines and drink driving on the same occasions. Casey was jailed for 51 weeks suspended for a year and was told to do 150 hours of community service. His friend, James Deegan, 19, admitted the firearms offence and was given a 40 weeks suspended sentence and ordered to do 130 hours of community service. Both men were also fined.

**Leicester Mercury**, 14 December 2009

A thief stole a pick-up truck containing thousands of pounds worth of jewellery and **shotgun cartridges** while the owner was checking for a flat tyre. The incident occurred in **Kirby Muxloe**, Leicestershire.

**Western Morning News**, 12 December 2009

An inquest has heard that a man took his own life with a bolt gun used in the slaughter of animals. His body was discovered in April 2009 at his farm in **Whitestone**, Exeter.

**This is South Devon**, 12 December 2009

Police are investigating a claim that a man was shot with an **airgun** in **Ellacombe**, Devon. They received a phone call from the victim to say he had been hit in the leg.

**Telegraph**, 12 December 2009

Four men have been convicted of trying to smuggle cocaine into Britain. Two of the men, Patrick Walsh and John Dunlop, were responsible for preparing to rob a series of cash vans in Hertfordshire. Walsh was caught carrying a handgun at a petrol station in **Denham** in August 2009 a week after other members of the gang preparing to rob a cash van in **Barking**, east London, were caught by armed police carrying two pistol and ammunition. Walsh admitted drugs, weapons and robbery offences and will be sentenced later, Dunlop was convicted of possessing two guns and 213 rounds of ammunition and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

**Sunderland Echo**, 12 December 2009

Malcolm Robson, Robert Pittard and James Murray have been jailed for raids on post offices and bookmakers in a bid to raise cash for their extensive cannabis-growing business. Robson worked with an unknown man in three raids in **Wingate**, **Trimdon Station** and **Elwick** in County Durham (see [March 2009 Incidents](#)). One of them brandished a **sawn-off shotgun**. Robson was jailed for eight years for conspiracy to commit armed robbery and he admitted being involved in the raids. He was given a further 12 months for conspiracy to cultivate cannabis. Pittard and Murray were jailed for seven years and four years, respectively.

**The Star**, 12 December 2009

Ryan Ward, 19, who must serve at least 14 years in jail for the murder of a man whom he attacked with a brick in **Loxley**, Sheffield, had posted a picture of himself posing with a gun on a social networking site.

**Manchester Evening News**, 12 December 2009

An armed gang stole tens of thousands of pounds from a bank in **Cheadle**, Cheshire. The men were armed with an axe and a **sawn-off shotgun** and assaulted a female member of staff.

**BBC**, 12 December 2009

Four men armed men attempted to rob a jewellery shop in **Liverpool**. A security guard who chased after the men was threatened with a gun.

**Uttoxeter Advertiser**, 11 December 2009

Three juveniles were arrested after a police helicopter was scrambled and armed police called after reports of a man waving a gun in the centre of **Abbots Bromley**, Staffordshire. The gun turned out to be an **imitation handgun**, but the response caused much of the village to be brought to a standstill.

**Manchester Evening News**, 11 December 2009

Casey Shaw took part in an armed robbery in a bar in **West Didsbury**, Greater Manchester, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) after bingeing on cocaine in the days beforehand. One of the other two men involved appeared to be carrying a **shotgun** and the other brandished a blade. Shaw was recognised from a CCTV still. He admitted two counts of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm**. He has been jailed for seven-and-a-half years.

**Harrow Times**, 11 December 2009

A man who survived an attempted execution in **Harrow**, north west London, in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) has been jailed for six and a half years after being caught with a modified **imitation handgun** loaded with three bullets in Harrow in June 2009. Garth Robinson, who had 24 previous convictions including possession of weapons, was found guilty.

**Gazette & Herald**, 11 December 2009

Justin McDonald admitted possession of drugs and a CS gas canister, which counts as a firearm under the Firearms Act, on his narrowboat moored in **Devizes**, Wiltshire, in November 2009. He also had other weapons, including a loaded **air pistol**, but could not be charged with their possession. He was sentenced to eight weeks.

**Evening Courier**, 11 December 2009

A windscreen was damaged after a car was targeted by shots, believed to have been from an **air rifle**, in **King Cross**, Halifax, West Yorkshire. Police think the gunman could have been in another vehicle.

**Evening Chronicle**, 11 December 2009

Three men raided a bookmakers in **Walker**, Tyneside, and demanded cash. One of the men was brandishing a handgun.

**Birmingham Mail**, 11 December 2009

Zico Davies carried out robberies on a shop assistant and a taxi driver in **Birmingham**. He pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery and one of possessing an **imitation firearm**. The gun, a revolver with a long barrel was produced during the attack on the taxi driver in **Winson Green**, whom Davies threatened and pistol-whipped.

**BBC**, 11 December 2009

A man threatened staff at a building society branch in **Smethwick**, West Midlands, with a gun, although no weapon was actually seen. CCTV images have been released.

**Wigan Evening Post**, 10 December 2009

Three men threatened staff at a jewellers in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester, with a **sawn-off shotgun** before stealing a large number of watches.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 10 December 2009

Three local men have been charged in connection with an armed robbery at a bookmakers in **Swindon**, Wiltshire. One of them has been charged with conspiracy to steal and possessing an **imitation firearm**.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 10 December 2009

Johnny Elliott from **Walcot**, Wiltshire, has pleaded guilty to possession of heroin and cocaine with intent to supply, a firearms offence and possessing cocaine. A **stun gun** and cocaine were found in a car. He has been jailed for three years and 10 months.

**Sunderland Echo**, 10 December 2009

A man has appeared in court accused of an offence under the Firearms Act and making off without payment. The charges follow an incident in which a taxi driver was allegedly threatened with a gun after he took a fare from **Sunderland** to **Consett**, County Durham.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 10 December 2009

Rahuel Delucca hid in a car while his friend fired a shot from a 7.65mm handgun at two police officers in **Claire Hill**, Huddersfield, in November 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). He and Marcus Rhoden were given indefinite sentences. Delucca was convicted of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition and would have to serve a five-and-a-half year minimum jail sentence. He has now appealed to have his sentence reduced.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 10 December 2009

A robber brandished a gun at a petrol station worker in **Fenay Bridge**, West Yorkshire, and escaped with between £100 and £150.

**Ham & High**, 10 December 2009

Jay Ellis was jailed for three years after a rifle was found at his home in **Kentish Town**, north London, in July 2009. He was automatically banned from owning a firearm for five years as a result of a previous conviction. He had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing.

**BBC**, 10 December 2009

Two blank-firing handguns were among items found during a series of raids in **Greater Manchester** which resulted in 173 people being charged.

**BBC**, 10 December 2009

Three men have been arrested and a loaded revolver seized after a police operation in **Tottenham Hale**, north London. A passenger was seen to throw out a bag when a car was stopped. The bag was later found to contain a gun.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 9 December 2009

Shots, believed to have come from a **shotgun**, were fired from a vehicle at a group of men in **Manningham**, Bradford. Police do not believe anyone was injured but some vehicles parked nearby were damaged.

**Northern Echo**, 9 December 2009

Two men wrongly suspected of being poachers were allegedly assaulted and threatened by three gamekeepers in February 2009. The men had got lost on an authorised shooting trip near **Askrigg**, North Yorkshire. One gamekeeper is alleged to have pointed a **shotgun** at one of the men's head. All three defendants denied affray and were found not guilty on all charges (*Sunday Express*, 13 December 2009).

**Macclesfield Express**, 9 December 2009

Two women were held at gunpoint and robbed of jewellery during a raid on their home in **Prestbury**, Cheshire. The man was armed with what police think was a machine gun.

**Liverpool Echo**, 9 December 2009

Gunshots were heard in a street in **Belle Vale**, Liverpool. The shots are being linked to the sighting of a car being driven erratically down the road. A man has been arrested.

**Knutsford Guardian**, 9 December 2009

Three men wielding a **sawn-off shotgun**, a 9mm automatic handgun and a cosh broke into a home in **Pickmere**, Cheshire, and held the family at gunpoint. The men stole a large quantity of cash and jewellery from a safe.

**The Gazette**, 9 December 2009

A man gave himself up following an armed siege at a property in **Blackpool**, Lancashire. The police had received a tip-off a man had a gun but no firearm was recovered.

**Garstang Chronicle**, 9 December 2009

A worker in a café bar was injured during a robbery in **Knott End**, Lancashire. Two men demanded keys from him and pulled out a handgun and threatened to shoot him. He slipped and dislocated his shoulder and the pair ran off.

**Evening Chronicle**, 9 December 2009

John Kay has been given a 12-year jail sentence after raiding a filling station in **Blaydon**, Tyneside, armed with a **shotgun** in September 2008. When the attendant refused to let him in he fired at the glass screen and shattered it as she fled. He was with an unknown hammer-wielding accomplice. He was found guilty of possession of a firearm, damaging property, being reckless whether life would be endangered and attempted robbery.

**East London Advertiser**, 9 December 2009

A man who told staff he had a gun and then demanded money is being sought after raids on banks in **Wanstead**, north east London, in September 2009, and in **Loughton** and **Waltham Abbey**, Essex, in October. During November he raided banks in north London, two in **Enfield** and one in **Palmers Green**, and the latest hold up was in **Islington Green** this month. A weapon has never been seen on any of the raids. A CCTV image has been issued.

**Chad**, 9 December 2009

A 16-year-old youth who shot a woman with an **air rifle** whilst she was waiting for her boyfriend following a night out in **Mansfield**, Nottinghamshire, in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) has claimed he had been in a back garden aiming at flowerpots. He had received the weapon as a gift and had had no training. He admitted the shooting and was given a 12-month community order and will be electronically tagged for six months. The boy's parents, who were criticised by the judge, were ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to the victim who has had to cancel a contract with a theatre company as a result of her injury.

**Bromley Times**, 9 December 2009

Vanessa Moses from **Beckenham**, south east London, was found by police with a gun in her flat in July 2008. She was aged 17 at the time and had agreed to look after a handgun for some boys. She pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited firearm and was sentenced to three years detention.

**BBC**, 9 December 2009

A man has been accused of possessing illegal weapons after police allegedly found a blank-firing revolver and gas cartridge firing guns at his home in **Plumstead**, south east London. He denies all three offences. The jury found him not guilty on all three charges (*Press Association*, 10 December 2009).

**BBC**, 9 December 2009

A man has been charged with possessing a firearm. He was arrested outside the home of the former Prime Minister Tony Blair in **Westminster**, central London.

**BBC**, 9 December 2009

Another bookmakers in **Slough**, Berkshire, has been raided by a gunman. A man threatened a female cashier with a gun, forcing her to hand over cash.

**Yorkshire Post**, 8 December 2009

An inquest has heard that a barrister who was facing eight counts of perverting the course of justice shot himself barely an hour before he was due to be asked to give up his **shotgun**. He put the gun in his mouth and killed himself on the front lawn of his home in **Wootton**, Lincolnshire, in May 2009. A verdict of suicide was recorded. Police have called for greater powers to seize firearms.

**This is Hampshire**, 8 December 2009

A 19-year-old woman from **Thornhill**, Southampton, who was high on drink and cannabis robbed a supermarket, attempted to rob two people in the street and shattered a florist's window in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). In the supermarket Bernice Chance had pointed an **air pistol** at a teenage assistant asking the girl whether she thought it was fake. She then pointed the gun at a man's face and used it to smash the window. Chance admitted the offences as well as being in break of an Asbo. She was jailed for five years and received a four year extended licence.

**South Manchester Reporter**, 8 December 2009

Shots were fired in **Whalley Range**, Greater Manchester. One bullet casing was found on a doorstep and police recovered three others on the pavement.

**The Sentinel**, 8 December 2009

A man from **Stoke-on-Trent** who asked Staffordshire Police to take control of a rifle and ammunition after a change in his personal circumstances had the rifle and licence handed back, but he says that 300 live bullets have disappeared. He intends to go to the Independent Police Complaints Commission as a result of his concerns about the whereabouts of the .22 ammunition.

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

Aurel Radulescu has pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon after a **stun gun** was found in his car when his brother-in-law was stopped in **Wellingborough**, Northamptonshire, in April 2009. The gun looked like a torch. He has been sentenced to 40 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 24 months and must do 120 hours' community service and pay costs.

**Manchester Evening News**, 8 December 2009

James Drewitt, 19, held a handgun to a drinker's head outside a pub in **Manchester** and threatened to shoot him. He was seen on CCTV being overpowered by his victim, who grapples with the teenager before headbutting him. The incident happened when a group of between 15 and 20 youths suddenly ran inside the pub and the victim became concerned for his wife. After the incident Drewitt, who had affiliations with the Longsight Crew, was "pounced" on by other youths and was stabbed. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and also admitted a separate harassment charge. He was jailed for a minimum of three years.

**The Journal**, 8 December 2009

James Curry brandished a loaded **air pistol** at a police officer after he thought there was an intruder in his garden in **Hylton Castle**, Sunderland, and went to investigate. He admitted possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear. Curry who has 18 previous convictions was given a 36 week jail sentence, suspended for two years, with supervision and 150 hours of unpaid work and was put on curfew for three months.

**Express & Echo**, 8 December 2009

Photographs of Glen Parke posing with a **sawn-off shotgun** were discovered on his son's phone during a raid on the latter's home in **Bilston**, West Midlands. The weapon was one that had been found hidden after an aggravated burglary at a hotel in **Wolverhampton**. Parke admitted illegal possession of the shotgun and was jailed for five years.

**Echo**, 8 December 2009

Two men were arrested on suspicion of assault and having a **shotgun** and baseball bat. The arrests occurred after police found a man in possession of the weapons after being called to a late night car crash near **Basildon**, Essex.

**The Courier (Leamington Spa)**, 8 December 2009

Two men threatened a woman with what appeared to be a handgun and stole an unknown amount of cash from a lettings agents in **Leamington Spa**, Warwickshire.

**BBC**, 8 December 2009

Saul Murray from **Luton**, Bedfordshire, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment after he admitted possessing a prohibited firearm and possession of ammunition. He had agreed to keep the pistol for a week in return for £300 but the gun went missing. He confessed to police when speaking to them about another matter.

**BBC**, 8 December 2009

A man from **Hyde**, Cheshire, has been charged with conspiracy to blackmail, possession of a Section 5 firearm and possession of an offensive weapon. A second man from Leeds has been charged with conspiracy to blackmail.

**The Star**, 7 December 2009

Gary Weymes terrorised his lover and threatened to turn up at her house in **Rossington**, South Yorkshire, with a **sawn-off shotgun**. He pleaded guilty to one count of harassment and was given an 18-month community order with an anger management course. She had written a letter telling of her forgiveness and rejecting a restraining order against Weymes.

**Liverpool Echo**, 7 December 2009

A street in **Norris Green**, Liverpool, was sealed off after residents reported hearing gunshots. The windows of two cars were damaged.

**Liverpool Daily Post**, 7 December 2009

Four men attacked the window of a jewellers in **Birkenhead**, the Wirral, and grabbed a haul of watches. It remained unclear whether the window had been shot with a nail-gun or a **shotgun**. It has not been confirmed whether the men were armed with a firearm.

**Evening Gazette**, 7 December 2009

Two men and a 14-year-old boy robbed a teenager of his **air rifle** when he was on his way to do target practice in **Eston**, Teesside. Darren Green grabbed him and demanded the gun and Christopher Blackburn tripped the victim and knelt on him, pinning him down. The boy pulled the gun away from him and was later seen by police trying to hide the gun. Green was jailed for three years, Blackburn for two and a half years, and the boy was given a 12 months referral order. They had pleaded guilty to robbery.

**Cambridge News**, 7 December 2009

In June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) Robert Inman stole a police van by forcing two officers from it at gunpoint in **Peterborough**. The van was found abandoned in nearby **Yaxley**. Inman hijacked another vehicle and he and another man were arrested at a house in **Haverhill**, Suffolk, hours later. He pleaded guilty to eight charges, one of robbery, one of kidnapping, three of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, two of possessing ammunition with intent to endanger life and one of possessing ammunition without a certificate. He was given a 14 year jail sentence.

**Birmingham Mail**, 7 December 2009

Two gang members, Tobias Grant and Tacumba Wheeler, have been convicted of possessing a fully-loaded Mac-10 machine pistol. It was found by police following a fight in **Aston**, Birmingham. The men have been warned to expect lengthy spells behind bars.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 6 December 2009

Mark Fisher held up a service station in **Southampton** with an **imitation firearm** and stole almost £20,000. He pretended to be detective chief inspector investigating the loss of cash from the garage. He escaped in a stolen truck. He was found guilty of possessing the firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and admitted stealing the truck. He was jailed for six years and received a two year extended licence.

**Sunderland Echo**, 5 December 2009

Physiotherapist Stephen Sterling, who has practices in **Sunderland** and **Seaham**, was given a 12-month caution by the Health Professional Council after he encouraged a road accident victim to fire an **air pistol** at a sundial as part of his treatment.

**Northern Echo**, 5 December 2009

Police found a **sawn-off shotgun** and 25 cartridges outside a flat in **Middlesbrough** where they discovered heroin and crack cocaine. David Suggett was jailed for three years after he pleaded guilty to possessing a shotgun without a certificate. A woman who lived at the same address admitted possession of the drugs with intent to supply and jailed for six years.

**Echo**, 5 December 2009

A man threatened staff at gunpoint and stole cash from a supermarket in **Canvey**, Essex. He was armed with a black handgun.

**Birmingham Mail**, 5 December 2009

Julian Gibbs, who earlier this year admitted three charges of possessing a firearm, two charges of having ammunition, possession a firearm with intent and possessing a silencer and was sentenced to six years in prison, would have been given automatic release halfway through this sentence. However his sentence has been increased after an appeal from police and prosecutors. He has been given an indeterminate sentence and must now serve a minimum of five years before being eligible for parole. In July 2008 Gibbs was arrested at his home in **Hockley**, West Midlands, after police found two revolvers, a silencer, ammunition and drugs under floorboards. He was granted bail but five months later police officers on patrol in **Winson Green** saw him throw away a bag containing a loaded pistol.

**BBC**, 5 December 2009

Four teenagers have been charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life after the discovery of a firearm in a vehicle at a property in **Kensington**, Liverpool.

**Redditch Advertiser**, 4 December 2009

One man has been arrested and released on bail after a firearm was discharged in **Redditch**, Worcestershire. Police said they are still looking for several men.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 4 December 2009

Lemuel Laws found a **sawn-off shotgun** and six rounds of ammunition while repairing a fence in his brother's garden and took them home for safekeeping. He hid it under a mattress. The weapon and ammunition were found when his home in **Kings Heath**, Northampton, was searched after Laws was arrested on suspicion of aggravated burglary. He pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm and ammunition and was jailed for five years.

**Liverpool Echo**, 4 December 2009

Seven men and one woman have been jailed for a total of more than 57 years for their roles in a drugs gang. The gang were responsible for spraying bullets from an automatic Uzi sub-machine gun during attacks in **Huyton**, Merseyside, in October 2007 and August 2008. There was a third incident in Huyton involving a handgun. Paul Johnson and his partner Claire Heron were jailed for 12 years and 9 years for firearms conspiracy and drug offences. Joseph McIntyre was jailed for 5 years and three months for firearms offences and Robert Symes was jailed for 6 and a half years for firearms and drug offences.

**Liverpool Echo**, 4 December 2009

A shot was fired when a man went to answer the door at a property in **Croxteth**, Liverpool. No-one was hit and the bullet lodged in a piece of furniture.

**Express & Echo**, 4 December 2009

A man has admitted assaulting a woman and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear but has denied raping the woman and then attempting to pervert the course of justice. The attack took place on a riverbank in **Dulverton**, Somerset. The victim has described trying to fend off blows from the butt of the accused's **air rifle**. The trial continues.

**Ealing Gazette**, 4 December 2009

Amandeep Singh Sandhu from **Southall**, west London, who was found guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent, as well as possession of cocaine with intent to supply and having a prohibited firearm, a **shotgun**, has had his sentence cut to 12 years from 13 and a half years originally imposed in May 2009.

**BBC**, 4 December 2009

A man has died after being shot in the stomach during a robbery outside the money exchange firm where he worked in **Longsight**, Manchester. He was robbed of his laptop and £10,000 in cash. He died in hospital seven hours later. The victim's colleague was pistol-whipped in the face with the butt of the gun during the attack (*Guardian*, 4 December 2009). One man who was arrested has been released on bail, and a further three men were being held on suspicion of murder (*South Manchester Reporter*, 6 December 2009).

**This is Croydon Today**, 3 December 2009

Police discovered a cannabis factory in **Addiscombe**, south London, after a member of the public reported seeing a gun there. Officers found no trace of a firearm. One man was arrested.

**Sutton Guardian**, 3 December 2009

Three men have been found guilty for their part in the torture, robbery and rape of a couple in **Clapham**, south London, in October 2008. A gun was held to the woman's head whilst one of the attackers forced her to have sex with him. Reon Hall and Aaron Fitzgerald were found guilty of unlawful imprisonment and robbery earlier this year and were each sentenced to nine years in jail. Gavin Gordon has been found guilty of two counts each of aggravated robbery, unlawful imprisonment, actual bodily harm and theft and will be sentenced later.

**Local Guardian**, 3 December 2009

A man claiming to have a gun threatened to shoot staff at a shop in **Tooting**, south London, and demanded cash. Shop workers filled a bag he put on the counter with money.

**Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette**, 3 December 2009

An elderly couple have described how an **airgun** sniper shattered their dining room window in **South Shields** during a shooting spree. They found a hole in the front window and shattered glass everywhere. Three cars were damaged in streets nearby.

**Isle of Wight County Press**, 3 December 2009

A man from **Yarmouth**, Isle of Wight, has been remanded in custody after being accused of threatening to shoot his elder daughter with a **shotgun**.

**Hampshire Chronicle**, 3 December 2009

Staff at a kebab van were threatened with an **air rifle** in **Otterbourne**, Hampshire. The threats followed an argument and a struggle when food was thrown around the van.

**Beeston Today**, 3 December 2009

Repair workers on a railway line in **Middleton**, West Yorkshire, were shot at with an **airgun**. One of the workers was struck on the wrist by a pellet.

**BBC**, 3 December 2009

A man and a woman have been found shot dead at a house in **Brabourne Leas**, Kent. Police have said that no-one else was involved. It is believed the man shot his wife with a **shotgun** before turning the gun on himself (*Daily Express*, 4 December 2009). A post-mortem has revealed that the woman suffered multiple gunshot wounds while her husband died from just one shot (*Kent Online*, 7 December 2009).

**This is Scunthorpe**, 2 December 2009

Mark Downes was found to have an illegal **stun gun** when police searched his property in **Althorpe**, Lincolnshire after he had made a burglary claim which turned out to be false. He admitted fraud, concealing criminal property, fraudulent use of a tax disc and having a prohibited weapon. He was jailed for 12 months.

**This is Local London**, 2 December 2009

Two men from **Brockley** and **Oval**, south London, have appeared in court charged with possession of three firearms, possession of a handgun with intent to endanger life and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. They also face charges relating to ammunition and possession of criminal property and one is charged with GBH with intent.

**The News**, 2 December 2009

Danny Brennan and Jamie Wright held a man at gunpoint and threatened to shoot him when they tried to rob him in **Portsmouth** in July 2009. The victim handed over his mobile phone. Brennan was on bail for attempted robbery at the time and has been sentenced to six years after pleading guilty to possession of an **imitation firearm** and robbery. Wright, who was serving a suspended sentence at the time of the robbery, will serve five years after admitting the same offences and the cultivation of a cannabis plant.

**BBC**, 2 December 2009

A man and a woman were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds after a shooting in **Wood End**, Coventry. Their injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

**The Argus**, 2 December 2009

Three men held up an off licence in **Worthing**, West Sussex, and threatened a shop assistant with what is believed to be a **BB gun**. Three men, two of them teenagers, have been arrested on suspicion of robbery.

**Rugby Advertiser**, 1 December 2009

A man who robbed a bank and a post office in **Bilton**, Warwickshire in July and August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) has pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery and two of possessing an **imitation firearm**. Robert Smith has been sentenced to ten years in prison.

**News Shopper**, 1 December 2009

Thomas Scott has admitted a pub shooting in **Greenwich**, south east London, in which two men and a woman received gunshot wounds. The attack occurred in February 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to two counts of wounding with intent and one count of causing grievous bodily harm and also admitted having a firearm with intent, possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate and possessing a **shotgun** without a certificate.

**News Shopper**, 1 December 2009

Dwight Callender and his brother Derrell have each been sentenced to 35 years in jail after running down a teenager who was then shot and stabbed. The attack occurred in **New Cross**, south London, in April 2009 and the victim remains in a coma and is not expected to survive. Following an argument the men drove their van towards another man but instead hit his friend who was eventually crushed against railings where members of the brothers' gang shot him in the buttocks with a **shotgun**. The two men were found guilty of attempted murder.

**Cambridge News**, 1 December 2009

Three people appeared in court accused of firearms offences following a police investigation into a house in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire, allegedly used for drug trafficking. Powerful **air rifles**, including two which would have needed firearms certificates, were found by police. Tony Chalkley admitted possessing a gun without a certificate and possessing it while prohibited because of a previous conviction and was jailed for 10 months. Thomas Roberts admitted possessing the guns without a licence and was fined £250. Chalkley's partner was given a community order with 120 hours of unpaid work. It was claimed that the weapons had belonged to one of Chalkley's brothers who had died and were being passed on to another brother.

**BBC**, 1 December 2009

A **shotgun** was among items recovered during police raids to prevent crime in Kent. The weapon was found at a property in **Gravesend**.

**BBC**, 1 December 2009

A gun was fired and what is believed to be CS gas was let off in a jewellers in **Milton Keynes** after two robbers entered the premises. An adult and a child were taken to hospital suffering from the effects of the gas. Both were later released. Other people received treatment at the scene. Three men questioned by the police have been released without charge (*BBC*, 2 December 2009). The shots fired were later found to be blanks. Police are linking the robbery to a group from Eastern Europe behind 26 similar raids (*MK News*, 8 December 2009).

**The Argus**, 1 December 2009

David Sheehan has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after an incident at **Gatwick Airport** in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The weapon is reported to have been an **imitation gun** (*This is Sussex*, 6 December 2009). He will be sentenced next month.

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## SCOTLAND

**Scotsman**, 26 December 2009

A **shotgun**, licence and ammunition were among items found on trains during the year. The gun was left on a **London to Glasgow** train during the summer by a man thought to be going on a shooting trip.

**BBC**, 23 December 2009

Anthony Moran has admitted being involved in a £24,000 robbery on security guards at a petrol station in **Newmains**, Lanarkshire, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He was arrested after trying to use some of the stolen cash covered with security dye. Two other men, who were armed with a handgun were involved in the robbery and Moran drove the getaway car. The weapon was later found to be an **airgun**. Moran will be sentenced later.

**Press Association**, 20 December 2009

A number of **air weapons**, including a replica AK47 rifle, were taken from a parked vehicle in **Dalkeith**, Midlothian.

**Evening News**, 18 December 2009

Artis Skangalis has pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace by discharging an imitation firearm causing fear and alarm. In an incident which took place on a public footpath in **Edinburgh** in September 2006 when he fired an **air pistol**. A couple walking along the footpath heard a "popping sound" and sensed something flying past their heads. Skangalis told police he had been firing at a bus stop. He has been sentenced to 200 hours community service.

**Galloway News**, 17 December 2009

Firefighters had to face exploding ammunition as they battled a blaze at a house in **Carsluith**, Wigtownshire. The fire penetrated a metal gun cabinet in the workshop garage at the house.

**BBC**, 17 December 2009

A man has been arrested over an alleged firearm incident which happened in **Castlebay** on the island of Barra in the Outer Hebrides. The arrest followed reports from members of the public that a man was carrying a gun. He is alleged to have threatened to shoot police officers with an **air rifle**. He faces two charges relating to this and a further charge of having the rifle with intent to commit robbery.

**Daily Record**, 16 December 2009

An elderly woman and her dog were marched 200 yards to a police van by officers during an armed response after her ball thrower had been mistaken for a **shotgun**. The incident occurred in a park in **Giffnock**, Lanarkshire.

**Greenock Telegraph**, 15 December 2009

A .38 Webley revolver was seized by police as part of a major operation targeted at drug dealers in **Port Glasgow**, Renfrewshire.

**BBC**, 15 December 2009

Two members of staff were tied up and threatened by two men who entered a convenience store in **Clydebank**, West Dunbartonshire. The men threatened the two women with what appeared to be a gun and fled with a four-figure sum of cash and cigarettes.

**Teletext**, 13 December 2009

A **replica handgun** was among items seized in raids in **Shetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland** and **Easter Ross** in a bid to catch drug dealers.

**BBC**, 10 December 2009

A man threatened a female member of staff at the post office in **Toryglen**, Glasgow, with what appeared to be a handgun. No cash was handed over and the man fled empty-handed.

**Kirkintilloch Herald**, 9 December 2009

A street in **Bishopbriggs**, East Dunbartonshire, was cordoned off by police after a tip-off that a gunman was in the area. No one was arrested and no firearms recovered.

**Evening Express**, 9 December 2009

Neil Cameron and Gary Masson, both 19, have admitted repeatedly firing a **ball-bearing gun** in a play park in **Oldmeldrum**, Aberdeenshire, in August 2009. Several member of the public were frightened by the incident.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 7 December 2009

Robert Stewart carried out two armed robberies at the same fast food restaurant in **Paisley**. In June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) he threatened staff with a **replica revolver** and demanded money and then returned and repeated the crime in July 2009. He was tailed to his home by members of the public who alerted the police. He admitted the assault and robbery charges and was jailed for four years.

**Evening Express**, 7 December 2009

Stuart Roger, 17, recklessly fired shots from an **air rifle** in **Inverurie**, Aberdeenshire, in April 2009. It was claimed he put people in danger as a result and he was charged with culpably and recklessly discharging the airgun. He had been carrying out target practice in his garden when the shot "deflected". He admitted the charge and will be sentenced later.

**BBC**, 7 December 2009

Paul Prior has admitted threatening security guards with an **imitation handgun** during two robberies in **Shawlands**, Glasgow, in April 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) and October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He stole £34,000. He has been jailed for six years and five months.

**stv**, 4 December 2009

Scott Slavin, 17, walked into a corner shop in **Johnstone**, Renfrewshire, in February 2009 armed with the hatchet and a **BB gun** and demanded cash. The shopkeeper refused to hand over any money and snatched the axe. Slavin admitted brandishing an axe and handgun and demanding money with intent to rob. Sentencing was deferred.

**Evening Telegraph & Post**, 2 December 2009

Stewart Blackburn, 18, who was found guilty of murdering his girlfriend by pouring petrol over her and setting fire to her at their flat in **Arbroath** in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) was also found guilty of pointing an **air rifle** at two men repeatedly pulling the trigger and placing them in a state of fear and alarm. Sentencing was adjourned.

**BBC**, 1 December 2009

A man threatened a female staff member at a bookmakers in **Bothwell**, South Lanarkshire, with what appeared to be a gun. He made off with a three-figure sum of cash.

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## WALES

**News Wales**, 30 December 2009

Three men demanded money from staff at a convenience store in **Llysfan**, North Wales, and threatened them with weapons, believed to be a handgun and a knife. The men left with a quantity of cash from the till. Five men were later arrested and released on police bail.

**County Times**, 21 December 2009

A youth from a school in **Kerry**, Powys, accused a shooting a fellow student with a **ball bearing gun** will be invited to return to class after Christmas. He shot at a group of students as they were leaving the school in October 2009. Police dismissed the case owing to lack of evidence. The headteacher has written to parents to say that he was "very surprised and shocked by this conclusion" but he has no choice but to invite the student back to school.

**Daily Post**, 18 December 2009

The stained glass windows of a church in **Minera**, Clwyd, have been damaged, probably by somebody who shot at it with an **air rifle**. A replacement could cost hundreds of pounds. A Christmas was also stolen from the church.

**This is South Wales**, 16 December 2009

An **airgun** and a trident were recovered by police during drugs raids in **Swansea**. Two people were arrested.

**This is South Wales**, 2 December 2009

Three students caught with a **Taser gun** in a nightclub in **Swansea** have all admitted possessing the weapon. Narmel Ouladsi, Mohammed Abaza and Abdelkader Drissi were all visiting the UK from France. They were each fined £50 with costs but will not have to pay the fine as they spent two days in custody after being arrested.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Milton Keynes Citizen**, 31 December 2009

A heron who is well know in **Haversham**, Buckinghamshire, has been left paralysed in an **airgun** attack. Two pellets were lodged in his spine. He has been treated with painkillers, steroids and operated on to remove one of the pellets but the other one is dangerously close to the spine. Youths had been spotted firing an air rifle in the area where the heron lived.

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

Three men, two of them teenagers, have been arrested on suspicion of poaching after they were found driving in a van containing three dead deer in **Penkridge**, Staffordshire. The police found a modified **air rifle** with a gas cylinder and silencer and three hunting knives.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 24 December 2009

A cat may lose the sight of his eye after being shot with a **pellet gun** in **Putney**, south west London. He was found under a bed with blood pouring from his eye.

**Press Association**, 24 December 2009

Two young cats have been injured in an **airgun** attack in a residential street in **Kirkcaldy**, Fife. One lost an eye after being shot in the middle of the head and the another was shot in the shoulder.

**BBC**, 22 December 2009

Five men have been arrested on suspicion of carrying out offences under the Deer Act 1991 and a large number of guns seized during a crackdown on poaching in Sussex. The arrested men were from **Heathfield**, **Robertsbridge** and **Ninfield**.

**BBC**, 21 December 2009

A pet cat has been injured by an **air rifle** pellet in **Stockton Heath**, Warrington, Cheshire. He was hit in the back and the pellet lodged between his throat and spine. Surgery was needed to remove the pellet and he has been left with a limp.

**Tottenham, Wood Green & Edmonton Journal**, 17 December 2009

A pet cat was killed and another injured after being shot at with **airguns** in **South Tottenham**, north London.

**Newham Recorder**, 16 December 2009

The **East London** paper has reported that a cat believed to have been shot with an **air rifle** has had his leg broken in five places and suffered a broken hip. He may have to have his leg amputated.

**BBC**, 9 December 2009

A red kite has been found shot and badly injured on the outskirts of **Braco**, Perthshire. X-rays revealed the bird had a broken wing and five **shotgun** pellets lodged in its body. The bird is now being looked after by the Scottish SPCA wildlife rescue centre.



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