



JANUARY 2009 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were nine fatal shootings reported during January, four of them apparent homicides which took place in:
 - Edinburgh - the male victim may have been murdered as part of a gang war
 - Isle of Wight - a man was shot dead in Wellow: the victim's wife, a clay-pigeon shooting enthusiast, has been charged with murder
 - Merseyside - a man was found shot dead in a street in Fazakerley
 - Worcestershire - the victim was the son of a sub-postmaster in Fairfield where both men were shot during an attempted robbery: four people have been charged with murder, attempted murder and attempted robbery
- The full details of two other fatal shootings have not been revealed:
 - Lincolnshire - a man died after receiving a shotgun injury in Gayton-le-Marsh: a woman was arrested and bailed until March
 - Teesside - a man died from shotgun wounds in Stockton: a man was arrested on suspicion of firearm offences
- Three other men appear to have taken their own lives in shooting incidents in Gleadless (Sheffield), where a man had barricaded himself into a flat, at a park in Rivington (Lancashire) and in a field in Brewood (Staffordshire), close to a property where a woman had been shot and injured.
- Shooting incidents that resulted in injury occurred in:
 - Humberside (1) - a man suffered a stomach wound in a shooting incident in Hull - nine people have been arrested and three have been charged with violent disorder
 - Merseyside (3) - one man was shot in the leg in a targeted attack in Speke, another was shot outside a nightclub in the centre of Liverpool and a third male victim was hit in the face with shotgun pellets in St Helens
 - South London (2) - a man walking his dog was shot in the leg in Clapham (the dog was also shot and injured) and another man was shot in the leg in Camberwell
 - South Yorkshire (1) - a man was shot in the leg in Sharrow (Sheffield)
 - Staffordshire (1) - a woman was shot twice at a house in Brewood, where police discovered the body of her partner and a gun in a neighbouring field (see above)
 - West Midlands (3) - two men were shot in the leg in separate incidents in Dudley and West Bromwich, and another victim was shot in the hand and shoulder in Hockley
 - West Yorkshire (1) - a man was shot in the bottom in Bradford
 - Worcestershire (1) - the father of the man fatally shot during an attempted robbery on a post office in Fairfield (see above) was injured by a shot in the leg
- A man was seriously injured after he was shot by the police during an incident at a house in Brighouse (West Yorkshire). Another man was in a serious condition after he was shot by a police officer in Palmers Green (north London) during an pre-planned operation during which the police had stopped two cars.

- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - The increased number of reports of robberies and attempted robberies involving men armed with guns suggests they are on the rise. More types of premises were targeted. In one of three incidents in which shots were fired, at a post office in Fairfield (Worcestershire), one man was killed and his father seriously injured. No one was injured in the other two incidents: two police officers came across an armed raid on two security guards delivering cash to a building society in Kings Heath (Birmingham) and during a raid on a shop in North Kensington (west London). In the majority of incidents no weapon was fired, and quite often the perpetrators fled empty-handed when challenged. It seems likely that in many instances the weapon was a replica firearm. Nevertheless, the possibility that the weapon being brandished could be lethal and loaded means that **any realistic-looking gun, real or imitation, will always be a threat.**
- In addition to the raid in Kings Heath (see above), security guards were also targeted in Bramley (Leeds) and Clacton (Essex)
- A man was arrested in connection with three armed robberies in Darlington (County Durham) including one outside a bank and one on a post office. There were other armed raids on:
 - Banks in Headington (Oxford) (the staff did not believe the gun was genuine) and Gloucester (two people have been arrested), and a cash handling centre in Beaumont Leys (Leicester)
 - A Car Wash in Harrogate (North Yorkshire)
 - A Cinema in Sapley (Huntingdon)
 - Bookmakers in Brighton (a ball-bearing gun was found and may have been connected with the raid), Gilmerton (Edinburgh), Hamilton (South Lanarkshire), Ingol (Lancashire), Oldham (Greater Manchester) (a man put a gun against a woman's face and pulled the trigger) and Shrewsbury (Shropshire)
 - Petrol stations in Middlesbrough (the gunman was believed to be just 16 years old) and Spaldwick (Cambridgeshire)
 - Post Offices in Elwick (Teesside), Harrogate (North Yorkshire) and Stanton Harcourt (Oxfordshire) (a man and a woman have been arrested), as well as the fatal attack in Fairfield (Worcestershire) (see above)
 - A Pub in Sherwood (Nottingham)
 - Shops in Bootle (Liverpool), Cippenham (Berkshire), Gorton (Manchester) and North Kensington (west London) (two robberies in one of which shots were fired)
 - A Travel Agents in Atherton (Greater Manchester)
- A man was struck on the head with a small handgun during a robbery at a house in Stoneleigh (Surrey).
- A car was stolen at gunpoint in a street in Ladbroke Grove (west London).
- There were attempted robberies on drivers in Alfreton (Derbyshire) and Blackburn (Lancashire) (the police believe the robbers were after the takings from a shop).
- There was a street robbery in Paisley (Renfrewshire) which may have been linked to a later incident in Bridge of Weir.
- **Other Incidents** - Two men were charged after a gun was fired during a disturbance in Leeds. On Merseyside police were called after three shots were fired at an empty car in Crosby and shots were fired at a property in Birkenhead. Gunshots were also fired at a house in Sarisbury Green (Hampshire).

- A suspected burglar escaped from a prison van when two men with a shotgun held up the van in Feltham (west London): he was recaptured a few days later.
- A teenager has been charged with possessing an automatic firearm and ammunition after a street fight in Aston (Birmingham). A man forced his way into a house in Whitehaven (Cumbria) and threatened the occupant with a firearm which was retrieved by police. Four men were arrested and a firearm recovered after an altercation at a pub in Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire).
- Two young girls had a firearm pointed at them by two young men as they were walking in Letham (Angus).
- A suspected gunman was arrested after armed police were called to flats in Southampton. Police arrested two people at a house in Toothill (Wiltshire) after investigating calls about a firearm. A man was arrested in Didcot (Oxfordshire) on suspicion of making threats to kill and there were allegations that the man had firearms in the house. Four people were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after a siege at a flat in Blackpool.
- Two men were charged with grievous bodily harm, robbery and possession of a firearm after an incident in Weymouth (Dorset) in which a woman was stabbed.
- Two men were arrested in Scotland in connection with a drugs and firearm investigation in Lancashire. A man from Whitley (Berkshire) has been accused of possessing a shotgun, cocaine and cannabis.
- **Gun Thefts and Recoveries** - A number of shotguns and airguns were reported stolen:
 - Three shotguns together with boxes of ammunition were stolen from a house in Seven Sisters (Neath, South Wales): a man has been arrested
 - Three shotguns were stolen during a burglary in Middleton Cheney (Northamptonshire)
 - Four shotguns were stolen, along with a sports car and other items, during a break-in at a house in Rolleston (Nottinghamshire)
 - A shotgun was stolen during a burglary in Snelland (Lincolnshire)
 - Air rifles were stolen from a property in Metherington (Lincolnshire), a car in Bethersden (Kent) and a garage in Wynyard (County Durham).
- A shotgun was recovered from undergrowth in Wingate (County Durham).
- A machine gun, pistol and ammunition were found during a police raid on a house in Wythenshawe (Greater Manchester): one man has been charged.
- Police found a handgun at a property in Thornbury (Gloucestershire) where a cannabis factory was discovered in the roof. A ball-bearing gun was recovered from one of seven properties raided by police in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire) during an operation aimed at combating drugs and organised crime.
- Stun guns have been recovered by police in a number of drug-related raids. One was among items seized from a house in Edinburgh where counterfeit material was also found, another was recovered in Cleckheaton (West Yorkshire) and one was found during a series of raids in Hartlepool.
- The Metropolitan Police reported that a month-long crackdown on the carrying of weapons in London netted five guns and led to 50 arrests.
- **Airguns** - During January victims were targeted with airguns in:
 - Middlesbrough - a 17-year-old walking in the street was hit in the hand and had to have a pellet removed in hospital

- Swansea - a man claimed he was struck in the knee by a pellet as he was walking along a street
 - Truro (Cornwall) - a 14-year-old was shot in the arm: it was believed that the gun responsible was given as a Christmas present
 - Wellingborough (Northamptonshire) - a man and a woman were both hit with airgun pellets in the same area of the town
- A man was arrested after armed police were called to an apartment block in Hatherleigh (Devon) where a man, believed to be armed with an airgun, had been making threats.
- A man who confronted youths in Smethwick (West Midlands) over airgun pellets being fired in the area later had a gun pulled on him.
- A man pleaded not guilty when he appeared in court for allegedly being in possession of an air pistol in Turnford (Hertfordshire).
- An airgun was fired a number of times at a van in Dorking (Surrey). Six bus shelters have been vandalised, probably with airguns, in Whitburn (County Durham). Residents in Fulwood (Preston) are concerned about a cycle route because the area is already affected by troublemaking: this has included an air rifle being shot through the window of a home.
- **Imitation Guns** - Two more young people were injured with imitation guns, a 12-year-old boy hit with pellets from a BB gun in Airdrie (North Lanarkshire) and a 14-year-old girl who needed hospital treatment after she was shot with a ball-bearing gun in Bolton (her handbag was stolen during the incident).
- A group of teenagers may have been threatened by another teenager with a ball-bearing gun in North Finchley (north London).
- A man was charged with false imprisonment, possessing an imitation firearm and threats to commit criminal damage after a siege at a house in Wigan.
- A 15-year-old from Burghfield Common (Reading) has been charged with possessing a firearm (a "BB air weapon") as well as beating up five people and intimidating witnesses. Police seized a CO₂-powered ball-bearing gun after an incident in Crawley (Sussex) and a 17-year-old was charged. Armed police went to a college campus in Chippenham (Wiltshire) and detained another 17-year-old who had concealed an imitation gun in his trousers: he was cautioned.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More animals and birds were reported to have become victims in shooting incidents during the month.
- Cats were shot with air rifles or ball-bearing guns in Aberdeenshire, Buckinghamshire, County Durham, Hampshire, North London, Oxfordshire (where another of the owner's cats had been injured in an airgun shooting in December 2008), Somerset and South Yorkshire (two separate incidents). A dog was shot with an air rifle in Somerset at a location close to where a cat was also shot.
- Two horses were shot in the eye in Leatherhead (Surrey) and one of them has had to be put down.
- An animal welfare group has called for an investigation into the alleged shooting of a seal during its breeding season near Kyle of Lochalsh (Ross-shire). In another incident in Scotland a deer, which had been a tourist attraction in Glencoe (Argyll), had to be put down after being shot with an air rifle.
- Ducks in Chalfont St Peter (Buckinghamshire) and Greatham Village (Hartlepool) were shot dead with airguns, swans were targeted in the Black Country, Wombwell (South Yorkshire) and in Shepperton and Chertsey (Surrey). Several coots were also found shot in Chertsey.

Seagulls and a pigeon have been the target of airgun attacks in Pevensey Bay (East Sussex).

- A man was given a suspended 12-week prison sentence for encouraging his son to shoot a wood pigeon with a high velocity air rifle in their garden in Tettenhall (Wolverhampton).
-

- **Convictions** - A man was found guilty of killing a teenage girl at a party in Tottenham (north London) and has been jailed for life with a minimum term of 27 years. Another man, who pleaded guilty to murdering a man who was shot at a pub in Wolverhampton, has been jailed for 23 years. A man described as a "gun fanatic", who killed his mother by shooting her several times in the head with a handgun and also shot dead their four dogs at the family home in Hamworthy (Dorset), has been jailed for a minimum of 10 years.
- Another man was found guilty of two counts of attempted murder after opening fire at police officers in Manor House (north London) and has been jailed for 20 years.
- A man who had already been jailed for threatening two policemen with a shotgun has been convicted of trying to kill a man in Cardonald (Glasgow).
- Three men who carried out a series of armed raids in Sheffield and shot one victim in the foot with a shotgun have been jailed for a total of almost fifty years.
- A man was jailed for 15 years after robbing security guards in Sittingbourne (Kent) - he had denied robbery, possessing a firearm, false imprisonment and concealing criminal property. Five men and two women have been given sentences ranging from 3 years to 21 years for their various roles in a series of armed robberies on banks, security guards and stores in Loughton (Essex) and South Woodford, Romford and Harold Hill (London) in which staff were threatened with a firearm.
- Two men have been sentenced to three years and three years and nine months after admitting possessing firearms - they were arrested following an incident in Norwich when two loaded shotguns were recovered after a shots were fired in the street. A teenager has been given an indeterminate sentence after he was caught with a converted blank-firing pistol loaded with ten bullets in Handsworth Wood (Birmingham).
- A man was jailed for six years after he admitted keeping a stolen army sub-machine gun and ammunition at a flat in Glasgow - he has been given an additional four years in jail.
- A 17-year-old from Merseyside has admitted possession of a shotgun, a handgun and ammunition - he was filmed assembling a shotgun for a BBC Panorama programme. Another teenager from Merseyside caught who was caught with a sawn-off shotgun and cocaine at his home in Huyton has received a six year jail sentence. A 14-year-old boy has been given an 18-month detention and training order for storing a Baikal semi-automatic pistol, silencers and ammunition at his home in New Cross (south east London).
- A photographer from Rainham (Kent) was given a suspended jail sentence after he admitted having an illegal Colt 45 - the judge said he accepted that his intent (to use the gun as a prop) was not malevolent and that he did not know possession was illegal but it is hard to understand how anyone would not know that ownership of a handgun is illegal in Great Britain.

- Three men were convicted of possessing a stun gun:
 - A lorry driver from Leith who claimed to have bought the weapon for self defence against criminals
 - A man from Stockbridge Village (Merseyside) who admitted possessing a prohibited weapon and was given a suspended 50-week prison sentence
 - A man arrested after a fight in a bar in Leigh (Greater Manchester) who was found to have a stun gun and has been jailed for 14 weeks after pleading guilty to theft, possessing an illegal weapon and breaching his bail

- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - There have been a number of cases in which men have used airguns to threaten others including, in two instances, their own children
 - A man threatened to blow up his home in Tredworth (Gloucester) and pointed an air rifle at his own son has been jailed for eight months after he admitted having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
 - A man from Bradford pointed an air rifle at his teenage daughter and has been given a suspended one-year prison sentence.
 - A man who brandished an airgun at a paramedic following a suicide bid at his home in Dagenham (east London) and then stole and crashed an ambulance has been jailed for three years.
 - A man who threatened a traffic warden with an airgun in Hove (Sussex) pleaded guilty to affray and was fined £200 and ordered to pay £300 compensation.

- A serving soldier who caused a major alert when he opened fire with an air rifle across the River Ayr near to where families were picnicking has admitted causing a breach of the peace.
- A man who roamed the streets of Cleator (Cumbria) armed with an air pistol and stun gun whilst banned from ever owning guns has been sent to prison for three-and-a-half years.
- A man who pleaded guilty to culpably and recklessly discharging a firearm after he allowed an air rifle to be fired at targets in his garden in Lerwick (Shetland) has been fined and ordered to forfeit his rifle.
- A man from Tamworth (Staffordshire) who bought a lethal, high-powered air rifle from a car boot sale in order to "shoot rats" whilst he was fishing has been jailed for nine months after he admitted possessing an illegal firearm.
- A man from Alkrington (Greater Manchester) who had collected a number of guns, two of which were prohibited air weapons, was given a five year sentence after pleading guilty to possessing two unlicensed illegal firearms and a further 12 month sentence to run concurrently for having an imitation firearm with him in a public place.

- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - There was more evidence of the use of imitation guns in armed robberies:
 - A member of an organised gang responsible for robberies in Leeds and Manchester has been jailed for 12 years for robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.
 - Two men were jailed for 10 years and 7 years after denying armed robbery in Westbury-on-Trym (Bristol) and possession of an imitation firearm.
 - A man was given a 12 year jail after admitting to 20 robberies on various premises in Greater Manchester and London during which he had been armed with a ball-bearing gun.

- Two men who were among a gang of seven who forced their way into a house in Huyton (Merseyside) and terrorised three children at gunpoint have been convicted of attempted robbery, robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and have been jailed for six-and-a-half and nine years.
 - A man has been jailed for four-and-a-half years after robbing a post office in Thorpe St Andrew (Norwich) whilst armed with an imitation gun.
- A suicidal man who terrified passers-by in Cippenham (Berkshire) by thrusting a replica handgun in their faces has been jailed for two years and nine months.
- Two men who took pot shots at youths with BB guns in Adwick (South Yorkshire) have each been ordered to carry out 140 hours of community work.
- A 19-year-old has admitted affray and possessing an imitation firearm in public after he had been seen in a car in Wrexham holding what looked like a gun.

GUN INCIDENTS – JANUARY 2009

ENGLAND

Sky TV, 31 January 2009

A man has been shot dead in a street in the **Fazakerley** area of Liverpool. One resident reported hearing five gunshots, followed by shouting and screaming. The victim is reported to have only recently been released from jail after serving part of a sentence for wounding, possessing a firearm with intent and dangerous driving following a shooting in Liverpool in February 2003 (*Click Liverpool*, 1 February 2009).

Peterlee Mail, 31 January 2009

Police uncovered a stun gun which they say could be 'potentially lethal in the wrong hands' during early-morning drug raids in **Hartlepool**. Six people were arrested for a string of different offences.

Sky TV, 30 January 2009

A 14-year-old boy has been given an 18-month detention and training order for storing a gun, silencers and ammunition at home in **New Cross**, south east London. At the time of his arrest he was 13, the youngest person to be arrested by the Metropolitan Police for gun possession.

Melton Times, 30 January 2009

A suspected firearm was found at a pub in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire, after reports of an altercation at the premises. Four men, including one teenager, were arrested in connection with the incident.

Maidenhead Advertiser, 30 January 2009

Paul Badham was suicidal when he terrified passers-by in **Cippenham**, Berkshire, by thrusting a **replica handgun** in their faces in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He has been jailed for two years and nine months.

East London and West Essex Guardian, 30 January 2009

Five men and two women have been sentenced after they were convicted of a linked string of offences dating back to 2006. Edward Levy and Mark Vernage threatened staff at a bank in **Loughton**, Essex, in April 2007 and escaped with £200,000. The robbery had involved one member of staff, Shilpa Patel. Levy and Vernage also threatened a cash delivery drivers with a firearm in **Romford** and **Harold Hill**, east London, where bank staff were also threatened. They also threatened a security guard in **South Woodford**, north east London, in February 2007 (see [2007 Incidents](#)). Vernage also threatened staff at a store in **Romford** with a loaded semi-automatic handgun and silencer. He was able to leave the premises with the help of a security guard, Trusha Patel, but police arrested him outside the store. Vernage was convicted of conspiracy to rob, conspiracy to use firearms, robbery offences and having a firearm with intent to commit robbery, and has been given a 14 year jail sentence. Levy was convicted of robbery having a firearm with intent to commit robbery, possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing ammunition without a firearm certificate and was sentenced to 21 years. Shilpa Patel and Trusha Patel both received 10 year sentences. Nittin Patel, Nicholas Drakou and Abdulhamed Eldow were sentenced to 10 years, 14 years and 3 years for their roles in the robberies.

Daily Mail, 30 January 2009

Henry Rockson has been given a 12-year jail sentence for a series of robberies. At a bookmakers in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) he had walked in armed with a **ball bearing gun** but was tackled by a pensioner who forced him into a headlock. The man was hit on the head at least twice with the butt of the gun and Rockson escaped. By the time he was caught by police he had robbed up to 17 shops, newsagents and off-licences at gunpoint across **Greater Manchester** and in **Dulwich**, south London. The gun he used was found to be incapable of firing. He admitted 20 offences including robbery, attempted robbery and having an imitation firearm with intent and handling stolen goods. He asked for 13 other offences to be taken into account.

Community News, 30 January 2009

A man was hit in the face with **shotgun** pellets in a park in **St Helens**, Merseyside. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries and has since been discharged.

BBC, 30 January 2009

James Hall has been jailed for four-and-a-half years after admitting robbing a post office in **Thorpe St Andrew**, Norwich, in September 2008 and possessing an **imitation gun**. He had pointed the gun at staff and forced the postmaster to hand over cash.

BBC, 30 January 2009

Two police officers were shot at in an alleyway in **Kings Heath**, Birmingham, after coming across an armed raid at a building society. The officers were going to the aid of two security guards making a delivery to the premises.

BBC, 30 January 2009

A house in **Birkenhead**, Merseyside, was damaged when gunshots were fired at the property. No-one was injured but a window was smashed.

Liverpool Echo, 29 January 2009

Andrew Billows, 19, was caught with a **sawn-off shotgun** and £11000 worth of cocaine at his home in **Huyton**, Merseyside. Police also found 9mm Luger cartridges. An **air rifle** and an **imitation handgun** were also found but later ruled not to be prohibited. Billows told police he was ordered to hide the gun by his supplier. He admitted possessing the firearm, two counts of possessing ammunition together with drug offences and has been jailed for six years.

Gazette (Gloucestershire), 29 January 2009

A cannabis factory and a handgun were discovered in the roof of a property in **Thornbury**, Gloucestershire. A man was arrested and released on bail pending further inquiries.

Evening Gazette, 29 January 2009

A 17-year-old youth was hit with an **airgun** pellet as he was walking home in **Middlesbrough**. He felt a pain in his right hand and later had an airgun pellet removed in hospital.

BBC, 29 January 2009

A man has been found dead in a field by police investigating a shooting in **Brewood**, Staffordshire. Officers called to a house found a woman there who had been shot twice. She has been taken to hospital but her injuries are not believed to be life threatening. A gun was recovered from the scene where the man's body was discovered. Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the shooting.

BBC, 29 January 2009

Two men brandishing pistols have held up a post office on the outskirts of **Harrogate**, north Yorkshire. They escaped with cash from the till.

BBC, 29 January 2009

A man is in a serious condition after being shot by a police officer during an operation in **Palmers Green**, north London. The incident occurred as police stopped two cars during a pre-planned operation. Five men have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to rob. The man's injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

Kent News, 28 January 2009

An **airgun** worth £250 and some pellets, together with a chain saw, were stolen from a car parked at a pub in **Bethersden**, Kent.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 28 January 2009

Four people, three men and a teenage girl, have been arrested on suspicion of possible possession of a firearm. The arrests followed reports that a tenant at a flat in **Blackpool** had a firearm. Armed officers sealed off a street and a team of specially trained officers talked all four people out of the flat.

Bucks Free Press, 28 January 2009

Ten people were arrested as part of a police operation aimed at combating drugs and organised crime. Among the items seized from seven properties in **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire, was a **ball-bearing gun**.

Birmingham Mail, 28 January 2009

A man was terrorised at gunpoint during an incident in **Smethwick**, West Midlands. The victim had confronted youths over **airgun** pellets being fired in the area.

Birmingham Mail, 28 January 2009

A 17-year-old has been given an indeterminate sentence after he admitted possessing a gun and ammunition with intent to endanger life. He had tried to flee police who tried to stop him in **Handsworth Wood**, Birmingham. He was subdued with a Taser stun gun and officers then found that a shoulder bag he was carrying contained a **blank firing pistol** illegally converted into a working gun, loaded with ten bullets, and a silencer. The teenager had been given a conditional discharge when he was 16 after police found another gun under his pillow at his home.

BBC, 28 January 2009

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

BBC, 27 January 2009

A man was seriously injured when he was shot in the bottom in **Bradford**. Police have said it was a targeted attack. The victim's injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

BBC, 27 January 2009

Two men with a firearm burst into a post office in **Elwick**, Hartlepool, and fled with cash. Detectives believe the raid has links to similar incidents in Durham.

BBC, 27 January 2009

An armed robber with what is believed to have been a black handgun held up a bank in the centre of **Gloucester**. He made off with some cash. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of carrying out the robbery (*BBC*, 28 January 2009).

BBC, 27 January 2009

Leighton Cohen, 21, has been sentenced to life for shooting dead a man in a pub in **Wolverhampton** in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty and will serve a minimum term of 23 years. Michael Stubbs admitted assisting an offender and other offences and was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in jail.

Ripley & Heanor News, 25 January 2009

The driver of a van was held up at gunpoint by another motorist with a handgun in **Alfreton**, Derbyshire. The police are describing the incident as attempted armed robbery.

BBC, 25 January 2009

A car passenger was threatened with a gun in an attempted robbery outside a shop in **Blackburn**, Lancashire. He was approached by two men who fled empty handed. The police said they believed the man and his colleague were collecting takings from the shop and were deliberately targeted.

The Journal, 24 January 2009

A **.22 air rifle** was among items that were stolen when thieves broke into a garage at **Wynyard**, County Durham.

BBC, 24 January 2009

A shop worker was threatened with a gun during a raid on a shop in **Gorton**, Manchester. The worker activated the alarm and the robber ran off empty-handed.

BBC, 24 January 2009

Three men broke into a cash handling centre in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester, with a stolen JCB and stole money after threatening staff with a gun. A £50,000 reward is being offered for information on the raid (*BBC*, 27 January 2009).

Telegraph, 23 January 2009

A ex-councillor is on trial facing eight counts of possessing illegal firearms. His wife found the guns, including a silver revolver, two pistols and a spy-style "tube gun" that resembled a pen, at their home in **Hythe**, Kent, whilst they were going through a divorce. After the police had been called they also found a CS gas canister in his loft. In court his wife said that he had "always liked guns" and used to carry the pen-gun with him on the London Underground. The trial continues.

Northern Echo, 23 January 2009

Andrew Usher, a convicted drug dealer and money launderer, has been stripped of all his assets after a court ruled that he had illegally earned £171,060. In March 2005 drugs and cash were recovered from his home in **Beechwood**, Middlesbrough, as well as a pistol and ammunition and a stun gun. He admitted purchasing the pistol whilst on holiday and said that he had found the stun gun in his partner's car. He had been sentenced to 12 months for possession of the weapons in September 2006 after pleading guilty.

Lancashire Evening Post, 23 January 2009

Local residents are concerned about a new cycle route around Preston because it is thought it could bring further troublemaking to the area. In one case an **air rifle** was shot through the window of a home in **Fulwood**.

Bolton News, 23 January 2009

Sean Daly has been jailed for 14 weeks after pleading guilty to theft, possessing an illegal weapon (a Taser) and breaching his bail. Daly bought the stun gun whilst on bail and had the weapon on him when arrested for a fight at a bar in **Leigh**, Greater Manchester, in December 2007.

BBC, 23 January 2009

A woman was hit on her arm with a pellet fired from an **airgun** as she was walking in **Wellingborough**, Northamptonshire. Shortly afterwards a man walking in the same area was hit in the foot.

BBC, 23 January 2009

A man suffered gunshot wounds to his hand and shoulder in an incident in **Hockley**, West Midlands. He was in a "comfortable condition" in hospital.

Reading Evening Post, 22 January 2009

A man from **Whitley**, Berkshire, has appeared in court accused of possessing a **double-barrelled shotgun** and cocaine and cannabis.

Get Reading, 22 January 2009

A 15-year-old boy from **Burghfield Common**, Reading, has been charged with possessing a firearm (a **BB air weapon**), beating up five people and intimidating witnesses. The beating and firearm possession charges date from August 2008. He has denied all the charges and the case has been adjourned.

Gazette & Herald, 22 January 2009

Armed police went to a college campus in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, and detained a 17-year-old who had concealed an imitation gun in his trousers. The weapon was found to be a **BB gun** and the teenager was cautioned. The college has refused to say whether the student has been suspended over the incident.

BBC, 22 January 2009

Thieves stole four **shotguns** and a sports car as well as other items during a break-in at a house in **Rolleston**, Nottinghamshire. The guns were taken from a gun cabinet in the house.

BBC, 22 January 2009

A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill after armed officers were called to a house in **Didcot**, Oxfordshire. No weapons were seen but there were allegations that the man had firearms in the house.

BBC, 22 January 2009

Three shots were fired at an empty car in **Crosby**, Liverpool. Officers found the damaged car after a member of the public reported hearing gunshots in the area. A petrol bomb was found nearby.

Barking & Dagenham Recorder, 22 January 2009

Dennis Ellis brandished an **airgun** at a female paramedic before stealing and crashing an ambulance following a suicide bid at his home in **Dagenham**, east London, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). A second airgun was discovered at his home. Ellis admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and aggravated vehicle taking. He was jailed for three years and the judge ordered the destruction of the two airguns.

West Sussex County Times, 21 January 2009

Police officers seized a **CO2-powered ball-bearing gun** after an incident in **Crawley**, Sussex. A 17-year-old was charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and possession of an imitation firearm in a public place. A second teenager has been bailed and a third teenager was released without charge.

St Albans & Harpenden Review, 21 January 2009

A woman accused of inciting a mass brawl outside a flat in **Hatfield**, Hertfordshire, in November 2007, in which two people were stabbed, claims it happened after an **air rifle** was held to her four-year-old daughter's head by a man who lived at the flat. The man, Reuben Ngharo, has already pleaded guilty to two counts of wounding with intent. He had attempted to ward off a group including the woman by threatening with an air rifle and had also produced two kitchen knives. The trial continues.

Shields Gazette, 21 January 2009

Six bus shelters in **Whitburn**, County Durham, have been vandalised. It is believed that **airguns** were used to shoot out the glass. It is the second attack in five months.

The Citizen (Chorley), 21 January 2009

A man is believed to have shot himself at a beauty spot in **Rivington**, Lancashire. He was found dead in his vehicle in a car park. Police believe he had been involved in an argument before driving to the car park. They added that they believed the dead man was registered to possess firearms.

BBC, 21 January 2009

Four people were arrested after police sealed off a street in **Hull** and searched a building. The men were arrested in connection with a shooting incident earlier in the week in which a man suffered a stomach wound. His condition is not thought to be life-threatening (**BBC**, 20 January 2009). A total one nine people have been arrested and three, two men and a woman have been charged with violent disorder (**BBC**, 22 January 2009).

BBC, 21 January 2009

A man has been shot in the leg in **West Bromwich**, West Midlands, after refusing to hand over his watch. The victim was sitting in a parked car at the time of the robbery.

London Informer, 20 January 2009

Three robberies in which guns were brandished have taken place in **North Kensington**, west London. Two off-licences have been robbed: during one of the robberies shots were fired at the cashier. A gun was pointed in a man's face as robbers stole his car whilst he pumped air into the tyres in **Ladbroke Grove**.

BBC, 20 January 2009

Michael Arthur and Sheffick Hassan have received sentences of 10 years and seven years after an armed robbery at a building society in **Westbury-on-Trym**, Bristol, in July 2008. Both men had denied robbery and possession an **imitation firearm** but were convicted.

BBC, 20 January 2009

Two men have been arrested in connection with a major drugs and firearms investigation. Both men were arrested in Scotland and will be questioned in **Preston**, Lancashire.

BBC, 20 January 2009

A masked youth aimed a gun at a female shop assistant in **Bootle**, Liverpool, during a robbery at a newsagents in which just three packets of sweets were stolen. One of four youths tried to open the tills but fled when he failed to get the cash.

Louth Leader, 19 January 2009

A man who received a **shotgun** injury at his home in **Gayton le Marsh**, Lincolnshire, died in hospital. A woman has been arrested and bailed until March.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 19 January 2009

Staff at a travel agents in **Atherton**, Greater Manchester, were held at gunpoint by a raider who made off with cash. A dye pack among the money exploded.

Northern Echo, 18 January 2009

A petrol station in **Middlesbrough** was robbed by a gunman believed to be just 16-years-old. He demanded money from the female cashier and a sum of money was stolen.

This is Gloucestershire, 17 January 2009

Peter Marden sparked a four-hour siege when he threatened to blow up his home in **Tredworth**, Gloucester, in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He pointed an **air rifle** at his own son during the incident. He has been jailed for eight months after he admitted having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

News & Star, 17 January 2009

Steven Hodgson roamed the streets of **Cleator Moor**, Cumbria, armed with an **air pistol** and stun gun. He had been banned from ever owning guns after serving eight years in prison for robbery with a sawn-off shotgun nearly twenty years ago, but he kept a collection of air weapons at his home. He was arrested after pointing the unloaded air pistol and pretending to fire it at a man who was walking home from the pub. Hodgson pleaded guilty to possessing the air pistol with intent to cause fear of violence, possessing the illegal stun gun and possessing the air rifles when banned from doing so because of his previous conviction. He has been sent to prison for three-and-a-half years.

Liverpool Echo, 17 January 2009

Adam Bentley was caught with a stun gun when he fell out with his partner and the police was called to their home in **Stockbridge Village**, Merseyside, in December 2008. His former girlfriend handed over a gas canister for the weapon and the gun was later recovered from Bentley. He had bought the gun for his girlfriend for £70 on the internet so she could defend herself. He admitted possessing the prohibited weapon and canister and was given a 50-week prison sentence, suspended for two years.

BBC, 17 January 2009

A man has been charged with wounding and firearms offences. The charges relate to an attempted murder in January 2004 when two men received back and knee injuries and another man was hit in the leg in **Oldbury**, West Midlands.

BBC, 17 January 2009

A man has been shot in the leg in **Camberwell**, south London. He remained in a stable condition in hospital.

The Star, 16 January 2009

Three men who carried out a series of armed raids in **Sheffield** have been sentenced to almost 50 years in total. Jason Mitchell was found guilty of conspiracy to rob, possessing a **shotgun** with intent to commit robbery and wounding and was jailed for 19 years. Wade Magrim and James Deakin, who pleaded guilty before the trial, were jailed for 16 years and 13 years, respectively. Another man was cleared of all charges. Three raids were carried out in July 2008 and the men stole a car, cash, mobile phones and cannabis from two of the addresses. In the third raid a man was shot and the victim still has 19 pellets in his foot.

BBC, 16 January 2009

A man put a gun against a woman's face and pulled the trigger during a raid on a bookmakers in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester. The gun was not loaded but the victim was left "extremely distressed". Three men escaped with cash.

Press Association, 15 January 2009

Triston Walker has been found guilty of killing a 17-year-old girl who was shot in the head at a party in **Tottenham**, north London, in June 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). He had claimed the gun went off accidentally. Ricardo Lumsden, who rented a house for Walker in Oxford, has been convicted of assisting an offender but a woman and another man have been cleared of helping Walker escape (*BBC*, 16 January 2009). Walker has been jailed for life with a minimum of 27 years (*BBC*, 21 January 2009).

Norwich Evening News, 15 January 2009

Phillip Murphy and Andrew Peters have been sentenced to three years and three years nine months, respectively, after admitting possessing firearms and, in Peters' case, assisting an offender. They were arrested and two loaded **shotguns** were recovered after shots were fired in a street in **Norwich**. A loaded single-barrelled shotgun was found in the back of a car from which the shots were fired and another loaded shotgun was found 15ft away.

Middleton Guardian, 15 January 2009

Police recovered a powerful Colt AR15 semi-automatic **air rifle** and a Brocock 'target trophy' **air revolver**, both of which are prohibited weapons, at the home of Man San Chan in **Alkington**, Greater Manchester. Police were first alerted to Chan after he was stopped in his car and they found an **imitation Walther P99 handgun** in the glove compartment which sparked a search of his home. A further three handguns were found. Chan was given a five year sentence after pleading guilty to possessing two unlicensed illegal firearms and a further 12 month sentence to run concurrently for having an imitation firearm with him in a public place. He had purchased the weapons between five and seven years ago after developing an interest in weaponry.

Times (North London), 14 January 2009

Police are looking for a group of teenagers who may have been threatened by a teenager wielding a **ball-bearing gun** in **North Finchley**, north London. A man was arrested shortly after the incident.

Sheffield Telegraph, 14 January 2009

Two men who took pot shots at youths with **BB guns** have each been ordered to carry out 140 hours community work. The boys were in **Adwick**, South Yorkshire, when Luke Pawson fired at them from the car driven by Anthony Coates. One of the boys was slightly hurt by a plastic pellet. Both men pleaded guilty to affray and Pawson also admitted assault causing actual bodily harm. Both men were also given suspended jail sentences, nine months for Pawson and six months for Coates.

Lincolnshire Echo, 14 January 2009

An **air rifle** was stolen from a property in **Metherington**, Lincolnshire, during a burglary in which a wallet and keys were also taken.

Evening Standard, 14 January 2009

A man and a dog were shot in a suspected gangland attack in **Clapham**, south London. The dog was recovering in an animal hospital after an operation on its shattered leg. The man was taken to hospital suffering from a gunshot injury to the leg and was later released.

BBC, 14 January 2009

A man has been arrested in connection with three armed robberies in **Darlington**, County Durham. In one robbery a man with a handgun held up another man who had just left a bank and an hour later an armed robber forced staff at a post office to hand over money.

BBC, 14 January 2009

A man wearing a mask and armed with a pistol attempted to rob a car wash in **Harrogate**, North Yorkshire. He assaulted a member of staff after he refused to hand over money. Another man was seen acting as a look-out.

The Argus, 14 January 2009

A traffic warden has had to quit his job after a driver brandished a gun during a dispute over an out-of-date permit in **Hove**, Sussex. According to the prosecution Gary Hunnisett, a pest controller, threatened to gun down the warden if he didn't move away from his work van. Police found the van with a guncase containing a **.22 air rifle** and a second air rifle in the back. Hunnisett later refused to accept a police caution over the incident. He denied possessing a firearm with intent to cause the warden to believe unlawful violence would be used against him and threatening unlawful violence but pleaded guilty to an alternative charge of affray. He was fined £200 and ordered to pay £300 compensation and prosecution costs.

This is Kent, 13 January 2009

Stephen Dalligan has been sentenced to 15 years in prison following a raid in **Sittingbourne**, Kent, in May 2008 in which he stole £100,000 as security guards filled a cash machine. He had denied robbery, possessing a firearm, false imprisonment and concealing criminal property.

Oswestry and Border Counties Advertiser, 13 January 2009

A Police Community Support Officer, Steven Mellor, has been commended for disarming a man who threatened him at gunpoint during an incident in **Weston Rhyn**, Shropshire, in July 2007. A neighbour, who had made a nuisance of himself, pointed a rifle in his face but after a struggle he was able to overpower the gunman and restrain him until police arrived. The gun was found to be an unloaded **air rifle** with a telescopic sight. The gunman was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was later given a nine month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

BBC, 13 January 2009

Police found a machine gun, pistol and ammunition during a raid on a house in **Wythenshawe**, Greater Manchester. A man has been charged with possessing prohibited weapons and ammunition (*BBC*, 14 January 2009).

BBC, 13 January 2009

A woman robbed a petrol station in **Spaldwick**, Cambridgeshire, after tricking staff by pretending to be pregnant. She and a man entered the shop after she asked to use the toilet but when she returned she pulled out a handgun and threatened the female employee before tying her up. Two other men then joined them and the gang escaped with cigarettes and cash.

BBC, 13 January 2009

Operation Argon, a month-long police crackdown on the carrying on weapons on **London** streets netted five guns and led to 50 arrests for a range of offences including possession of offensive weapons, attempted murder and threats to kill.

BBC, 13 January 2009

A man was treated for cuts to his head after he was struck by a small handgun during a burglary at his house in **Stoneleigh**, Surrey. Three men had barged their way into the property.

BBC, 13 January 2009

Carlton Sam has admitted firearms offences but denies three counts of attempted murder. It is alleged he opened fire at three police officers when he was stopped in **Manor House**, north London, in March 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was found guilty on two counts of attempted murder and has been jailed for 30 years (*BBC*, 21 January 2009).

Swindon Advertiser, 12 January 2009

Police investigating calls about a firearm attended a house in **Toothill**, Wiltshire. Two people were arrested but no firearm was found in or around the property.

Mercury (Hertfordshire), 12 January 2009

A man has appeared in court charged with having an imitation firearm in a public place after allegedly being in possession of an **air pistol** in **Turnford**, Hertfordshire. He has pleaded not guilty.

Liverpool Echo, 12 January 2009

Sixteen guns were recovered from **Croxteth** and **Norris Green** last year. The weapons (descriptions are those provided in the report) were four **shotguns**, one sub-machine gun, three Glock firearms, a handgun, a revolver, a rifle, four **blank-firing revolvers** and a **ball-bearing gun**. The report also provided details of weapons seized from the areas in 2007 (17 weapons) and 2006 (9).

BBC, 12 January 2009

Gunshots were fired at a house in **Sarisbury Green**, Hampshire, while two men and a teenage boy were inside. The shots hit the front door and a vehicle in the driveway.

BBC, 12 January 2009

Two men threatened two female workers with a gun during a raid on a betting shop in **Ingol**, Lancashire.

BBC, 12 January 2009

A suspected burglar escaped from a prison van when two men, one armed with a **shotgun**, held up the van in **Feltham**, west London. No shot were fired but the driver was treated for cuts and bruises. Two other prisoners in the van were unhurt. The man has since been recaptured (*BBC*, 16 January 2009).

BBC, 12 January 2009

A man threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Shrewsbury** with what appeared to be a handgun and demanded money but fled empty-handed. No-one was injured but a member of staff was left shaken. Two men were arrested but later released. CCTV images of the man have been released.

BBC, 11 January 2009

A man has been shot outside a nightclub in the centre of **Liverpool**. He was taken to hospital for treatment although his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 10 January 2009

A man threatened staff at a post office in **Stanton Harcourt**, Oxfordshire, with a gun during an armed robbery. He told them to hand over money and cigarettes. Two people, a man and a woman, have been charged with robbery and possession of a firearm with intent (*BBC*, 14 January 2009).

BBC, 10 January 2009

A 17-year-old gang member from **Merseyside** who was filmed assembling a **shotgun** for a BBC Panorama programme admitted possession of a shotgun, a handgun and ammunition in December 2008 and will be sentenced later this month. His claim that he was paid £50 by a leading figure in the Marsh Gang to brandish guns to show off on behalf of the gang on the programme is now being investigated by the police.

Press Association, 9 January 2009

The son of a village postmaster has been shot dead during an armed robbery at the post office and store in **Fairfield**, Worcestershire. The victim suffered fatal chest injuries and his father was injured in the leg. The three raiders were armed with a handgun and a sledgehammer. Eight people, five men and three women have been arrested, four of the men on suspicion of murder and attempted murder (*BBC*, 13 January 2009). A ninth person, a woman, has been arrested in connection with the shooting (*BBC*, 14 January 2009). Four men have been charged with murder, attempted murder and attempted robbery (*BBC*, 17 January 2009).

Liverpool Echo, 9 January 2009

Alan Roberts, 18, and Dean Phelan, 21, were among seven masked thugs who forced their way into a house in **Huyton**, Merseyside, and terrorised three children at gunpoint. The gang fled from the house empty-handed except for a teenage girl's mobile phone which was found in Phelan's pocket. They have been convicted of attempted robbery, robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** and given custodial sentences of six-and-a-half and nine years, respectively.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 9 January 2009

Amphetamines and a stun gun were recovered by police during a raid on a property in **Cleckheaton**, West Yorkshire. The raid was part of a joint operation between West Yorkshire and Cheshire police. A woman has been arrested.

BBC, 9 January 2009

Two men have been charged with grievous bodily harm, robbery and possessing a firearm. The charges followed an incident when a woman suffered serious stab wounds when she was attacked in **Weymouth**, Dorset.

BBC, 9 January 2009

A **shotgun** has been stolen during a burglary at a property, believed to be a farm, in **Snelland**, Lincolnshire. An amount of cash was also taken.

BBC, 9 January 2009

A man forced his way into a house in **Whitehaven**, Cumbria, and threatened the occupant with a firearm. The victim was left with minor injuries and treated for shock. Another man was later arrested. Police also retrieved a firearm and experts are establishing whether or not it is a replica.

BBC, 9 January 2009

A man is apparently in a serious condition in hospital after being shot by police at a house in **Brighouse**, West Yorkshire. The police had been responding to a 999 call. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating. The IPCC confirmed that a sword had been found at the house. A Taser stun gun was fired before the live rounds were fired (**BBC**, 10 January 2009).

This is Surrey Today, 8 January 2009

Police are hunting a gunman who shot at a van in **Dorking**, Surrey. Shots were fired from an **airgun** a number of times making dents in the side of the vehicle and smashing a window.

Telegraph & Argus, 8 January 2009

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

BBC, 8 January 2009

Two men armed with a **shotgun** robbed a security guard delivering a cash box to a bank in **Clacton**. They escaped with "a substantial sum of money".

BBC, 8 January 2009

Three men carrying a gun, a piece of wood and a sledgehammer burst into a shop in **Cippenham**, Slough in Berkshire. They stole an undisclosed amount of cash.

This is Cornwall, 7 January 2009

A 14-year-old girl was shot in the arm as homes and cars were fired at with an **airgun** on an estate in **Truro**, Cornwall. Police have seized one of the guns, believed to have been given as a Christmas present, but are concerned another may also have been used.

Southern Daily Echo, 7 January 2009

A suspected gunman has been arrested after armed police were called to flats in **Southampton** by a resident who said he had been threatened with a firearm. No trace of a gun was found but a man is in custody.

Daily Mirror, 7 January 2009

Photographer Andy Morant has been given a suspended jail sentence for having an illegal firearm, a Colt 45. The weapon was found after his ex-wife told the police following a domestic incident at his home in **Rainham**, Kent. He told the court the gun was a prop he used in pictures. Explaining why Morant was not given the mandatory five year sentence the judge said that he had no ammunition for the gun and that "I accept your intent was not malevolent and you did not know possession was illegal".

BBC, 7 January 2009

A betting shop in **Brighton** was targetted by a man who showed what is believed to be a handgun to staff and demanded money. The police are investigating whether a **ball-bearing gun** found in the **Old Steine** area was connected with the raid.

BBC, 7 January 2009

Armed police were called to an apartment block in **Hatherleigh**, Devon, after reports that a man, believed to be armed with an **airgun**, had been making threats. A man has been arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill, arson and harassment (*Fleetwood Weekly News*, 8 January 2009).

BBC, 7 January 2009

A man was shot in the leg during an incident in **Sharrow**, Sheffield. The police said he suffered "non life-threatening" injuries.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 6 January 2009

Reigo Jones, who was part of an organised gang from Estonia that carried out multi-million pound raids on jewellers across Europe, has admitted two counts of robbery and two of possessing an imitation firearm. The gang had targetted premises in **Leeds** and **Manchester**. After a raid in April 2006 in Leeds their weapons were dropped which allowed police to identify they were **BB guns**. Jones was caught through DNA matches and was brought back to the UK and admitted the crimes. He was sentenced to 12 years to run concurrently for each robbery charge and five years to run concurrently for each firearms offence.

Times, 6 January 2009

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

Telegraph & Argus, 6 January 2009

Three shots were fired through the window of a house in **Thornbury**, Bradford. A family were asleep upstairs at the time and although uninjured were badly shaken. The motive for the attack is not known.

Burton Mail, 6 January 2009

Steven Fisher who bought a lethal, high-powered **air rifle** "to shoot rats" has been jailed for nine months after admitting possessing an illegal firearm. The gun was seized during the execution of a warrant at his home in **Tamworth**, Staffordshire, in connection with a domestic incident. The gun had been purchased from the **Donington Market** where it had been sold with a telescopic sight and silencer. The recorder told him "The sort of weapon you purchased is one that can cause lethal harm to humans, that's why there is a law that absolutely prohibits possession of such a weapon without authorisation".

BBC, 6 January 2009

Armed raiders fired a gun during an attempt to steal cash from a security van in **Bramley**, Leeds. The two men approached the van which was being used to re-stock cash machines but the security guard in the van fled into the bank and the bank's doors were locked. The raiders fled empty-handed.

BBC, 6 January 2009

Three men stole cash from a pub in **Sherwood**, Nottingham, after threatening staff with a small, black handgun. No one was injured but members of staff were left shaken.

BBC, 6 January 2009

An armed man who barricaded himself into a flat with his children in **Gleadless**, Sheffield, has been found dead. Police said a weapon thought to be a **shotgun** had been fired at officers, but nobody was hurt. A firearm was found next to the man's body. The incident has been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Their initial assessment has found no evidence of criminal or misconduct matters involving any police officers (*BBC*, 7 January 2009).

BBC, 6 January 2009

A man armed with a white Uzi-style gun has stolen about £1,000 from a bank in **Headington**, Oxford. Staff did not believe the gun was genuine. The robbery is being linked to other armed robberies in the locality, two at a betting shop and two others at a wine merchant.

BBC, 5 January 2009

A robber armed with what is thought to have been a revolved threatened staff and demanded money at a cinema in **Sapley**, Huntingdon. The staff said they could not get into the tills and the man fled when the manager approached.

BBC, 5 January 2009

A man was shot in the leg in a targeted attack in **Speke**, Merseyside.

Press Association, 4 January 2009

Two men were arrested when police officers forced their way into a house in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester, which was under siege for more than 36 hours. The men have been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm and remain in custody. Neighbours said a woman managed to escape from the house before the stand-off. One of the men has since been released without charge (*Bolton News*, 5 January 2008). The other has been charged with false imprisonment, possessing an **imitation firearm** and threats to commit criminal damage (*BBC*, 7 January 2009).

Bolton News, 3 January 2009

A 14-year-old girl had to be taken to hospital to have a pellet removed from her chin after she was shot with a **ball-bearing gun** in **Bolton**. She was attacked by three men, one of whom was carrying the gun. The men stole her handbag.

BBC, 3 January 2009

Two men, aged 19 and 21, have been charged with public order and firearms offences after a brawl in **Leeds**. A gun had been fired during the disturbance though no-one was hit by the round.

BBC, 3 January 2009

A man has died from a **shotgun** wound in a flat in **Stockton**, Teesside. The death is not being treated as suspicious but a man has been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences. An inquest into the death is expected to be opened and adjourned (*Northern Echo*, 5 January 2008).

Peterlee Mail, 2 January 2009

Armed police responding to information have recovered two **shotguns** which had been hidden in undergrowth in **Wingate**, County Durham.

BBC, 2 January 2009

A 19-year-old has been charged with possessing an automatic firearm and ammunition after a street fight in **Aston**, Birmingham. Two other men were arrested and released on bail.

BBC, 2 January 2009

Three **shotguns** and a carving knife were stolen during a burglary in **Middleton Cheney**, Northamptonshire. The two Baikal shotguns and one Sarrugarte shotgun were taken from inside a gun cabinet.

BBC, 1 January 2009

A man was in hospital after being shot in the leg in **Dudley**, West Midlands. His injury is not thought to be life threatening.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 26 January 2009

Two men stopped their car near to two young girls then pointed a firearm at them. The incident happened as the girls walked their dogs in **Letham**, Angus. The girls were left alarmed and distressed by the incident.

BBC, 22 January 2009

A masked robber escaped with hundreds of pounds of cash after a raid on a bookmakers in **Hamilton**, South Lanarkshire. He had threatened a female member of staff with what appeared to be a gun.

BBC, 17 January 2009

A man was in a serious condition in hospital after he was shot in the head in the south side of **Edinburgh**. He was discovered unconscious in a street by a member of the public. The victim has since died (*BBC*, 18 January 2009). Police now fear the murder is part of a drugs war between gangs from the Gilmerton and Granton districts of the city (*Scotsman*, 19 January 2009).

BBC, 16 January 2009

Christopher Logan was jailed for six years in 2008 after he admitted keeping a stolen army sub-machine gun and ammunition which was found at his flat in **Hanson Park**, Glasgow, in December 2007. The gun and ammunition had been stolen by others from **Catterick Barracks** in Yorkshire. Logan has now had four years added to his prison term for possession of illegal drugs.

Shetland News, 15 January 2009

Linas Aleksandravicius pleaded guilty to culpably and recklessly discharging a firearm after he and some friends had started shooting at tin cans on a fence with an **air rifle** at his home in **Lerwick** in September 2008. According to the procurator fiscal the men had been drinking alcohol and neighbours were concerned that there were many children in the area and pellets were being fired into nearby gardens. Aleksandravicius was ordered to forfeit his rifle, telescopic sight and ammunition and was fined £70, reduced from £750.

BBC, 14 January 2009

A stun gun was among items seized from a house in **Howdenhall**, Edinburgh, where police found £10,000 counterfeit DVDs, PS2 games and DVD burning towers. They also found drugs, swords and knives.

Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser, 14 January 2009

A 12-year-old boy was left with red marks on his leg after being hit twice when teenagers fired a **BB gun** at him in **Airdrie** town centre.

Ayr Advertiser, 13 January 2009

Brian Strathearn, a serving soldier, caused a major armed police and helicopter operation when he opened fire with an **air rifle** across the **River Ayr** in the vicinity of a park where families were enjoying an afternoon out in May 2008. He admitted committing a breach of the peace and putting members of the public in a state of fear and alarm.

BBC, 12 January 2009

A youth attempted to rob a bookmakers in **Gilmerton**, Edinburgh. He brandished what appeared to be a firearm at a member of staff and demanded money, but fled empty-handed.

BBC, 12 January 2009

Lorry driver Anthony McCrindle from **Leith** has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without the appropriate certificate after being caught carrying a stun gun. He claimed he had bought the weapon in Switzerland for self defence against criminals. McCrindle, who has a previous conviction after being caught with a stun gun two years ago, will be sentenced next month.

BBC, 12 January 2009

James Sneddon tried to kill an innocent man just a week after he was released early from jail. He and an accomplice fired at the front door of a house in **Cardonald**, Glasgow, in January 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) mistaking it for that belonging to another family whom they were targeting. Sneddon who has already been jailed for seven years threatening two policemen with a **shotgun**, also in January 2006 (see [May 2006 Incidents](#)) was given a twelve year sentence after being convicted of attempted murder and two firearms charges.

BBC, 8 January 2009

A man was robbed of cash in a street in **Paisley** after a man threatened him with a firearm. The robbery may be linked to another one that took place 45 minutes later in **Bridge of Weir**.

WALES

BBC, 9 January 2009

A man has been arrested in connection with the theft of three **shotguns** and boxes of ammunition that were stolen from a house in **Seven Sisters**, near Neath.

Wales on Sunday, 4 January 2009

A man has claimed that he was shot as he was walking along a street in **Trallwn**, Swansea. He fell to the floor after being struck in the knee with a pellet from a rifle. According to the victim's sister the police think a ".22 gun was used that had been powered up". She also said that there had been other reports of a car being shot at and other people had said they had been aimed at (*This is Swansea*, 3 January 2009).

BBC, 2 January 2009

Keith Torrance, 19, has admitted affray and possessing an **imitation firearm** in public. The police had been called to **Wrexham** town centre after he was seen in a car holding what looked like a gun. It turned out to be a cigarette lighter in the shape of a gun. He claimed he was just playing with it and had not intended to frighten anyone. The offence was committed whilst he was subject to a community sentence for affray. A custodial sentence is inevitable.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Muswell Hill Journal, 29 January 2009

A cat from **Muswell Hill**, north London, has been shot twice in nine months with a **ball-bearing gun**. The owner has now been forced to give him up for adoption for fear of him being killed. In March last year he was left badly injured after being shot in the shoulder and he has just recovered from a foot wound sustained in December.

Northern Echo, 28 January 2009

Two men are believed to have been responsible for a "barbaric" attack on a cat which was found on the outskirts of **Darlington**. The men had been seen carrying an **air rifle** and **airgun**. Shortly afterwards a shot was heard and the cat was found under a car with a wound from an airgun pellet which had to be removed by a vet.

Hartlepool Mail, 27 January 2009

Two ducks were shot dead in the back garden of a house in **Greatham Village**, Hartlepool. It is believed that an **air rifle** was used.

The Star, 24 January 2009

A cat lost an eye when an **airgun** were fired at the family pet in **Skellow**, South Yorkshire. In a second incident in the area a cat in **Askern**, which returned home with blood on its chest, had to have pellets removed from its body by a vet.

South Yorkshire Times, 22 January 2009

The RSPCA are tracing the person who shot dead a swan with an **airgun** at a beauty spot in **Wombwell**, Barnsley. The bird had a number of airgun pellets lodged in its neck and is believed to have died as a result of the injuries.

Surrey Comet, 21 January 2009

Two horses have been shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Headley**, Leatherhead, Surrey. One them lost an eye but will recover. The second horse, which lost one eye due to cancer four years ago has now lost the other eye, leaving him completely blind. The horse has had to be put down (*Daily Mail*, 22 January 2009).

BBC, 19 January 2009

A £500 reward is being offered after the shooting of several wild birds in north Surrey in **air rifle** incidents. Two swans were found seriously injured in **Shepperton** after being shot in the face and neck and a swan and several coots were shot dead on a frozen pond in **Chertsey**.

Advertiser (Buckinghamshire), 19 January 2009

A family pet was shot with an **airgun** in **Buckingham**. The cat returned home with a bruised eye and swollen face. X-rays showed an air rifle pellet lodged in his skull. The pellet cannot be removed and he may lose an eye.

Oxford Mail, 16 January 2009

The owner of a cat recovering from an **air rifle** attack in **Headington**, Oxford (see [December 2008 Incidents](#)) was devastated when a neighbour found another of her cats shot dead. The RSPCA has put up a £250 reward in a bid to catch the people responsible.

stv, 15 January 2009

A deer which was a tourist attraction in **Glencoe**, Argyll, because it was so tame has had to be put down after it was shot with an **air rifle** and left for dead.

The News (Portsmouth), 15 January 2009

A cat was shot five times with an **air rifle** in **Lee-on-the-Solent**, Hampshire. The pet was seen limping and vets found a pellet lodged deep in her abdomen and a further four puncture wounds. Vets fought to save her life but she died later.

Somerset County Gazette, 14 January 2009

A cat owner from **Monkton Heathfield**, Somerset, has come forward to say that her pet was shot with a **pellet gun** and had to undergo an operation. The pellet went into the cat's stomach. The owner was responding to an earlier report about a dog which was shot in the head with an **airgun** in **West Monkton**.

Scotsman, 14 January 2009

An animal welfare group has called on police to investigate the alleged shooting of a seal during its breeding season. The grey seal was found by two members of the public on the shore near **Kyle of Lochalsh**, Ross-shire.

Bucks Free Press, 13 January 2009

Two ducks have been shot dead on a pond in **Chalfont St Peter**, Buckinghamshire. The RSPCA said they had been used as 'illegal target practice'. One had been shot in the head and the other had a wound on its back. The injuries are believed to have been caused by an **airgun**. A local resident has put up a £500 reward to try and catch those responsible.

Express & Star, 8 January 2009

The RSPCA say they will no longer return swans to the Wyrley and Essington Canal in the Black Country after the latest spate of gun attacks. One swan, found last month, had been shot nine times when she was discovered in **Willenhall**. X-rays revealed she had been "used as target practice for someone brandishing an **airgun**". Two swans were recently killed in **Wednesfield** and another badly injured in **Willenhall**.

Eastbourne Today, 8 January 2009

The East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service is appealing for witnesses after birds were shot in **Pevensey Bay**. A herring gull with a damaged wing was found in a garden, a pigeon was shot dead last month and a resident reported seeing a gull fall into the sea. A casualty care officer with the charity says that a resident is shooting birds with an **airgun**.

Birmingham Mail, 6 January 2009

Robert Jones has been given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for a year after encouraging his son to shoot a wood pigeon with a high velocity **air rifle** in their back garden in **Tettenhall**, Wolverhampton. He was also ordered to carry out 180 hours' community punishment. He admitted aiding, abetting and counselling his son to kill a wild bird. The shooting was reported by a neighbour.

BBC, 5 January 2009

A pet cat has had to have a leg amputated after it was shot with an **air rifle** in **Macduff**, Aberdeenshire. The cat has since died (*Evening Express*, 8 January 2009).



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs 2.5 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.5/).