



## **FEBRUARY 2009 - SUMMARY**

**There were a number of shooting incidents in London which resulted in serious injuries to the victims, three of whom died from their injuries. Elsewhere, there were relatively few other incidents in which people were hurt. There were, however, many reports of robberies in which the suspects were armed with guns. More evidence from February's incidents and court cases heard during the month indicates that in a significant proportion of these the weapon is likely to have been an imitation gun.**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were three fatal shooting attacks during February all of which took place in London, in Stonebridge, Tottenham and East Dulwich - the victims were all in their mid-twenties and the murders are being investigated by the Metropolitan Police's Operation Trident (arrests have been made in connection with both the Stonebridge and Tottenham shootings).
- A man apparently committed suicide by shooting himself in a park in Southampton - a pistol was found. Another man was found dead with a gunshot wound to his head in woods in Ottershaw, Surrey.
- Shooting incidents in which victims, more than half of them teenagers, were injured occurred in:
  - London (9) - a teenager was in a serious condition after being shot in Camberwell, two teenagers were seriously injured in a shooting in Neasden (three people, including boys aged 14 and 15 have been arrested), three people suffered gunshot wounds in an incident outside a pub in Greenwich and three teenagers were shot and injured in Hackney
  - Merseyside (3) - a man was shot in the leg in Speke (a man has been arrested) and two teenagers received gunshot wounds to the face in Norris Green (a 15-year-old boy was arrested and released on bail)
  - South Yorkshire (1) - a teenager was shot in the head, though only injured slightly, in a pub car park in Halfway (Sheffield)
  - Teesside (1) - a man suffered a gunshot wound at a house in Thornaby
  - West Midlands (2) - two men were taken to hospital after a drive-by shooting in Edgbaston
  - West Sussex (1) - a man was shot in the head while at home in Burgess Hill
  - West Yorkshire (1) - a man was found with a gunshot injury in Leeds
- A man was pistol-whipped during a robbery at a flat in Croydon (south London) and a newsagent was violently assaulted when he was hit on the head with the butt of a gun during a raid on a shop in Shawlands (Glasgow).
- A man was arrested and a gun recovered after another man was assaulted in Newton (Greater Manchester).
  
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on:
  - Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices - in Harrogate (North Yorkshire) (see below), Bexhill-on-Sea (East Sussex), Winsford (Cheshire), Woking (Surrey), Southampton and Swansea
  - Betting shops - in Worthing (West Sussex) and Llandudno (North Wales)
  - Petrol stations - in Marston (Oxford) (see below), Benfleet (Essex) (a 19-year-old later surrendered himself), Harlow (Essex) (a man has been arrested and charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm) and Deanshanger (Northamptonshire)

- Shops - in Eastwood (Essex), Gorton (Greater Manchester) (four young men were arrested and two guns seized), Rochdale (a shotgun was fired as the robber tried to escape), Wheatley (Oxfordshire) (see below), Middlesbrough (the robber was armed with a hammer and a BB gun), Milton Keynes, Slough (Berkshire), Bedworth (Warwickshire) (a ball-bearing gun was used), Wootton Bassett (Wiltshire) (a suspected imitation firearm was found near a car used in the robbery), Shawlands (Glasgow) (the shopkeeper was hit on the head with the butt of a gun) and Slateford (Edinburgh) (an imitation shotgun was used)
- Security guards were robbed in Daventry (Northamptonshire), Thetford (Norfolk), Easterhouse and Riddrie (both in Glasgow)
- There was a worrying number of gunpoint robberies on homes.
  - Two women were robbed at a house in Northern Moor (Manchester)
  - A couple were robbed of cash in Epping (Essex) (the attackers were armed with a blank-firing imitation weapon).
  - A man was pistol-whipped at a flat in Croydon (south London) during a robbery (see above).
  - In Surrey a woman was tied up and robbed at gunpoint in Weybridge, and in Bletchingley two armed men burst into a house and punched the homeowner.
  - In Northamptonshire a disabled man was robbed in Kettering and an elderly couple were tied up and robbed in Pipewell (three men and a woman have been arrested).
  - An armed gang stole jewellery and cash from a house in Shawlands (Glasgow).
- In Essex a man was lured to an ambush and robbed of cash in Theydon Bois, and a mother and daughter were victims of a street robbery in Shoebury. A motorist had his car stolen by four men armed with a handgun in Liverpool.
- Police found a gun on a train in Reading and arrested four men, three of them teenagers, after items and cash were stolen from a property in the town.
- A man has been arrested by police investigating two armed robberies in Harrogate (North Yorkshire). A man has appeared in court charged with four counts of robbery in connection with recent incidents in Oxfordshire (in Marston and Wheatley during February). A teenager from West Reading (Berkshire) has denied one count of using a firearm to cause fear and violence in people and one of attempted robbery.
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired at houses in Sarisbury Green (Hampshire) (this was the second time in a month, three men have been arrested and released on bail), Whalley Range (Greater Manchester) and Shiregreen (Sheffield). A gun was reported to have been fired at a house in Heaton (Bradford) in an incident which may be linked to earlier reports of shots being fired in Lidget Green.
- A car was shot at in Heywood (Greater Manchester) (two men have been charged with attempted murder). Shots were fired in a street in Birmingham where a car was damaged.
- A man in a car pulled a gun on a teenager as he walked along a road in Worle (Somerset).
- A man was held on suspicion of supplying a firearm after an incident involving a hand grenade in Hull. Two men were arrested in Hanley (Staffordshire) in connection with firearms offences. Four men arrested on the M6 near Stoke-on-Trent after reports of a firearm being carried were released without charge.
- Police investigating organised dog fighting questioned a man and a woman arrested in Drighlington (West Yorkshire) on suspicion of possession of a dangerous dog, along with drugs and firearms offences.
- A police helicopter was scrambled after reports of a man with a gun in a nature reserve in County Durham.

- **Gun Thefts and Recoveries** - Guns were stolen from properties in:
  - Berkshire - two airguns and a pump gun were stolen from a storage unit in Lambourn, and a bolt action rifle was stolen from a car in Speen.
  - Derbyshire - an air rifle was among items stolen from a caravan in Barrow-upon-Trent
  - Lincolnshire - two shotguns were stolen from a house in Stamford
  - North Yorkshire - in Boltby an elderly man was tied up and assaulted as a gang stole two shotguns and two rifles
- Firearms were recovered in a number of police raids targeted at criminal activity:
  - Imitation guns and drugs were among items recovered during a series of raids across Northumberland.
  - A .22 air rifle was among nearly 30 items recovered by police during an operation to beat burglary in Whitley (Reading).
  - A sawn-off shotgun and drugs were recovered from an address in Manor Park (east London) (a 17-year-old was arrested).
  - An air pistol and a ball-bearing gun were recovered along with suspected cocaine at a property in Bovey Tracey (Devon).
  - A man was arrested after a sawn-off shotgun was found in Cambridge.
  - A firearm was found when cash cigarettes and drugs were seized at an industrial unit in Cannock (Staffordshire).
  - Firearms were found in an operation tackling the supply of drugs, firearms and counterfeit clothing in Hertfordshire
  - A stun gun was found with cash and drugs during a raid in Earlsfield (south London)
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns - In all previous Summaries incidents involving Imitation Guns were dealt with separately from those involving Airguns. However, because of the confusion over definitions (see [GCN Comment](#)) future summaries will include them in one section.**
- Three men have been charged with possession of a firearm without a certificate following the death of a teenage girl who was shot in the head with an air rifle at a party in Bury in December 2008.
- Victims reported to have been shot with airguns and imitations during February included:
  - a teenager shot in the face when an air rifle was fired at him in a park in Collier Row (east London)
  - three teenagers hit when they were shot at with an air rifle in Blacon (Chester)
  - a 9-year-old boy who was left 'covered in blood' after being shot in the head with a BB gun in Plymouth
  - a man shot in the chest with an air rifle in a drive-by shooting in Nantwich (Cheshire)
- A man was arrested after shots were fired from the window of a flat in Manchester with what is believed to have been an airgun. A street in Faifley (West Dunbartonshire) was closed off after shots were allegedly fired from an air weapon (a man was arrested).
- Police seized an air rifle and two knives from two men in Ashington (Northumberland) who have been charged with affray.
- There were a number of attacks of vehicles:
  - Buses were fired at with an airgun in North Baddesley (Hampshire) (shards of glass were splattered over a passenger) and with a BB gun in Billericay and Tiptree (both in Essex) (windows were broken in both cases).
  - A car window was smashed by a ball-bearing, probably fired from an airgun, in Chester-le-Street (County Durham).
- A parked car was hit with an airgun pellet in Harwich (Essex). A house window may have been damaged by an air rifle or BB gun in Whitby (North Yorkshire).

Damage to homes, bus shelters and a community centre in Exwick (Exeter) is believed to have been caused by an airgun.

- Imitation firearms have been linked to armed robberies carried out in Epping (Essex), Middlesbrough, Bedworth (Warwickshire), Wootton Bassett (Wiltshire), Harlow (Essex) and Slateford (Edinburgh). It is very likely that the weapons used in many more of the armed robberies reported this month (see above) were also imitation weapons.
  - Armed police swooped on a street in Hove (Sussex) after reports of a man pointing a gun at a baby - it turned out to be a toy gun.
  - Two teenagers were seen carrying an airgun in Tile Hill (Coventry) in what is being described as a "suspicious activity".
  - Police said that they have a duty to treat all reports of firearms as genuine after they were alerted when a group of people attending a party at a pub in Castle Donington (Leicestershire) were seen carrying guns which turned out to be cap guns or water pistols.
  - **Incidents Involving Animals** - In addition to the growing list of cats injured and killed in airgun attacks (this month there were reports from Devon, Oxfordshire and Staffordshire) there were a number of reports of birds being shot.
    - Swans were attacked in Hartlepool, Leicestershire (a bird shot in flight with a shotgun) and Surrey (two dead birds found with puncture wounds to their heads).
    - Other birds have been shot with air rifles on pathways in Skegness (Lincolnshire) (where squirrels have also been attacked) and between Heckmondwike and Norristhorpe (West Yorkshire). A kestrel found in Mablethorpe (Lincolnshire) will never fly again after being shot with an airgun.
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- **Convictions** - A 20-year-old has been convicted of killing a teenager in Stoke Newington (north London) in a possible gang-related shooting. Three men have been convicted of the murder of a man shot dead with a sub-machine gun in Romford (Essex).
- A man has admitted the attempted murder of his estranged wife's boyfriend whom he shot with a shotgun near South Ormsby (Lincolnshire).
- A man has been warned that a custodial sentence is inevitable after he pleaded guilty to possession of a gun and ammunition following a dispute between opposing groups in Nottingham.
- A man who fired a sawn-off shotgun at a police officer in his patrol car in Loughton (Essex) and had earlier shot a friend in the shoulder will serve a minimum of 11 years in jail. Another man who threatened two police officers with a gun after firing shots in West Bromwich (West Midlands) has been jailed for ten years.
- A drug dealer was jailed for 10 years after being caught with cocaine, a sawn-off shotgun and cartridges in Derby.
- There were convictions for a number of people caught possessing firearms:
  - A woman and a teenage boy have been given custodial sentences of two-and-a-half and two years, respectively, after a loaded self-loading pistol was found at the woman's house in Levenshulme (Greater Manchester).
  - A drug dealer was jailed for seven years after a machine gun was found during a search of his home in Mitcham (south London): the same gun had been used in the murder of a man in Chingford in 2005.

- A man has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to possessing of a 9 mm pistol and ammunition found at his girlfriend's house in Newtown (Birmingham).
- Another man from Wymondham (Norfolk) was jailed for five years after pleading guilty to possession of a .22 revolver and ammunition he had shipped from the USA and kept in storage.
- A gun enthusiast and firearm certificate holder from Ulceby (Lincolnshire) has been jailed for three years after admitting conspiring to import a pistol from the USA and to possessing a sawn-off shotgun, a semi-automatic shotgun and an air weapon.
- Two men admitted possessing an illegal weapon after stun guns were found, one at a home in Holcombe (Somerset), the other after a disturbance in Darlaston (West Midlands).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases) - see note above.**
- A man who had been drinking fired a gas powered air pistol at friends working in a barbers shop in Wall Heath (West Midlands) and fired shots in the street: he was jailed for four years after admitting possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- A man who threatened his neighbour in Purley (Surrey) with an air rifle pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and threatening behaviour: he was warned that a custodial sentence was likely.
- A man who threatened police with an air rifle and a samurai sword in Bognor Regis (West Sussex) has been warned he would face a jail term. Another man who pointed an imitation shotgun, a paintball gun, at police officers in Ilkeston (Derbyshire) has been given a one year suspended jail sentence.
- A man from Stourbridge (Worcestershire) has been remanded in custody after admitting being in possession of an imitation rifle with intent to cause fear of violence.
- A number of people appeared in court after using airguns and imitation guns in robberies and attempted robberies.
  - An 18-year-old has been jailed for nine years after a robbery at a shop in Bradford in which a ball-bearing gun was pointed at the shopkeeper.
  - A man who pointed a BB gun at betting shop staff in Bothwell (South Lanarkshire) during a robbery has pleaded guilty to presenting an imitation firearm and demanding money and robbing one of the staff.
  - A man has been jailed for two-and-a-half years after he stole a BB gun in a burglary and then wielded the weapon in Ipswich town centre, demanding a kebab from a takeaway.
  - Three teenagers who were armed with an airgun have been sentenced to six and seven years in custody after robbing a betting shop in Bedworth (Warwickshire) and speeding away in a stolen car.
- A man has been jailed for 56 months after he pointed an imitation gun at a toddler at a flat in Glasgow.
- A boy who was given an air rifle by his mother which he then used to threatened people in Darlington has been given a two-year anti-social behaviour order.
- A 17-year-old has admitted being in possession of a machete and a loaded air rifle in a public place in Norwich and has been given a six-month referral order.
- A man who stole knives and an air rifle from a flat in Birchwood (Cheshire) has been jailed for eight months.
- An ex-prisoner who was not permitted to have a firearm as a condition of his release pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition following an incident in St Neots (Cambridgeshire) when he pointed an air rifle out of a window: he was given an 18-month conditional discharge. A man from Ambleside (Cumbria) who had a dismantled air rifle at his home whilst he was banned from being in possession of a firearm has been jailed for 12 months.

- A shooting enthusiast who was caught storing an air rifle without a proper certificate at his home in Hastings was fined £65.

## GUN INCIDENTS – FEBRUARY 2009

### ENGLAND

*This is Derbyshire*, 28 February 2009

A drug dealer caught with a **sawn-off shotgun** has been jailed for 10 years. Nasar Hussain was found with cocaine when his car was stopped in Derby in September 2008 and the gun and cartridges were discovered at the house where he was staying in **Mackworth**. A conviction in 1997 prohibited him from possessing a gun for life. Five years of his sentence were for possessing a prohibited firearm.

*Coventry Telegraph*, 27 February 2009

Three teenagers, Drew Goldstein, Nathan Crick and Reece Jones, have been given custodial sentences of six, seven and seven years respectively after they pleaded guilty to robbery and aggravated vehicle-taking. In January 2009 they robbed staff at a betting shop in **Bedworth**, Warwickshire, at gunpoint before speeding away in a stolen car. The small grey and black handgun they used was an **airgun**.

*Telegraph & Argus*, 27 February 2009

Two shooting incidents have taken place in Bradford. In the first in **Lidget Green**, armed officers responded to reports of shots being fired followed by a car chase. In the second incident a gun was being fired at a house in **Heaton**. Detectives are investigating possible links between the incidents.

*Stourbridge News*, 27 February 2009

Terence Hope of **Stourbridge**, Worcestershire, has pleaded guilty to being in possession of an **imitation rifle** with intent to cause fear of violence. He has been remanded in custody whilst a pre-sentence report is prepared.

*This is Hampshire*, 26 February 2009

A man burst into a bank in **Southampton** and pointed a gun at staff. He demanded a cashier fill a bag with money before escaping on a bicycle.

*Surrey Herald*, 26 February 2009

A man whose body was found in woodland on his farm in **Ottershaw**, Surrey, had died from a gunshot wound to his head. An inquest has been opened and adjourned.

*Derby Evening Telegraph*, 26 February 2009

An **air rifle** was among items stolen from a caravan in **Barrow-upon-Trent**, Derbyshire.

*Coventry Evening Telegraph*, 26 February 2009

Police were called after reports of two men with an **airgun** in **Tile Hill**, Coventry. The men, both men described as aged 17, were seen walking along a street holding the gun.

**Grimsby Telegraph**, 25 February 2009

A man described as a gun enthusiast has been jailed for three years after he admitted conspiring with another man to import a Ruger .22 pistol and other offences including possessing a **sawn-off shotgun**, a **semi-automatic shotgun**, and an **air weapon** (capable of firing pellets at more than the legal limit) and possessing part of a pistol. Desmond Merrion from **Ulceby**, Lincolnshire, held a firearm certificate but not a shotgun certificate. Parts of the pistol were posted to him from America but a parcel containing them was intercepted. The butt of the gun was hidden in a hairdryer and the barrel was wrapped in a bundle of clothes.

**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](#)). Dixon will be sentenced in March. His wife received minor injuries in the incident but her boyfriend still has trouble speaking and is fed through a bag to his stomach.

**BBC**, 25 February 2009

Police raided 22 addresses in **Hertfordshire** in an operation tackling the supply of drugs, firearms and counterfeit clothing. Cash, drugs and firearms were recovered. Twenty people were arrested.

**Stourbridge News**, 24 February 2009

Stuart Edmunds had been drinking heavily when he fired a **gas powered air pistol** at friends working in a barbers shop in **Wall Heath**, West Midlands. After he left the shop he fired the gun across the street before police arrived to move two toddlers and their parents out of the way. He claimed the gun had been bought for target practice in his garden. Edmunds admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and has been jailed for four years.

**Bexhill-on-Sea Observer**, 24 February 2009

Shooting enthusiast Daniel Johnson was caught storing an **air rifle** without a proper certificate. Police with a drugs search warrant found the gun at his home in **Farley Bank**, Hastings. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without a certificate and was fined £65.

**BBC**, 24 February 2009

Cash, cigarettes and drugs were seized in a raid on an industrial unit in **Cannock**, Staffordshire. A firearm was also found. Two men were being questioned, a third man was released on bail.

**BBC**, 24 February 2009

Two teenagers held up a petrol station in **Deanshanger**, Northamptonshire, with what is believed to be a handgun. A third offender waited outside. Cash and cigarettes were stolen.

**BBC**, 24 February 2009

Two men were taken to hospital after being shot in a drive-by shooting in **Edgbaston**, Birmingham. The injured men were in a car and managed to drive off to get medical help.

**Echo**, 23 February 2009

A mother and daughter were held up at gunpoint as they were walking along a street in **Shoebury**, Essex. A man demanded their mobile phones and pointed a black handgun at them.

**BBC**, 23 February 2009

An elderly man was tied up and assaulted by a gang during a raid at a farmhouse in **Boltby**, North Yorkshire. The men stole his car, which was found nearby, and four firearms, two rifles and two **shotguns** which have not been traced.

**Press Association**, 22 February 2009

A man was shot dead on a busy street in **East Dulwich**, south London. The Metropolitan Police's Operation Trident have been informed.

**BBC**, 22 February 2009

A man has been charged with robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** after an armed raid in **Harlow**, Essex. The robbery took place at a petrol station shop. He was also charged with failure to stop after a road accident.

**BBC**, 22 February 2009

Three teenagers, aged 17 and 18, were shot in **Hackney**, east London. All three were taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

**BBC**, 22 February 2009

Armed men targeted a house in **Shiregreen**, Sheffield, firing a gun at the property after knocking on the door. No one was injured in the incident but it was being viewed as a deliberate attack.

**BBC**, 22 February 2009

The front of a house in **Whalley Range**, south Manchester, was blasted with a **shotgun**. The occupants of the house were not injured.

**Press Association**, 21 February 2009

Three people suffered gunshot wounds after a man opened fire outside a pub in **Greenwich**, south-east London. The gunman got out of a car and started firing shots "randomly". Two people, a man and a woman have been arrested in connection with the shooting (*BBC*, 22 February 2009).

**Nottingham Evening Post**, 21 February 2009

Anton Mason has pleaded guilty to possession of a gun and ammunition without a certificate. Mason was in one of two opposing groups who were involved in a dispute in **Nottingham** in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). A gunshot may have been fired, but Mason's gun, which was later discovered in a bag, had never been fired. He denied possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, and as no evidence was offered a not guilty verdict will be entered. Nevertheless, he has been warned that a custodial sentence is inevitable.

**Local Guardian**, 21 February 2009

A stun gun was discovered along with a wad of cash and over a kilo of amphetamines during a police raid on a property in **Earlsfield**, south London. A man was arrested and charged with a number of offences including possession of a firearm.

**Eastern Daily Press**, 21 February 2009

Andrew Richardson of **Wymondham**, Norfolk, has been jailed for five years after admitting possession of a gun and ammunition without a certificate. He had shipped a .22 revolver and a number of live cartridges when he returned from America twelve years ago. He had failed to hand the weapon to police and kept it in storage. The police were notified when the gun and ammunition were found by an auction house in **Norwich** after Richardson had a dispute with a storage company over rent.

**This is Croydon Today**, 20 February 2009

Eric Whitmarsh from **Purley**, Surrey, has pleaded guilty to threatening his neighbour with a fake gun. A long-lasting dispute between the pair came to a head in November 2008 when Whitmarsh flew into a rage after a light was shone through his front window and he fetched the weapon, an **air rifle**, and pointed it in the direction of his neighbours. He pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and threatening behaviour. He was warned by the judge that "this is likely to result in a custodial sentence".

**North West Evening Mail**, 20 February 2009

Russell Treeby has been jailed for 12 months after police searched his home in **Ambleside**, Cumbria, and found a dismantled .22 **air rifle**. He had been banned from being in possession of the rifle because of previous offences. He pleaded guilty to possession of an air weapon and ammunition when prohibited and without a certificate.

**Newbury Today**, 19 February 2009

Police are trying to recover three guns stolen from a storage unit in **Lambourn**, Berkshire. The guns were a modern bolt-action **airgun**, a Sharps Inova pump gun and an old German **airgun**. Electronic equipment was also taken. The police have said that the guns would be dangerous if they fell into the wrong hands.

**Maldon Standard**, 19 February 2009

Two men shot at a bus with a **ball-bearing gun** as it travelled through **Tiptree**, Essex. No one was injured but it will cost about £1000 to replace the glass in the windows that were hit.

**Hampshire Chronicle**, 19 February 2009

A bus was forced to make an unscheduled stop when it was hit by what is believed to have been an **airgun** pellet in **North Baddesley**, Hampshire. Shards of glass were splattered into the hair of a woman passenger who was uninjured but shocked. Two boys, aged no more than 12, were seen running off after the incident.

**BBC**, 19 February 2009

One of two men arrested after bomb disposal experts were called to deal with a hand grenade found in a **Hull** street was held on suspicion of supplying a firearm. He has been bailed. The other man was freed without charge.

**BBC**, 19 February 2009

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of armed robbery over a raid at a store in **Wootton Bassett**, Wiltshire. A suspected **imitation firearm** was found near a car stopped by police and believed to have been used in the robbery.

**BBC**, 19 February 2009

A security van was held up in **Thetford**, Norfolk, by three robbers, one thought to have been armed with a gun. A quantity of cash was stolen. The robbery may be linked to another at a building society in Great Yarmouth (*BBC*, 20 February 2009).

**This is Exeter**, 18 February 2009

Homes, bus shelters and the community centre have all been targeted in **Exwick**, Exeter. Police believe that someone with an **airgun** may be responsible.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 18 February 2009

Drug dealer Stephen Perrett was jailed for thirteen-and-a-half years after being caught with thousands of pounds and an **airgun** at his properties in **Northampton**. One of his convictions was for having a firearm. He has since had his sentence reduced to 11 years on appeal.

**This is Derbyshire**, 17 February 2009

Mark Grey has been sentenced to a year in prison, suspended for two years, after admitting possession of an imitation firearm with the intention to cause fear of violence. He was ordered to do 150 hours' unpaid work. He had pointed the weapon, a **paintball gun**, at a police officer in **Ilkeston**, Derbyshire, in October 2008 and told her "Come any closer and I will shoot". She was unaware that the gun was an imitation firearm and she and her fellow officer believed it was a sawn-off shotgun. Their bravery in tackling Grey was praised by the trial judge.

**Northern Echo**, 17 February 2009

Lee Greaves, 16, was given an **air rifle** by his mother on his birthday threatened people in **Darlington** with the weapon. He has been given a two-year anti-social behaviour order. He was behind more than 60 public order incidents since 2006. His mother, Michelle Greaves, was given a six month parenting order.

**Evening Chronicle**, 17 February 2009

Two men have been charged with affray following an incident in **Ashington**, Northumberland. Police seized an **air rifle** and two knives.

**Daily Mail**, 17 February 2009

Ricky Hodgkinson bought an illegal Taser gun from a friend from £100, claiming he would carry it for self-defence. He was caught with the weapon by police who were called to a disturbance in **Darlaston**, West Midlands. He was charged with possessing an illegal weapon and has admitted possessing a weapon contrary to the Firearms Act 1968. The case was adjourned until sentencing next month.

**Crewe Chronicle**, 17 February 2009

A man was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in **Nantwich**, Cheshire. He was taken to hospital. His injuries were not life-threatening. The victim was walking when the shot was fired from a car (*The Sentinel*, 17 February 2009).

**Coventry Telegraph**, 17 February 2009

A shopkeeper foiled a robbery when he fought off a man who threatened him with a **ball-bearing gun** at his store in **Bedworth**, Warwickshire. The robber fled the scene empty-handed.

**Cambridge News**, 17 February 2009

A man has been charged with possession of a **sawn-off shotgun**, possession of ammunition for a firearm without a certificate and burglary after the weapon was discovered in a crackdown on house burglary in **Cambridge**.

**Birmingham Mail**, 17 February 2009

Two police officers are to be honoured for disarming a gunman in a street in **Dudley**, West Midlands, in October 2008. The persuaded the man to lay down his gun, a **replica air weapon**, which was a copy of a Glock used in the police force's own firearms operations. The gunman was charged with firearms operation but was later found to be suffering from mental health issues.

**BBC**, 17 February 2009

Two men, one armed with a gun, carried out a robbery at a video store in **Slough**, Berkshire. The staff were forced to open the safe and the men left with an undisclosed amount of money and some computer games. They left with a third man in a vehicle.

**BBC**, 17 February 2009

Three men and a woman have been arrested after an elderly couple were tied up and robbed at their home in **Pipewell**, Northamptonshire. The couple were tied up and threatened with what police believe was a handgun. The gang took banks cards and withdrew cash.

**Warrington Guardian**, 16 February 2009

Dale Roberts, 19, stole knives and an **air rifle** from a flat in **Birchwood**, Cheshire. A computer and two mobile phones were also taken. He targeted the home with friends in September 2008. The following day police arrested a 16-year-old who was shooting an air rifle (he was later prosecuted over using the gun) and admitted keeping watch whilst two accomplices gained access to the property. Roberts was arrested and admitted the burglary charge. He has been jailed for eight months.

**Milton Keynes Citizen**, 16 February 2009

Two men armed with a gun threatened a member of staff at a supermarket in **Milton Keynes** and forced him to open a safe. The robbers took money and the victim's mobile phone.

**Kilburn Times**, 16 February 2009

Two schoolboys, aged 14 and 15, are being questioned by police in connection with a double shooting which left two older teenagers in a serious condition in hospital. The shooting took place in **Neasden**, north west London. A third arrest has been made (*In the News*, 17 February 2009).

**Ilkley Gazette**, 16 February 2009

A man was arrested by police in **Menston**, West Yorkshire, by police investigating two armed robberies in **Harrogate**, North Yorkshire. He has been charged with two counts of robbery and two counts of possessing a firearm.

**Epping Forest Guardian**, 16 February 2009

A businessman was lured to an ambush and robbed of £15,000 cash at gunpoint outside the underground station in **Theydon Bois**, Essex. He was threatened by two men with a pistol. The meeting had been arranged on eBay.

**BBC**, 16 February 2009

A 19-year-old who surrendered himself to the police is being questioned about an armed robbery at a filling station shop in **Benfleet**, Essex. A cashier was threatened with a handgun and a three figure sum of cash stolen.

**BBC**, 16 February 2009

A man was found with a gunshot injury to his head in **Leeds**. He remains in a stable condition in hospital.

**Evening Gazette**, 14 February 2009

A robber entered a newsagents in **Middlesbrough** and threatened the shop owner with a hammer and **BB gun**. The victim picked up a broom and pushed him away before escaping from the shop. The robber was left alone in the store but soon ran off, apparently empty-handed.

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 February 2009

Robert Hoskins has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to possession of a lethal firearm and ten rounds of ammunition. The 9mm pistol was found hidden in a bag when police raided his girlfriend's home in **Newtown**, Birmingham, in September 2008. Hoskins had originally been charged with attempted murder following a shooting in **Newtown** in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) but the case was dropped because of insufficient evidence.

**BBC**, 14 February 2009

A man armed with a small black handgun stole about £3000 in cash from a betting shop in **Worthing**, West Sussex. No-one was injured but the staff were left shaken.

**BBC**, 14 February 2009

The owner of a post office in **Woking**, Surrey, was threatened and tied up by a robber armed with a knife and a handgun. The robber left with a quantity of cash after searching the premises for some time.

**Whitby Gazette**, 13 February 2009

Police are investigating the possibility a pellet gun was used to shoot a hole in the window of a house in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. An **air rifle** or a **BB gun** seems to have been used.

**The Sentinel**, 13 February 2009

Two men were arrested when police officers approached a car at traffic lights in **Hanley**, Staffordshire, in connection with firearms offences. A property in **Burslem** will be searched.

**Newbury Today**, 13 February 2009

A .22 bolt action rifle with telescopic sight was stolen from a car parked in **Speen**, Berkshire. According to the owner the weapon was not in view. A jacket and scarf were also taken.

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

Four men held over reports of a firearm being carried in a vehicle on the M6 near **Stoke-on-Trent** have been released without charge.

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

A disabled man was held at gunpoint in his bed at his home in **Kettering**, Northamptonshire, by two men, one believed to be armed with a handgun. The raiders stole a large amount of cash.

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

A man and a woman were questioned on suspicion of possession of a dangerous dog, along with drugs and firearms offences after being arrested in **Drighlington**, West Yorkshire, by police investigating organised dog fighting.

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

A gun has been recovered and a man arrested after a man was assaulted in **Newton**, Greater Manchester.

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

A man was shot in the head while at home in **Burgess Hill**, West Sussex. A bullet was fired through the window. He was released from hospital after being given stitches.

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

A driver was shot dead outside a restaurant in **Tottenham**, north London. He died shortly after arrival at hospital. A man has been arrested in connection with the shooting (*Press Association*, 14 February 2009).

**BBC**, 13 February 2009

Three men, Mark Osbourne, Tony Osbourne and Wayne Collins, have been convicted of killing a man in **Romford**, Essex, in June 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Nine bullets were fired at the victim from a sub-machine gun. The victim had owed the Osbourne brothers, who were drug dealers, £28000. Sentencing will occur later.

**This is Surrey Today**, 12 February 2009

A pensioner had a gun, a black handgun, pointed at his head and was punched more than 15 times during a robbery at his home in **Bletchingley**, Surrey. Two men burst into the house but the victim managed to flee after shutting them inside one of his rooms. By the time the police arrived the suspects had disappeared.

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

Police seized suspected cocaine, an **air pistol** and a **ball bearing gun** at a property in **Bovey Tracey**, Devon. A man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance.

**Daily Mail**, 12 February 2009

An armed gang of five men stormed a flat in **Croydon**, south London, fired a gun and threatened a five-year-old girl. Her father was marched into another room and pistol-whipped as the men demanded to know what valuables were in the property. The robbers fled with several items.

**Bognor Regis Observer**, 12 February 2009

Steven Russell has pleaded guilty to threatening armed police with an **air rifle** and a samurai sword at his home in **Bognor Regis**, Sussex, in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was warned he would face a jail term.

**BBC**, 12 February 2009

Two **shotguns** worth £5000 each have been stolen from a house in **Stamford**, Lincolnshire. The guns were taken from a cabinet which was forced off the wall.

**BBC**, 12 February 2009

A man suffered a gunshot wound when he was shot at a house in **Thornaby**, Teesside. His injury is not thought to be life-threatening. Three people, including a woman and a teenager, have been arrested.

**This is Plymouth**, 11 February 2009

A 9-year-old boy was left "covered in blood" after being shot in the head by a sniper with a **BB gun** in **Plymouth**. The boy was on his way home when he was hit. He was taken to hospital with a bad cut to his head, but an X-ray showed he had not sustained any serious injuries.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 11 February 2009

A man has apparently shot himself dead in a city centre park in **Southampton**. Local residents told of hearing a gun shot while others heard screams. Police are not treating the death as suspicious.

**The Journal**, 11 February 2009

A 17-year-old driver was left in shock when he and two passengers were showered in glass after a ball bearing smashed through his car window in **Chester-le-Street**, County Durham. Police believe it may have been fired from an **airgun**.

**Daily Mail**, 11 February 2009

A group of people attending a party at a pub in **Castle Donington**, Leicestershire, were seen carrying guns by a passer-by and police were alerted. The guns turned out to be **cap guns** or **water pistols**. The party-goers claimed the response was "so over the top" but the police said that they have a duty to treat all reports of firearms as genuine.

**Chester Chronicle**, 11 February 2009

A group of teenagers, aged around 15, were shot at with an **air rifle** as they stood on a street in **Blacon**, Chester. Three of them were shot, a girl and a boy were hit in the legs and a third victim was hit in the face. None of them was seriously injured but the police said that the pellets could have caused serious life-changing injuries.

**BBC**, 11 February 2009

A teenager was shot in the head in a pub car park in the **Halfway** area of Sheffield. He was taken to hospital but discharged himself after treatment. The police believe that a **shotgun** was used in the attack.

**This is Somerset**, 10 February 2009

Sean Schuster-Lammas brought back a stun gun as a holiday souvenir from Thailand and kept it in a drawer at his home in **Holcombe**, Somerset. It was found by police following a tip-off. He has pleaded guilty to possessing a weapon, contrary to the Firearms Act and was placed under a two-week curfew order requiring him to stay indoors overnight.

**Oxford Mail**, 10 February 2009

A man walked into a corner shop in **Wheatley**, Oxfordshire, and threatened a member of staff with what is believed to be a handgun. He demanded cash and he was refused the robber struck the victim over the head with the weapon. A small amount of cash was stolen. The incident is linked to a recent robbery at a garage in **Marston**, Oxford. A man has appeared in court charged with four counts of robbery in Marston, Wheatley, Beckley and Headington, one of attempted robbery and two firearms offences (*BBC*, 16 February 2009). A second man has been charged with assisting an offender (*BBC*, 23 February 2009).

**Local Guardian**, 10 February 2009

A drug dealer was found in possession of a Mac-10 sub machine gun during a search of his home in **Mitcham**, Surrey. David Swaby was arrested during an undercover operation targeting drug dealing and admitted possessing weapons, ammunition, drugs and stolen goods. He has been jailed for seven years. The gun had been converted by Grant Wilkinson, who was jailed for adapting ninety machine guns (see [August 2008 Incidents](#)), and had been used to kill a man in Chingford, north London, in November 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). Two men were convicted of the murder and jailed for life in November 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 10 February 2009

Four masked men, one of whom was armed with a handgun, attacked a motorist and stole his car in the centre of **Liverpool**. Their victim was attacked with a wheel brace.

**BBC**, 10 February 2009

Richard Harrison-Allen, 20, has been convicted of murdering a 17-year-old in **Stoke Newington**, east London, in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot by two gunmen. Harrison-Allen and the victim were members of rival gangs, although it was unlikely that he was the intended victim.

**Asian News**, 10 February 2009

A woman and a teenage boy have been jailed after police officers found a loaded gun (a Baikal self-loading pistol) on top of an outbuilding next to the woman's house in **Levenshulme**, Greater Manchester, in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Both pleaded guilty. Fahmeeda Begum was given two-and-a-half year sentence. The boy, who was also charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, was sentenced to two years in a young offenders' institute.

**Romford Recorder**, 9 February 2009

A 16-year-old was shot in the face when an **air rifle** was fired at him in a park in **Collier Row**, east London. The pellet was removed under anaesthetic but the victim "could have been dead" if he was hit inches higher in the eye.

**Rochdale Online**, 9 February 2009

A **shotgun** was fired during an armed robbery at a store in **Rochdale**, Lancashire. No-one was injured by the shot which was fired by a man as he tried to escape.

**Reading Evening Post**, 9 February 2009

A teenager, originally from **West Reading**, has denied one count of using a firearm to cause fear and violence in people and one of attempted robbery. He has been released on bail.

**Mid Cheshire Chronicle**, 9 February 2009

A man threatened a female worker with a firearm at a bank in **Winsford**, Cheshire. He escaped with cash stuffed into a holdall which he had instructed the woman to pass to him from the safe.

**Evening Leader**, 9 February 2009

Two teenagers, aged 15 and 18, were treated for gunshot wounds to the face after taking themselves to hospital with superficial injuries following an attack in **Norris Green**, Liverpool. A 15-year-old boy has been released on bail after being arrested with the double shooting (*BBC*, 12 February 2009).

**Bury Times**, 9 February 2009

Three men have been charged with possession of a firearm without a certificate after the death in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) of a teenage girl who was shot in the eye with an air weapon in **Bury**.

**BBC**, 9 February 2009

A 17-year-old is in a serious but stable condition after being shot in **Camberwell**, south-east London.

**BBC**, 9 February 2009

Gary Oddy was jailed for seven years in October 2008 after admitting possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He had pointed a gun at his ex-wife and fired a shot about her head in her home in **Wellingborough**, Northamptonshire. The Court of Appeal has now reduced his sentence by one year, finding that he should be rewarded for his guilty plea.

**BBC**, 9 February 2009

Three men have been released on bail after a gun was fired at a house in **Sarisbury Green**, Hampshire, for the second time in a month. The first incident occurred in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Nobody was hurt.

**Evening Star**, 8 February 2009

Mark Stagg, described as a prolific offender, wielded a **BB gun** in **Ipswich** town centre after stealing the weapon in a burglary. He has been jailed for two-and-a-half years after pleading guilty to charges of affray and burglary. He had produced the gun at a takeaway and demanded a kebab. He then claimed he was only joking and was removed from the shop. He was later seen pointing the gun at women and his own head before being arrested.

**Birmingham Post**, 8 February 2009

Police are appealing for witnesses after shots were fired in a street in **Birmingham**. No one was injured in the incident but a car was damaged.

**BBC**, 8 February 2009

A murder investigation has been launched after a man was shot dead in **Stonebridge**, north west London. He was found with gunshot wounds and died in hospital. One man has appeared in court charged with murder and four other people, including a boy of 15, have been arrested in connection with the shooting (*BBC*, 19 February 2009).

**Newham Recorder**, 7 February 2009

A **sawn-off shotgun** and drugs were recovered by police from an address in **Manor Park**, east London. A 17-year-old was arrested at the scene and charged with possession of a prohibited weapon and possession with intent to supply controlled drugs.

**BBC**, 7 February 2009

Four men, two aged 20 and two aged 19, were arrested and two guns seized after an armed robbery at a store in **Gorton**, Greater Manchester. Masked men had burst into the shop armed with rifles, threatened staff and demanded money. They stole three cash registers before running out of the store.

**The Argus**, 7 February 2009

Armed police carrying machine guns swooped on a quiet street in **Hove**, Sussex, after reports that a man pointed a **toy gun** at a baby. The gun was realistic enough for the police to be called. In January there were two other incidents in the area involving imitation guns, one when a man carrying a handgun was seen getting into a car and another in which a taxi driver stood up to two teenagers who threatened him with a toy gun.

**Epping Forest Guardian**, 6 February 2009

Kenneth Spence has admitted firing a **sawn-off shotgun** at a police officer in his patrol car in **Loughton**, Essex, in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The officer had stopped Spence's car after it was seen going through a red light. Spence had earlier shot his friend in the shoulder. He pleaded guilty to attempted murder, weapon possession and grievous bodily harm for shooting his friend and was sentenced to 22 years, seven years and eight years, respectively for the offences. He will serve a minimum of 11 years.

**BBC**, 6 February 2009

A man has been charged with attempted murder after a car was shot at in **Heywood**, Greater Manchester, in January 2009. He was also charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and witness intimidation. A second man has been charged (*BBC*, 23 February 2009).

**BBC**, 6 February 2009

A security guard was threatened with a firearm during a robbery at a supermarket in **Daventry**, Northamptonshire. The man escaped with a substantial amount of cash.

**BBC**, 6 February 2009

Police found a gun in a carriage on a train in **Reading** and arrested four suspected armed robbers, three of whom were teenagers. The robbers had stolen cash, mobile phones and wallets from a property in the town.

**Hartlepool Mail**, 5 February 2009

A police helicopter was scrambled after reports a man had been spotted with a gun in **Castle Eden Dene Nature Reserve**, County Durham. A teenager was found and although he had no weapon he was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 5 February 2009

A car has been hit by an **airgun** pellet whilst parked in **Harwich**, Essex. The damage will cost £400 to repair.

**BBC**, 5 February 2009

Kevin Fairweather threatened two police officers with a gun after firing shots indiscriminately in the centre of **West Bromwich**, West Midlands, in May 2008. He had been convicted of two firearms offences and has been jailed for ten years.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 4 February 2009

An 18-year-old is on trial facing charges of robbery and possession of an imitation firearm. The robbery took place at a shop in **Bradford** in April 2008. Three men entered the shop armed with a hammer, a screwdriver and a gun, later found to be a black plastic **ball-bearing gun**. They pointed the gun at the shopkeeper and stole up to £700 and lottery scratch cards. The gun was pointed at their victim who told the court that he 'feared he would be shot'. Natheem Zafir was found guilty and has been jailed for nine years (*Telegraph & Argus*, 5 February 2009).

**Reading Evening Post**, 4 February 2009

An unlicensed **.22 air rifle** was among nearly 30 items discovered by police during a raid on a house in **Whitley**, Reading, in an operation to beat burglary.

**BBC**, 4 February 2009

**Imitation firearms** were among items, which also included drugs and stolen goods, recovered during a series of raids across **Northumberland**. Police arrested 13 people for various offences including firearms offences.

**BBC**, 4 February 2009

A man who was carrying what staff thought was a gun, stole an undisclosed amount of cash from a building society in **Bexhill**, East Sussex.

**BBC**, 4 February 2009

A man has been arrested after another man was found with leg injuries following a shooting in **Speke**, Merseyside. A gun was found nearby. The victim's injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

**This is Total Essex**, 3 February 2009

A couple were ordered to hand over cash at gunpoint by two armed men who burst into their home in **Epping**, Essex. The attackers fled, dropping the magazine from the gun which turned out to be a **blank-firing imitation weapon**.

**This is Somerset**, 3 February 2009

A man in a car pulled a gun on a 15-year-old boy as he walked along a road in **Worle**, Somerset. The man was shouting but the boy carried on walking and later alerted police officers to the incident. There were three others in the car at the time.

**Norwich Evening News**, 3 February 2009

A 17-year-old youth has admitted being in possession of a machete and a loaded **air rifle** in a public place. He had met up with two adult friends on a riverbank in **Norwich** and they were taking it in turns to shoot at the bridge and some tins with the rifle. A passing police officer spotted the youth picking up a machete. The youth was given a six-month referral order.

**Manchester Evening News**, 3 February 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after reports that shots were fired from the window of a flat in the centre of **Manchester**. It is understood the shots were fired from an **airgun**.

**Hunts Post**, 3 February 2009

Graham Rivers, an ex-prisoner, has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition. A condition of his release from prison was that he could not possess a firearm for five years. Whilst staying at a woman's flat in **St Neots**, Cambridgeshire, he had pointed her **air rifle** out of a window when a group of youths tried to get into the flat in January 2009. Police found air rifle pellets in his pocket. In mitigation it was claimed he had been trying to scare off the youths. He was given an 18 month conditional discharged and ordered to pay costs.

**Echo (Essex)**, 3 February 2009

Ball bearings shattered a window of a bus and went through the windscreen when **BB guns** were fired four times at it in **Billericay**, Essex. The driver managed to keep control and stop the bus safely. The guns were fired from the roadside and caused £1500 of damage.

**Northern Echo**, 2 February 2009

Two robbers made off with cash after threatening staff at a building society in **Harrogate**, North Yorkshire, with a pistol. This follows two armed robberies at a post office and a car wash in the town last month (see [January 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Manchester Evening News**, 2 February 2009

Two women were robbed at gunpoint when a gang of three men armed with a **shotgun** broke into a home in **Northern Moor**, Manchester. The men stole items from the house and two cars.

**Echo (Essex)**, 2 February 2009

A man brandished a black handgun at a shop assistant during a robbery at an off licence in **Eastwood**, Essex. The assistant handed over a three figure sum of cash from the till to him, A second man leaned over the counter and grabbed three packets of cigarettes.

**BBC**, 2 February 2009

A woman was tied up and robbed at gunpoint in her home in **Weybridge**, Surrey. The thief stole cash and jewellery.

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## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 24 February 2009

Wayne Lengel has been jailed for three years and eight months after he was caught with heroin worth £75,000 in Aberdeen. He said he had fled **Aberdeen** for **Wolverhampton** but that a gun was put to his head and he was told to go back to deal drugs.

**Press Association**, 21 February 2009

A man armed with what appeared to be a firearm threatened two security officers as they were carrying cash at a bank in **Riddrie**, Glasgow. He made off with a five figure sum of cash.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 19 February 2009

Four men armed with what appeared to be a sawn-off shotgun tried to rob a bridal shop in **Slateford**, Edinburgh, but were chased from the premises almost empty-handed. They had stolen two handbags from customers. The gun was later recovered by police and found to be an **imitation weapon**.

**Clydebank Post**, 11 February 2009

Shots were allegedly fired from an **air weapon** into a street in **Faifley**, West Dunbartonshire, and armed police were then involved in a stand off lasting an hour-and-a-half. The police discharged a taser stun gun and a man was arrested. He will appear on charges of culpable and reckless discharge of a firearm, aggravated bail, and obstructing the police.

**BBC**, 10 February 2009

Ian McDonald pointed a **fake gun** at staff at a betting shop in **Bothwell**, South Lanarkshire, in August 2008 and stole £980. He was recognised from CCTV footage. When police searched his house they found a Colt BB gun along with two other BB guns. He pleaded guilty to presenting an imitation firearm and demanding money and robbing one of the staff. Sentencing was deferred.

**BBC**, 5 February 2009

An armed gang of four men, one of whom was armed with a gun, burst into a house in **Shawlands**, Glasgow, and fled with jewellery and more than £10,000. The homeowner was being treated for serious injuries in hospital after being struck on the head with a hammer.

**The Herald**, 4 February 2009

A newsagent was violently assaulted during a robbery at his shop in **Shawlands**, Glasgow. Three men burst into the shop, and when he refused to hand over any money he was smashed on the head with the butt of a gun. The men fled with a quantity of cigarettes.

**BBC**, 4 February 2009

Stephen Pollock jr has been jailed for 56 months after he pointed an **imitation gun** at a three-year-old at a flat in **Glasgow** in June 2008. The court was told that he was looking for someone who attacked him earlier. He admitted presenting an imitation firearm at the child. His father was also jailed for carrying a knife during the same incident.

**BBC**, 4 February 2009

A security guard was threatened with a gun at a retail park in **Glasgow**. He was left uninjured but extremely traumatised. The robbers escaped with thousands of pounds.

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## WALES

**BBC**, 27 February 2009

A man threatened to shoot a post office worker during an attempted robbery in **Swansea**. The victim believes she saw a dark coloured metal tube sticking out from the man's jacket. The panic alarm was pressed and the suspect escaped empty handed by bike.

**Daily Post**, 9 February 2009

A gunman robbed a betting shop in **Llandudno**, Conwy. He walked into the premises with what appeared to be a handgun in a black plastic bag and escaped with around £300 in cash.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Skegness Standard**, 24 February 2009

A number of birds and squirrels appear to have been shot with an **air rifle** on a pathway in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire. An x-ray of one of the birds appears to show an air rifle pellet inside it.

**BBC**, 24 February 2009

A swan died after being shot out of the sky as it flew over a field in **Wigston**, Leicestershire. The bird was hit in the stomach with a **shotgun** pellet.

**Banbury Cake**, 24 February 2009

A family cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Banbury**, Oxfordshire. Five internal organs were hit. Vets have rated her chances of survival as 50/50.

**Get Surrey**, 20 February 2009

Two swans found dead at a golf club in **Worplesdon**, Surrey, both had puncture wound to their heads. The RSPCA believes the birds were either shot with an **airgun** or savaged by a dog.

**The Sentinel**, 16 February 2009

A cat was shot in the bottom of the stomach with an **airgun** in **Kidsgrove**, Staffordshire. His owners are offering a reward for information about the shooting.

**Evening Herald (Plymouth)**, 10 February 2009

A family from **Plymstock**, Devon, whose cat was shot dead with a **.22 air rifle**, have been given a new kitten by a reader of the newspaper.

**Dewsbury Reporter**, 5 February 2009

More than 30 birds have been shot dead on the Spen Valley Greenway in West Yorkshire in the last month. The birds have been found by a walker on a stretch between **Heckmondwike** and **Norristhorpe**. Last week he saw two youths killing a song thrush in front of him. The youths threatened him and the police have been alerted. One of the youths was waving round an air rifle customised to look like a sawn-off shotgun. Thirty one of the dead birds have been shot with an **air rifle**.

**Hartlepool Mail**, 5 February 2009

A cygnet had to be put down after a rampage with an **air rifle** in a park in **Hartlepool** which left two other birds dead.

**Louth Leader**, 3 February 2009

A kestrel will never fly again after being shot with an **airgun**. It was found in a barn in **Mablethorpe**, Lincolnshire. Its right wing had been broken in several places and a vet removed an airgun pellet and had to amputate the wounded wing.

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