

# DOMESTIC INCIDENTS

2004 – 2010

Last updated 15 February 2010



Compiled by Gun Control Network

GCN compiles lists of gun incidents from media articles and reports. The following is a list of those which appear to have involved family members, partners or ex-partners, close friends or neighbours. The easy availability of a gun to one of those involved inevitably increases the danger in any given situation, sometimes with fatal consequences. We know that this list does not include every domestic incident in which a gun will have been used to intimidate, threaten or injure. Many incidents will go unreported because the victim will have been left in fear of further threats or will retain some loyalty to the perpetrator. We believe the list to represent the tip of a disturbing iceberg.

Among the aspects apparent from these incidents the following are particularly noteworthy:

- As with all gun incidents the majority of domestic incidents are perpetrated by males
- There are a disproportionate number of female victims – we estimate that three quarters (33 of 44) of the female gun homicide victims in Britain since 2004 were killed in domestic incidents
- In many cases the guns are legally-held, the perpetrator has previously been a member of a gun club and/or is reported to be a known gun enthusiast

Year	2010	pp.2-3
	2009	pp.4-10
	2008	pp.11-16
	2007	pp.17-20
	2006	pp.21-24
	2005	pp.25-27
	2004	pp.28-30

For some incidents there are two entries, one for the original report of the incident and a second for the result of the court case or inquest.

For all gun incidents visit GCN's website at [www.gun-control-network.org/](http://www.gun-control-network.org/)

## 2010

**Manchester Evening News**, 14 February 2010

Alan Long from **Eccles**, Greater Manchester, shot his girlfriend in the neck with a **sawn-off shotgun** after they argued about his cheating on her. He escaped an attempted murder charge after the court heard he had not intended to shoot her and a fault made the weapon fire. After the shooting he fled the scene with a shotgun, a handgun and ammunition in a bag. He admitted possessing the shotgun and handgun with intent to endanger life, plus charges of possessing ammunition and farming cannabis plants. He was jailed indeterminately for the public protection.

**Monmouth Today**, 27 January 2010

A man was arrested following a report of a woman motorist being tailed through **Monmouth** by a second vehicle driven by a man with a firearm. A loaded firearm was seized and the man was charged with three offences including possession of a **shotgun** with intent to cause unlawful violence. In a linked incident armed police were called to a property in the **Wonastow** area to deal with what was described as a 'domestic incident' involving a firearm.

**Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)**, 27 January 2010

A woman from **Dogsthorpe**, Peterborough, who is on trial for the murder of her lover, has said that the man, who suffered fatal stab wounds, was abusive to her and would shoot at her with a **BB gun** if she did not do what he said.

**Evening Express**, 19 January 2010

Benjamin Martin, 20, armed himself with an **airgun** to confront a suspected 'love rival' in April 2009. He was armed with the weapon when the intended victim's step-brother answered the door of their home in **New Pitsligo**, Aberdeenshire. Martin has admitted being in possession of a firearm with intent to cause the step-brother to believe that unlawful violence would be used against the other man. Sentencing was deferred.

**Sunderland Echo**, 15 January 2010

James Mason from **Peterlee**, County Durham, assaulted his partner five times and among a number of threats showed her his **sawn-off shotgun**. He has admitted harassment. He has been remained in custody until he is sentenced.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 15 January 2010

Richard Hill threatened staff at his mother's place of work in **Kirkby**, Nottinghamshire, with an **imitation gun** and has been jailed for nine months. He also admitted threatening behaviour and having the gun in the street in August 2009 (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)). He and his mother had a troubled history and he had followed her to work and, after being escorted from the premises, pulled out the gun.

**Clacton Gazette**, 5 January 2010

An **airgun** was recovered by police after a man was arrested in **Walton**, Essex, in connection with a domestic assault.

**Get Reading**, 2 January 2010

A man from **Caversham**, Berkshire, has been charged with attempted murder after a woman was shot in the head with a **shotgun**. It is reported that the victim, who received a glancing blow to her head, is the arrested man's wife (*The Sun*, 4 January 2010). The man has also been charged with possession of a sawn-off shotgun and criminal damage, the latter charge relating to an incident with a neighbour in which he is accused of smashing the back windscreen of a car with a shotgun (*Get Reading*, 6 January 2010).

## 2009

**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.

**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).

**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 arrested (*Daily Mirror*, 29 December 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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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**.

**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).

**Scotsman**, 28 November 2009

A man from **Invergowrie**, Angus, has appeared in court to face allegations of repeatedly firing a **BB gun** at his wife over a period of three years. He is also alleged to have used a BB gun to shoot two young children.

**Milford & West Wales Mercury**, 26 November 2009

A man from **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire, has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm**, an R77 combat revolver, with intent. He is alleged to have caused a woman to believe that unlawful violence would be used against another and with assaulting her.

**Sussex Express**, 23 November 2009

PC Simon Burrows has been presented with a certificate of merit in recognition of his bravery in disarming a man holding a rifle in **Newhaven**, East Sussex, in December 2008. He was called to a domestic incident where the man ran into a bedroom to avoid being arrested. PC Burrows came face to face with the gun, grabbed the weapon and disarmed the man and arrested him.

**Bury Free Press**, 12 November 2009

John McFarlane has pleaded guilty to murdering a woman whom he shot with a bolt gun in **Bury St Edmunds**, Suffolk, in May 2009. The victim had called the police because McFarlane was being a nuisance and stalking her. During the attack he also injured one of the victim's daughters. He was given a 20-year minimum jail term (*BBC*, 13 November 2009).

**Evening News**, 28 October 2009

Mark Cochrane from **Linlithgow**, West Lothian, went to his ex-wife's home with a black **imitation handgun** and threatened her husband. His victim believed it was a real gun. Cochrane has pleaded guilty to breach of the peace and to breaching the Firearms Act by causing his victim to fear unlawful violence and has been jailed for nearly three years.

**Get Surrey**, 23 October 2009

Stephen Parry, 19, whipped his ex-girlfriend with a dog chain, sprayed bleach into her mouth and shot her in the leg with an **air rifle** at his home in **New Haw**, Surrey, in September 2008. He had enlisted the help of his brother Andrew Parry and Nell Underwood who held the victim during the attack. Stephen Parry was sent to a young offenders' institution for two years for assault and a concurrent 18 months for unlawful wounding. The other offenders were each sentenced to 18 months in prison.

**Get Wokingham**, 11 September 2009

A man was shot four times after an incident at a mobile home park in **Crowthorne**, Berkshire. The victim is in a stable condition in hospital. The police have described the incident as a family dispute that got out of hand (*BBC*, 11 September 2009).

**Worcester News**, 9 September 2009

A man drunkenly pointed an **air rifle** at his partner's chest and threatened to shoot her at their home in **Worcester**. Eric Steventon admitted making threats to kill. He was sentenced to 16 weeks in custody, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 60 hours unpaid work. AN order was made for the forfeiture and destruction of the gun.

**The Star**, 9 September 2009

A court has heard that a woman was shot at "point blank" range with a **double-barrelled shotgun** by her partner at their home in **Thorne**, South Yorkshire, in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot after a heated argument over money. The defendant stored a number of legally-owned weapons in a gun cabinet, but an earlier visitor had seen a shotgun propped up next to the hi-fi and witnessed the defendant running out into the garden to shoot a magpie. The witness is quoted as saying "He always sits on the settee with the gun at arm's reach away. The gun was loaded to pounce on a cat that had been coming into the garden".

**Greenock Telegraph**, 3 September 2009

Anthony Hampson from **Kilmacollm**, Renfrewshire, pointed an **airgun** at his chin and threatened to take his own life after being dumped by his girlfriend in May 2009. Riot police surrounded the house where he had armed himself with the rifle, CS gas and a machete which he used to smash furniture. He pleaded guilty to various offences including pointing the air rifle at himself.

**BBC**, 27 August 2009

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

**Ely Standard**, 17 August 2009

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

**BBC**, 19 July 2009

Jonathan Cock has pleaded guilty to murdering his ex-girlfriend's father and wounding her mother. He shot them at their home in **Porth Kea**, Cornwall, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He used a .22 calibre rifle with 15 rounds of ammunition stolen from his father. He turned the gun on himself but the shot did not kill him and he drove home. He must serve at least 25 years before being considered for parole for the murder and a concurrent four year sentence for wounding the murder victim's wife. He was also given an indeterminate sentence for public protection for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

**Irvine Times**, 15 July 2009

Christopher O'Neill is awaiting jail after threatening his teenage sister with an **air pistol** at the family home in **Irvine**, Ayrshire. He held the weapon 12 feet away from her and her friend after she refused to give him £50 whilst he was drunk.

**This is Local London**, 6 July 2009

During the trial of Steven Stallion, who was found guilty of murdering his partner by repeatedly punching her in the head at their flat in **Dartford**, Kent, the court was told that the couple had split up briefly in 2007 after she alleged he shot her in the back with an **airgun**.

**BBC**, 4 July 2009

A teenage girl is in hospital after suffering gunshot wounds to her leg in an incident in **Potterhanworth**, Lincolnshire. The body of a man was found in a field nearby and a gun was found close to the body. The dead man, the ex-partner of the victim's mother, had gunshot wounds and had also shot the girl (*BBC*, 5 July 2009). Elvis Cant was on police bail over an assault and death threats and at the time of his arrest in June firearms had been removed from his home in **Grantham**. An investigation will focus on how he was able to be in possession of a **shotgun** on the evening of his death (*BBC*, 9 July 2009).

**Berrow's Worcester Journal**, 3 July 2009

Symon Hawkes was high on cannabis when he terrified a former schoolfriend by holding a pistol to his head and trying to strangle him. The incident took place at Hawkes's bedsit in **Worcester**. He pleaded guilty to having an **imitation firearm** intending to cause fear of violence, possession of cannabis and assault causing actual bodily harm. He has been jailed for 18 months.

**The Press**, 27 June 2009

Gary Bridge, a former prison officer from **Ripley Castle**, North Yorkshire, has pleaded guilty to falsely imprisoning an ex-prisoner whom he got to know in prison, threatening to kill her, affray and three charges of actual bodily harm. Two charges of raping the woman were left on the file. Among incidents which took place over a number of years he held an **air rifle** to her face and threatened to kill her while her daughter watched. He committed the offences while suffering from two mental illnesses. He was given a 16-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

**BBC**, 18 June 2009

Daniel Dodsworth fired **air rifle** pellets into the wall, floor and sofa of the home he shares with his girlfriend and daughter in **Darlington**, County Durham. He had drunk eight cans of lager and a bottle of wine before firing the weapon in March 2009. He admitted affray and was given a nine-month suspended sentence.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 2 June 2009

Stephen Marriot from **Sutton**, Nottinghamshire, has pleaded guilty to having an **air rifle** with intent to cause a man to believe violence would be used against another man at his workplace. The incident, which involved his sister's ex-boyfriend, took place in March 2009. He was given a 45 week jail term, suspended for 18 months and 160 hours unpaid community work (*Chad (Mansfield)*, 29 June 2009).

**BBC**, 31 May 2009

A woman fled a flat in **Weymouth**, Dorset, with her baby after claiming her husband had a gun. Armed officers and negotiators arrived at the home and persuaded the man to give himself up after about three hours. An **air rifle** and **shotgun** were seized. A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill. Martyn Hannaford has been ordered to keep the peace and to pay £500 for breaching a previous order to keep the peace. He had returned home drunk and his wife overheard him say he had an air rifle and was going to shoot the baby then her (*Dorset Echo*, 2 June 2009).

**Daily Post**, 29 May 2009

In March 2009 Daniel Skinner forced his way into a neighbour's home in **Flint** and pointed an **air rifle** at the face of a young woman. The gun did not have a butt but all the working parts were present. Skinner was demanding the whereabouts of a man whilst pointing the weapon directly at the victim's forehead. He admitted affray, assault, possessing a firearm and breaching his Asbo, as well as a set of similar charges in relation to an incident in which he was armed with a knife.

**BBC**, 27 May 2009

Russell Steele armed himself with an **air rifle** and ordered a neighbour in **Perth** to stop his DIY. He had asked the man to stop working but when he refused Steele picked up the unloaded gun. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to make his neighbour believe unlawful violence would be used against him in August 2008. He was ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service.

**Exmouth Journal**, 17 April 2009

Michael Densham from **Exmouth**, Devon, has admitted possessing a **9 mm bolt action shotgun** without authority. He pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing the gun with

intent to cause fear of violence to his wife in December 2008. His wife is refusing to help the police and the charge has been dropped. Sentencing was deferred.

**BBC**, 3 April 2009

A coroner has recorded that Christopher Foster killed his wife and daughter by shooting them in the head while they slept before killing himself at their home in **Maesbrook**, Shropshire, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Contrary to earlier reports Foster died as a result of smoke inhalation, but a loaded rifle was recovered from near his body. His brother said the family were "shocked" that police were not informed about the mental state of his brother who held a firearms licence. The inquest heard that ACPO and the BMA were planning guidelines to improve communication between GPs and police forces.

**BBC**, 2 April 2009

The bodies of a man and a woman have been discovered in a garden at a property in **Dousland**, Devon. They had both been shot dead. The deaths are being treated as suspicious, but no-one else is being sought in connection with the incident. Police have recovered four guns from the property, a Smith and Wesson Magnum pistol, two other pistols and a rifle (*BBC*, 3 April 2009).

**BBC**, 31 March 2009

A man from **Hevingham**, Norfolk, has admitted possessing a loaded **shotgun** with intent to cause fear. Robert Seldon pointed the gun at his ex-wife while she lay in bed. He has been jailed for three years.

**BBC**, 30 March 2009

A man was killed and another was in a critical condition after a shooting in **Eccleshill**, Bradford. Police are hunting a third man. The shooting was thought to have been part of a domestic dispute.

**The Star**, 25 March 2009

A woman is fighting for her life with gunshot wounds while her partner has appeared in court charged with her attempted murder. She was allegedly shot at their bungalow in **Thorne**, South Yorkshire. The victim died in hospital six days after the incident (*The Star*, 27 March 2009).

**The Gazette (Blackpool)**, 19 March 2009

A man who threatened another man with a **.22 air pistol** during a domestic dispute in **Staining**, Lancashire, in August 2008 has been jailed for 21 months. Brian Hindle had been drinking when he decided to visit his former partner's children who were staying at a neighbour's house. After having the door slammed in his face he returned with the gun and pointed it at the homeowner. He gave himself up after armed police surrounded his house. The judge said that "Only a custodial sentence can be justified. It was a real weapon - a .22 air pistol - capable of being lethal".

**Telegraph**, 10 March 2009

In August 2008 David Constantine admitted putting his neighbours, a man and his wife, in fear of violence. He had subjected them to a catalogue of violence including threats to kill and firing an **airgun** while they were having a barbecue in their garden in **Lanchester**, County Durham. A judge gave him six months to sell his house or face prison. A ban on his visiting the property has now been lifted as he has been unable to sell the house. He has been given a six month suspended jail sentence with the provision that he does not cause nuisance to his neighbours or communicate with them.

**BBC**, 25 February 2009

Andrew Dixon has admitted the attempted murder of his estranged wife's boyfriend and possessing a gun in a public place. The gamekeeper fired a shot which hit his victim in the face as he and Dixon's wife drove home to **South Ormsby**, Lincolnshire, in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). His wife received minor injuries in the incident but her boyfriend still has trouble speaking and is fed through a bag to his stomach. Dixon has been jailed for 17 years (*This is Grimsby*, 7 March 2009).

**BBC**, 29 January 2009

A man has been found dead in a field by police investigating a shooting in **Brewood**, Staffordshire. Officers who were called to a nearby house found a woman there who had been shot twice. She has been taken to hospital but her injuries are not believed to be life threatening. A gun was recovered from the scene where the man's body was discovered. Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the shooting. The dead man had been arrested in December 2008 and charged with firearms offences, possessing a **shotgun** with intent to cause fear of violence and being drunk in possession of a loaded firearm. He was on bail and had been ordered not to contact the injured woman (*BBC*, 3 February 2009).

**BBC**, 28 January 2009

Kevin Burbidge shot his mother several times in the head with a handgun and then shot and killed their four dogs before setting fire to their home in **Hamworthy**, Dorset, in March 2008 (see [April 2008 Incidents](#)). He tried to shoot himself with a **shotgun** but could not fire the trigger and gave himself up to police while still in possession of the firearms. The shooting happened after bailiffs called to start an eviction process. Burbidge admitted murder, two counts of unlawfully possessing firearms (handguns) and one charge of possessing ammunition without a licence. He has been ordered to serve a minimum of 10 years. Burbidge, who has been described as a gun fanatic, claimed his mother had asked him to shoot her (*Guardian*, 28 January 2009).

**Telegraph & Argus**, 8 January 2009

A man from **Bradford** who pointed an **air rifle** at his teenage daughter as she sat in a car with her sister and mother has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The man, who was described by the judge as a "sick, drunken cowardly father", had taken the weapon from a shed. He was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, coupled with a two-year supervision order.

**Times**, 6 January 2009

A woman has been charged with murder after her husband was shot twice in the chest with a **shotgun** while he lay in bed at their cottage in **Wellow**, Isle of Wight. The woman is reported to be a clay pigeon shooting enthusiast who took her gun and ammunition from locked cabinets before shooting her husband. She has been remanded in custody.

## 2008

**Kent Online**, 23 December 2008

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

**This is Litchfield**, 22 December 2008

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

**Oxford Mail**, 6 December 2008

Police were called to a property in **Didcot**, Oxfordshire, following reports of a "domestic" incident involving a man behaving erratically with a shotgun. A man and a woman were arrested and a **shotgun** was recovered from the scene. They have been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and also with possession of a firearm with intent to resist arrest (*BBC*, 7 December 2008). They have been cleared of the charges (*Didcot Herald*, 6 July 2009).

**Press & Journal**, 5 December 2008

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

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 27 November 2008

Shaun Cockerham pointed an **air rifle** out of the bathroom window of his parents' home in **Castleford**, West Yorkshire, and fired at a neighbour and his 14-year-old son. The incident occurred in November 2007. The man was hit in the right side and a pellet went through his son's jeans but caused no injury. Cockerham was convicted of assault, attempted assault and possessing a firearm when he was prohibited from doing so. He has 35 previous convictions and has been jailed for three years.

**Press & Journal**, 31 October 2008

William Anderson, who held his sister and brother-in-law at gunpoint on their bed and threatened to kill them, has pleaded guilty to assault by seizing his victims by the throats and repeatedly presenting a handgun at them, operating the mechanism on the gun and repeatedly threatening to kill them, all to their alarm and distress. The incident took place in **Alness**, Ross-shire, in June 2008. The gun was never found. Anderson has been jailed for 32 months.

**BBC**, 21 September 2008

A man has died in hospital and his wife was left with gunshot wounds following a double shooting at their home in **Porth Kea**, Cornwall. A man, believed to be the former boyfriend of the couple's daughter, has been arrested and taken to hospital with self-inflicted injuries, apparently after shooting himself with a .22 rifle (*Times*, 22 September 2008). A firearm believed to have been used in the shootings has been recovered. It has been revealed that the suspect is a former RAF serviceman who had been sacked from the family business. The weapon used was apparently a high-velocity hunting rifle (*Mail*, 23 September 2008). A man has been charged with murder and attempted murder and has pleaded not guilty (*BBC*, 20 February 2009).

**Northern Echo**, 20 September 2008

Steven Ferguson terrified an ex-girlfriend and twice fired an air weapon at her new boyfriend. He entered her home in **Ferryhill**, County Durham, in May 2008, and refused to leave. He then picked up a **.22 air rifle** he had left near the door and fired a pellet into her boyfriend's leg and then again as she was phoning the police. Further shots were fired by Ferguson. He admitted two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a fear of violence and one of possessing a firearm when prohibited. He has been jailed for three years and the weapon, which he had been using to shoot stones, must be forfeited and destroyed.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 17 September 2008

Mark Parker has had his appeal against the length of his 5-year jail sentence dismissed. He was sentenced after admitting possessing a prohibited weapon which he claimed to have acquired to 'spite his ex-wife and to assert his new-found independence'. Parker, an airman from RAF **Lyneham**, Wiltshire, had bought a 12-bore **shotgun** and cartridges as a 'trophy' following a tour of duty in Iraq.

**This is Wiltshire**, 16 September 2008

Kevin Major, who collects airguns and crossbows, trashed his house in **Penhill, Swindon**, and assaulted his wife, and was also accused of pointing an **air rifle** at a police woman in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He apparently smashed the windscreen of a police patrol car with the barrel of the gun. He admitted three counts of criminal damage but denied possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault on his wife. The jury found him not guilty of the firearm charge but convicted him of common assault (*Swindon Advertiser*, 18 September 2008).

**BBC**, 2 September 2008

Detectives investigating three deaths at a burnt out house in **Maesbrook**, Shropshire, (see [August 2008 Incidents](#)) have now said that they believe that his wife and daughter were killed by Christopher Foster who then killed himself. His wife is known to have died from a gunshot wound to the head and his legally-owned rifle was found close the remains of his and his wife's body. CCTV has revealed a man "clearly believed to be Foster" walking around with what appears to be a rifle in his hands. He was seen to shoot out two of the tyres of a horsebox used to block the main gates to the premises. Previous reports described Foster as a weekly regular at Shropshire Clay Pigeon Shooting Association who took up country pursuits such as shooting (*BBC*, 28 August 2008). A coroner has recorded that Christopher Foster killed his wife and daughter before killing himself (see [April 2009 Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 29 August 2008

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

**BBC**, 25 August 2008

An 18-month-old boy is critically ill after being shot with an **airgun**, apparently by his five-year-old sister. In what the police have described as a 'tragic accident' the boy was shot in the head while playing in the garden of his home in **Washwood Heath**, Birmingham. It appears that the gun was left unattended by the children's father. See [GCN Press Release](#). The boy has since died in hospital (*BBC*, 1 September 2008). A man has been given a conditional discharge after pleading guilty to causing or allowing the death of his son (see [June 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 22 August 2008

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

**Telegraph**, 8 August 2008

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

**Cheshire Chronicle**, 3 July 2008

John Chiotis pleaded not guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear after his **shotgun** went off at his home in **Mickle Trafford** after he argued with his daughter. He has escaped trial after his daughter retracted a statement to police. The judge said that "It was an accident that should never have been allowed to happen. Having a loaded firearm in the house is wholly inappropriate whatever the circumstances". Chiotis was bound over to keep the peace for two years and his licence was revoked.

**BBC**, 21 June 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after another man and a woman were taken to hospital with **shotgun** wounds. Police had been called to an address in **South Ormsby**, Lincolnshire. The male victim has serious facial injuries and was undergoing surgery, the woman's injuries were non-life threatening. A weapon was found on farmland in the **Brinkhill** area where the suspect was arrested. A gamekeeper has been charged with attempted murder and has pleaded not guilty (*BBC*, 22 August 2008). He later changed his plea and admitted the offence (see [February 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 17 June 2008

John Clark of **Padiham** pointed a gun in his mother's face and threatened to shoot her. He struck her in the mouth with the butt of the **air rifle**, took her bank card and withdrew about £200. He admitted the assault and has been given 120 days in prison, suspended for 18 months, with 18 months supervision and ordered to take a substance-related offending programme. The prosecutor said "It's worrying that somebody can have possession of an air rifle and behave like that towards somebody when in drink" (*Lancashire Telegraph*, 11 July 2008).

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 30 May 2008

Jason McKean from **Preston** has been fined £150 and has had his shotgun licence revoked after he armed himself with a double-barrelled **shotgun** on the day of his father's funeral and threatened his brother. After angry words and a bout of "pushing and shoving", McKean had returned carrying a shotgun. He denied making a threat to kill and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence but admitted threatening behaviour under the Public Order Act.

**BBC**, 22 May 2008

A woman was seriously injured in a shooting in an office building in the centre of **Glasgow**. Police are treating the attack as attempted murder. There were claims that she had been shot in cold blood by a spurned lover (*Scotsman*, 23 May 2008). Police investigating the shooting have issued an artist's impression of a man they would like to trace (*BBC*, 12 August 2008).

**Northern Echo**, 7 May 2008

A court was told that a farmer pointed a **shotgun** at his estranged wife in a showdown after accusing her of having an affair. The incident was alleged to have taken place in August 2007 in **Great Stainton**, County Durham. However, Anthony Whitehead has been acquitted of threatening his wife but did plead guilty to possessing a firearm without a licence (*Evening Gazette*, 13 May 2008).

**Halesowen News**, 28 April 2008

Martin Cowley from **Oldbury**, West Midlands, fired a powerful **air rifle** at his father-in-law after a drunken argument with his wife. He had been drinking heavily at the time and followed his wife and son to his father-in-law's home armed with a .22 air rifle. Cowley sent a pellet into a window frame. He has been given a 12 month jail term suspended for two years.

**Sheffield Telegraph**, 25 March 2008

Samuel Sorsby, 20, turned up outside the **High Green** home of a 14-year-old girl he had dated for just a week or two armed with an **air rifle** and a sword. He was drunk and threatened to slit her throat and burn her house down. He was tackled by neighbours. He pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was given a 12-month sentence in a young offenders' institute.

**BBC**, 18 March 2008

A coroner has ruled that Garry Weddell unlawfully killed his wife and her mother, before taking his own life. Weddell, who had been accused of murdering his wife in January 2007, shot his mother-in-law at her home in **Gustard Wood**, Hertfordshire, in January 2008 before shooting himself in the grounds of a shooting club in **Markyate** (see [Incidents](#)). The **shotgun** he used to kill his mother-in-law and himself had been stolen from the club after he had undertaken clay pigeon shooting lessons. The coroner said he might write to the government with observations on the safeguards controlling weapons held by gun clubs after reviewing the case.

**BBC**, 13 March 2008

Thomas Hughes has been found guilty of murder and possessing a firearm with intent and has been sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in jail. Hughes shot a pregnant woman in the head twice in **Battersea**, south London, in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The killing was described as a "ruthless execution" after a long-running dispute between neighbours.

**Buxton Advertiser**, 28 February 2008

Clive Taylor of **New Mills** in Derbyshire terrified a neighbour by pointing an **air rifle** at him during an argument in September 2007. Two air rifles were found at his home. He has been jailed for 24 weeks after pleading guilty to a charge of harassment.

**Hull Daily Mail**, 22 February 2008 \*

A **Hull** man who tried to execute his former wife by shooting her with a **.22 calibre air rifle** because he was unhappy with his divorce settlement has pleaded guilty to attempted murder. In September 2007 Ricky Walker turned up at his wife's home and began assaulting her. He went outside and returned with the air rifle and shot in the forehead twice. One pellet will be permanently lodged in her skull. He then shot himself under his chin. Walker has been jailed for 18 years (*Yorkshire Post*, 17 March 2008).

**BBC**, 13 February 2008

Craig Platt from **Kinmel Bay**, Conwy, pointed a loaded **air rifle** at his wife a few days after learning of her child's paternity when he appeared on ITV's *The Jeremy Kyle Show*. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was given an indeterminate sentence for public protection.

**Bramley Today**, 28 January 2008

Desmond Sharp repeatedly shot his wife with a **.22 air rifle** in the living room of their house in **Fairfield Hill** in Leeds after he had been drinking. He has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

**Daily Post**, 29 January 2008

David Smith was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence after admitting assault causing actual bodily harm. There will be a two years supervision requirement and he must attend a domestic violence programme. Smith, from **Kinmel Bay** near Rhyl, shot his wife in the shoulder with an **airgun** after a row in September 2007 (see [October 2007 Incidents](#)). He claimed he had been aiming at a magpie.

**BBC**, 28 January 2008

A rifle was pointed at police officers called to a disturbance in **Penhill**, Swindon. A man was arrested in connection with a serious firearms offence, and a number of **air rifles** and pellets along with crossbows and bolts were recovered from a nearby house. A man has admitted three counts of criminal damage but denies possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault on his wife (see [September 2008 Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 13 January 2008

The body of Garry Weddell, a Metropolitan Police inspector, has been found in woodland near a shooting club in **Markyate**, Hertfordshire. A forensic search of the gun club was underway. Weddell was a member of the club until his licence was revoked following his arrest for the murder of his wife last year. The discovery of the body has been linked to the death of his mother-in-law whose body was found in **Gustard Wood** in Hertfordshire on the same day. Weddell is reported to have killed himself after apparently shooting his mother-in-law (*News of the World*, 13 January 2008). The local MP wants an inquiry into why Weddell was not in custody whilst awaiting trial for his wife's murder. He had been granted bail with a surety of £200,000 on condition that he hand in his gun licence and stay away from his mother-in-law (*BBC*, 14 January 2008). A coroner has said that the judge's decision to grant bail was "properly conducted". A coroner has ruled that Weddell unlawfully killed his wife and her mother before taking his own life (see [March 2008 Incidents](#)).

## 2007

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 19 December 2007

Paul Bourn, who was obsessed with the wife of his victim, and his brother Max Bourn face life sentences after being convicted of the attempted murder of a man who was shot four times at close range at his home in **Lemington**, Newcastle, in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Both men were found guilty of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and conspiracy to commit murder. Max Bourn shot the victim with a .22 weapon whilst his brother was in the house with the victim and his wife. Another man who denied conspiracy to murder was cleared.

**Daily Post**, 27 October 2007

A man has been charged with possessing a .22 **air rifle** with intent to cause his wife to believe that unlawful violence would be used against her. The man, from **Kimmel Bay**, was further charged with assaulting her, with allegations she was struck with a pellet. He has been given a nine month suspended prison sentence (see [January 2008 Incidents](#)).

**Daily Mail**, 24 October 2007

Daniel Galvin has been found guilty of criminal damage and common assault following a boundary dispute with neighbours near **Pershore** in Worcestershire. In December 2006 he had fired an **air rifle** at them whilst they were harvesting sugar beet and one pellet hit a tractor. He was given a five month suspended jail term and ordered to carry out 150 hours of community work. He was also fined and ordered to pay towards the damage to the tractor. He appealed against the conviction and has now been cleared of the attack (*Worcester News*, 17 April 2008).

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 8 October 2007

William Kay was drunk when he opened fire at a neighbour's window in **Weston-super-Mare**. He had fetched his 22-calibre **air rifle** from his home and shot at the property. He pleaded guilty to charges of possessing an air weapon and criminal damage and has been warned he could face a prison sentence.

**BBC**, 2 October 2007

Kasha Peniston, 17, has admitted the manslaughter of his 12-year-old sister at their home in **Gorton**, Manchester, in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The gun was illegally owned by their mother who had buried the .38 snub-nosed revolver in the garden. She had already pleaded guilty to possession of the gun and possession of ammunition (see [September 2007 Incidents](#)). The teenager removed the gun from the garden and was playing with it in his pocket in the living room when he shot his sister. Kasha Peniston has been jailed for two years, Natasha Peniston for three years. A man has appeared in court charged with possessing a firearm and ammunition (*BBC*, 26 August 2008).

**This is Wiltshire**, 8 September 2007

Michael Harris, 20, fired at least three pellets into a man with his **ball bearing gun** following a row about his parents' splitting up. The victim was his father's lodger and was shot on his doorstep in **Greenmeadow**, Swindon in October 2006. One pellet punctured the skin and left him with a 1mm deep wound. Harris pleaded guilty to a charge of actual bodily harm and was jailed for 15 months.

**BBC**, 8 September 2007

Natasha Peniston, whose daughter was shot dead in her own home in **Gorton**, Manchester, in April 2007 (see [Incidents](#)), has pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm. She had confessed to keeping the .38 snub-nosed revolver pistol that killed her daughter and two .38 bullets and two soft-nosed bullets. She was released on bail. A 17-year-old boy is due to stand trial for the murder. He has pleaded guilty to a count of possession of a handgun and ammunition but denies murder.

**News Shopper**, 21 August 2007

A man has been given a two year rehabilitation order for child cruelty and assaulting his wife. Among various actions, the man from **Crayford**, Kent, had shot his daughter in both knees with a **ball-bearing gun**, claiming it was an accident.

**Citizen (Burnley)**, 15 August 2007

Michael Redmond from **Burnley**, who pointed a **ball-bearing gun** at a man at his ex-girlfriend's house, has been given a one year jail sentence, suspended for two years, with 12 months supervision and placed on the Think First programme. He had admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Although Redmond's defence described the weapon as a "glorified toy gun" the judge said that the victim did not know this.

**Evening Post (Swansea)**, 4 August 2007

An unnamed 16-year-old girl from **Neath** has been given with an Asbo for terrorising neighbours, shooting at youngsters with a **ball-bearing gun** and various other offences. Breaching the order could result in five years' detention. It has since been reported that she has breached the order 10 times in four months (*Evening Post*, 7 December 2007).

**BBC**, 29 June 2007

Edward Edrich, who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of his wife on the grounds of diminished responsibility, has been given a Mental Health Act hospital order. His wife died from **shotgun** injuries to her neck and chest at their home in **Lowfield Heath**, near Crawley in Sussex in January 2007 (see [February 2007 Incidents](#)).

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 22 May 2007

A man who lay in wait armed with an **air rifle** for his father and stepmother to return home in **Weston** in March 2007 pleaded guilty to charges of grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault by beating and two charges of criminal damage. The gun belonged to Christopher Wall's father and was later found in a neighbour's garden. He was jailed for two-and-a-half years (*Weston & Somerset Mercury*, 10 September 2007).

**BBC**, 6 May 2007

A policeman was killed when officers attended a domestic incident at a property in a suburban street in **Shrewsbury**. The officers were confronted by a man with a firearm and a constable was shot. He was pronounced dead in hospital. A man was later found dead and a firearm recovered. The gun was a .222 calibre rifle, commonly used in pest control. Both victims died from a single gunshot wound (*BBC*, 7 May 2007). An inquest covering both deaths concluded that the officer was unlawfully killed and that the perpetrator then committed suicide (see [December 2007 Incidents](#)).

**Salford Advertiser**, 25 April 2007

Barry Hayes shot his son in the head, leg and chest with a modified **air rifle** to settle a family argument. He had followed his son in his car in **Salford** in November 2006 and shot him when he pulled over and got out of the car. After the attack Hayes drove his victim to hospital where he was arrested. His son had to undergo extensive surgery to remove the pellets, one from his head, and two could not be removed at all. One pellet had punctured his heart and his right lung had collapsed. He is lucky to have survived, according to police. Hayes pleaded guilty to attempted murder and with possession of a section one firearm. He has been given an 18-year jail sentence (*Manchester Evening News*, 8 September 2007).

**Pendle Today**, 6 April 2007

Terence Bray was given an eight-month jail sentence, suspended for 18 months, with 12 months supervision, after he admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. His neighbour in **Nelson** had gone to speak to him about noise and verbal abuse in July 2006 and Bray had got irate. He pulled out what the neighbour believed to be a black handgun and fired two shots in the air. Police found Bray drunk and with an **air pistol**, operated by a gas canister, on his lap.

**BBC**, 28 March 2007

A murder investigation was launched after two people were found shot at a house in **Abbey Wood**, south east London. Both were declared dead at the scene. Police were keeping an open mind regarding the circumstances of the deaths. An inquest heard that Mark Williams, who had absconded from open prison, shot dead his lover and then shot himself with a sawn-off **shotgun** (*News Shopper*, 27 July 2007).

**Asian Image**, 27 February 2007 \*

A 20-year-old man was fatally injured when he was shot in a park in **Horton Bank Top**, Bradford. He had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head and died from his injuries in hospital. A 20-year-old man and 19-year-old woman have been arrested in connection with the murder (*BBC*, 1 March 2007). Feroz Khan has been jailed for life for murder: he believed the victim had had an affair with his wife, but it was his wife who had made sexual advances which had been rejected by the victim. Ajmal Ahmed who pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice was given a suspended 12-month jail term and 200 hours' unpaid work (*Yorkshire Post*, 15 December 2007).

**Whitehaven News**, 22 February 2007

Andrew Taylor threatened his mother with a plastic **ball-bearing gun** which he held to her head at her home in **Whitehaven** in September 2006. She believed it was a real weapon. He pleaded guilty to the public order offence of affray. His case was adjourned for social inquiry and psychiatric reports. Taylor blamed depression for his actions. He was sentenced to a 180-day prison term, suspended for two years but must undertake 200 hours community service (*Whitehaven News*, 5 April 2007).

**BBC**, 7 February 2007

Yvette Luffman and her ex-boyfriend Wayne Briscoe have both been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of her former husband on a canal towpath at **Bramcote**, Nottinghamshire, in October 2003. They had paid Thomas Convery £30,000 to carry out the murder. Convery shot the victim twice in the back and twice in the head with a **shotgun** and was himself convicted of the murder in 2004.

**Yorkshire Post**, 3 February 2007

Ryan Vickers, 18, who shot his 17-year-old girlfriend between the eyes with an **air rifle**, has admitted grievous bodily harm. The victim suffered life-threatening injuries after the incident in **Bolton-on-Dearne**. Vickers had bought the gun to go shooting with friends in woodland near his home. He fired at targets in his garden when the rifle jammed and believed the gas canister that propelled the pellets had become empty. The next day he pointed the rifle at his girlfriend after she suggested he 'pretend to shoot me'. Two pellets were discharged and remain lodged dangerously in her brain. Vickers was given a nine-month prison term, suspended for a year, a 115-hour community punishment order and placed under the supervision of a probation officer. His girlfriend had pleaded on his behalf.

**BBC**, 29 January 2007

David Bradley, a former soldier, has admitted the manslaughter of four members of his family on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The victims were found shot dead at the home they shared in **Newcastle** in July 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Charges of murder were dropped when it was found Bradley was mentally ill. He had kept the 7.65 mm CZ pistol used to kill his family from his Army days after serving in Bosnia. Bradley was remanded in custody whilst psychiatric reports are prepared. He has been told that he must serve a minimum of 15 years, but warned he may remain too dangerous ever to be released (*Evening Chronicle*, 9 April 2008).

**BBC**, 8 January 2007

Reuben Bettis opened fire on his love rival with a double-barrelled **shotgun** at an allotment in **Orsett**, Essex, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). His victim was hit in the hand and stomach. Doctors had considered amputating his hand. Bettis admitted possessing the gun which he had borrowed from a friend. Sentencing was adjourned but the judge has already told Bettis that he would be jailed. He was subsequently given an eight year jail sentence (*BBC*, 9 July 2007).

**BBC**, 2 January 2007

A 16-year-old girl sustained serious injuries after being shot in the face with an **air rifle** in **Paulton**, Somerset. A 19-year-old has been charged with assault causing grievous bodily harm and a firearm's offence. According to the police the victim is in hospital in a critical but stable condition (*Avon and Somerset Constabulary*, 2 January 2007). The man is reported to be her boyfriend (*Press Association*, 2 January 2007). A man has been sent to a young offenders institute for three years for possessing the air rifle (see [May 2007 Incidents](#)).

## 2006

**Manchester Evening News**, 9 December 2006

Peter Grass, described as an expert shot, hunted down and executed a dairy farmer, shooting him twice from behind and then waiting five minutes before reloading his **shotgun** and killing him by shooting him in the head. Grass was arrested after a seven-hour siege at his victim's farm at **Radcliffe**, near Bury. Grass had been friends with the victim and had lived as a tenant on the farm for seven years but their relationship had changed and he had been ordered to leave. He must serve at least 26 years in jail before he can be considered for release.

**Cambridge Evening News**, 28 November 2006

Ken Kew has pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a gun in **Fen Ditton** in June 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He denies possession of a pistol with intent to cause fear of violence, threats to kill and threatening to damage property. In court a male nurse has described how he was wounded by Kew. He was shot in the left side of his chest, centimetres from his heart. The nurse and his family were visiting Kew's estranged wife at the time. Kew has been jailed for 16 years for attempted murder and given a deportation order (*Cambridge Evening News*, 15 January 2007).

**Herts24**, 15 November 2006

Garry Shales waved a loaded **air pistol** (a replica of a Walther handgun) in his ex-girlfriend's face. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He had used the gun in the back garden to fire at objects around the garden. Shales had attacked the woman as she got into a friend's car in **Hatfield** on May 2006. He had already been spared a prison sentence after a previous attack. He was sentenced to 20 months in prison.

**Lancaster Today**, 2 November 2006

Stephen Evans gave himself up in a 'negotiated surrender' when police had surrounded his house in **Heysham** after he had pointed an **air rifle** at his estranged partner's home. Two .22 air rifles were found in his house. He was convicted of possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence. He received a 12 month jail sentence, suspended for two years. (See also [September 2006 Incidents](#))

**BBC**, 1 November 2006

A court has heard how Yvonne Newman shot her female ex-partner with an **air rifle** then beat her with a walking stick at the house they shared in **Pinner**, north-west London. The air rifle shot missed. Newman pleaded guilty to attempted grievous bodily harm with intent, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. She was given a 51-week prison sentence, suspended for two years.

**Evening Post (Nottingham)**, 14 September 2006

A man shot and killed a woman outside her home in **Alvaston**, Derby, and then fatally shot himself. Lenny Yorke shot his ex-partner in front of his daughters. Police had investigated a domestic incident between the two. It has emerged that Yorke was an **airgun** enthusiast who had recently bought two air pistols and ammunition from a Radford airgun shop. He had set up a shooting gallery in his back garden. A number of weapons were seized by police when they searched his house.

**South Wales Argus**, 4 September 2006

Two brothers were shot in their garden in **Govilon**, near Abergavenny. Both received injuries to their legs. The body of a man, a next door neighbour, was found in a field close to the house with a sawn-off double barrelled **shotgun** next to his body. According to the police the dead man did not have a shotgun certificate. A coroner recorded that the dead man, Trevor Fallon, killed himself (*BBC*, 13 December 2006).

**BBC**, 21 August 2006

Wayne Curtis fired a **shotgun** at his former partner's mother in **Gunnislake** in January 2006. He has been told that he must serve at least four years in prison. He claimed he had the gun because he had received threats.

**ic Sefton & West Lancs**, 16 August 2006

Michael Stockton shot dead his neighbour after blaming her for a fire which killed more than 50 of his pigeons. He was found guilty of manslaughter by reason of provocation. He had killed his neighbour at point blank range after shooting his way into her home in **Audley**, north Staffordshire, in December 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Stockton, who owned a number of legally-held firearms, used a **shotgun** to kill his victim. Staffordshire Police said "There was no evidence to indicate that Mr Stockton was anything but a responsible person who was suitable to possess guns" (*The Sentinel*, 17 August 2006).

**ic South London**, 11 August 2006

Gracey Blackwood flew into a rage when she thought a friend and neighbour in **Brixton** had reported her to social services. She grabbed a **ball-bearing pistol** and held the gun to the face of her friend who was scared and fearful that the gun was a real one. She has been given a 200-hour community punishment order.

**Northern Echo**, 2 August 2006

Patrick Collins threatened a love rival with a gun in a pub in **Hexham** and then accidentally shot himself in the hand. He was armed with a **modified airgun** when he met the other man in March 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Collins pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was jailed for five years. A later report described how a police search of Collins' home in **Sandhoe**, near Hexham, had revealed 22 containers of black powder, a belt with eight bullets, five **airguns**, two rifles, a **ball bearing gun** and **shotgun** cartridges (*Journal*, 6 December 2006).

**Manchester Evening News**, 29 July 2006

A man is believed to have shot his wife in the back of the head outside her home in **Droylsden** and then shot himself dead. His wife survived the attack with a bullet embedded in her head and is being treated in hospital where her condition is described as "serious". Earlier this year the dead man had been given a suspended prison sentence for an assault on his wife.

**Yorkshire Post**, 28 July 2006

Adam Briggs was jailed for nine years following a friend's shooting of a 16-year-old girl in a field at **Woodsetts**, near Rotherham in December 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Lee Smith, whose relationship with the girl had recently ended, had then turned the weapon on himself. Briggs was convicted of manslaughter for assisting Smith. He was also convicted of shortening the barrel of the **shotgun** used to kill the victim.

**AOL**, 9 July 2006

Four people were found shot dead at a house in **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** after a man had walked into a police station armed with a nail bomb. David Bradley, the nephew of two of the victims and cousin of the other two, has been arrested and charged with their murder (*Northern Echo*, 4 August 2006). Bradley has admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility (see [January 2007 Incidents](#)).

**Daily Record**, 21 June 2006

Arthur Tait was jailed for six years after terrorising his former partner and her teenage son. He burst into her home in **Maybole** and brutally assaulted her and held an **airgun** to her son's head.

**Guardian**, 10 June 2006

A jilted teenager apparently shot dead his 15-year-old ex-girlfriend and then turned the gun on himself in a house in **Salford**. The girl died instantly, the youth died later in hospital. Detectives were investigating how the youth got hold of a **shotgun** (*Guardian*, 12 June 2006). An inquest opened in December 2006 and the coroner appealed for the public's help to discover how Joshua Thompson had gained access to the gun (*Manchester Evening News*, 20 December 2006).

**BBC**, 8 June 2006

Linda West was convicted of the murder of her husband in their **Southampton** flat in May 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). The prosecution claimed she had deliberately loaded her husband's double-barrelled **shotgun** and shot him at close range because of a heated row that evening. Her husband was hit in the heart, killing him instantly. Sentencing was deferred.

**BBC**, 1 June 2006

A man was found shot dead in **Whitstable** after police were called to a domestic incident involving a firearm. It appears that the man had shot himself and the incident is not being treated as suspicious.

**Wigan Today**, 8 May 2006

Police officers negotiated with a man armed with a gun alone in a car in **Skelmersdale**. The police had pursued the man following reports of a domestic dispute in **Wigan**. Eighteen hours later the man turned the gun, reported to be a handgun, on himself and shot himself in the head (*Bolton Evening News*, 9 May 2006). He later died in hospital (*Bolton Evening News*, 11 May 2006).

**24dash.com**, 24 February 2006

Ashley Thorpe used a crossbow, **air rifle**, a home-made cosh, a hammer and a knife to murder his landlord in a 50-minute attack in July 2005. The attack took place at the victim's flat in **Chard** after he had told Thorpe to leave. Thorpe fired three shots with the air rifle into his victim's face after he'd shot him with the crossbow and used the hammer to strike blows.

**The Sentinel**, 22 February 2006

Ian Mountford threatened a neighbour in **Biddulph** with an **air rifle** in a dispute over dropped litter in May 2005. He was sentenced to a 12-month supervision order and was ordered to spend at least six months on an alcohol treatment course.

**The Sentinel**, 22 February 2006

Stephen Dowling was sentenced to six and half years in jail after beating his former partner and threatening her with a **BB gun** while her daughter was in the house in **Congleton**. He also threatened to kill two police officers and was involved in a three-hour stand off with police. The incidents took place in October 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to burglary, grievous bodily harm, aggravated vehicle taking, driving while disqualified and using an imitation weapon with the intent of using unlawful violence.

**ic Coventry**, 13 February 2006

Richard Wilson of **Coventry** has pled guilty to assault and making threats to kill. He had got into an argument with his sister and threatened to shoot her. In 1999 he was jailed for five years for robbery and a year for possessing an **imitation gun**. He will be sentenced in March.

**BBC**, 3 February 2006

A teenager who shot his cousin in the face with a **shotgun** was found guilty of unlawfully and maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm. The incident occurred in November 2004 in **Haverhill** (see [Incidents](#)). His cousin survived the shooting but there are significant concerns about his future health. The defendant claimed that he had taken the weapon from his father's gun cabinet to "scare" the other youngsters. However, he had got a live cartridge and had loaded it into the weapon. He was given a three-year supervision order by magistrates (*BBC*, 1 March 2006).

**BBC**, 13 January 2006

Michael Millcroft and his wife Anita Mansfield were jailed for life and were told they would serve a minimum of 25 years and 30 years, respectively, before they would be considered for release. They were convicted of murdering two women by shooting them with a **shotgun** at a house in **Hockliffe**, Bedfordshire, in February 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). One of the victims had fostered Millcroft and he had lived with her and her late husband into adulthood. The murder had been committed with the intention of raising £800,000 on fraudulent life insurance policies.

**Press Association**, 6 January 2006

Police responding to reports of an incident involving a firearm at a cottage in **Finstown**, Orkney, discovered the bodies of a husband and wife. The deaths are being treated as suspicious and it is understood that police are treating the death of the woman as murder. Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. Police later confirmed that the couple died of gunshot wounds and that the husband, David Leask was a firearms and **shotgun** certificate holder. Their four-year-old daughter was removed unharmed from the scene (*Orcadian*, 7 January 2006).

## 2005

### **National Newspapers**, 16 December 2005

Police have revealed that Lee Smith fatally shot his 16-year-old ex-girlfriend before turning his **shotgun** on himself. Their bodies were found in a field near **Woodsetts** in south Yorkshire. Both had died from a single gunshot wound to the head. A friend of Smith's has been convicted of manslaughter and of shortening the barrel of the shotgun and been given a nine year jail sentence (see [July 2006 Incidents](#)).

### **News & Star**, 10 December 2005

Simon Lee shot his wife in the head and neck with an **air rifle** in a bid to murder her in **Cockermouth** in December 2001. He has lost an appeal to have his convictions overturned. The Crown considered it to be a deliberate shooting as Lee would have had to reload the gun between shots. He was sentenced to nine years for attempted murder and three years concurrent for a firearms offence.

### **Eastern Daily Press**, 9 December 2005

Michael Harper admitted possessing an **air rifle** intending to cause fear of violence and was jailed for two and a half years. A court heard how in July 2005 he had fired the rifle at a neighbour and a paramedic in **Mulbarton** after becoming "frustrated" over a financial matter. Harper fired twelve shots in total, ten from his house and two from outside. The sentence was reduced to 18 months on appeal (*BBC*, 10 March 2006).

### **Sun**, 5 December 2005

Richard Parker-Morgan, a farmer from **Shirenewton** near Chepstow, apparently shot his wife with a humane killer before phoning the police and then turning the device on himself. He survived and is critically ill in hospital, but his wife was killed. He was under arrest on suspicion of murder but died three days later. A coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing against Mrs Parker-Morgan and said Mr Parker-Morgan had killed himself (*BBC*, 29 June 2006).

### **BBC**, 29 November 2005

Paul Atkinson was jailed after threatening to kill his girlfriend, with whom he used to live in **Aspatria**, with a sawn-off **shotgun**. He was sentenced to at least two years eight months in prison but was told by the judge that he would only be released if he no longer posed a threat to women.

### **ic Surrey**, 24 November 2005

Ian Ranger was jailed for two years for possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and six months for damaging property after shooting at his wife's car in **Bookham** with a **shotgun** in August 2005. She had spurned his pleas to give their marriage a second chance. Ranger had held a firearms certificate for 12 to 13 years and had three licensed firearms and an air rifle.

### **Record**, 17 November 2005

David Burns shot his girlfriend in the backside with an **air rifle** when he went into the garden in **Kippen**, intending to shoot at tin cans, after arguing with her. When she went outside to go to work he shot her. He admitted recklessly discharging the air rifle and causing a pellet to hit his girlfriend "on the body". He was fined £500.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 9 November 2005

Thomas Masserick is due to be sentenced for a string of assaults, threats to kill, common assault on a child and witness intimidation. His ex-partner has described how he had shot holes in photographs with airgun pellets. She had bought him an **air rifle** to divert his attention from her, but her daughter later revealed how he had put the gun to her nose. Police were alerted when Masserick returned to the house in **Newcastle** and found that his partner had fled. He started shooting up the house with the air rifle: pellets were sprayed over walls and furniture. The weapon was never recovered. Masserick was jailed for seven years (*Evening Chronicle*, 16 December 2005).

**BBC**, 4 November 2005

A defendant in a murder trial has claimed that his girlfriend shot herself as they struggled with a gun in his car whilst they drove down the M1 towards **Sheffield**. The gun was in the glove box of the car. He has denied he ever had his finger on the trigger of the gun. Howard Simmerson was subsequently found guilty of murder and has been given a life sentence and should serve at least 25 years (*BBC*, 8 November 2005).

**This is Nottingham**, 15 October 2005

Troy Quimby from **Mansfield** was ordered to do 120 hours' community service after shooting a neighbour in the leg with an **air rifle** in April 2005. He was found guilty of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

**BBC**, 19 September 2005

Jarvis Johnson has been jailed for life for shooting his lover after she attempted to end the relationship in May 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was killed at her home in **Wolverhampton**.

**BBC**, 14 September 2005

A man walked into Harvey Nichols in **Knightsbridge** and shot dead a shop assistant before killing himself. Later reports described how the victim had been stalked by the perpetrator who had pleaded guilty to harassing her only two weeks earlier (*PA News*, 14 September 2005).

**News & Star**, 3 September 2005

Stephen O'Connor was jailed for 18 months after he terrified his mother as he ran amok with an **air rifle** in her flat in **Workington** in March. He was drunk when he began firing the gun while demanding to know the whereabouts of his girlfriend.

**Cambridge Express**, 1 July 2005

Grant Bidwell who warned his wife he would shoot her, then himself if she went through with a divorce has been jailed for three years. He had terrified his wife and children in their **Soham** home with what is believed to have been a sawn-off **shotgun** and was convicted of possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

**Camden Gazette**, 6 June 2005

Carlos Santos threatened to shoot a 12-year-old girl in the face after he had beaten his lover and dragged her into the streets of **Kentish Town**. The gun turned out to be a **replica**, but the girl has had trouble sleeping since the incident. Santos was jailed for three years. PC Ashley Walker who tackled the gunman as he pointed the pistol at another police officer, has been praised for his bravery (*Hampstead and Highgate Express*, 10 June 2005).

**Guardian**, 13 May 2005

Mark Dyche, described as a gun fanatic, faces life in jail after a jury convicted him of threatening, stalking and ultimately murdering a woman after she had broken off their engagement by shooting her at point-blank range. The shooting took place near her home in **Alkington**, Derbyshire (see [April 2004 Incidents](#)). After ramming her car off a quiet country road he shot her in the head. The victim had sent police a list of Dyche's threats. According to the *Derby Evening Telegraph* (13 May 2005) Dyche, who held a gun licence, had previously threatened his ex-wife with a gun and a knife. The murder weapon was a Remington 1100 automatic **shotgun**. A police inquiry concluded that a flawed system was used to investigate incidents leading up to the killing. One detective has been sacked, another officer demoted and four others reprimanded (*BBC*, 2 November 2006).

**BBC**, 10 May 2005

A woman has been arrested on suspicion of murder after the body of a man was found in a **Southampton** flat along with a firearm. Police said the death was believed to be an "isolated incident". A woman has gone on trial accused of shooting her husband while she danced for him with a **shotgun** (*BBC*, 30 March 2006): she was convicted of his murder (see [June 2006 Incidents](#)).

**Sheffield Today**, 16 April 2005

Niall Lupton aimed an **imitation gun** at his wife's chest after becoming convinced she was having an affair. The incident took place at their home in **Lincoln**. He admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was jailed for three years. In 1994 Lupton was convicted of manslaughter and jailed for two years following the death of a baby.

**News of the World**, 6 March 2005

Edward Farrow shot his ex-wife in the back of the thigh with an **airgun** after a row at his **Ayr** home. He has been sentenced to 150 hours' community service.

**Edinburgh Evening News**, 11 February 2005

Robert Amos fired a gun after threatening his ex-girlfriend at a house in **Gorebridge** in October 2004. The gun was a **blank-firing pistol**. Amos, who had a history of mental health problems, was jailed for 30 months.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 12 January 2005

A mother from **Morley**, Derbyshire, accused of firing a **starting pistol** at her daughter's boyfriend was cleared after the case had been thrown out of court for lack of evidence. She had denied possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear and violence.

## 2004

**Croydon Guardian**, 17 November 2004

Dele Ajibola faces jail after threatening neighbours in **Shirley**, including a young boy, with an **imitation pistol** in an argument over parking. He was found guilty with possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear and warned by the judge that a prison sentence was inevitable.

**BBC**, 15 October 2004

Edwin Hoskins was jailed for seven years for attempting to kill his neighbour at **Blacknor Fort**, a disused military base on Portland, over a land dispute. Hoskins pointed a double-barrelled **shotgun** at his victim, who survived the blast despite being hit in the stomach.

**BBC**, 14 October 2004

A man was in a critical condition in hospital after being shot in **Dagenham**. He was approached by a man on foot who fired a single shot into his neck and ran off. Two men, a detective constable and a private investigator, have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder (*This is London*, 29 October 2004). The victim died in hospital in June 2005 and his death is now being treated as murder (*Barking & Dagenham Recorder*, 30 June 2005). Two men are on trial for murder and a court has heard that the victim died as a result of a contract killing set up by his wife and stepdaughter (*BBC*, 8 May 2008; *BBC*, 19 February 2009).

**National Newspapers**, 29 September 2004

Verdicts of unlawful killing were recorded on Julia and William Pemberton who were killed by Alan Pemberton at their home in **Hermitage**, Berkshire in November 2003. After shooting his wife and son with a **shotgun**, Pemberton shot himself. He had removed the shotgun from his new girlfriend's gun cabinet where she kept it for clay shooting.

**Eastern Daily Press**, 29 September 2004

A family feud resulted in a man shooting his young cousin in the head with an **air rifle**. The 17-year-old victim needed surgery to remove the pellet. The perpetrator, from **Tibenhams**, was given an 18-month jail sentence suspended for two years.

**National Newspapers**, 22 September 2004

Psychotherapist Heather Stephenson-Snell was found guilty of murdering her love rival's next door neighbour. Her victim was shot in the stomach with a sawn-off **shotgun** after he came out of his home in **Radcliffe**, Manchester, to investigate the noise as she was knocking on her intended victim's front door. She was given a life sentence for attempted murder and for murder. It was reported that she had taken shooting lessons prior to the murder.

**ic The Wharf**, 16 September 2004

Following a row with one of her neighbours a woman was shot in the chest with an **air weapon**. The incident took place in her front garden near **Mudchute** DLR on the Isle of Dogs.

**BBC**, 9 September 2004

An elderly couple who were found outside a home in **Broadway**, Worcestershire, had both died from gunshot wounds. Police said they were not hunting for anybody else. At an inquest the coroner said he believed that Fred Jobson had unlawfully killed his wife and took his own life while the balance of his mind was disturbed (*BBC*, 13 May 2005).

**BBC**, 8 September 2004

A gun enthusiast threatened two police officers with a loaded **air rifle** after his wife had called the police to their home in **Hailsham**. He was overpowered with pepper spray when the weapon's firing mechanism jammed. He was given a three-year Community Rehabilitation Order after the judge described his actions as "five minutes of madness".

**Daily Mirror**, 24 August 2004

A family in **Ashton-under-Lyne** stormed a neighbour's home and beat up her friends who were making a noise during a late night party. Peter Roberts, who was armed with a **shotgun**, received a two and a half year jail sentence. Two other men in the group received jail sentences, and Mrs Roberts got 240 hours community punishment.

**National Newspapers**, 2 August 2004

Chanel Taylor was shot dead at her home in **Huthwaite** weeks after getting married. A **shotgun** was later recovered from the house. After a lengthy police hunt her father Terry Rodgers was arrested and charged with her murder. Terry Rodgers, who had admitted shooting his daughter but had not faced trial, died in hospital after starving himself to death whilst in prison (*AOL News*, 26 February 2006).

**This is Bristol**, 15 June 2004

A man shot dead a mentally ill neighbour with a sawn-off **shotgun** because he believed he was disturbing his son. Andrew Warburton fired a single shot into his victim's head on his doorstep in **Weston-super-Mare**. Warburton admitted the killing but denied murder.

**National Newspapers**, 7 June 2004 \*

Two sisters were shot dead and their mother seriously hurt when a man opened fire with a .410 **shotgun** at a back garden barbecue in **Highmoor Cross** in Oxfordshire. Two young children of one of the sisters witnessed the attack. The estranged husband of one of the dead women was later charged with two counts of murder: he killed himself whilst on remand. Thames Valley Police later apologised for the 64-minute delay in attending the murder scene, a delay that was deemed unjustifiable by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (*Guardian*, 7 October 2004). An internal review concluded the delay was down to failings in training and national policy, which emphasises locating the perpetrator rather than getting to the victims (*Guardian*, 22 February 2006). Georgie Gibson, who gave first aid to the victims, has been presented with a bravery award at the Provincial Police Awards: she went to their aid after hearing shots fired (*BBC*, 20 June 2007).

**BBC**, 24 April 2004

Police are investigating a murder after a man died from gunshot wounds after a shooting incident in **Little Hyde**, Shephall near Stevenage. A man and a woman, the victim's wife, have been convicted of murder. They were told they would each serve 30 years in prison (*BBC*, 12 May 2005).

**Evening Express (Aberdeen)**, 22 April 2004

Jamie Urquhart fired an **air rifle** through the bathroom door at his partner. He was also accused of putting the rifle in his mouth and threatening to kill himself and frightening his finance, although his not guilty plea was accepted. At **Aberdeen** Sheriff Court Urquhart was fined £200 and the air weapon was confiscated.

**AOL News**, 26 March 2004

John Walker of **Great Bealing**, Suffolk, was convicted of murder after admitting shooting his wife at their home. His wife was killed with a single shot from a 12-bore **shotgun** as she ate her breakfast. He has been given a life sentence.