



FEBRUARY 2010 - POINTS TO NOTE

The Monthly Lists of Gun Incidents compiled by Gun Control Network illustrate the problems being caused by guns of all types across Great Britain. Whilst confirming many of the trends seen in official statistics, for example the lower numbers of gun homicides and injuries, they also reveal other trends in gun crime that may not be immediately apparent from official statistics or are overlooked because of the limitations of the published data. We now plan to highlight these issues as exemplified by some of each month's incidents. This month we refer to incidents from both January and February. The January Summary can be found at <http://www.gun-control-network.org/INS0110.htm>

1. Shotguns

Some time ago GCN noted an apparent increase in the number of serious incidents involving **shotguns** and had begun to highlight all incidents involving them. Last August the Metropolitan Police reported a 57 percent increase in the use of shotguns in crime and warned shotgun owners about the theft of their weapons. We are concerned that some owners adopt a casual attitude to shotgun ownership, something reflected in a number of recent incidents. In November 2009 a licensed shotgun owner on his way to a shoot left his weapon on a wall in Streatham, south London. It was hours before he realised what he had done and in the meantime the gun had been taken.

The most recent data for England and Wales, released by the Home Office in January, showed that the misappropriation of shotguns increased dramatically. At 682, the number misappropriated in 2008/09 was more than twice that for the previous year and higher than at any time in the last ten years.

It is not only misappropriation that causes concerns. A number of recent incidents have involved apparently licensed owners themselves:

Northern Echo, 26 February 2010

Andrew Ardle twice fired a sawn-off shotgun at a man whom he wrongly suspected of trying to "chat up" his wife. The incident took place in **Stanley**, County Durham, in August 2009. His victim gave chase by car and the chase ended when he shunted Ardle's car in **Durham City**. Ardle was found near his damaged vehicle with his legally-held **Beretta 12-bore shotgun** which he had illegally shortened the day before. He was jailed for seven years after admitting two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a fear of violence, possessing a loaded shotgun in a public place, shortening a shotgun and possessing a prohibited firearm. His victim admitted dangerous driving and was given a suspended prison sentence and was banned from driving.

Daily Record, 30 January 2010

A park manager is alleged to have brandished a **shotgun** at one of his workers at a country park near **Cumbernauld**, North Lanarkshire. The allegation is one of a list of complaints upheld against him. He has, however, not been fired from his job.

Devon 24, 28 January 2010

Concern has been expressed about the use of a **shotgun** on land in **Honiton**, Devon. It appears to be uncertain whether it was on private or public land.

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.

Watford Observer, 26 January 2010

A man has been seen carrying a **shotgun** on **Croxley Common Moor**, Hertfordshire, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest where hunting with firearms is banned. The man was approached by a local councillor but he ran off. Previously illegal deer hunters have targeted the moor.

News & Star, 19 January 2010

Allen Williams and Matthew Cook went shooting with **shotguns** on private farmland with the permission of the owner, but decided to move to a nearby hillside for target practice with an empty can. They were stopped by police on a road in **Shap**, Cumbria. Cook pleaded guilty to having a single barrel 20 bore shotgun and Williams admitted having a 12 bore over and under double barrel firearm, which he held lawfully. They must each do 80 hours of unpaid community work. The gun belonging to Williams will be destroyed, the smaller gun has been returned to its lawful owner.

Kirkintilloch Herald, 12 January 2010

A man was seen walking in woods in **Stepps**, North Lanarkshire, carrying a **shotgun** and wearing camouflaged clothing. It is thought the man may have been hunting and, following the incident in November 2009, the local Community Council are concerned for the safety of walkers in the beauty spot.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 9 January 2010

A landowner has appeared in court accused of threatening a hot air balloon passenger with a **shotgun** when the balloon landed near **Towcester**, Northamptonshire. She pleaded not guilty to charges of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and assaulting the victim on the same occasion.

2. Armed Robberies

The number of armed raids on "soft" targets such as Bookmakers and Corner Shops involving guns would appear to be on the increase, with at least 46 recorded in our lists during January and February. It is noteworthy that when the alleged perpetrators are charged it is frequently with offences involving imitation firearms. We believe that despite a recent fall in the official number of imitation firearm offences their use in crime is being underestimated in Home Office figures, probably because they are being described as handguns. Access to imitation guns remains too easy and their contribution to armed robbery must be suitably acknowledged.

3. Imitation Guns and the Cost of Armed Response

We record many instances in which an armed response unit is called to incidents which are later found to involve someone with an imitation gun. In January there was another instance of a person who assumed that because he was going to a fancy dress party there would be no problem carrying a gun. After the latest incident in Weymouth, which involved a BB gun, a neighbour blamed the police for overreacting saying the operation was a waste of public money. Can police be expected to know in advance whether or not a reported weapon is an imitation? No, the blame lies squarely with those who think that because they are aware their gun is an imitation it will be obvious to everyone else.

Dorset Echo, 2 January 2010

Armed police surrounded a house in **Weymouth**, Dorset, after reports that a man was brandishing a gun. He was reported to have been leaning out of the window of a car with a handgun in his hand. The man was found to be preparing for a fancy dress party and had a **BB gun** as part of his costume. He had been to a friend's house to borrow the gun.

The Argus, 5 January 2010

A woman has been spoken to by the police after she carried an imitation machine gun through a housing estate in **Brighton**. She was not formally arrested. She claimed she did not know it was a crime to carry the **replica SA80 assault rifle** in public. The BB gun will be destroyed.

There is a cost to the public purse of their thoughtless behaviour. It is worth repeating the comments of a Hampshire police officer who described another incident in 2008 as "a needless waste of police resources to respond to somebody who should know better. *One hour of armed response equates to 27 hours of regular policing* - just think what these officers could have been doing with that time".

We would urge the introduction of measures to make those whose actions spark an armed response contribute towards its cost.

4. Airguns

According to the latest Home Office statistics the number of offences involving airguns is significantly down, yet the number of people being shot at and hit every month remains significant. At least ten people were hit during February. Some were injured seriously enough to require hospital treatment, including a 3-year-old boy from Selkirk. The inquest in February into the death of 10-year-old Rhys Johnson was a reminder that these are lethal weapons. The case of a group of teenagers who shot three under-5s at a birthday party in Melton Mowbray highlights the callousness or stupidity displayed by too many with access to airguns. The only way to get these weapons away from those who abuse or misuse them and from owners who fail to keep them safe is to treat airguns like every other firearm and introduce a compulsory system of registration.

All the airgun incidents reported in 2010 can be found at <http://www.gun-control-network.org/Airgun%20Incidents%202010.pdf>

FEBRUARY 2010 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were two fatal shooting incidents reported during February, a homicide and an apparent suicide. A man has been charged with murder after a male victim, who had also been stabbed, died from a shotgun wound at a house in Alderley Edge (Cheshire). A young sailor is believed have shot himself onboard a vessel berthed at Faslane Naval Base (Argyll and Bute).
- Twenty five other people were wounded in incidents in which guns were fired:
 - Cambridgeshire (1) - a farmer was shot when he disturbed intruders on his land in Waterbeach
 - Hertfordshire (1) - a man was shot at a house in Lilley (Hertfordshire) in what police believe was a targeted attack
 - London (2) - a shopworker was shot in the neck with a handgun during a robbery at an off licence in Haringey, and a 16-year-old was shot in the back and arm in Bow
 - Merseyside (4) - a man was shot in the leg in Belle Vale, an 18-year-old was shot in the arm and chest in Kirkdale (two men have been arrested), a man was shot in the arm in Aigburth (one man was arrested), and a fourth male victim was shot in West Derby after attending a wake
 - Nottinghamshire (2) - two men were shot and wounded outside a pub in Gotham (Nottinghamshire) (one man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder)
 - South Yorkshire (1) - a woman was injured in the leg at her home in Tootley (Sheffield) - police were unsure if she was deliberately shot or hit by flying debris from shots fired by intruders
- Fourteen, one a 3-year-old boy, were shot with **airguns** or other **pellet guns**:
 - Berkshire (1) - a cyclist was shot in the back with an air rifle in Reading
 - Cambridgeshire (1) - a 17-year-old was shot in the leg with an airgun whilst walking in Orton Malbourne
 - Cornwall (1) - a 14-year-old boy was shot in the neck with an air rifle in Penwithick Park (Cornwall)
 - Derbyshire (1) - a man was shot with an air rifle while playing golf in Barlborough
 - Devon (1) - a man reported being shot in the chest with what is believe to have been an air weapon in Plymouth
 - Lincolnshire (1) - a railway worker was shot with an airgun on tracks near Gainsborough (Lincolnshire)
 - Merseyside (2) - two people, a man and a woman, were apparently struck outside a wine bar in Liverpool when a pellet gun was fired
 - Scotland (2) - a man was hit in the elbow when an airgun was fired into a street in Ardrossan (Ayrshire) (two men, one a teenager, were arrested), and a 3-year-old boy was taken to hospital after being shot in the chest with an air rifle in Selkirk
 - Wales (1) - a man apparently shot himself with an air rifle in Pontardawe (West Glamorgan) and has been left blinded in one eye, lost the use of his leg and now suffers seizures
 - West Midlands (1) - a dog walker was shot in the face with an airgun in Moxley
 - Worcestershire (2) - two people were both shot in the face with an air rifle in Worcester
- A man was injured with a stun gun by a gang who pushed their way into a home in Tunbridge Wells (Kent).
- A man was hit with a firearm after being chased by a gang in Halewood (Merseyside) (two teenage boys were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm and assault).

- Inquests into the deaths of three men who died from shotgun wounds in Stinchcombe (Gloucestershire) in 2008 and in Leighton Buzzard (Bedfordshire) and North Newton (Somerset) in 2009 found they had all taken their own lives.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks and Post Offices** (6) in Highgate (north London) (no gun seen), Coventry, Henley (Oxfordshire), Redditch (stun gun), Ashton-under-Lyne (Greater Manchester) (a security guard was threatened with a shotgun) and Glasgow, **Bookmakers** (10) in Liverpool (imitation firearm) (two men have been charged), Peterborough (handgun), Seven Kings (east London), Bolton (Greater Manchester), Possil and Parkhead (both in Glasgow), Uddingston, Muirhead, Ballieston and Moodiesburn (Lanarkshire) (the last three involving the same two suspects), a **Fast Food Outlet** (1) in Thorpe Bay (Essex), **Petrol Stations** (2) in Newhaven (East Sussex) (handgun) and Prestwich (Manchester) (handgun), **Shops** (16) in Elsenham (Essex), Pinehurst (Wiltshire) (an imitation gun), Leamington (Warwickshire), Canvey (Essex) (an air pistol was fired), Rainham (Kent) (a shop manager was kidnapped), Hurst Green (Surrey) (shotgun), Bolnore (West Sussex) (a handgun was fired twice; two men have been arrested), Hackney and Green Lanes (north London) (a shopworker was shot in the neck in Green Lanes; the two robberies are being linked), Warwick, Seaton Delaval (Northumberland) (shotgun), Greenock (Renfrewshire), Kilmaurs (Ayrshire) (two armed robberies on the same premises), Coatdyke (North Lanarkshire) and Fforestfach (Swansea), and a **Travel Agency** (1) in Ashford (Surrey).
- In robberies on **Homes** a shotgun was pointed at a baby in Bramley (West Yorkshire) and a group of youths armed with a handgun stole cash and jewellery from a house in Silsoe (Bedfordshire).
- In **Street** robberies a man was robbed outside a restaurant in Fordhouses (Wolverhampton) (men with a handgun stole a gold necklace), and a girl was robbed of her purse in Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire). Three 16-year-old boys from Surbiton and Kingston (south west London) face trial for allegedly using a fake gun to rob people of cash and mobile phones.
- A **Taxi** driver was robbed of his takings at gun- and knifepoint in Leeds (four men have been arrested). A **Truck** driver was kidnapped at gunpoint and his lorry stolen when he stopped at an industrial estate in Deeside (Clwyd) - the truck was later found burnt out minus its load of sportswear. A female **Car** driver was stopped by a gunman in Shevington (Lancashire) who stole the vehicle (a man faces a number of charges including possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence).
- Two shots were fired at a farmer (two men have been arrested) during an attempted robbery at a **Farm** in Buckland Newton (Dorset).
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
 - at a house in Preston (Lancashire) in a drive-by shooting
 - at a house in Toxteth (Merseyside) where a back window was damaged
 - at a flat in Shettleston (Glasgow) by two masked men
 - in a street in Croydon (south London)
 - at road signs in Burford, Shilton, Carterton and Brize Norton (Oxfordshire) - it has been suggested that a rifle was used
 - at the site of a bus station in Slough (Berkshire) where a shotgun was discharged - a man has been arrested
- Three people have complained that they were nearly hit by shots fired by police who were trying to kill a runaway cow in Kendal (Cumbria) - an investigation is underway.
- A man from West Ham (east London) has been charged with the attempted murder of a work colleague at whom he is alleged to have pointed a gun and run down in a car.

- A pistol was found at a college in Kingston-upon-Thames (Surrey) and a student arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of cannabis. An 18-year-old faces three charges after being found with a revolver and ammunition in Camberwell (south London).
 - A man is alleged to have wielded a handgun in front of customers at a pub in Blackburn (Lancashire) - a man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm.
 - A man from Cherry Burton (East Yorkshire) has appeared in court and pleaded not guilty to two charges of possession of a firearm without a certificate.
 - Trains had to be halted when a man was seen pointing a rifle at a train near Odsey (Hertfordshire) - a shooting party was hunting on nearby farmland.
 - Two men have been charged with allegedly trespassing on land in Strathdon (Aberdeenshire) while carrying a shotgun.
 - A passenger is alleged to have threatened to shoot a railway station worker at the station in Westbury (Wiltshire).
 - In two other incidents a person was seen with a gun but no one was caught: police found no evidence of a weapon following reports that a man had been spotted with a gun in Barnstaple (Devon) and police failed to trace a youth seen with a gun in Butts Copse (Isle of Wight).
 - Three men who were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence were all released without charge - one of the men from Crosspool (Sheffield) was told that the police had been acting on an incorrect tip-off.
 - A man from Crouch Hill (north London), one of three charged with robbery, has also been charged with possession of a stun gun.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents in which a person was hit (see above) there were many other incidents involving airguns and imitation weapons. They were probably used in many of the **armed robberies** and this was definitely the case in incidents in Liverpool, Pinehurst (Wiltshire) and Canvey (Essex), and in robberies allegedly committed by three 16-year-olds from south west London. A man arrested for an aggravated burglary in Wichelstowe (Wiltshire) in January has been charged with a number of offences including possessing an imitation firearm.
 - A car driver believes his vehicle was shot at with an air weapon as he was driving in Leyland (Lancashire) last month.
 - Shots were allegedly fired from an air rifle in the direction of a shop in Dumbarton. Two Royal Navy Service personnel were detained after an air rifle was allegedly discharged at Faslane Naval Base, Argyll and Bute. A weapon, believed to have been an air rifle, was fired at least five times by the driver of a parked car in Renfrew.
 - A man from Hartlepool has been charged with possessing an airgun with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault.
 - Armed police were hunting for two poachers, apparently seen with an air rifle in Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire).
 - A man and a teenage boy hunting squirrels with an airgun caused an armed police alert at the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood (north west London) - they were warned about their actions in future.
 - An air rifle was recovered from a property in Newport (Gwent) after police broke in and escorted a woman, a young child and a baby to an ambulance and took a man to a police station - no one was shot or injured.
 - Windows were damaged in Brockholes (West Yorkshire), apparently with an airgun.
- **Gun Finds, Recoveries and Thefts** - The Trent Division of Staffordshire Police reported that they had seized or were handed 231 firearms during 2009.

- Guns were found during searches in which drugs were recovered in the Black Country (handgun) (three arrests were made), Darwen (Lancashire) (rifle; firearms charges were later dropped), Ilkeston (Derbyshire) (a shotgun; two men have been charged), Blackburn (Lancashire) (BB gun), Gloucester (handgun), Rastrick (West Yorkshire) (air rifle), Brighton and Hove, Hendon (Sunderland), Troon (Ayrshire) (handgun) and Inch (Edinburgh).
- Following other police operations:
 - a man faced a number of charges after a handgun and ammunition were found at a house in Bolton (Greater Manchester)
 - a man and a woman were arrested after a handgun was found at a house in Leytonstone (north east London)
 - Four people were arrested after police stopped a car in Croxteth Park (Liverpool) and found a semi-automatic shotgun
 - a man has faced allegations of possessing a firearm and ammunition without a certificate after a weapon was found during a search at a property in Scarborough (North Yorkshire)
 - there were six arrests after a series of raids in Manchester and Cheshire during which live ammunition and an imitation firearm were found
 - shotguns were recovered in major police operations in South Wales and Greater Manchester
 - a stun gun was recovered by police during a raid in Clitheroe (Lancashire)
- A shotgun was stolen from a farm in Harwood (Greater Manchester). A reward has been offered in the hunt for thieves who stole shotguns and other items from properties in Hadlow Down and Ditchling (East Sussex) in November 2009.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More animals and birds suffered as a result of shooting incidents reported during February.
- Cats were shot in airgun attacks in Bedfordshire (two different locations), Cheshire, Cumbria, Devon (two different locations), Essex (two cats shot in the same incident) and Fife.
- A deer was shot and killed with a shotgun in a park in Hampton Court (south west London) and a considerable number of deer were shot with a rifle and left for dead near Landford (Wiltshire).
- Concern was expressed that a ranger at a park in Langdon Hills (Essex) is using a shotgun to kill moles.
- Birds were targeted in a number of incidents. Swans were killed in attacks in Stockport (Cheshire) (air rifle), Horningtoft (Norfolk) (shotgun) and Nuneaton (Warwickshire) (air rifle). Blackbirds were found with injuries consistent with airgun wounds in Norwich, and a buzzard was shot with an airgun in Upton Heath (Dorset).
- A former gamekeeper has admitted shooting a buzzard with a .243 rifle in Abermyte (Perthshire) and has been ordered to appear in court for sentencing.

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- **Convictions** - Three men found guilty of conspiracy to murder a man in East Leeds, who was saved when a gun jammed on one occasion, as well as other charges relating to a robbery, were given minimum sentences of 17 years or more.
 - A man who shot his girlfriend in the neck with a sawn-off shotgun at a house in Peel Green (Greater Manchester) admitted possessing the shotgun and a handgun with intent to endanger life, possessing ammunition and a drugs offence and was given an indeterminate sentence for public protection.
 - A legal shotgun owner who shortened his gun and then fired at a man he wrongly suspected of trying to "chat up" his wife in Stanley (County Durham) has been jailed for 7 years.

- An offender who, amongst other offences, put a gun to the head of two people in Plymouth pleaded guilty to a total of eight charges and was jailed for 8 years.
- A man involved in a robbery in which a farmer in Overseal (Derbyshire) was threatened with his own shotgun has been jailed for 9 years. A man who threatened staff at a travel agency in Muswell Hill (north London) admitted robbery and possession of a firearm and must serve a minimum of 5 years in jail. Another offender involved in an armed robbery on a post office in Ilford (east London) in which a guard was threatened with a gun has been jailed for 7 years.
- A man who kidnapped two members of staff at a shop he ran in Bo'ness (West Lothian) whilst armed with a revolver has been jailed for 5 years and 3 months.
- Those convicted for possessing **shotguns** were:
 - three men involved in handing over a shotgun in a car park in Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire), jailed for 3, 7½ and 9½ years
 - a man who claimed to have found a sawn-off shotgun in woods close to Barbury Castle (Wiltshire) and pleaded guilty to possessing an altered firearm without a certificate and will be sentenced later
 - a man from Kendal (Cumbria) who admitted having a shortened shotgun and will be sentenced later
 - a 19-year-old woman from Clifton (Nottingham) jailed for 4 years for hiding a sawn-off shotgun
 - a man from Yeovil (Somerset) who was convicted of rape, kidnap and false imprisonment and also admitted possession of a sawn-off shotgun, which he said should be used to threaten his victim, and will be sentenced later
 - a man from Burmantofts (Leeds) found with a sub-machine gun and a sawn-off shotgun pleaded guilty to possessing the weapons, jailed for 6 years
- Others convicted of possessing **shotguns** together with **other guns** were:
 - a man who had an arsenal of weapons, including a sawn-off shotgun and a pistol, at a flat in Kearsley (Lancashire) where cannabis was being grown, jailed for 7 years after pleading guilty to a number of offences
 - two men each jailed for 7½ years who admitted various charges after a pump action shotgun, a sub-machine pistol and ammunition were scattered across a road in Leeds following a motorbike chase
 - a man given a 2 year sentence after a 12 bore shotgun and an air rifle were found at a house in Winsford (Cheshire) - another man arrested at the same time was fined £1000
- The following people were convicted for possessing prohibited **handguns**:
 - two gun enthusiasts from Baildon and Guiseley (West Yorkshire), jailed for 3 years and 18 months for respectively selling and buying a prohibited pistol, and another gun enthusiast who had live ammunition and illegal pistols stored at his home in Sleaford (Lincolnshire) given a 12 month conditional discharge.
 - an 18-year-old convicted of possessing a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life after being found with a pistol he had picked up from a pub in Greenwich (south east London).
 - two teenage girls who pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and ammunition without a certificate after a revolver was found in a garden in Flixton (Greater Manchester), and the man for whom they were keeping the gun who also admitted possessing a firearm with ammunition
 - a 16-year-old caught with a loaded revolver in Wood Green (north London), sentenced to four months in prison
 - a man from Durham City who hid a loaded pistol among his children's toys, jailed for 5 years
 - a woman from Toxteth (Liverpool) who was keeping a pistol and ammunition to pay off a drug debt, jailed for 5 years

- a man found with a revolver and ammunition in his car as he drove in Rochdale (Greater Manchester), jailed for 6 years
 - a man from Anderston (Glasgow) who admitted owning a revolver and three live bullets and faces a lengthy jail term
 - a man who admitted possessing a modified starting pistol at his home in Blackwood (Gwent)
- A man who had illegal possession of ammunition for a handgun in Uxbridge (west London) has been ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work, attend an education and train course and attend appointments with a probation order.
- A man has pleaded guilty to possession of 50 live rounds of rifle ammunition when not having a firearms certificate and is charged with the theft of ammunition from the Army Cadet Corps in Altcar (Lancashire).
- A man who threw his legally-owned shotgun and cartridges into a school playground in Northampton was acquitted after the prosecution accepted he had committed no offence - the judge said that he was "very, very unhappy".
- **Stun Guns** - A man from South Oxhey (Hertfordshire) is awaiting sentence after a stun gun he purchased on the internet from America was intercepted by customs officers.
- A man from Heswall (Merseyside) was given an 18 month suspended sentence and given 150 community service after a stun gun was found at his home.
- One of four men convicted of cocaine smuggling was also found with a stun gun - the man, from Battersea Rise (south London), was jailed for a total of 10 years
- A couple were each given a conditional discharge and the man was fined £90 after being caught with a stun gun and drugs at their home in Tonbridge (Kent).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A coroner has ruled that the death of a 10-year-old boy who died after being shot with his father's air rifle in Swansea last September was accidental.
- Two teenagers who fired an air rifle at children at a birthday party in Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire) hitting three under-5s have been given 6-month referral orders and one of them was given an 18-month community order and a 3-month curfew - two other teenagers had received police cautions.
- Two men who fired an air rifle at a delivery driver in Atherton (Lancashire) hitting him behind the knee and damaging his van have both been jailed for 9 months. A man who fired an airgun at a shop assistant in Skelton (Cleveland), hitting her on the back of her head, has pleaded guilty to possession of an air weapon, breaching an Asbo and resisting arrest and been jailed for 10 months.
- A youth from East Oxford who, among various acts of anti-social behaviour, shot a Police Community Support Officer with a ball-bearing gun has been given an 18-month youth rehabilitation order.
- A man who fired a blank-firing pistol towards a property in South Shields admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was jailed for 4 years - the gun's owner received a 20 month sentence.
- A man who fired a pellet gun from a hotel in Huntly (Aberdeenshire) has been fined £200 after admitting recklessly discharging the firearm with disregard for the safety of others. A teenage boy from Boldon Colliery (Tyne & Wear) seen firing an air weapon out of his bedroom window has been spoken to by police officers and referred to a youth surgery.
- The following cases involved others who brandished airguns or imitations guns:
 - a man from Witham (Essex) who pointed a replica gun at police officers and admitted assault and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to make someone believe violence would be used, given a 4 month suspended sentence
 - an offender who showed an imitation pistol to men during a dispute in Lingdale (Cleveland), jailed for 18 months

- a man from Luton (Bedfordshire) who brandished a toy gun during a road rage incident, given a 16-week suspended jail sentence and 100 hours unpaid work
- a man who pointed an air rifle at two teenage girls who came to the front door of a house in Lymington (Hampshire) and pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm, given a suspended 12-month jail term, a 6 month supervision requirement and 150 hours unpaid work
- a man from Hindley (Lancashire) who threatened a friend with an imitation gun and was involved in a two-day siege, sent to a mental hospital indefinitely
- another man who threatened his elderly mother with a BB gun at her home in Salfords (Surrey) and admitted one count of possessing an imitation firearm, sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment
- a teenager caught with a pellet gun in Hartlepool who pleaded guilty to having a weapon in a public place as well as other offences, given a 12-month community order with 10 education, training and employment sessions and a 9-day alcohol programme
- a man who in 2002 who was charged after showing an air pistol to work colleagues in Neasden (north west London) and threatened to use it and then failed to show for his trial and has now admitted two counts of possessing an imitation firearm, jailed for 17 months
- a man who brandished an imitation handgun at railway staff in Canterbury (Kent), jailed for 5 years for possessing prohibited ammunition and possessing a weapon
- a man who threatened his girlfriend and pointed a loaded .22 air rifle to her friend's head in a caravan in Chale (Isle of Wight), jailed for 2 years
- two men, one aged 18 and the other an ex-prisoner, seen with a gun in Fairfield (Derbyshire) who admitted being in possession of an air rifle
- a man seen by neighbours in Fauldhouse (West Lothian) firing an air weapon who pleaded guilty to breach of the peace and a drugs offence, fined £360
- a man who admitted possessing a ball-bearing gun and air rifle in a public place after an incident in Brynmawr (Gwent), given 3 month and 4 month sentences to run concurrently with a 6 month sentence he was given for his involvement in a drunken brawl on a separate occasion
- a man who waved a gun, believed to be a ball-bearing gun, at neighbours in Newport (Gwent) when he was drunk, sentenced to 15 months in a young offenders' institute
- There were a number of convictions for robberies and attempted robberies in which the offender(s) was armed with an imitation firearm.
 - At **Shops** in Shirley (south London) (two 14-year-old boys have been given 30 months detention), Selby (North Yorkshire) (a man who had a previous conviction for armed robbery has been warned he could spend the rest of his life behind bars), Slough and Maidenhead (Berkshire) and Hazlemere (Buckinghamshire) (three men were jailed for a total of 18 years and 9 months for three robberies), Wolverhampton (a man has been warned he faces a long jail sentence), Plymouth (a man has been jailed for 4 years and 3 months) and Winsford (a man was caught red-handed with an imitation firearm and a knife and has been jailed for 2 years).
 - At a **Post Office** in Stanton Harcourt (Oxfordshire) (the weapon was fabricated from offcuts of metal) (a man is in jail and a woman has been found guilty of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent).
 - During raids at **Houses** in south London, Balham (three men were given sentences of 10, 10 and 12 years for aggravated burglary) and Forest Green (two men have pleaded guilty and another three were found guilty of robbery, possessing an imitation firearm and theft of a motor vehicle; they received sentences of between 6½ and 10 years), and in Prestwich

(Greater Manchester) (five men were sentenced to a total of 35 years, four after admitting two counts of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm) and Thornton (Merseyside) (a woman was been jailed for 5 years after admitting aggravated burglary in which she had an air pistol).

- At a **Farm** in Cudham (a teenager has pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and possession of an imitation firearm with the intent to endanger life).
- In **Street** robberies in Tottenham (north London) (one man pleaded guilty to seven counts of robbery and seven counts of possession an imitation firearm with intent to commit a crime).
- Two men must do unpaid work after various weapons were found in a car travelling through Winnersh (Berkshire) - one who admitted one count of possessing an imitation firearm, an air pistol that looked like a Beretta pistol, in a public place received 100 hours.
- A drunk driver caught after a police chase ended in Mostyn (Clwyd) was found to have a deactivated Kalashnikov rifle in his car and admitted a number of charges including possessing an imitation firearm.
- A drug dealer from Walderslade (Kent) who pleaded guilty to possession of crack cocaine also admitted possession of an air weapon and ammunition (he has been given a 32 month prison sentence). A man found with an airgun and pellets in Fraserburgh (Aberdeenshire) has admitted having the weapon and pellets.

GUN INCIDENTS – FEBRUARY 2010

ENGLAND

Slough & Langley Observer, 28 February 2010

A **shotgun** was discharged inside the site of a bus station **Slough**, Berkshire, where building work is ongoing. A man has been arrested.

BBC, 28 February 2010

A man brandishing a firearm entered a store in **Seaton Delaval**, Northumberland, and demanded cash. When he was challenged by staff he left the store, leaving the weapon behind. The weapon is believed to be a **shotgun** which is being tested for forensic evidence (*The Journal*, 1 March 2010).

Manchester Evening News, 27 February 2010

Five men have been sentenced to a total of 35 years in jail after a robbery in which a 15-year-old was beaten around the head with a gun at his home. Aaron Graham (sentenced to eight years), John O'Neill (eight years), Cordell Austin (ten years) and Andre Walker (eight years) pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. They forced their way into a house in **Prestwich**, Greater Manchester, with a **blank firing handgun**, a **stun gun**, duct tape and cable ties. A boy in the house managed to call the police whilst other family members and a family friend were attacked. Anton Mattis, 18, had already pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal and been given a suspended 12 months sentence, a 12-month supervision order and 100 hours unpaid work.

Yorkshire Post, 26 February 2010

Four men have been cleared of involvement in the murder of a man who was the victim of a drive-by shooting in **Sheffield** in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

Southwark News, 26 February 2010

An 18-year-old faces three charges of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of both a Young American revolver and five 7.65mm cartridges. He was found with the gun in **Camberwell**, south London.

Northern Echo, 26 February 2010

Andrew Ardle twice fired a sawn-off shotgun at a man whom he wrongly suspected of trying to "chat up" his wife. The incident took place in **Stanley**, County Durham, in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). His victim gave chase by car and the chase ended when he shunted Ardle's car in **Durham City**. Ardle was found near his damaged vehicle with his legally-held **Beretta 12-bore shotgun** which he had illegally shortened the day before. He was jailed for seven years after admitting two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a fear of violence, possessing a loaded shotgun in a public place, shortening a shotgun and possessing a prohibited firearm. His victim admitted dangerous driving and was given a suspended prison sentence and was banned from driving.

Liverpool Echo, 26 February 2010

In April 2009 Jane Williams subjected a pensioner to an attack using weapons taken from her son's military collection. Fuelled with alcohol and drugs she tricked her way into his home and accompanied by a man in a gas mask she burst into his home in **Thornton**, Merseyside, and demanded money. She was armed with an **air pistol** and hit her victim with a baton. She has been jailed for five years after admitting aggravated burglary.

Liverpool Echo, 26 February 2010

A **semi-automatic shotgun** was found by police during a routine driving stop in **Croxteth Park**, Liverpool. Four men, three of them teenagers, were all arrested later.

Leicester Mercury, 26 February 2010

A 17-year-old youth who shot at a garden birthday party in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire, in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) with an **airgun** and hit three children, aged two, three and five, has pleaded guilty to causing actual bodily harm and possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place. He had been given an 18-month community rehabilitation order and was made subject of a six-month supervision and surveillance programme, including a three-month curfew. An 18-year-old pleaded guilty to possessing a loaded air weapon and was made subject of a six-month referral order. Two other teenager have been given police cautions. The parents of the children said that the sentences make a mockery of the Government's tough stance on gun crime.

Isle of Wight County Press, 26 February 2010

Christopher Howse has admitted threatening his girlfriend and her friend with an airgun in January 2010. He claimed he had been drinking. He had pointed the loaded **.22 air rifle** inches from the other man's face and threatened to blow his head off. He shot a pellet into the ceiling of the caravan in **Chale**, Isle of Wight. The victim escaped after an ordeal lasting an hour. Howse was in breach of a condition discharge imposed for assaulting his girlfriend. He has been jailed for two years.

Evening Standard, 26 February 2010

A coroner has recovered a verdict that a man killed himself after an inquest heard how a man was found lying face down with a shot to the head and with a **shotgun** beneath him at his home in **Leighton Buzzard**, Bedfordshire, in September 2009. The gun enthusiast had left a sealed letter to the Firearms Licensing Authority describing where his other guns were kept.

Buxton Advertiser, 26 February 2010

Two men have admitted being in possession of an **air rifle** in **Fairfield**, Derbyshire, after concerned residents phoned police in September 2009. The gun had been fired but it was accepted there were no pellets in it. Daniel Nolan, 18, and Lee Binning were released on unconditional bail pending sentencing. Binning was subject to a five-year ban for possessing a firearm having served a prison sentence.

Bolton News, 26 February 2010

Christopher Lowe kept a small arsenal of guns and other weapons at a flat where he had a cannabis factory. When police raided the flat in **Kearsley**, Lancashire, in November 2009 they found a sawn-off shotgun, a Colt pistol, a **gat gun**, a gun with the barrel removed, 10 rounds of ammunition and other weapons. He pleaded guilty to possession of ammunition, two counts of possession of firearms, various drug offences and extraction of electricity. He has been jailed for seven years.

Worcester News, 25 February 2010

Two men have been shot in the face with an **air rifle** in a street in **Worcester**. One of the victims was left covered in blood after a pellet hit him on the chin. Minutes later a cyclist was hit in the forehead, inches from his left eye. It is believed the shots were fired from nearby flats.

Wokingham Times, 25 February 2010

Police found an imitation handgun, pepper spray and knuckle-duster in a car travelling through **Winnersh**, Berkshire, after fireworks had been thrown from the vehicle in May 2009. The gun was an **air pistol** which bore a huge resemblance to a silver Beretta pistol. Shayd Farmery, 20, admitted one count of possessing an imitation firearm in a public place and Luke Muswell, also 20, admitted one count of possessing pepper spray. A second replica gun was found at Farmery's house. In his defence his counsel claimed that "It's an air pistol, not a gun". Farmery was ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and Muswell 60 hours of unpaid work. A third man was not charged.

Willesden & Brent Times, 25 February 2010

A man who went on the run for seven years after he failed to show for his trial has finally admitted two counts of possessing an imitation firearm. In November 2002 he had lost his temper at his workplace in **Neasden**, north west London, and showed two colleagues his **airgun**, threatening to use it. He had admitted to police officers the gun was his but he used it to shoot leaves in the garden. He was charged and bailed but was not seen again until being caught in September 2009. He has now been jailed for 17 months.

Westmorland Gazette, 25 February 2010

An investigation is underway over claims a police bullet fired at a runaway cow nearly hit three people in **Kendal**, Cumbria. There have been complaints that a shot missed them by just four feet. It took five police shots to kill the cow after it escaped from the auction mart.

Shields Gazette, 25 February 2010

Paul Maxwell fired a replica pistol, a **blank-firing weapon** with the appearance of a real Beretta, towards a property in **South Shields**, Tyne and Wear, in October 2009. The weapon was owned by Gary Bailey who had driven Maxwell to the scene of the incident. Maxwell said he wanted to scare the family who lived there. He admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was jailed for four years. Bailey, an ex-soldier, had bought the gun from a hobby shop for protection was sentenced to 20 months.

The Courier, 25 February 2010

Armed raiders tied up and threatened a shop assistant at an antiques shop in **Warwick**. One man pulled out what appeared to be a gun and asked the employee to open the external door when three other men entered the shop. The men took cash, gold and other items.

BBC, 25 February 2010

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after reports of someone wielding a handgun in front of customers at a pub in **Blackburn**, Lancashire.

Winsford Guardian, 24 February 2010

An off-duty police officer caught Christopher Benson red-handed with an **imitation firearm**, a kitchen knife and a mask outside a shop in **Winsford**, Cheshire, in May 2009. Benson has been found guilty of possession of a replica firearm with intent to commit armed robbery and possession of a bladed weapon. He has been jailed for two years.

This is Nottingham, 24 February 2010

An inquest jury has concluded that failures by Nottinghamshire Police contributed to the death of a couple who were shot dead in **Trusthorpe**, Lincolnshire, in August 2004 (see [Incidents](#)). The couple had moved to Trusthorpe after the wife's son had killed a man in **Bulwell**, Nottingham, in 2003. A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded. Three men, Colin Gunn, whose nephew was a friend of the Bulwell victim, Michael McNee and John Russell, had been convicted of conspiracy to murder and are serving a combined 90 years in jail (see [2007 Incidents](#)).

Haringey Independent, 24 February 2010

A 16-year-old who was caught with a loaded revolver in **Wood Green**, north London, has been found guilty of possessing a firearm and also pleaded guilty to holding a knife. Police officers had watched him dump the gun after chasing him in August 2009. He was sentenced to four months in prison.

BBC, 24 February 2010

A number of road signs in West Oxfordshire appear to have been shot. It is not believed the incidents, which happened in **Burford**, **Shilton**, **Carterton** and **Brize Norton**, were related to more serious criminal activity. It has been suggested that the damage was probably caused by a rifle (*Banbury Cake*, 26 February 2010).

BBC, 24 February 2010

A reward of up to £5000 is being offered in the hunt for thieves who attacked the occupants of two homes in East Sussex in November 2009 and, amongst other items, stole **shotguns** from both properties. The attacks took place in **Hadlow Down** (see [Incidents](#)) and **Ditchling**.

This is Somerset, 23 February 2010

A coroner has concluded that a farmer and builder from **North Newton**, Somerset, took his life when his cancer became unbearable. He was found with **shotgun** wounds in November.

This is Kent, 23 February 2010

Andrzej Augusciak brandished an **imitation handgun**, a silver and black pistol, at rail staff at **Canterbury West** station, Kent, in September 2009. He had a blank round containing CS gas powder in his pocket. The incident occurred after staff had discovered him asleep in a carriage when his train terminated at the station. Augusciak was drunk at the time. He has been jailed for five years for possessing prohibited ammunition and three years for possessing a weapon, the sentences to run concurrently.

Manchester Evening News, 23 February 2010

Gary Edgar has been sentenced to six years in prison after being found guilty of possessing a firearm and ammunition. He was arrested in June 2008 as he drove in **Rochdale**, Greater Manchester. Police stopped his car as he was listed as wanted and found a revolver and ammunition in the vehicle. He was also convicted of possessing a blade.

Liverpool Echo, 23 February 2010

Tenisha Smith has been jailed for five years for hiding a self-loading Luger pistol and 18 rounds of ammunition to pay off a drug debt. The weapon was found when police raided her flat in **Toxteth**, Liverpool, in December 2009.

Evening Standard, 23 February 2010

A handicapped man who is alleged to have been kept as a slave for a family's own amusement before they chopped off his head and dumped his body in a lake in **Arlesey**, Bedfordshire, suffered a decade of abuse. He was burnt, beaten and his body had **airgun** pellets in it when taken from the lake. Four people, two brothers and their girlfriends, all deny murder. The brothers' parents deny causing or allowing the death of a vulnerable adult.

Burton Mail, 23 February 2010

A total of 231 firearms were seized or handed in to the Trent Division of Staffordshire Police based in **Burton-on-Trent** during 2009. They included 77 **shotguns**, 90 **air rifles**, 30 **ball bearing guns** and 34 **imitation weapons**.

Birmingham Mail, 23 February 2010

A dog walker was shot with an **airgun** on a canal towpath in **Moxley**, West Midlands. The victim, who suffered a facial injury, saw four teenagers running away.

BBC, 23 February 2010

Two men have been taken to hospital after being wounded in a shooting in **Gotham**, Nottinghamshire. The incident took place outside a pub. Four men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, and a fifth man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm (*Nottingham Evening Post*, 24 February 2010). One man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder (*BBC*, 24 February 2010).

The Citizen (Blackburn), 22 February 2010

One of three men on trial accused of terrorism told police that video footage of him firing a gun was "just a bit of fun". Police confiscated video clips which showed the three men brandishing and firing guns in the garden of a house in **Blackburn**, Lancashire. When police raided his house they found **BB guns**. The owner of a gun shop in Blackburn who sold the majority of the weapons found by police at the home of the other two defendants described them as "just silly kids". He had posed with them with weapons in his store (*This is Lancashire*, 24 February 2010). The police had found a weapons cabinet at their home containing several machetes, an **air rifle** and an **air pistol**, crossbows and live ammunition (*The Citizen*, 25 February 2010). The trial continues.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 21 February 2010

Two poachers, apparently a man and a teenager in camouflage gear with an **air rifle**, were being hunted by police after being spotted with the gun in **Welwyn Garden City**, Hertfordshire.

Southern Daily Echo, 20 February 2010

Darren Dodge pointed an **air rifle** at two trick-or-treaters who came to the door of his grandmother's house in **Lymington**, Hampshire. He was cleaning the weapon and lost his temper with the two teenage girls. Dodge pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and was given a 12-month jail term, suspended for two years, a six month supervision requirement and 150 hours unpaid work. His two air rifles will be destroyed.

Manchester Evening News, 20 February 2010

A security guard was threatened with a **shotgun** during a raid on a bank in **Ashton-under-Lyne**. Two men, armed with the gun and a crowbar told the guard they would shoot him if he did not hand over cash. They fled with the money.

Croydon Guardian, 20 February 2010

Police were called to a street in **Croydon**, south London, after reports that gunshots. They found evidence of a gun being fired but no persons injured.

Cambridge News, 20 February 2010

A farmer was shot after he disturbed intruders near outbuildings on his land in **Waterbeach**, Cambridgeshire. The victim suffered a minor injury. The intruders fled in a van.

BBC, 20 February 2010

A man was shot in the leg outside a wine bar in **Liverpool**. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries. A second victim, a woman, has now come forward to the police and reported how she was struck in the leg. It is believed that a **pellet gun** was fired (*Liverpool Daily Post*, 21 February 2010).

BBC, 20 February 2010

A **shotgun** and 50 live cartridges were found during an operation to crackdown on drink-fuelled violence across **Greater Manchester**.

Wirral Globe, 19 February 2010

A man has been charged with the theft of a quantity of live and blank ammunition and five magazines belonging to the Army Cadet Corps in **Altcar**, Lancashire, in August 2009. Stephen Burns has pleaded guilty to possession of 50 live rounds of .22 rifle ammunition when not having a firearms certificate.

West Yorkshire Police, 19 February 2010

Anthony Scott from **Burmantofts**, Leeds, has pleaded guilty to possession of a sub machine gun, a 12-gauge single barrelled **sawn-off shotgun** and ammunition for both weapons. The weapons were found at his flat by police in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He claimed to have found them in a skip. He has been jailed for six years (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, 22 February 2010).

Northern Echo, 19 February 2010

Four people have been arrested after raids at two properties in **Hendon**, Sunderland. One of the men was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in offering to supply controlled drugs and possession of a firearm.

Kent News, 19 February 2010

Kayley Steel from **Walderslade**, Kent, was one of two drug dealing brothers who pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply crack cocaine. He also admitted possession of an **air weapon** and ammunition. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison.

Haringey Independent, 19 February 2010

Akinni Constantine from **Tottenham**, north London, has admitted carrying out seven gunpoint robberies in his neighbourhood in August and September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to seven counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery, and seven counts of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit a crime. He is expected to be jailed. The investigating officer said "None of his victims would have known that the firearm was an imitation and they would have been absolutely terrified for their lives".

East London Advertiser, 19 February 2010

A 16-year-old boy was shot in the back and arm by a gunman on a cycle in **Bow**, east London. He was taken to hospital and treated and has now been discharged.

Bolton News, 19 February 2010

Three men armed with a gun, kitchen knife and metal bar threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Bolton**, Greater Manchester. One of the men jumped over the counter, demanded cash and escaped with £150 from the till.

BBC, 19 February 2010

Two teenage boys have been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm and assault following an incident in which a gang of youths allegedly chased a man in **Halewood**, Merseyside. The victim was then hit with a firearm.

Surrey Comet, 18 February 2010

Three 16-year-old boys from **Surbiton** and **Kingston**, south west London, will face trial for allegedly using a **fake gun** to rob people of cash and mobile phones. One of the dependants had been holding a black handgun.

Sunderland Echo, 18 February 2010

A 15-year-old was spotted firing an **air weapon** out of his bedroom window in **Boldon Colliery**, Tyne and Wear. Three pellets hit the window frame of a home opposite. The teenager was spoken to by officers and referred to a youth surgery.

The Star, 18 February 2010

Three men were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. One of the men, who was arrested by armed police at his home in **Crosspool**, Sheffield, was later told that the police had been acting as a result of an incorrect tip-off that there may have been a firearm inside. All three men were released without charge.

Liverpool Echo, 18 February 2010

Shots were fired at a house from a park in **Toxteth**, Liverpool. Police discovered a back window of a flat had been damaged by a single bullet, though one witness heard up to four shots.

Herald (Plymouth), 18 February 2010

Alan Levers was caught a day after he pointed an **imitation handgun** at the face of a shop worker in **Plymouth** during a robbery in December 2009. He has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm. Levers, who had a previous conviction for burglary, was jailed for four years and three months.

Hartlepool Mail, 18 February 2010

Neil Blair, aged 18, was caught with a **pellet gun** whilst he was drink outside a shopping centre in **Hartlepool** in December 2009, almost sparking a major incident. He claimed to have got the gun as a Christmas present. He has pleaded guilty to having a weapon in a public place as well as two counts of assaulting a police officer and also stealing goods in a separate incident. He has been given a 12-month community order with 10 education, training and employment sessions and a nine-day alcohol programme.

BBC, 18 February 2010

A builder is in hospital after being shot at a house in **Lilley**, Hertfordshire, in what police have called a "targeted attack". Three or four men were seen driving off after the incident. The victim was being treated in hospital for what police have said are life-changing injuries.

BBC, 18 February 2010

A man has been shot in the back with an **air rifle** while cycling through **Reading**, Berkshire. The pellet went through three layers of his rucksack and fortunately the victim was not injured.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 17 February 2010

A woman has been shot in the leg at a house in **Totley**, Sheffield. The attack involved as many as three men. Three other family members were in the house at the time but were not hurt. The attackers smashed into the home, knocking the front door off its hinges and fired the shot immediately. Police are unsure if the victim was deliberately shot or if she was hit by flying debris (*The Star*, 18 February 2010).

Yorkshire Evening Post, 17 February 2010

Darren Winstanley and Richard Walker have each been jailed for seven-and-a-half years after guns and ammunition were scattered across a road following a motorbike chase through **Leeds** in January 2009. A fully loaded sub-machine pistol and a loaded **pump action shotgun** were discovered at the scene. The men were on their way to confront people who had attacked Winstanley's partner's home. Both men admitted two charges of possessing firearms with intent to cause fear of violence, two of possessing a prohibited firearm, one of possessing ammunition without a certificate and one of possessing ammunition when prohibited. Both men had previous convictions.

Wigan Evening Post, 17 February 2010

A man has been charged in connection with a gunpoint robbery during which a woman driving her car in **Shevington**, Lancashire, was stopped by a man armed with a gun. The man stole the car which was later found abandoned. The charges he faces include possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

This is Lancashire, 17 February 2010

Aaron Chivers and Liam Gray fired an **air rifle** at a delivery man in **Atherton**, Lancashire, in May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)), making him "dance like a puppet". They both admitted possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence, assault and damaging a van. Their victim was hit at the back of his right knee. A pellet had to be removed under local anaesthetic. Chivers and Gray were both jailed for nine months. It would appear they had been drinking at the time of the incident.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 17 February 2010

A judge said that he was "very, very unhappy" following a case in which a man who threw a shotgun and live rounds of ammunition into a school playground in **Kingsthorpe**, Northampton, was acquitted when the prosecution accepted he had committed no offence. Kris Ormesher is alleged to have driven with a friend to confront a drug dealer over a cannabis deal in April 2009. He knew he was about to be pulled over by the police so he disposed of the gun. The **double-barrelled shotgun** and two live cartridges were found by the school caretaker. The gun was damaged and unable to fire. The prosecuting counsel said that as the gun could no longer be fired and Ormesher had a valid shotgun licence at the time, had a legitimate reason for keeping it in his car for clay shooting and because it was not loaded, he was cleared of the offence. It was not possible to prove any offence under the Firearms Act. Ormesher lost his firearms certificate when he was found to be almost three times over the drink-drive limit later that night.

News Shopper, 17 February 2010

Zach Zeto, 18, has pleaded guilty for his part in a raid on a farm in **Cudham**, south east London. He and others stormed into the farmhouse brandishing a weapon in August 2009. They made the farmer's son take out money from the till. Zeto admitted aggravated burglary and possession of an **imitation firearm** with the intent to endanger life. Three other men are still at large.

News Shopper, 17 February 2010

Three men who threatened a family in their home in **Forest Hill**, south London, in June 2009 have been found guilty of robbery and theft. Ogarra Dixon, 18, Trevor Cook and Reggie Junior Fowell-Boston were charged with robbery, possessing an **imitation firearm** and theft of a motor vehicle. Two others, Myles Maccalla and Sharando Cadette had already pleaded guilty to the offences. The gang had put the gun to the head of the father and demanded cash and then took the family's car, a plasma TV, mobile phones, iPhones, laptops, computer game consoles and an iPod. Fowell-Boston was sentenced to 10 years, Cooke and Dixon to eight years and Maccalla and Cadette to six-and-a-half years (*This is Local London*, 25 February 2010).

Leyland Guardian, 17 February 2010

A car driver was shot at by what he thought was an **air weapon** as he was driving along a street in **Leyland**, Lancashire. The attack, which took place in January, left a hole in the rear wing of the vehicle.

Haringey Independent, 17 February 2010

A shopkeeper was shot in the neck during a robbery at an off licence in **Green Lanes**, Haringey in north London. The victim was taken to hospital where he was in a stable condition. The robbery is being linked to another in **Hackney** twenty minutes earlier when a man entered a shop and threatened the cashier with a gun and demanded money. The victim in the Green Lanes robbery was shot with a small handgun (*Haringey Independent*, 18 February 2010).

Express & Star, 17 February 2010

Wayne Rowley who with another man raided a grocery store in **Parkfields**, Wolverhampton, in October 2009 has admitted robbery, possession of an **imitation firearm** and possession of a bladed weapon, an axe. The second man is believed to have fired the gas-powered gun during the raid. Rowley has been warned he faces a long jail sentence.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 17 February 2010

A 17-year-old was left injured after he was shot in the right leg with an **airgun** whilst walking in **Orton Malbourne**, Cambridgeshire. A pellet was embedded so deeply that a two-hour operation had to be carried out to remove it.

Bolton News, 17 February 2010

A **shotgun** was stolen from a farm in **Harwood**, Bolton, during a burglary. The weapon was a Baikal Single Shot Shotgun. CCTV images of the offenders have been released.

BBC, 17 February 2010

A man was shot in the stomach after attending a wake at a pub in **West Derby**, Merseyside. Police are treating the incident as attempted murder. The victim remained in a critical condition.

BBC, 17 February 2010

A substantial amount of money was taken from a post office in **Redditch**, Worcestershire, by two men one of whom was apparently armed with a **stun gun**. No-one was seriously injured.

BBC, 17 February 2010

A man armed with a gun threatened a member of staff at a bank in **Henley**, Oxfordshire, before fleeing with a large amount of cash. CCTV footage of the gunman has been released (*Henley Standard*, 1 March 2010).

Winsford Guardian, 16 February 2010

Michael Holt has received a two year custodial sentence for being in possession of firearms without holding the appropriate certificates. He was arrested after a **12 bore shotgun** and an **air rifle** were found at a house in **Winsford**, Cheshire, in May 2009. Daniel Holt, who was arrested at the same time, was fined £1000 and costs of £250.

Sunderland Echo, 16 February 2010

A father hid a loaded gun among his children's toys at his home in **Durham City**. George Swainston agreed to look after the self-loading pistol on behalf of his drugs supplier. The weapon was found when police executed a search warrant at his home in November 2009. He pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a gun and ammunition and was jailed for five years.

Scarborough Evening News, 16 February 2010

A man from **Cherry Burton**, East Yorkshire, has appeared in court and pleaded not guilty to two charges of possession of a firearm without a certificate.

Oxford Mail, 16 February 2010

A woman has denied robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent following a robbery at a post office in **Stanton Harcourt**, Oxfordshire, in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). She is accused of encouraging her accomplice Lee Rudman who burst into the shop holding a crude 'machine gun' fabricated from offcuts of metal. Rudman is currently in jail having admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent. Victoria Brookes was jailed for four years after being found guilty of both charges (*Oxford Mail*, 19 February 2010).

Newham Recorder, 16 February 2010

A man from **West Ham**, east London, has been charged with attempted murder, attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm with intent, possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and dangerous driving. It is alleged that he pointed at a gun a work colleague and had run him down in a car.

Manchester Evening News, 16 February 2010

Two teenage girls who looked after a gun for a man were caught when police raided a house in **Flixton**, Greater Manchester in May 2009. The revolver was found in a black leather handbag resting on top of a hedgerow. Chloe Goodman, 18, and a 17-year-old pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing ammunition without a certificate. The gun belonged to Daniel Brown who admitted possessing a firearm with ammunition. The three will be sentenced in March.

Ealing Gazette, 16 February 2010

Gavin Butler has been ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work, attend an education and training course for 22 days and attend appointments with a probation officer for 12 months for illegally possessing ammunition for a handgun in **Uxbridge**, west London, in April 2009 and possessing cannabis on another occasion.

BBC, 16 February 2010

Two gunmen robbed a travel agency in **Ashford**, Spelthorne in Surrey, and escaped with thousands of pounds in cash.

BBC, 16 February 2010

A gun was found during a three week drugs crackdown in **Brighton and Hove**. Sixty-six people were arrested during the operation.

The Argus, 16 February 2010

A handgun was fired twice during an attempted robbery at a chemists in **Bolnore**, West Sussex. The man who fired the shots ran off empty handed. Two men have been arrested.

Get Surrey, 15 February 2010

Ian Henderson threatened his elderly mother with a **BB gun** at his parents' house in **Salfords**, Surrey, in September 2009. He was drunk at the time and shouted abuse at her and then flashed the imitation handgun and said he was going to shoot her and bury her in the garden. He said he carried the gun sometimes with a view to shooting cats. His mother called the police who found 1,500 ball bearings in his bag which could have been used as ammunition. He admitted one count of possessing an imitation firearm and was sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment.

Evening Courier, 15 February 2010

An **air rifle**, a crossbow and suspected cannabis plants were found by police during a raid in **Rastrick**, West Yorkshire.

BBC, 15 February 2010

A 16-year-old girl was threatened with what was believed to be a handgun during a mugging on a street in **Hoddesden**, Hertfordshire. A man grabbed her purse and asked for her Pin code before threatening her.

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. The shooting took place at a house in **Peel Green** in August 2009 (*BBC*, 12 February 2009).

BBC, 14 February 2010

A man was taken to hospital after being shot in the arm in **Aigburth**, Liverpool. A suspect has been arrested and later released on bail (*BBC*, 15 February 2010).

Local Guardian, 13 February 2010

Three men who robbed a home in **Balham**, south London, have been sentenced. Michael Wright, Angelo Wright and Tomasz Cieplichiewicz all pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated burglary, one count of possessing an **imitation firearm**, five counts of false imprisonment and one count of aggravated vehicle taking. They tried to steal a safe which they put in the owner's car which they also stole. The Wright's were sentenced to 12 years and Cieplichiewicz to 10 years.

Hartlepool Mail, 13 February 2010

A man from **Hartlepool** has been charged with possessing an **airgun** with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault.

Bedfordshire on Sunday, 13 February 2010

A man was threatened with a handgun by a group of youths wearing masks in **Silsoe**, Bedfordshire. They forced their way into his home and made off with an amount of cash and jewellery.

BBC, 13 February 2010

A possible shooting at a house in **Fulwood**, Preston, was being investigated by police. The house was damaged and officers were investigating whether the damage was caused by a gunshot. It is reported that a handgun was fired from a car as the householder stood outside the house (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 15 February 2010).

Yorkshire Post, 12 February 2010

Three men have been jailed for life for stealing more than £1m from a security van and plotting to murder another crook. All three had been found guilty of conspiracy to murder and other charges after a trial last year and have now been found guilty of other robbery charges. They failed to harm their victim when a gun jammed on one occasion and police intervened on another. Dennis Slade has been ordered to serve a minimum of over 19 years, and Richard Pearman and Michael Baxter will have to serve a minimum of over 17 years. The attempted murder took place on an estate in **East Leeds** in March 2008 (*Wakefield Express*, 1 February 2010).

This is Surrey Today, 12 February 2010

Two men entered a shop in **Hurst Green**, Surrey, and demanded staff hand over money from the tills. One of the suspects produced a gun concealed within his hooded top and fired it into the floor. Police have released CCTV images of the robbers. The weapon was a **shotgun** (*Get Surrey*, 22 February 2010).

This is Surrey Today, 12 February 2010

A rifle club in **Leatherhead**, Surrey, is under investigation following a complaint that bullets have been straying into nearby stables. Numerous small holes have been found in the fence between the stables and the club. The club has been declared "safe" after being visited by representatives from a rifle association and Surrey Police who concluded that the club did not breach its range safety certificate (*This is Surrey Today*, 19 February 2010).

Southend Standard, 12 February 2010

A man brandishing a handgun demanded money from the till when he burst into a fish and chip shop in **Thorpe Bay**, Essex. He escaped with a three figure sum.

Liverpool Echo, 12 February 2010

Two teenagers, one from **Huyton** on Merseyside, have appeared in court charged with malicious wounding and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The charges relate to an incident in March 2009.

Kent Online, 12 February 2010

A shop manager was kidnapped by two men who forced him to return to the store in **Rainham**, Kent, and empty the safe. The victim has told police he thought a gun was involved.

Ilford Recorder, 12 February 2010

A man forced his way into a secure area of a bookmaker's in **Seven Kings**, east London, pointed a black handgun at a member of staff before demanding cash.

Daily Gazette, 12 February 2010

Terrance Horncastle pointed a **replica gun** at police officers who were looking through the letter box of his home in **Witham**, Essex, after his then girlfriend called the police in November 2009. He had become violent after drinking. He was given a four-month suspended prison sentence after admitting assault and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to make someone believe violence would be used.

Slough & Langley Observer, 11 February 2010

Three men have been jailed for a total of 18 years and nine months for a string of armed robberies at video stores in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Troy Tutin and Alexander Davies both pleaded guilty to three counts of robbery and three counts of being in possession of an **imitation firearm** and were sentenced to six years. Davies was also sentenced for a drugs offence. Paul Barzey was sentenced to six years and nine months after pleading guilty to two counts of robbery and two counts of being in possession of an **imitation firearm** and assaulting a member of staff. He was also sentenced in connection with a burglary. The robberies took place in **Slough** in February 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) and **Maidenhead** in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) and in **Hazlemere** in March 2009 (*Bucks Free Press*, 12 February 2010).

Oxford Mail, 11 February 2010

Sandeep Kumar shot a Police Community Support Officer with a **ball-bearing gun**, threw eggs at the homes of two women living near his home in **East Oxford** and threatened to kill his neighbour. He has been given an 18-month youth rehabilitation order and ordered to wear an electronic tag for three months after breaching an Asbo he was given in December.

Manchester Evening News, 11 February 2010

A post mortem examination on the body of a man found with serious stab injuries at a home in **Alderley Edge**, Cheshire, revealed that he had died from a **shotgun** wound. The owner of the house, who had suffered serious stab injuries himself, has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

East Anglian Daily Times, 11 February 2010

An **air pistol** was fired during an attempted robbery at a shop in **Canvey**, Essex. The male shop assistant was not injured during the incident.

Coventry Telegraph, 11 February 2010

Two men, one armed with a gun, raided a shop in **Leamington**, Warwickshire. They threatened a female member of staff and stole money from the till.

BBC, 11 February 2010

Ian Smith from **Luton**, Bedfordshire, has admitted brandishing a **toy gun** at another driver during a road rage incident on the **M1** in July 2009 which involved a van. He admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was given a 16 week suspended jail sentence and ordered to do 100 hours unpaid work.

BBC, 11 February 2010

A 14-year-old boy was taken to hospital after being shot with an **air rifle** on a housing estate in **Penwithick Park**, Cornwall. A pellet was removed from his neck. A man was arrested and later released on bail.

BBC, 11 February 2010

A man was shot with an **air rifle** while playing golf on a course in **Barlborough**, Derbyshire. The victim was left with a red mark on his chest. The offender was not found.

This is Nottingham, 10 February 2010

Jennifer Robinson, 19, has been jailed for four years after she hid a 12-bore **sawn-off shotgun**. The gun was found in the wardrobe in her room at her hostel in **Clifton**, Nottingham, in May 2009. At the time she was on bail for burglary. She had admitted all charges.

Gazette (Gloucestershire), 10 February 2010

A verdict of suicide has been recorded at an inquest into the death of a 19-year-old who was found dead at his home in **Stinchcombe**, Gloucestershire, in July 2008 with a single **shotgun** wound to the head.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 9 February 2010

Four men, two of them teenagers, have been arrested after a taxi driver in **Leeds** was allegedly threatened with a gun and a knife and then robbed of his takings.

Westmorland Gazette, 9 February 2010

Adrian Crompton from **Kendal**, Cumbria, has admitted possessing a **double-barrelled shotgun** which had been shortened. He got the gun to help retrieve £80,000 he had lost in a scam. The gun was given to him after he had discussed the scam with friends. Sentencing was adjourned.

This is Wiltshire, 9 February 2010

Two men used a gun to try and hold up a newsagent's in **Pinehurst**, Wiltshire. They were confronted and quickly made their getaway empty-handed. An **imitation gun** was found at the scene. One man has been arrested (*Swindon Advertiser*, 10 February 2010).

Telegraph & Argus, 9 February 2010

Two gun enthusiasts have each been jailed after one sold the other a prohibited US army pistol, a Colt 45. Brian Teesdale from **Baildon**, West Yorkshire, was jailed for three years for possessing the gun and ammunition in November 2009. He had bought the gun from his friend, Martin Wells from **Guiseley**, nine years ago. Wells had bought the gun at an international arms fair and was told that it was not an illegal weapon. He sold it to Teesdale when he realised that it was. Wells, a shotgun licence holder for 30 years, has been jailed for 18 months.

Scarborough Evening News, 9 February 2010

A man has appeared before magistrates after police found a weapon during a search of his property in **Scarborough**, North Yorkshire. He faced allegations of possessing a firearm and ammunition without a certificate. A further examination on the size of the gun's barrel is to take place.

The Press, 9 February 2010

Ian Wynne was armed with an **imitation pistol** when he demanded cash from an employee at a shop in **Selby**, North Yorkshire, in October 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He was arrested shortly afterwards and has pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence. He has been warned that he could spend the rest of his life behind bars. He had previously been jailed for ten years for a series of armed raids.

The Herald (Plymouth), 9 February 2010

Craig Quirk pleaded guilty to eight charges after a number of incidents in two of which he put a gun to the heads of two men. He stole a mobile phone and wallet from a man walking through **Whitleigh**, Plymouth. On the same day he put a gun to the face of a cerebral palsy sufferer and threatened to kill him but the victim managed to leave the incident unscathed. The charges included possession of a firearm or imitation firearm at the time of committing an offence and possession of a prohibited firearm. He has been jailed for eight years. See also [September 2009 Incidents](#).

Clitheroe Advertiser and Times, 9 February 2010

A high voltage **stun gun** was recovered during a police raid on a café in **Clitheroe**, Lancashire. A man was arrested and charged with an offence under the Firearms Act.

Swindon Advertiser, 8 February 2010

Thomas Gregory claimed to have found a **sawn-off shotgun** in woods close to **Barbury Castle**, Wiltshire, and was taking it to a police station to hand it in when he was arrested (see [October 2009 Incidents](#)). A judge ruled he knew what he was doing and that he had gone to the isolated spot to get the gun. He pleaded guilty to possessing an altered firearm without a certificate. He will be sentenced later.

Daily Echo, 8 February 2010

A man who stole cash and a number of items, including **shotgun** cartridges, from a pub in **Studland**, Dorset, admitted burglary. Ricky Proffitt and another man were spotted ransacking the pub's office on camera but he left his DNA behind on a torch. He was given a suspended 12-month prison sentence and ordered to pay £3,200 compensation.

BBC, 8 February 2010

An 18-year-old man was shot in **Kirkdale**, Liverpool, in a targeted attack. The victim was shot in the arm and chest and is understood to be in a stable condition in hospital. A man has been arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm. A second man has been arrested (*Liverpool Echo*, 12 February 2010).

BBC, 8 February 2010

A passenger is alleged to have threatened to shoot a worker in the head at **Westbury** station in Wiltshire following a row about the price of a ticket.

This is Kent, 7 February 2010

A man had to be taken to hospital after three masked men burst into his home in **Tunbridge Wells**, Kent, and attacked him with a **stun gun**. The gang had pushed their way into the house when the victim opened the door. He believed the motive was robbery.

Click Liverpool, 7 February 2010

A man was shot in the leg at a club in **Belle Vale**, Liverpool. He was taken to hospital but later discharged himself later.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 6 February 2010

A gang burst into a home in **Bramley**, West Yorkshire, and pointed a **shotgun** at a baby's head. They were also armed with a knife. The men demanded money and grabbed items including a TV. Three teenagers have been arrested.

This is Kent, 6 February 2010

Martin Leach and his partner Donna Westguard were caught with a **stun gun** in their home in **Tonbridge**, Kent. The gun was found along with drugs when the police searched the property in November 2009. Both were given a conditional discharge for six months and Leach was fined £90.

Isle of Wight County Press, 6 February 2010

A youth was reported to have been seen with a gun in the **Butts Copse** area of Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. Police with dogs failed to track him down.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 February 2010

An **air rifle** was fired at a window in **Brockholes**, West Yorkshire, smashing an outer pane of glass.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 6 February 2010

A man leapt the counter at a bookmaker's in **Peterborough** and pointed a handgun in the face of a worker. A reward of £10,000 has been offered to catch the gunman who was caught on CCTV.

BBC, 6 February 2010

Two men who were armed with a firearm threatened staff at a bank in **Coventry**. They stole a quantity of cash.

BBC, 6 February 2010

An illegal handgun, ammunition and drugs were found by police while they were investigating the theft of a car in **Gloucester**. One man has been charged with possessing a firearm.

Waltham Forest Guardian, 5 February 2010

Police officers discovered a loaded Baikal 9mm handgun when they raided a house in **Leytonstone**, north east London. Two men and a woman were arrested.

This is Lancashire, 5 February 2010

Craig Bailey from **Hindley**, Greater Manchester, threatened a friend with a gun and was involved in a two-day siege in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) when he barricaded himself into his house. He had been found unfit to stand trial on the charges of false imprisonment, possessing an **imitation gun** with intent and threatening to destroy his property. He was convicted of the gun offence but cleared of the other two charges. He has been sent to a mental hospital indefinitely because he poses a risk to the public.

This is Croydon Today, 5 February 2010

Two boys aged 14 have both been sentenced to 30 months detention following a gunpoint raid on a shop in **Shirley**, south London, in July 2009. One of the boys pointed an **imitation shotgun** at an employee before making off with £200. Both had pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation gun.

Local Guardian, 5 February 2010

Gary Scott was one of two men who carried out an armed robbery on a post office in **Ilford**, east London, in June 2009 (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)). A security guard was threatened with a firearm during the robbery. He was handed a seven year jail term with a three year sentence for possession of ammunition and possession of criminal property to run concurrently. His accomplice has not been arrested.

Lancashire Telegraph, 5 February 2010

A **BB gun** was among a haul of weapons were found during a raid on a house in the Bank Top area of **Blackburn**, Lancashire. Cannabis was also discovered. Two men were given cautions as there was no evidence that the weapons had been used in the street.

This is Somerset, 4 February 2010

A man from **Yeovil**, Somerset, is on trial facing four charges of rape, one of kidnap, one of false imprisonment and two of assault by penetration. Mark Fell has admitted possession of a prohibited firearm, a **sawn-off shotgun**. Another man was alleged to have allowed him to store the gun at the farm in **West Coker** where he lived had denied possessing the sawn-off shotgun and was acquitted (*This is Somerset*, 14 February 2010).

This is Derbyshire, 4 February 2010

Two men have been charged with drugs and firearms offences following a raid at a house in **Ilkeston**, Derbyshire. A **shotgun** and quantities of suspected cannabis and ecstasy were recovered from the house during the raid in January 2010.

Sleaford Standard, 4 February 2010

A former RAF policeman and gun enthusiast had live ammunition and three illegal pistols stored at his home in **Sleaford**, Lincolnshire. Police also found over 200 imitation weapons inside the property which had been bought from a website linked to illegal weapons. Mark Owens admitted three charges of possessing a prohibited weapon and a further charge of illegal possession of ammunition in May 2008. His shotgun certificate had been suspended. He was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs. The judge accepted that Owens had inadvertently broken the law and was surprised to discover the pistols were prohibited weapons. The ammunition had been retained from his RAF days.

Royston Crow, 4 February 2010

Trains had to be halted for more than an hour after a man was spotted pointing a rifle at a train near **Odsey**, Hertfordshire. Drivers raised the alert. Police officers eventually discovered a number of armed men attending a legal shooting party hunting rabbits and other game on nearby farmland. The party was spoken to and given advice of walking near railway lines with weapons and never to point weapons at trains.

Prestwich & Whitefield Guide, 4 February 2010

A robber pointed a handgun at a cashier at a service station in **Prestwich**, Manchester. The man grabbed £150 before sprinting off. The cashier ran after him and cornered him but the man escaped.

Liverpool Echo, 4 February 2010

A bookmaker's in the centre of **Liverpool** has been targeted for the second time in less than two weeks. A man threatened staff with what appeared to be a black and silver handgun and forced them to open the safe. He fled on foot with a substantial amount of money. Two men have been charged, one with two counts of robbery and one count of possession of an **imitation firearm**, the other with conspiracy to commit robbery (*Liverpool Echo*, 6 February 2010).

Hornsey & Crouch End Journal, 4 February 2010

Four young men went into a bank in **Highgate**, north London, and told staff they had a gun, but none was seen. They fled within seconds and police refused to say whether they left empty-handed.

Hemel Today, 4 February 2010

Manuel Clark has been sentenced to nine-and-a-half years after handing over a **shotgun** in a pub car park in **Hemel Hempstead**, Hertfordshire, to an undercover police officer to whom he had also supplied drugs. He pleaded guilty to selling or transferring a shotgun, having a firearm and ammunition in a public place and drugs offences. George Webb who was also involved in trying to get a gun and dealt in drugs and counterfeit clothing received seven-and-a-half years after pleading guilty to aiding and abetting the transfer of a firearm and other offences, and Allan Clarke who brought the gun from his home to the car park was jailed for three years after admitting conspiracy to sell or transfer a firearm and having a firearm and ammunition in a public place.

Gainsborough Standard, 4 February 2010

A railway worker was shot with an **airgun** whilst working on tracks near the station in **Gainsborough**, Lincolnshire. He had to undergo surgery after a pellet became lodged in his arm.

Dorset Echo, 4 February 2010

A farmer was shot at twice as he tried to stop three raiders at his property in **Buckland Newton**, Dorset. Men with torches were spotted in the yard and when he confronted them they shot at him and hit a car windscreen with a .22 rifle. It is thought that nothing was stolen. Two men have been arrested (*BBC*, 5 February 2010).

Crain's Manchester Business, 4 February 2010

Live ammunition and an **imitation firearm** were among items seized during raids in **Manchester** and **Cheshire** which led to six people being arrested on suspicion of stealing more than £2m via a VAT repayment fraud.

Bolton News, 4 February 2010

A man has been charged with possession of prohibited ammunition, possession of a prohibited firearm and five other charges after a gun and ammunition were found at a house in **Bolton**, Greater Manchester. The handgun and 50 rounds of live ammunition were recovered by Bolton's Organised Crime Unit. Three other people were arrested and bailed.

Wandsworth Guardian, 3 February 2010

Ian Stephens from **Battersea Rise**, south London, who was one of four people convicted for cocaine smuggling was also found to have a **stun gun**. He was jailed for 10 years.

Uxbridge Gazette, 3 February 2010

Armed police went to Permanent Joint Headquarters, which houses NATO personnel, in **Northwood**, north west London, after reports that men with guns were lurking in the grounds. A man and a teenage boy, who were armed with an **airgun**, had been hunting squirrels. They were not arrested as they were in a public place and had not committed a crime but were warned about their actions in future.

Times, 3 February 2010

A handgun, a Baikal 9mm pistol, has been recovered at a further education college in **Kingston-upon-Thames**, Surrey, during a police search of a student. A silencer was found at his home. A youth was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession with intent to supply cannabis.

Saffron Walden Weekly News, 3 February 2010

Armed robbers, one brandishing a gun, burst into a convenience store in **Elsenham**, Essex. It is not known how much money they got away with.

Haringey Independent, 3 February 2010

Michael Michaelides threatened staff at a travel agent's in **Muswell Hill**, north London, with a pistol in November 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He grabbed fistfuls of cash but was caught red-handed. He admitted robbery and possession of a firearm and was given an indeterminate jail sentence and must serve at least five years.

Evening Gazette, 3 February 2010

Duncan Quinn showed a black pistol to men in black hoods in **Lingdale**, Cleveland, in June 2009. The incident was the culmination of a feud with his partner's ex who believed Quinn had damaged his car. Quinn was on bail at the time. He has admitted possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence and dangerous driving. His previous convictions included an affray when he had fired an **air rifle**, narrowly missing someone's eye. He was jailed for eighteen months.

Evening Chronicle, 3 February 2010

Two men armed with suspected ammonia and a handgun targeted a bank in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. They escaped with a large sum of cash after spraying the cashier with a noxious liquid. Detectives say it is not known whether the handgun was real or a **replica**. The raid took place last month.

Lancashire Telegraph, 2 February 2010

Police found cannabis plants and a rifle at a pub in **Darwen**, Lancashire. A firearm charge against the landlady and her partner was later dropped after it was found to be a souvenir.

Herald (Plymouth), 2 February 2010

Police were called to an incident in **Stonehouse**, Plymouth, by a man who claimed that he had been shot. A man had to undergo surgery for two chest wounds believed to have been caused by an **air weapon**.

Haringey Independent, 2 February 2010

A man from **Crouch Hill**, north London, one of three charged with a string of robbery-related offences has also been charged with possession of a **stun gun**.

Express & Star, 2 February 2010

A loaded handgun, cash and drugs were among items recovered in a number of co-ordinated searches of homes and shops in the **Black Country**. At least three arrests have been made.

Chester First, 2 February 2010

Christopher Jackson has pleaded guilty to owning a **stun gun** which was found during a police raid at his home in **Heswall**, Merseyside. He was given an 18 month suspended sentence and must complete 150 hours community service. The weapon will be forfeited.

BBC, 2 February 2010

Georghita Iordache has been jailed for nine years after admitting robbery. He and two other men threatened a farmer in **Overseal**, Derbyshire, with a knife and his own **shotgun** during the attack in February 2009. The men stole £10,000. The victim suffered a number of injuries and spent six days in hospital.

Watford Observer, 1 February 2010

Lloyd Franklin purchased a **stun gun** on the internet from America. He claimed to have bought the weapon, which was disguised as a mobile phone, to protect himself because he feared moving to **South Oxhey**, Hertfordshire. The package, which was marked 'self defense' was intercepted by customs officers. Franklin pleaded guilty to purchasing or acquiring a prohibited weapon and sentence was committed to the crown court.

This is North Devon, 1 February 2010

Armed police were called to a street in **Barnstaple**, Devon, following reports that a man had been spotted with a gun and made contact with a man inside a property. A police spokesman said there was no evidence to suggest there was a firearm in the property.

Sussex Express, 1 February 2010

A teenager walked into the shop at a garage in **Newhaven**, East Sussex, holding a handgun. He demanded cash from a member of staff who put it inside a bag. Another youth was seen waiting outside during the robbery.

South London Press, 1 February 2010

An 18-year-old is on trial facing four charges including possessing a 9mm pistol with intent to endanger life. The loaded pistol was found in a taxi in which he was sitting and which had picked him up from a pub in **Greenwich**, south east London, in August 2009. He was arrested after being shot with a police taser. Rosca Onya had bragged on YouTube how he would shoot rivals in revenge for stabbing him. The Glock 26 was later discovered to have been used in two previous gang-related shootings. He was convicted of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possessing ammunition with intent to endanger life (*News Shopper*, 2 February 2010).

Express & Star, 1 February 2010

A motorist who was climbing into his car at a restaurant in **Fordhouses**, Wolverhampton, has been robbed. A number of men armed with a handgun stole his gold necklace.

Evening Standard, 1 February 2010

Police in **London** have warned about a new wave of chaotic young armed robbers who are targeting shops, pubs and restaurants. The weapons they use range from imitation firearms to genuine handguns. The robberies represent a shift from attacks on cash-in-transit vans but the are harder to predict.

Evening Gazette, 1 February 2010

Paul Leather has been sent to jail for 10 months after he fired an **airgun** at a shop assistant in **Skelton**, Cleveland. She had felt a pain in the back of her head as she was cleaning in front of the doors of the supermarket where she worked in October 2009. He pleaded guilty to possession of an air weapon, breaching an Asbo and resisting arrest. The judge criticised the Crown Prosecution Service for not bringing a more serious charge.

SCOTLAND

West Lothian Courier, 25 February 2010

In April 2009 Steven McMillan was seen by neighbours in **Fauldhouse**, West Lothian, coming out of his home carrying an **air rifle** and firing the weapon three times. This followed a disturbance when he had been chased by two men. McMillan pleaded guilty to breaching the peace by firing an air rifle and also to producing a class B drug. The air rifle was empty at the time. He was fined a total of £360.

stv, 25 February 2010

Darren Rooney admitted owning a Smith and Wesson revolver and three live bullets which police recovered when they raided his flat in **Anderston**, Glasgow, in December 2009. He pleaded guilty to possession the gun and ammunition as well as a separate firearms charge. He faces a lengthy jail term.

Paisley Daily Express, 25 February 2010

A weapon was fired at least five times by the driver of a car while it was parked outside shops in **Renfrew**. The police believe the weapon involved was an **air rifle**. No arrests have been made.

Helensburgh Advertiser, 25 February 2010

A young sailor apparently committed suicide by turning a loaded gun on himself on board a vessel inside **Faslane Naval Base**, Argyll and Bute. The minesweeper was berthed at the time. The man is believed to have been on sentry duty.

Evening Times, 24 February 2010

Two men, one of whom was carrying a gun, escaped with about £200 from a bookmaker's in **Muirhead**, Lanarkshire. The men then raided two other bookmaker's premises in nearby **Ballieston**, where they stole £200, and **Moodiesburn**, where they escaped with £300. A getaway car was recovered in Easterhouse, Glasgow (*BBC*, 25 February 2010).

Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser, 24 February 2010

Three women were held at knifepoint during a robbery at a store in **Coatdyke**, North Lanarkshire. Two men armed with the knife and what could have been a gun fled with a few hundred pounds.

BBC, 22 February 2010

A 3-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after being shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in **Selkirk**. He is reported to be "doing well" and responding to treatment.

icLanarkshire, 21 February 2010

A large sum of money was stolen from another bookmaker's. A man threatened staff with a gun in the incident in **Uddingston**, North Lanarkshire.

Kilmarnock Standard, 19 February 2010

A corner shop in **Kilmaurs**, Ayrshire, has been held up at gunpoint for the second time in two months. In the latest robbery staff were confronted by a man who threatened them and demanded cash. He stole a three-figure sum of money. In the first raid the would-be robbery left empty-handed.

stv, 17 February 2010

In another robbery at a bookmaker's in Glasgow an armed robber threatened staff at a premises in **Parkhead**. Police believe he was carrying a firearm. He stole a three-figure sum of money.

Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald, 17 February 2010

Two men, one aged 18, were arrested and detained after an incident in which a street in **Ardrossan**, Ayrshire, was sealed off for three hours. A man heard an airgun pellet hit a fence behind him and second later heard an **airgun** being fired and felt a stinging pain in his elbow.

BBC, 16 February 2010

Two Royal Navy service personnel were detained and an **air rifle** was recovered from a room at **Faslane Naval Base**, Argyll and Bute, following reports that a weapon had been discharged at the base.

BBC, 14 February 2010

Two men with what is thought to have been a firearm threatened staff at a bookmaker's in **Possil**, Glasgow. They made off with a four-figure sum of money.

stv, 12 February 2010

Staff at a bank in **Glasgow** were left badly shaken after a man threatened them with what appeared to be a gun before he fled with a four figures amount of cash. He escaped in a car driven by another man.

stv, 12 February 2010

Police uncovered a firearm and drugs during a search operation in gardens in **Inch**, Edinburgh. The items were found in a communal garden area. The search followed a tip-off.

Ayrshire Post, 12 February 2010

Police in Ayrshire who seized £360,000 worth of drugs and charged 120 people with drug-related offences during Operation Impact discovered a handgun during one raid in **Troon**.

Evening Express, 10 February 2010

Two men have been charged after allegedly trespassing on an estate in **Strathdon**, Aberdeenshire, while carrying a **shotgun** in April 2009. One of them faces an additional charge of being in possession of a shotgun without a licence.

Scotsman, 9 February 2010

Frank Schyvens went to a shop in **Bo'ness**, West Lothian, he had run with a business partner with a Smith & Wesson revolver and 13 bullets and demanded to be told where he could find his former partner. He forced two of the staff into a car and made one of them drive away. Police were alerted and he was arrested. The incident took place in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He has admitted assaulting the two staff and pleaded guilty to firearms offences. He was jailed for five years and three months.

Evening Express, 9 February 2010

Mark Fletcher smashed the window of a nearby property when he shot a **pellet gun** from a hotel in **Huntly**, Aberdeenshire. He admitted recklessly discharging the firearm with disregard for the safety of others. He was fined £200.

BBC, 8 February 2010

A flat in **Shettleston**, Glasgow, was deliberately targeted by gunmen, according to police. Five adults at the flat were uninjured but badly shaken when shots were fired into the property by two masked men.

Press & Journal, 5 February 2010

Christopher Turner was found with an **airgun** and pellets in **Fraserburgh**, Aberdeenshire, in February 2008. He had admitted having the weapon and pellets, but sentencing was delayed so that a fresh background report could be produced.

Greenock Telegraph, 5 February 2010

A man with a knife and a gun threatened two women at a shop in **Greenock**, Renfrewshire, but fled with just a bottle of cider when they refused to hand over cash.

BBC, 4 February 2010

A court has heard that one of two men on trial for the murder of a man on **Sanday**, Orkney, had threatened to shoot the victim. The defendant's former partner, who had a relationship with the victim, said it was an empty threat because the gun was a **replica**.

Motherwell Times, 3 February 2010

Two men were on trial accused of having weapons, including a gun, and making threats outside the home of a woman from **Cleland**, North Lanarkshire, in October 2008. One man was cleared of the charge.

Dumbarton Reporter, 2 February 2010

Shots were allegedly fired from an **air rifle** in the direction of a shop in **Dumbarton**. Armed police sealed off streets. A man has been charged with culpable and reckless conduct and reckless discharge of an air rifle.

BBC, 1 February 2010

David Keenan has admitted committing a breach of the peace after he phoned a college in **Dumfries** and threatened to shoot its students and then himself. He said he felt like "being a terrorist".

WALES

Flintshire Chronicle, 25 February 2010

Dylan Jones led police on a long, high-speed chase when he had an imitation firearm in his car. He had been drinking and narrowly missed hitting children in **Mostyn**, Clywd. He admitted making off without paying for fuel, dangerous driving, failing to provide a breath test, possessing cannabis and possessing the imitation firearm, a **deactivated Kalashnikov rifle**. He was jailed for 14 months and received a driving ban.

BBC, 25 February 2010

A 10-year-old boy died after receiving an airgun wound to the heart, an inquest heard. The **.22 calibre air rifle**, which belonged to the victim's father, was fired by another boy with whom he was taking 'pot shots' at cans at his home in Llansamlet, Swansea, in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The boy had been using the gun for more than two years, but his father said that it had been only while supervised. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death and urged parents to ensure that air weapons are not used without parental supervision. "Such weapons although not requiring to be licensed can prove fatal".

South Wales Argus, 22 February 2010

Ryan Lewis, 20, has been sentenced to 15 months in a young offenders' institute for possession an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and intimidating a witness. He waved a gun, now believed to be a **ball-bearing gun**, in the air at a family who had gathered outside their home after an object was thrown through their window in **Beechwood**, Newport, in August 2009. Lewis was drunk and accused them of throwing a brick through his window. The police were called and found an **air pistol** and ball-bearing gun at his home.

South Wales Argus, 20 February 2010

Armed police responding to reports of a disturbance sealed off part of the centre of **Newport**. Officers broke into a property and a woman, two-year-old and a baby were taken away in an ambulance. A man was escorted to a police station. An **air rifle** was recovered from the premises. No shots were fired and no one was injured.

This is South Wales, 19 February 2010

Two men threatened staff at a shop in **Fforestfach**, Swansea, and stole cash and cigarettes. The men were believed to have been carrying a handgun.

This is South Wales, 19 February 2010

A **shotgun** was recovered during a major operation by **South Wales** Police which resulted in 250 vehicles being stopped, eight people arrested and 31 vehicles seized. The shotgun and ammunition were found after one of the arrests led to a raid on a house.

This is South Wales, 19 February 2010

A man due to appear in court to face GBH charge has shot himself in the head with an **air rifle** at his home in **Pontardawe**, West Glamorgan. He has been left blinded in one eye, lost the use of his legs and now suffers seizures. He remains in hospital.

Daily Post, 17 February 2010

A trucker was kidnapped at gunpoint when he stopped on **Deeside Industrial Estate**, Clwyd. He was attacked by three men who smashed the cab windows, threatened him with a gun and forced him into another vehicle. He was let out in the **Wigan** area. The burnt out lorry minus its load of sportswear was found in **St Helens**.

BBC, 11 February 2010

Donatien Chamchawala from **Blackwood**, Gwent, has admitted possessing a modified **starting pistol**. The prohibited weapon was found at his home in April 2009. Sentencing was adjourned.

South Wales Argus, 10 February 2010

Jamie Thomas, 20, has admitted possessing a **ball-bearing gun** and **air rifle** in a public place. He was driving through **Brynmawr**, Gwent, in March 2009 when his passenger shouted and pointed the ball-bearing handgun at a passer-by through an open window. The weapons were recovered during a search of Thomas's car. He was also one of four men involved in a drunken brawl which broke out on a train from Cardiff to Ebbw Vale for which they all received jail sentences. Thomas was sentenced to six months for this, a further three months for possessing the ball bearing gun and four months for possessing the air rifle, both sentences to run concurrently with his six month sentence.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Runcorn and Widnes World, 27 February 2010

A cat was shot twice at close range in **Sandymoor**, Runcorn in Cheshire, apparently with an **air rifle**. He has had to have surgery to remove a pellet in his leg but it was too risky to operate near his heart where another pellet is lodged.

Dunfermline Press, 25 February 2010

A pet cat has been shot three times with an **airgun** in **Dunfermline**, Fife. He was struggling to breathe after one pellet nicked his windpipe. Three pellets were found inside him by the vet who saved him.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 23 February 2010

A swan rescued from a frozen pool in **Nuneaton**, Warwickshire, and nursed back to health was shot with an **air rifle** just hours after being released back into the wild. A pellet was embedded in her spine and as the vet was unable to operate she had to be put to sleep.

This is Plymouth, 20 February 2010

A cat was apparently shot with an **air rifle** in **Whiteleigh**, Plymouth, according to a vet who examined and treated the animal.

Thurrock Gazette, 19 February 2010

A man walking his dog in a park in **Langdon Hills**, Essex, was shocked to see a park ranger using a **double-barrelled shotgun** to hunt down and kill moles. A spokesman for Thurrock Council which employs the rangers said that the ranger involved was fully trained and licensed to carry the shotgun. The local MP Angela Smith was also shocked by the way in which the moles were being killed and said that "it doesn't seem sensible to have someone wandering around a park with a shotgun".

News & Star, 17 February 2010

A pet cat from **Egremont**, Cumbria, has been shot with an **air rifle**. The cat was found to have an airgun pellet in his left leg. The pellet was removed by a vet who said the cat had been very lucky.

BBC, 17 February 2010

A "considerable number" of deer have been found shot dead on a private estate near **Landford**, Wiltshire. The animals had been shot with a rifle and left to die.

Perthshire Advertiser, 16 February 2010

A former gamekeeper shot a buzzard with a .243 rifle and was caught with poisons. The bird was found in his car with a broken wing. Graham Kerr admitted shooting it at an estate in **Abermyte**, Perthshire, in September 2009 and being in possession of the poisons. His not guilty pleas to two other charges, including being in possession of two rifles and ammunition were accepted by the Crown. He has been ordered to appear for sentencing.

Observer & Citizen (Leighton Buzzard), 16 February 2010

A sniper has been targeting rescue cats in a street in **Leighton Buzzard**, Bedfordshire. The police believe the culprit may be shooting at the animals with an **airgun** from a bedroom nearby. A number of cats have been injured though none seriously.

Chelmsford Weekly News, 15 February 2010

Two cats have been shot near their home in **Colchester**, Essex. Their owner discovered them hiding in a shed, one had been shot in the chest and may not survive, the other was shot in the stomach and been allowed to return home. It is thought that two people with an **airgun** each may have shot the cats at the same time.

BBC, 12 February 2010

The bodies of a pair of swans found in **Horningtoft**, Norfolk, were "peppered" with shot. Tens upon tens of **shotgun** pellets filled their entire bodies, wings and heads.

Local Guardian, 11 February 2010

A deer has been shot and killed in a park in **Hampton Court**, south west London. The animal was shot once in the head with a **shotgun** at point blank range. Police believe the shooting was a poaching attempt gone wrong.

The Journal (Lowestoft), 9 February 2010

The bodies of two blackbirds were found in a garden in **Costessey**, Norwich. Their injuries are thought to be consistent with **airgun** wounds. The RSPCA is appealing for information. It is illegal to kill or injure wild birds.

Devon24, 5 February 2010

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Honiton**, Devon. Police are urging people to keep a close eye on their pets following the incident.

Daily Echo, 4 February 2010

A protected bird of prey has been shot with an **airgun** on the nature reserve at **Upton Heath**, Dorset. The buzzard's main wing joint was shattered and it could not be saved.

Manchester Evening News, 3 February 2010

A swan has had to be put down after it was shot in the head at close range at a park in **Stockport**, Cheshire. An **air rifle** pellet went through the bird's eye and lodged in its skull. In the last year there have been four reported incidents of males carrying air rifles in the park (*Stockport Express*, 10 February 2010).

Luton Today, 3 February 2010

A cat returned to her home in **Houghton Regis**, Bedfordshire, with horrendous injuries after being shot by an **airgun** sniper. X-ray results revealed she had been shot by a pellet which hit her spine. If she does recover the injuries she sustained will leave her permanently paralysed.



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