



## JANUARY 2010 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Nine men died in shooting incidents reported during January.
- Four of the shootings were homicides. Two men died in London, one of two brothers who were shot in Thornton Heath and a man shot with a shotgun in Forest Gate (seven people have been arrested during the investigation). In the first gun homicide in Scotland for almost a year a man was killed in an apparent gangland execution in Robroyston (Glasgow) - the weapons used in the attack were later found in Coatbridge. A teenager died at a house in Huyton (Merseyside) (a 16-year-old has been charged with manslaughter).
- Three men found in Shouldham Thorpe (Norfolk), Stapleford (Wiltshire) and Wollaston (West Midlands) apparently died of self-inflicted wounds. Two other men died from gunshot wounds, at a gun club in Kibworth (Leicestershire) and at a house in Sealand (Flintshire), but the exact circumstances surrounding their deaths have not been reported. The wife of the man found dead in Sealand had also died but the cause of her death is not known.
- A number of other victims received gunshot wounds:
  - Berkshire (1) - a woman was shot in the head with a shotgun in Caversham (a man, reported to be her husband, has been charged with attempted murder and criminal damage)
  - London (7) - a second man was critically injured in the double shooting in Thornton Heath in which his brother died, a man was shot in the head in Wembley (a man has been accused of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life), a man was shot in the street in Paddington, a man has been left with "life-changing" injuries after being shot in Walthamstow, a youth worker was shot in the knee and a teenager was hit in the head when a bullet ricocheted during an incident in Gospel Oak, and a man suffered a minor head wound when a gun was fired during a robbery in Ponders End
  - Merseyside (2) - a teenager was shot in the back by two people armed with handguns who forced their way into a house in Allerton (the police made four arrests), and a man was shot in the face in Stockbridge Village
  - Shropshire (1) - a man was shot in the arm with a sawn-off shotgun in Telford (two people have been charged with attempted murder)
  - West Midlands (3) - one man was shot at a bar in Brierley Hill, a 16-year-old was shot in Wolverhampton, and a man was shot in the leg in Moxley
  - Wiltshire (1) - a man was shot in the shoulder in Pinehurst (two men, one aged 16, have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder)
- Some other victims were hit with guns during robberies (see below) in Cheshunt, Wichelstowe, Belsize Park and Ponders End, where a gun was also fired and injured another man.
- At least 6 people were shot with BB guns or airguns:
  - A 15-year-old boy was shot in the eye with a ball bearing gun pellet in Langold (Nottinghamshire)
  - A member of staff at a bank in Kingsbury (north west London) was injured when he was shot in the head with an airgun during a robbery
  - A man was shot with an airgun fired from a passing car in Guiseley (West Yorkshire)
  - A 17-year-old was hit in the back of the neck with an airgun pellet in Hartlepool.

- A man from Hawkley Hall (Lancashire) has been hit on two occasions by shots from an air rifle - following the latest incident he has a pellet lodged in his cheek
  - A man was injured by an air rifle at the railway station in Llanelli (Dyfed)
- A 15-year-old boy was almost blinded when he was shot in the face with a paintball gun in Rainham (east London).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices** in Kingsbury (north west London) (a member of staff was shot with an airgun), Sudbury (Suffolk) (imitation firearm) (a teenager has been arrested), Epping (Essex) (handgun), Cambridge (a man has been charged) and Charlton Kings (Gloucestershire), **Bookmaker's** in Spalding (Lincolnshire), Brighton (imitation firearm), Earlsfield (north west London) (handgun), Fooks Cray (south east London) (handgun), Belsize Park (north London), Shotts (North Lanarkshire) and Ballieston (Glasgow), an **Office** in Ponders End (north London) (a gun went off and one man suffered a minor head wound), **Petrol Stations** in Colnbrook (Berkshire) and Condorrat (North Lanarkshire), **Cafés, Restaurants and Fast Food Outlets** in Southend (Essex) (an 18-year-old has been charged), Darwen (Lancashire) (air pistol) (a teenage boy has been charged), Belsize Park (north London) and Reading (handgun), and **Shops** in Bamber Bridge (Lancashire) (handgun), Sandhurst (Berkshire), Northampton (stun gun, handgun), Page Hall (Sheffield), Cheshunt (Hertfordshire), Dorking (Surrey), Southwick (Sussex) (two separate robberies which may be linked), Hathershaw (Greater Manchester) (pistol) (a man was arrested), Great Yarmouth (Norfolk), Exmouth (Devon) (a man was arrested), Carluke (South Lanarkshire) and Bontnewydd (Gwynedd) (a man and a teenager have been arrested).
- A gang stole a mini-digger from cemetery workers at gunpoint before robbing a **Cash Exchange Centre** in Handsworth (West Midlands) - a shotgun and ammunition were later found.
- **Security men** were robbed at a service station in Awsworth (Nottingham).
- There were gunpoint robberies at **Homes** in Prescott (Merseyside) (a man was held hostage as his car and computer were stolen by an armed gang), Woodley (Berkshire) (handgun), Barnsley (South Yorkshire) (sawn-off shotgun), Longsight (Greater Manchester), Derby (where a handgun may have been brandished) and Wichelstowe (Wiltshire).
- There were **Street** robberies in Standens Barn (Northampton), where a man escaped from three men thought to be armed with a stun gun and knife, in Highfields (Leicester) where a couple who believed they would be buying a second-hand car were robbed of the cash and a handbag, and in Lea Green (Merseyside) where two teenagers were robbed of a mobile phone and a silver chain at the railway station (two men have been arrested).
- A woman in a **Car** drove away when a man armed with a gun demanded money from her in Cheshunt (Hertfordshire).
- As a result of robberies which took place in December 2009:
  - An 11-year-old girl is among a number of youngsters arrested after a woman was robbed in Stockwell (south London) - the gang was armed with a replica handgun
  - A reward has been offered for information relating to a robbery at a pub in Lichfield (Staffordshire) in which a man was hit on the head with a gun and had a stun gun fired at him.
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
  - A car window was smashed by a shotgun in Caversham (Berkshire) - a man who has been charged with criminal damage has also been charged with attempted murder (see above)

- A gunshot is alleged to have been fired in Norton (Teesside) damaging a car - a man has been charged.
- On Merseyside a house was attacked in Walton by a gang who opened fire with a shotgun, in St Helens four men forced their way into a house and fired a shotgun (three teenagers have been arrested and one has been charged), and shots were fired at a garage in Stoneycroft and a door was damaged.
- A man has been arrested after a faulty burglar alarm at a property in St John's Wood (north west London) was shot with a shotgun
- A shotgun was fired at a flat above a shop in Filton (Bristol) - four teenagers were arrested.
- A shot was fired through the window of a house in Airdrie (North Lanarkshire).
- A man was arrested in Brighton after he waved a gun at police officers - he was also being questioned about a robbery at a local bookmaker's. A man was arrested for possession of a prohibited weapon after a man was seen with a gun in Canterbury (Kent).
- A woman pleaded not guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and assaulting a victim after allegedly threatening a hot air balloon passenger near Towcester (Northampton).
- A man was charged with possession of a firearm, a cartridge and two counts of common assault after being arrested at a pub in Coventry. A man with a loaded shotgun was arrested after a woman motorist was tailed through Monmouth - the incident is being linked to a 'domestic incident' involving a firearm in the Wonastow area.
- A man was charged with possessing a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and possession of an offensive weapon after he allegedly pulled out a cosh and handgun during a taxi ride on Tyneside.
- A man was arrested after a search revealed he was carrying a gun in Herne Hill (south London).
- The manager of a park near Cumbernauld (North Lanarkshire) is alleged to have brandished a shotgun at one of his workers.
- A man has been seen with a shotgun on common land in Croxley (Hertfordshire) where hunting is banned, and concern was expressed about the use of a shotgun on land in Honiton (Devon). A man was seen with a shotgun in woods in Stepps (North Lanarkshire) which has raised concern about the safety of walkers.
- There were other incidents in which a firearm was seen but no gun was recovered by police:
  - A man seen pointing a pistol at a car driving on the Worcestershire-Herefordshire border was not located.
  - Three occurred in the Bristol area: in Keynsham where a school was sealed off after reports that a teenage boy was heading for the site with a gun, in Nailsea where a road was closed but no one was found, and in Pensford where a man was arrested on suspicion of theft, assault and criminal damage
- In Rushden (Northamptonshire) a man who claimed to have a firearm was arrested for threatening behaviour but no gun was recovered.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents in which people were shot (see above) there were other incidents involving airguns and imitation weapons. They were probably used in many of the **Armed Robberies**, and this was certainly so in Stockwell (south London), Brighton and Darwen (Lancashire). A suspected armed robber responsible for a number of robberies, including one at a building society in Northampton, has been charged with possessing an imitation handgun and firing it at police officers.
- Raiders who attacked and injured a man in Edgworth (Lancashire) with a crowbar were also armed with a air rifle and knife.

- A number of people were arrested and/or charged for possessing imitation guns with intent:
  - A man has been accused following an alleged firearm incident in Stockton (Teesside)
  - A man was charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after an incident in the centre of Nottingham.
  - Two men have been charged with possessing an imitation handgun with intent following an incident in Clitheroe (Lancashire).
  - A teenager has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm (a blank firing gun) and assaulting a police officer in a street in Burnt Oak (north London).
- An airgun was recovered after a man was arrested in Walton (Essex) in connection with a domestic assault.
- A man with an imitation firearm, who was threatening to harm himself in Preston (Lancashire), was arrested on suspicion of affray.
- One of two youths arrested in Deptford (south east London) threw away a gun, discovered to be an air pistol, during a police chase. Two men were arrested after reports of a gun fight at a property in Raynes Park (south London) - the gun was an air pistol.
- A man was arrested after he waved an imitation gun around on a bus in Brighton.
- Armed police surrounded a house in Weymouth (Dorset) where a man was seen brandishing a gun - he was preparing for a fancy dress party and had a BB gun. A woman who carried a replica SA&O assault rifle in public through a housing estate in Brighton was not formally arrested - the gun will be destroyed.
- A police community support officer has been suspended from duty after posing with guns on a social networking website - a cache of imitation guns was found at his home in Otley (West Yorkshire).
- The following acts of vandalism were carried out with airguns:
  - A shot was fired, probably from an air rifle, at the window of a home in Trowbridge (Wiltshire).
  - A number of reports of damage to windows caused by an air rifle have been made in the Martock area (Somerset).
  - A youth was arrested after a window in Whitby (North Yorkshire) was smashed - he was brandishing an air rifle.
  - Windows were damaged, probably by air weapons, in three incidents in the Huddersfield area of West Yorkshire.
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which drugs were recovered in Southall (west London) (stun gun), Tyneside and Sunderland (air rifles, starting pistol, air pistol), Manningham (West Yorkshire) (imitation firearm), Huddersfield (West Yorkshire) (sawn-off shotgun), Ripley (Derbyshire) and Darlington (County Durham) (an air rifle).
- Other guns were found:
  - A student has been charged with possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition without a certificate after a loaded firearm and a BB gun were found at his home in Muswell Hill (north London)
  - A couple have been charged after a shotgun was found in the loft of a pub in Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire)
  - A man was arrested when a gun was found at a property in Reading (Berkshire)
  - Two guns (a shotgun and rifle) were seized by police during raids in Bootle (Merseyside) - there were a number of arrests in connection with this and a shooting at a house in Walton (see above)
  - A handgun was found during a raid on a house in Bushbury (Wolverhampton) and a man and woman were arrested
  - A cache of firearms was found in Coatbridge (North Lanarkshire) and has been linked to the fatal shooting in Robroyston (see above)

- Three handguns and one shotgun have been handed to police in Bristol following intelligence led activity.
- The stock and trigger mechanism of a shotgun were found in a litter bin in Windermere (Cumbria). A gun found by a member of the public in a park in Chippenham (Wiltshire) turned out to be real and has been sent for destruction.
- An air pistol was stolen from a house in Long Sutton (Cambridgeshire). Bullets were stolen during a burglary at Llangernyw (Conwy).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - As in December the number of reported incidents involving animals was significantly less than in recent months. Nevertheless another four were shot and injured with air weapons in Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire, Kent and west London.
- One rescue pony died and another was seriously injured in a gun attack in Dulverton (Somerset).
- An urban fox was shot and left to die in a back garden in Paisley.
- A swan rescued in Milton (Cambridge) was found to have fishing-related injuries and an air rifle pellet in his jaw.

- **Convictions** - A man was found guilty of attempted murder and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life - he shot a man in Hoxton (east London). Another man was found guilty of attempted murder, robbery and firearms charges after a racist attack in which he fired a shotgun at a man in Mitcham (south London) - he has been jailed for at least 12 years. Four men were found guilty of conspiracy to murder and attempted murder of a man who was shot outside a casino in Edinburgh with a converted starting pistol.
- A man who fired a sawn-off shotgun in South Moor (County Durham) and injured a friend has been jailed for 9½ years after admitting possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and intending to cause grievous bodily harm.
- One man has pleaded guilty to kidnap, intimidation and possessing a firearm in the trial of a number of men who held a man hostage in Burngreave (Sheffield) and drove him to Middlesbrough where he escaped. Two members of a five-man gang who kidnapped and pistol-whipped a man who was taken off the street in Harlesden (north west London) have been jailed for 8 and 10 years.
- A teenager who pointed a loaded firearm at a couple during an aggravated burglary in Bobbers Mill (Nottinghamshire) has been jailed for 13 years.
- A man who assaulted his partner and showed her his sawn-off shotgun has admitted harassment. A man who pointed a sawn-off shotgun at a pedestrian in north Manchester has been jailed for 6 years after pleading guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of unlawful violence and to possessing a prohibited weapon.
- Two men who sent two others to threaten a victim in Ilkeston (Derbyshire) with a gun have both been jailed for 9 years for blackmail.
- There were other convictions of men found in possession of firearms:
  - A man from Walsall (West Midlands) who said he bought a revolver found at his home at a car boot sale in Cannock (Staffordshire) admitted firearms and drugs charges.
  - A 19-year-old who had been jailed for shooting dead his younger sister was found with a loaded handgun in Gorton (Manchester) and has pleaded guilty to a number of firearms offences and will face a mandatory 5 year sentence
  - A man was found with cocaine, a sawn-off shotgun and cartridges at his home in Westcliffe (Essex) and has been jailed for 5 years
  - A 15-year-old received an 18-month detention and training order after a small handgun was found in his bedroom in Old Trafford (Manchester)

- A man who kept a pump-action shotgun in a rabbit hutch at his home in Bestwood (Nottinghamshire) pleaded guilty to possession of drugs and possession of a shotgun and was jailed for 5 years
- A man who had a sawn-off shotgun and revolver at his home in Huyton (Merseyside) has been jailed for 6 years after admitting four charges of possessing a prohibited weapon, an adapted weapon, ammunition and class A drugs
- A man found with a revolver under a bed in Hayes (west London) has been sentenced to 5 years in prison
- A man has been jailed for 7½ years after a pistol, silencer and ammunition were found in a car in Far Cotton (Northampton)
- A man has been jailed for 5 years after being found with a pistol on a train in Exeter (Devon) - ammunition was found at his home in Bristol
- A man who stashed a sawn-off shotgun at a house in Castlemilk (Glasgow) has been jailed for 5½ years
- Two Durham police officers have pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office after guns were handed into the police were sold to members of the public.
- Two men who went shooting with shotguns on land near Shap (Cumbria) without permission were each given 80 hours of unpaid community work.
- Two men from Bridgwater (Somerset) were each fined £2000 for failing to comply with the conditions of shotgun certificates.
- A man from Crieff (Perthshire) who admitted failing to keep a shotgun, rifle and cartridges in a secure place has been fined £2000 and had his shotgun and firearm certificates revoked.
- A man from Trebanog (Mid Glamorgan) who picked up illegal rifle ammunition on a hillside and took it home where it was found by police pleaded guilty to possessing explosive ammunition.
- There were also convictions for possession of stun guns:
  - One of two men jailed for blackmailing a man in Ilkeston (Derbyshire) (see above) admitted possessing a stun gun and received an additional 6 months sentence, to run concurrently
  - A man caught with a stun gun and tear gas canisters at his home in Hartlepool received a £50 fine
  - A man from Stonehouse (Plymouth) was jailed for possessing cocaine with intent to supply and possession of a powerful stun gun
  - A teenager has pleaded guilty to possession of a stun gun at his home in Amble (Northumberland) and given an 18-month community order
- **Gun Factories** - A man from Batley (West Yorkshire) who manufactured improvised explosive devices, firearms and ammunition has been jailed for 11 years.
- A man from Blackwood (Gwent) has admitted using his home to make explosives and possessing an improvised firearm.
- A number of men have been convicted for their part in an operation in which blank-firing guns were imported from Germany and converted to lethal weapons at a factory in Ancoats (Manchester) - the mastermind has been jailed for 30 years.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A 13-year-old boy from Wonford (Devon) admitted shooting a 15-year-old girl in the face with an air rifle and his friend, aged 15, pleaded guilty to shooting the girl in the chest, arm and leg. A man who fired an air rifle from a window of his home in Middleton (Leeds) and hit a man has been jailed for 2 years.
- There were convictions for robberies and attempted robberies in which the offender(s) was armed with an imitation firearm. The incidents occurred at:
  - at **Bookmaker's** in Stirchley (Birmingham) (a man has been jailed for 9 years after admitting robbery) possessing an imitation firearm and

- possessing cocaine) and in Swindon (Wiltshire) during which an employee pretended to have been held up by an armed accomplice
  - a **Post Office** in Coventry (two men have been found guilty)
  - a **Shop** in Preston (Lancashire) (a man has been jailed for 7 years)
- The following cases involved people who used airguns and imitation guns to threaten or cause fear of violence:
  - A teenager from Landport (Portsmouth) admitted a racist assault in which he used an air rifle
  - A schoolboy who burst into a classroom at a school in Bolton (Greater Manchester) with an imitation firearm has lost his appeal against a 12-month supervision order
  - A man who threatened a gang in Cheadle (Staffordshire) with a replica gun has been jailed for 8 months - police found replica handguns and air rifles at his home and he did not have a certificate to hold one of the air rifles
  - A man who pointed a .22 air rifle through the window of his home in Barrow (Cumbria) has been given a 2-year sentence - he was banned from having firearms because of a previous offence
  - A man who threatened staff at his mother's place of work in Kirkby (Nottinghamshire) with an imitation gun has been jailed for 9 months
  - A woman who pointed an air pistol at her ex-boyfriend during an attack with her partner in Lincoln has been jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence
  - A man who pointed a loaded air rifle at a man in Morecambe (Lancashire) was given a suspended 36-week jail term and 120 hours of unpaid work - he has been banned from carrying any form of air weapon in public for 10 years
  - A drunken man who terrified his ex-partner and her daughter with a BB gun in Newcastle (Staffordshire) has been jailed for 12 months after pleading guilty to possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and harassment
  - A man who was drunk when he confronted a group of men in Wigston (Leicestershire) has been convicted of possessing an imitation firearm and threatening behaviour and given a suspended 9-month jail sentence
  - Another man who threatened a police officer with a plastic toy gun in Northampton pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent and has been jailed for 21 months
  - A man who armed himself with an airgun to confront a suspected 'love rival' in New Pitsligo (Aberdeenshire) has admitted being in possession of a firearm with intent to cause a man to believe that unlawful violence would be used against another man
- A man who was armed with an airgun and a knife when he caused a disturbance in York has been jailed for 50 weeks - part of this includes a previous suspended sentence.
- A man who brandished an air rifle in Torquay (Devon) when he was out drinking was sentenced to a 12-month community order and 30-month curfew with tagging.
- A man who shot at three cars parked in a police car park in Bo'ness (West Lothian) with an air rifle has been ordered to complete 80 hours of community service.
- An air rifle was among an arsenal of weapons found at a house in Edinburgh after a man had been beaten up - a man has pleaded guilty to assault to danger of life.
- The case against a youth from Barwell (Leicestershire) who was accused of harassment, including firing an airgun at his victim's guinea pigs, was dropped after the victim collapsed whilst giving evidence.

## GUN INCIDENTS – JANUARY 2010

### ENGLAND

**BBC**, 31 January 2010

A man is in a stable condition in hospital after being shot in the leg in **Moxley**, West Midlands. His condition is not thought to be life-threatening.

**BBC**, 31 January 2010

Two men, one armed with a handgun, forced the manager of a fast food restaurant in **Reading**, Berkshire, to open the doors before stealing cash from the tills. It is thought that hundreds of pounds were taken.

**Northern Echo**, 30 January 2010

Three men were arrested after cocaine and an **air rifle** were found during an operation when a vehicle was stopped in **Darlington**, County Durham.

**Mirror**, 30 January 2010

Robert Tuck was caught with a revolver in his pocket after he started a drunken brawl with another passenger on a train in **Exeter**, Devon. He told police he was going to throw the gun away in a quarry in Cornwall. Police later found ammunition at his flat in **Bristol**. He admitted illegally possessing a firearm and has been jailed for five years.

**Evening Telegraph (Northamptonshire)**, 30 January 2010

A man who was arrested in **Rushden**, Northamptonshire, for threatening behaviour towards his ex-partner claimed to have a firearm. Police could not confirm if a firearm had been found at the house.

**BBC**, 30 January 2010

A man has been charged with drugs and firearms offences following a raid at an address in **Ripley**, Derbyshire.

**BBC**, 30 January 2010

Four people, two teenage men and two teenage women, have been arrested after a firearm was discharged from a vehicle near a private party in Bristol. It is understood that a **shotgun** was fired at a flat above a shop in **Filton** (*Bristol Evening Post*, 1 February 2010).

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 29 January 2010

A pane in a window at a house in **Meltham**, West Yorkshire, was cracked by a pellet believed to have been fired from an **air weapon**, and another window was damaged when an **air rifle** was fired in **Almondbury**.

**Haringey Independent**, 29 January 2010

Three men attempted to rob an office in **Ponders End**, north London, demanding staff hand over their wage packets. One employee suffered a minor head wound when a gun went off and another man was hit over the head with the gun. One man has been arrested and charged.

**East London Advertiser**, 29 January 2010

Desmond Meade has been found guilty of attempted murder and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. He shot a man in the chest with a **shotgun** in **Hoxton**, east London, in August 2009. Police had found an injured couple in a car which had crashed into a wall and the driver had a gunshot wound in the chest. The shooting followed a dispute over a drugs debt.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 29 January 2010

John Bloomfield and Sunnil Rajcoomar have been found guilty of raiding a post office in **Fillongley**, Coventry, and have been told to expect substantial custodial sentences. They had denied charges of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** during the robbery in March 2009.

**Uxbridge Gazette**, 28 January 2010

Parminder Sidhu was found in possession of a gun he insisted was just "a toy". He was found with a revolver at his address in **Hayes**, west London. The gun, believed to be a converted Brocock revolver, was found under the bed. Sidhu claimed the gun had been bought by a friend from an army shop. He was told that ignorance is no defence and has been sentenced to five years in prison.

**Times**, 28 January 2010

A 16-year-old from **Barwell**, Leicestershire, who was charged with harassment and had been accused of firing an **airgun** at his victim's guinea pigs walked free from the court after the victim of his abuse collapsed in the witness box and was taken to hospital. The Crown Prosecution Service claimed it was in the 'public interest' to end the trial but the judge said there were particular aspects of the case that caused him grave concern.

**This is Lichfield**, 28 January 2010

A reward has been offered for information leading to the conviction of two men responsible for an attack on a pub landlord in **Lichfield**, Staffordshire, and her partner. During the attack, which took place in December 2009, the partner was hit on the back of the head with a handgun and he had a **stun gun** fired at him. The two robbers demanded money and were able to seize a substantial amount of cash.

**South London Press**, 28 January 2010

A man has been cleared by a jury of attempted murder of a man who was shot outside a pub in **Brixton**, south London, in July 2009.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 28 January 2010

A man is on trial charged with possessing a Beretta pistol, a silencer and ammunition which were found in a car parked in **Far Cotton**, Northampton. DNA found on the gun is alleged to have matched to him. Martin Olali has been convicted and jailed for seven-and-a-half years (*Northampton Chronicle & Echo*, 2 February 2010).

**Lynn News**, 28 January 2010

An inquest has opened into the death of a man found with gunshot wounds in woodland in **Shouldham Thorpe**, Norfolk. The cause of death was chest and stomach injuries caused by a **shotgun**.

**Kent Online**, 28 January 2010

A man was arrested for possession of a prohibited weapon after reports that two men had been seen with a gun on a housing estate in **Canterbury**, Kent.

**The Herald (Plymouth)**, 28 January 2010

A jury has heard that police searching a home in **Stonehouse**, Plymouth, in August 2009 found a powerful **stun gun**. Andrew Adamson has been jailed for possessing cocaine with intent to supply and having a banned weapon (*The Herald (Plymouth)*, 29 January 2010).

**Ham & High**, 28 January 2010

An employee at a bookmaker's in **Belsize Park**, north London, was hit with a gun, had a knife held to his throat and was punched and kicked during a robbery. It is the second armed robbery in the area in two weeks. Staff at a café had been held up at gunpoint earlier in the month.

**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.

**Bolton News**, 28 January 2010

A maggot farmer suffered a fractured skull when he was attacked by three raiders who were armed with a crowbar, an **airgun** and a knife. The attack took place in **Edgworth**, Lancashire. The gang stole the victim's van before abandoning it nearby.

**Whitby Gazette**, 27 January 2010

Armed police made an arrest after reports of a youth brandishing an **air rifle** in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire, after the window of a property was smashed.

**This is Wiltshire**, 27 January 2010

A gun handed into police in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, and believed to be a starter pistol turned out to be real. The weapon had been found in a park by a dog walker and has been sent for destruction.

**Press Association**, 27 January 2010

Jamie Bunter has been locked up indefinitely and will serve at least 12 years for a racist **shotgun** attack on a man in **Mitcham**, south London. The victim was attacked simply because of the colour of his skin and his life was saved only because a faulty cocking mechanism prevented the cartridge from exploding. Bunter was found guilty of attempted murder, robbery and firearms charges. He was with two other men at the time of the attack and they were armed with a .410-calibre double-barrelled sawn-off shotgun, a loaded revolver and a knife.

**Northumberland Gazette**, 27 January 2010

Evan Hogarth, 19, has pleaded guilty to possessing a **stun gun** which was found in his bedroom in **Amble**, Northumberland. He has been given an 18-month community order.

**News Shopper**, 27 January 2010

A man armed with a handgun threatened a customer and a cashier at a bookmaker's in **Foots Cray**, south west London, while he took money from the safe.

**Express & Star**, 27 January 2010

A man found dead in the garage of his home in **Wollaston**, West Midlands, had been shot in the chest. There were no suspicious circumstances.

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

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

**BBC**, 27 January 2010

A man has been arrested following reports of an armed robbery at a store in **Exmouth**, Devon. It was reported that the man had a firearm and demanded cash. Approximately £300 was stolen in the raid.

**AFP**, 27 January 2010

A 17-year-old boy has died after a shooting incident at a house in **Huyton**, Merseyside. Neighbours reported that the boy had been shot and he was pronounced dead at hospital. An 18-year-old man has been arrested. A woman has been arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender (*BBC*, 28 January 2010). Detectives are not yet clear whether the teenage victim was shot accidentally or murdered with intent (*Liverpool Echo*, 30 January 2010). Three other teenagers have been arrested in the investigation and no further action is to be taken against the woman (*Liverpool Echo*, 2 February 2010). A 16-year-old has been charged with manslaughter, possession of a firearm and perverting the course of justice (*Liverpool Echo*, 3 February 2010).

**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.

**This is Local London**, 26 January 2010

A teenager has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm and assaulting a police officer in a street in **Burnt Oak**, north London. The 18-year-old threw away a plastic bag after spotting two police officers. The bag contained a **blank firing gun**.

**Metro**, 26 January 2010

A man has been hit by a shot from an **air rifle** in his back garden in **Hawkley Hall**, Lancashire. Further tests will be needed to establish if there is permanent damage to his sight. The victim has a pellet lodged in his cheek. It is believed the weapon was fired indiscriminately from neighbouring fields. It was the second time he had been shot with an airgun pellet in two weeks (*Wigan Evening Post*, 27 January 2010).

**Liverpool Echo**, 26 January 2010

David Wilson has admitted four charges of possessing a prohibited weapon, an adapted weapon, ammunition and class A drugs. Police found a **sawn-off shotgun** and a loaded revolver at his home in **Huyton**, Merseyside. He said he had been bullied into minding a bag filled with the weapons and drugs. He has been jailed for six years.

**Harrow Observer**, 26 January 2010

Members of a five-man gang who kidnapped a man off the street in **Harlesden**, north west London, in November 2008, bundled him into a stolen van before robbing and pistol-whipping him have been jailed. Their vehicle was stopped by police for driving without lights and they fled the scene. Shaul Toney, who had the gun and tried to hide it in a front garden, was sentenced to 10 years and Ezekiel Burton to 8 years for possessing a fully loaded 9mm automatic pistol with intent to commit an indictable offence and possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate.

**Daily Mail**, 26 January 2010

A keen game shooter has been arrested on suspicion of burglary and firearms offences. He is alleged to have entered a neighbour's home in **St John's Wood**, north west London, and shot a faulty burglar alarm. Local residents rang 999 after hearing shots. A **shotgun** cartridge was found at the scene.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 25 January 2010

Two men armed with a handgun entered a betting shop in **Earlsfield**, south west London, and threatened to shoot before making off with cash.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 25 January 2010

Vilmars Leidums has been jailed for 21 months for threatening a police officer with a **plastic toy gun**. He was drunk at the time of the incident which took place in **Northampton** in November 2009. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent.

**Liverpool Echo**, 25 January 2010

Shots were fired at a garage in **Stoneycroft**, Liverpool. The door to the garage was damaged but no one was injured.

**Liverpool Echo**, 25 January 2010

A man was shot in the face as he lay in bed at his home in **Stockbridge Village**, Merseyside. Two men broke in and fired what is thought to have been a small calibre handgun. The victim's injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

**Leicester Mercury**, 25 January 2010

A drunken man confronted a group of men in a street in **Wigston**, Leicestershire, and asked "Who wants shooting?". They believed he was armed with a shotgun. James Broadhead has now been convicted of possessing an **imitation firearm** and threatening behaviour. He claimed he was carrying a light sabre which was mistaken for a shotgun. The prosecution said it was not known exactly what he was carrying. Broadhead was given a nine-month jail sentence, suspended for 12 months.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 25 January 2010

A man with an **imitation firearm** who was threatening to harm himself in the centre of **Preston**, Lancashire, was tasered by police and arrested on suspicion of affray.

**The Citizen**, 25 January 2010

A teenage boy has been charged with threatening a worker at a takeaway in **Darwen**, Lancashire, with a firearm in an attempted robbery. A male armed with a **.177 air pistol** went into the takeaway and demanded money.

**BBC**, 25 January 2010

A couple in **Wichelstowe**, Swindon, were forced at gunpoint to hand over money from their safe when two men broke into their home. The incident is being treated as an aggravated burglary. The male victim was pistol-whipped and his partner was punched to the ground (*Swindon Advertiser*, 25 January 2010).

**The Argus**, 25 January 2010

When a man walked past police officers who had pulled over a motorist in **Brighton** he waved a gun at them. The man was rugby tackled by a third officer and arrested. The weapon was seized and will be examined to see if it is capable of firing live ammunition or is an imitation firearm. He was also being questioned about an armed robbery at a betting shop in **Brighton** (see below).

**Evening News**, 24 January 2010

A robber holding a bag with what looked like a gun threatened the staff at a store in **Great Yarmouth**, Norfolk, and demanded they hand over money. The staff refused but he grabbed cash.

**BBC**, 24 January 2010

Armed police were called to an address in **Pensford**, near Bristol, after concern there might be a firearm on the premises. A man was arrested on suspicion of theft, assault and criminal damage, but no firearm was found.

**This is Derbyshire**, 23 January 2010

Police are investigating whether a handgun was brandished by an intruder in the home of a woman and her young daughter in **Derby**. A man forced his way into the house and demanded cash.

**Spalding Today**, 23 January 2010

A man walked off with a "substantial amount" of cash from a building society branch in **Spalding**, Lincolnshire, after threatening staff with a gun concealed in a bag.

**Sentinel**, 23 January 2010

A drunken man terrified his ex-partner and her teenage daughter when he held a gun to his head after she dumped him. The incident happened at her home in **Newcastle**, Staffordshire, in July 2009. Peter Brereton produced a gun and a knife from his van and imitated shots to his head. He has pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and harassment. The weapon was a **BB gun** which belonged to a friend and Brereton kept in his van. He was jailed for 12 months and is subject to a restraining order preventing him from contacting his ex-girl friend for three years.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 23 January 2010

An **air rifle** pellet was fired at a ground floor window at a property in **Golcar**, West Yorkshire.

**Evening Post (Bristol)**, 23 January 2010

A road was closed near **Nailsea**, Bristol, after reported sightings of a man carrying a gun. No one was found and the road reopened two hours later.

**Evening Post (Bristol)**, 23 January 2010

A school in **Keynsham**, Bristol, had to be sealed off after reports that a youth with "a grudge" was heading to the site with a gun. A 16-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl were arrested away from the school site on suspicion of possessing a firearm. No weapon was recovered.

**Echo**, 23 January 2010

Two men, one of whom was brandishing a handgun, robbed an assistant of £100 takings and her handbag at a fast food outlet in **Southend**, Essex. A teenager has been charged with robbery (*Echo*, 2 February 2010).

**This is Nottingham**, 22 January 2010

Paul Easom has been jailed for five years after allowing a member of a crime gang to hide a **pump-action shotgun** in a rabbit hutch at the back of his home in **Bestwood**, Nottinghamshire. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply Class B drugs and possession of a shotgun. He has been jailed for five years. Mark Badder of Aspley was sent to prison for five-and-a-half years after pleading guilty to supplying drugs and possessing ammunition.

**This is Nottingham**, 22 January 2010

Jason Mility, 19, pointed a loaded firearm, a **Baikal**, at a couple in bed when he climbed into their home in **Bobbers Mill**, Nottinghamshire, in March 2009. He was tackled by the man and later linked to the crime by DNA evidence after he bit the man's thumb. Mility was found guilty of aggravated burglary, possession of a firearm, and possession of ammunition and a prohibited weapon. He was jailed for 13 years.

**Messenger**, 22 January 2010

A 15-year-old has pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm after a small handgun was found in his bedroom in **Old Trafford**, Manchester. He told police he was keeping the weapon for someone else and his family would be harmed if he refused. He was given an 18-month detention and training order.

**Express & Star**, 22 January 2010

A bullet proof vest and a loaded .38 Smith & Wesson handgun were discovered during a police raid on a house in **Bushbury**, Wolverhampton. One woman has already appeared in court charged with possession of the firearm and money laundering offences and a man has been remanded in custody.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 22 January 2010

A man was arrested by police inside a pub in **Coventry** and charged with possession of a firearm, possession of a cartridge and bullets and two counts of common assault.

**The Argus**, 22 January 2010

A man was arrested on suspicion of theft and going equipped for theft after a man on crutches waved a gun around on a bus in **Brighton**. An **imitation firearm** was recovered.

**Ham & High**, 21 January 2010

A youth worker was shot in the knee on his way home in **Gospel Oak**, north London. It is understood that the victim tried to intervene in an argument between two groups of men. A 16-year-old was hit when a bullet ricocheted into his head. Both victims are believed to be in a stable condition.

**Clitheroe Advertiser and Times**, 21 January 2010

Two men have been charged with possessing an **imitation handgun** with intent to cause another to believe unlawful violence would be used against him. The incident happened in **Clitheroe**, Lancashire.

**BBC**, 21 January 2010

A number of men have been convicted for their part in an operation that involved converting blank-firing guns into lethal weapons at a factory in **Ancoats**, Manchester (see [November 2009 Incidents](#)). Michael Sammon was convicted of conspiracy to possess firearms with intent to endanger life, conspiracy to import firearms, conspiracy to manufacture firearms and conspiracy to possess ammunition. He masterminded the illegal importing of hundreds of alarm flare guns from Germany. He has been jailed for 30 years (*BBC*, 22 January 2010). Colin Hughes and Anthony Key were convicted of assisting Sammon and will be sentenced later. Five other men were sentenced in 2006 for their part in the operation.

**BBC**, 21 January 2010

A man had a gun pointed to his head and the trigger pulled during an attack at a house in **Longsight**, Greater Manchester. No shots were fired and police are not sure if the gun was real or an **imitation**. Two raiders stormed into the house and also pointed a pitchfork at the victim. They made off with cash.

**BBC**, 21 January 2010

A 16-year-old is in a stable condition in hospital after he was shot in **Wolverhampton**. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

**BBC**, 21 January 2010

A man has been arrested in connection with an armed robbery at a betting shop in **Brighton** after a man threatened staff with a handgun before escaping with cash. He was released without charge (*The Argus*, 25 January 2010). Another man has been charged with armed robbery, having an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit an indictable offence and possessing an imitation firearm in a public place (*BBC*, 25 January 2010).

**This is Gloucestershire**, 20 January 2010

Three men raided a post office in **Charlton Kings**, Gloucestershire, and snatched thousands of pounds. The men were believed to be armed and one witness thought they saw one of them with a gun when they were running away.

**The Press**, 20 January 2010

Adam Flanagan had an **airgun** and a knife when he woke residents in **Clifton**, York, with the sound of smashing glass and demanding some "glue" from people in a house. He had been drinking and had taken diazepam. He pleaded guilty to possessing a knife in public and possessing an airgun in public and has been jailed for 50 weeks which includes a previous suspended sentence.

**Oldham Advertiser**, 20 January 2010

Two men threatened shop workers at a store in **Hathershaw**, Greater Manchester. One of them pulled out a silver pistol and demanded cash from the till. The gunman pulled the trigger a number of times while his accomplice urged him to "shoot them". The men fled with a small quantity of cigarettes. A man has been arrested on suspicion of robbery.

**Manchester Evening News**, 20 January 2010

Matthew Clarke pointed a **sawn-off shotgun** at a pedestrian after the man complained when Clarke soaked him by driving through a puddle in north **Manchester**. Two days later he drove past his victim and shouted abuse at him and the man was able to note his car registration. Clarke was arrested has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of unlawful violence and to possessing a prohibited weapon. He has been jailed for six years.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 20 January 2010

Sean Doherty, 20, has been handed an ASBO which bans him from carrying any form of air weapon in public for the next 10 years. He had pointed a loaded **air rifle** at a man in **Morecambe**, Lancashire. The victim was his ex-partner's uncle who had sold him the gun. The recorder noted that "there was significant animosity between the defendant's immediate family and that of his former partner, with whom he is now reunited". Doherty was also given a suspended 36-week jail term and was ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.

**Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette**, 20 January 2010

A man has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and possession of an offensive weapon. He is alleged to have pulled a cosh and a handgun from the waistband of his trousers during a taxi ride from **South Shields** to **Newcastle**.

**Beeston Today**, 20 January 2010

Four masked men entered a home in **Bramley**, West Yorkshire, and threatened the occupants with what is believed to be a **sawn-off shotgun**. The men stole electrical goods, including mobile phones.

**BBC**, 20 January 2010

A man was shot in the arm at an address in **Trench**, Telford in Shropshire. He was treated for pellet wounds to his arm. A man and a woman have been charged with attempted murder. The victim was shot with a **sawn-off shotgun** during a row over an illegal prescription drugs deal (*Shropshire Star*, 22 January 2010).

**BBC**, 20 January 2010

A gunman threatened a member of staff at a petrol station in **Colnbrook**, Berkshire, and demanded money. He escaped with a "substantial amount" of cash.

**West Yorkshire Police**, 19 January 2010

A teenage man is to be charged with a drugs offence and possession of a prohibited weapon following a raid in **Huddersfield**, West Yorkshire, during which a **sawn-off shotgun** was found.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 19 January 2010

A suspected armed robber has been remanded in custody. He is charged with possessing an **imitation black handgun** and firing it at police officers with intent to resist arrest in December 2009. It is alleged he was being monitored for a series of armed robberies in Northamptonshire and other counties. He is due to be charged with a series of alleged armed robberies including one at a building society in **Northampton**.

**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.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 19 January 2010

Kylee Orton pointed an **air pistol** at the head of her ex-boyfriend during an attack on him in which she and her partner Paul Golightly also wielded a scythe and inflicted a deep cut to the victim's wrist. The two were high on drugs at the time of the attack at their home in **Lincoln** in June 2009. When police their home they found three air rifles, an air pistol, and a number of other weapons. Orton was jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, Golightly was jailed for three years after he admitted attempting to rob the victim of prescribed medication.

**Herald (East Herts)**, 19 January 2010

A man armed with a gun approached a car in **Cheshunt**, Hertfordshire, and demanded money from the woman driver. She wound up her window and drove away but was left "extremely shaken".

**Cambs24**, 19 January 2010

An **air pistol** was amongst items stolen from a house in **Long Sutton**, Cambridgeshire.

**Cambridge News**, 19 January 2010

A man threatened staff at a building society branch in **Cambridge**. A man is in custody charged with robbery and possession of a firearm.

**This is the West Country**, 18 January 2010

There have been five reported incidents of damage to windows of properties in the **Martock** area of Somerset. The person responsible has been firing an **air rifle**.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 18 January 2010

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a man was shot in the shoulder in **Pinehurst**, Wiltshire. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. An 18-year-old woman has also been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder (*This is Wiltshire*, 18 January 2010). Two men, one aged 16, have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder (*This is Wiltshire*, 22 January 2010).

**Stourbridge News**, 18 January 2010

A man was shot during an incident at a bar in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands. He received treatment for a minor injury before being discharged from hospital.

**Northern Echo**, 18 January 2010

Raymond Hetherington fired a **sawn-off shotgun** outside a shop in **South Moor**, County Durham, in June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He intended to fire the weapon at a rival but inadvertently hit a friend who was taken to hospital with pellet injuries to his abdomen. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and intending to cause grievous bodily harm. He has been jailed for nine-and-a-half years. His friend admitted violent disorder and possessing an offensive weapon, a machete, in public and will be sentenced later.

**The Journal**, 18 January 2010

Karl Quigley who was hired to help build a new house in **Darras Hall**, Northumberland, stole items from another house in the same grounds when it was left empty. Among the stolen items was a replica **BB gun**. He admitted burglary and was jailed for 35 weeks, suspended for 12 months with supervision and 100 hours' unpaid work.

**Cambridge News**, 18 January 2010

A coroner has recorded that a man found with gunshot wounds in his van in **Landbeach**, Cambridgeshire, in August 2009 had taken his own life after being diagnosed with cancer. The alarm was raised when the man was found to be missing, along with a gun from the firearms cabinet.

**BBC**, 18 January 2010

Two men threatened staff with a handgun at a store in **Southwick**, Sussex. The men demanded cash from the till. The robbery is being linked to a similar incident in **Southwick** five days earlier when a man produced a handgun and demanded cash (see below). Small amounts of money were stolen in both incidents.

**BBC**, 18 January 2010

Four men forced their way into a house in **St Helens**, Merseyside, and fired a **shotgun**. A young boy suffered a cut to his head from flying glass during the forced entry. Three teenage men have been arrested and are in police custody (*Liverpool Echo*, 19 January 2010). A teenager has been charged with several offences (*The Reporter* (St Helens), 20 January 2010).

**St Helens Star**, 17 January 2010

Two men have been arrested and bailed in connection with a robbery at the railway station in **Lea Green**, Merseyside. Three men, allegedly armed with a gun and a knife, threatened two teenagers and escaped with a mobile phone and a silver chain.

**Local Guardian**, 17 January 2010

Armed police went to a road in **Raynes Park**, south London, after reports of a gun fight in a residential property with a man seen wielding a handgun. Two men were arrested. The gun was found to be an **air pistol**.

**BBC**, 17 January 2010

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after armed police officers were called to a post office in the centre of **Nottingham**. A man has been charged with possession an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence (*This is Nottingham*, 18 January 2010).

**West Yorkshire Police**, 16 January 2010

An **imitation firearm** and a quantity of cannabis were found at a house in **Manningham**, Bradford, during a police raid.

***This is South Devon***, 16 January 2010

A man who bought an **air rifle** over the internet 'for his personal safety' brandished the weapon on the seafront in **Torquay**, Devon, in November 2009. Anthony Debroize was spotted taking aim at a CCTV camera. He was told in court that he was 'lucky he was not shot' by officers who attended the scene. He had been out drinking at the time. He was sentenced to a 12-month community order and three-month curfew with tagging. His air rifle will be destroyed.

***Telegraph & Argus***, 16 January 2010

A police community support officer (PCSO) has been suspended from duty after he posed with two handguns on a social networking website. A cache of **imitation firearms** was among items recovered by police from his home in **Otley**, West Yorkshire.

***Sunderland Echo***, 15 January 2010

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

***Star***, 15 January 2010

A 15-year-old boy was shot in the eye with a pellet from a **ball bearing gun** as he walked along a street in **Langold**, Nottinghamshire. The pellet scratched his cornea.

***Romford Recorder***, 15 January 2010

A 15-year-old boy was almost blinded when he was shot in the face with a **paintball machine gun** in a drive-by attack in **Rainham**, east London. The shooting may be linked to the theft of ten high power paintball rifles, which look almost identical to an M4 machine gun, from a paintball centre in **Upminster** in December 2009. A jewellers shop in Rainham has also been shot at.

***News Shopper***, 15 January 2010

A man has been arrested after police approached two men in **Herne Hill**, south London, and a search revealed he was carrying a gun. A second suspect escaped on a train to **Orpington** but the man eluded the police and there was no sign of any more firearms.

***Hartlepool Mail***, 15 January 2010

A 17-year-old was lucky to escape injury when he was hit in the back of the neck with a pellet fired from an **airgun**. He was with friends outside shops in **Hartlepool** at the time of the shooting.

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

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

**BBC**, 15 January 2010

Terence Gavan has been jailed for 11 years after admitting 22 counts relating to the manufacture and possession of improvised explosive devices, firearms and ammunition plus six offences under the Terrorism Act for the possession of weapons manuals. More than 30 firearms, including pistols and revolvers, were among the weaponry found in his room at his home in **Batley**, West Yorkshire. Gavan was discharged from the Army when he was jailed in 1993 after he produced a firearm in a "threatening manner" during an argument in a pub in **Dewsbury**. He had a 'long-standing preoccupation with firearms and explosives'. There was little evidence of what he intended to use the weapons for, but the court heard he had a 'strong hostility' towards immigrants.

**BBC**, 15 January 2010

A man has been found with fatal gunshot wounds at a gun club in **Kibworth**, Leicestershire. Police do not think that anyone else was involved (*Leicester Mercury*, 16 January 2010). A post mortem examination was unable to determine the precise cause of death. An inquest has been opened (*Leicester Mercury*, 22 January 2010).

**This is the West Country**, 14 January 2010

Two men from **Bridgwater**, Somerset, both failed to comply with the conditions of **shotgun** certificates. Simon Cresswell and Stephen Reilly were each fined £2000.

**This is Surrey Today**, 14 January 2010

A shopkeeper in **Dorking**, Surrey, was targeted by a robber he thought was armed. The assailant pointed something covered in a red handkerchief at the victim, who feared it was a gun, and demanded money. The shopkeeper refused and left the shop. When he returned the man had gone.

**North-West Evening Mail**, 14 January 2010

Alan Falloon pointed a **.22 air rifle** through the window of his home in **Barrow**, Cumbria, in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) in a dispute with another man who turned up at his address. At the time he was banned from having firearms due to having served a jail term. He pleaded guilty to one offence of possessing a firearm when prohibited from doing so and also having a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He has been given a two year sentence.

**News Shopper**, 14 January 2010

Two youths were arrested in **Deptford**, south east London, after a police chase. The officers saw four teenagers, one of whom was carrying a hammer. One of the youths threw away the hammer and the other was seen to throw a gun, discovered to be an **air pistol**, beneath a bus.

**Herald (East Herts)**, 14 January 2010

A shop worker in **Cheshunt**, Hertfordshire, was pistol whipped by a man who locked him in a store cupboard. The gunman stole a large quantity of cash during the robbery which took place last month.

**Hartlepool Mail**, 14 January 2010

David Dunn was caught with a **stun gun** and tear gas canisters stored at his home in **Hartlepool**. He said he found them in a field and stored them for "public safety". He was fined £50.

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 January 2010

A gang held three cemetery workers at gunpoint and tied them up while they stole their mini-digger which the gang then used to smash into a cash exchange centre in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. Police who responded to an alarm were threatened with a pistol. The gang fled the scene but police later recovered a number of cars with thousands of pounds of cash believed to have been stolen. A **shotgun** and small arms ammunition were also found.

**BBC**, 14 January 2010

Two guns, a **pump-action shotgun** and a rifle, and a quantity of ammunition were seized by police during raids in **Bootle**, Merseyside. The weapons were recovered as part of an investigation into a shooting at a house in **Walton** (see below). An 18-year-old was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage, possession of a Section 1 firearm and a drugs offence. A 16-year-old, who was also arrested on suspicion of a drugs offence, and a 17-year-old were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and possession of a firearm. Five others have been arrested on suspicion of drugs offences.

**BBC**, 14 January 2010

Police found a gun during a raid on a property in **Reading**, Berkshire. A man has been arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a firearm.

**The Advertiser**, 14 January 2010

A man was shot at from a passing car in an **airgun** attack in **Guiseley**, West Yorkshire. He was hit in the chest but escaped injury because he was given some protection by his jacket and fleece.

**Waltham Forest Guardian**, 13 January 2010

A man has been shot in the face in **Walthamstow**, north east London. He is in a serious but stable condition in hospital, but has been left with potentially "life-changing" injuries.

**St Helens Star**, 13 January 2010

Armed police surrounded a pub in the centre of **St Helens**, Merseyside, after a tip off that robbery suspects, possibly armed with a gun, were inside. It turned out to be a false alarm.

**Reading Post**, 13 January 2010

A man has appeared in court charged with aggravated robbery for attacking a man at gunpoint at his home in **Woodley**, Berkshire. The man is alleged to have entered a home armed with a handgun and stealing money, a games console and two televisions.

**Harlow Herald**, 13 January 2010

Two men have been arrested in connection with a robbery in which a security guard and an engineer were held up at a bank in **Epping**, Essex. Two men, one of whom had a handgun, threatened the victims, demanded money and took a large sum before leaving the bank.

**Express**, 13 January 2010

A leading clay pigeon shooter has been found dead after apparently committing suicide. His body was found at his home in **Stapleford**, Wiltshire. A **shotgun** was lying nearby. Police say they are not treating the death as suspicious.

**Evening Star**, 13 January 2010

A man has been arrested after threatening staff at a newsagents in **Sudbury**, Suffolk, and demanding cigarettes. He was armed with an **imitation firearm**. The 19-year-old has been charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm (*Evening Star*, 15 January 2010).

**Evening Chronicle**, 13 January 2010

A man who has been on the run for three months has been tracked down to a house in **Byker**, Tyneside. Police had found a cannabis farm and a **sawn-off shotgun** at his home in **Walker** in October 2009. He has been charged with possessing a firearm, handling stolen goods and drugs offences.

**The Argus**, 13 January 2010

A man armed with a handgun held up an off licence in **Southwick**, Brighton. He pointed the gun at two cashiers and stole £160 from the till.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 12 January 2010

Matthew Smith, a member of staff at a bookmaker's in **Swindon**, told police he had been held up at gunpoint when Luke Corcoran pretended to carry out a raid in December 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The pair got away with £8300. Both men have pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to steal. Corcoran also admitted possessing an **imitation firearm** at the time of committing a specified offence. The two men will be sentenced later.

**Press Association**, 12 January 2010

Four men are on trial accused of taking part in a hold-up at a warehouse at **Heathrow Airport** in February 2004. They all deny a series of charges including robbery and firearm possession. The trial is unprecedented as it is being heard without a jury.

**Liverpool Echo**, 12 January 2010

A gang with a gun held a man hostage in his own home in **Prescot**, Merseyside, to steal his car and computer. He also handed over his watch and cash.

**Leicester Mercury**, 12 January 2010

A couple were robbed in **Highfields**, Leicester, by men they believed they were meeting to buy a second-hand car. One the men was carrying a gun. They threatened the couple, punched the husband in the head and stole the wife's handbag as well as stealing the cash they had brought with them to buy the car.

**Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette**, 12 January 2010

Three people have been arrested during a series of raids at addresses in **South Tyneside**, **Gateshead** and **Sunderland** in which drugs were recovered along with four firearms including two modified **air rifles**, a **starting pistol** and an **air pistol**.

**Hemel Today**, 12 January 2010

A man and a woman have appeared in court after a **shotgun** was allegedly found in the loft of the pub they were running in **Hemel Hempstead**, Hertfordshire. They were charged with possession of a shotgun without a certificate.

**BBC**, 12 January 2010

Two men armed with what was thought to be a firearm threatened security guards filling a cash machine at a service station in **Awsworth**, Nottingham. The men escaped with a large amount of money.

**Avon and Somerset Police**, 12 January 2010

Three handguns and one **shotgun** have been handed to police in **Bristol** following intelligence led activity by specialist firearms officers.

**The Star**, 11 January 2010

Three men armed with a handgun stole phones from the stock room during an armed robbery at a mobile phone shop in **Page Hall**, Sheffield.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 11 January 2010

Martin Burke threatened a shop assistant in a shop in **Preston**, Lancashire, with an **imitation rifle** in June 2009, but was tackled by the shop assistant and pushed out of the shop. A passer-by followed Burke and another wrote down the registration number of his getaway car. He was convicted of robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and a knife and jailed for seven years.

**BBC**, 11 January 2010

Three men thought to be armed with a **stun gun** and knife threatened a man in an attempted robbery in **Standens Barn**, Northampton. The men approached the victim and demanded money but the victim ran off and stayed in a nearby shop.

**BBC**, 11 January 2010

Two police constables from **Durham Police** have pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office. Damien Cobain and another officer, who faces further charges of theft in relation to firearms, were arrested when officers investigating a gun stolen from a farm were told it was bought from police (see [April 2009 Incidents](#)). The case has been adjourned until February.

**Slough & Langley Observer**, 10 January 2010

Binmen in Slough, Berkshire, have reported a rising number of assaults between 2008-09, including being shot at with an **air rifle** in **Cippenham**. Between 2007-08 someone pulled a gun on a crew in **Chalvey** before shouting abuse and driving away.

**Echo**, 10 January 2010

Mthatshelwa Mabandla was found with a stash of cocaine, a **sawn-off shotgun** and cartridges at his home in **Westcliffe**, Essex, in September 2009. The gun was stolen during a burglary in Benfleet, Essex, in May 2009 and subsequently cut down to a length of two feet. He admitted possession of cocaine with intent to supply, possession and production of cannabis and possession of a firearm. He was jailed for five years.

**Telegraph**, 9 January 2010

Kasha Peniston, 19, who had been jailed for shooting dead his 12-year-old sister (see [2007 Incidents](#)), has pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon, possessing ammunition without a certificate, possessing a firearm when prohibited and possession of cannabis. He will face a mandatory five year sentence. He was found with a loaded handgun when police stopped a car in **Gorton**, Manchester, in October 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

**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.

**Liverpool Echo**, 9 January 2010

A house in **Walton**, Liverpool, was attacked whilst three young children slept indoors. A gang of five men opened fire with a **shotgun** and a brick or rock was thrown through a window. Eight people have been bailed after being arrested after guns and drugs were found when police raided properties in Walton (*Liverpool Echo*, 16 January 2010).

**Haringey Independent**, 9 January 2010

A student will appear in court charged with possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition without a certificate. A loaded firearm, a **BB gun** and computer equipment were seized by police during a raid on his house in **Muswell Hill**, north London.

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 8 January 2010

Ian Cawood has been jailed for two years after he admitted firing an **air rifle** from the window of his home in **Middleton**, Leeds, in December 2007. A pellet from the gun lodged four centimetres deep in the back of a man. The pellet has not been removed. The shooting followed a long-running dispute between Cawood and another man who recruited the victim. He pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent and unlawful wounding connected to the offence.

**This is Wiltshire**, 8 January 2010

A shot was fired from what police believe was an **air rifle** into the living room of a home in **Trowbridge**, Wiltshire. A couple were watching television at the time. The pellet went through one pane of a double glazed window.

**The Star**, 8 January 2010

Daoud Khan has pleaded guilty to kidnap, intimidation and possessing a firearm. His victim was a man who had double-crossed him in a drug deal. In **Sheffield** he fired bullets at a car driven by a friend of the victim who was intending to sell the drugs with him. The victim was held hostage at a house in **Burngreave** where Khan held a gun to his head and was later driven to **Middlesbrough** where he had a knife held to his head by Khan. The victim managed to escape. He and his friend have each admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply. Four other men deny conspiracy to kidnap, a woman denies possessing a firearm and perverting the course of justice and another man denies intimidation. The trial continues.

**The Sentinel**, 8 January 2010

A man who produced a replica gun after being tormented by a gang has been jailed for eight months. The incident took place in **Cheadle**, Staffordshire, in February 2009. Afterwards the police found two **replica handguns**, three **air rifles**, a meat cleaver and a knife inside Matthew Alcock's house. He did not have a certificate to hold one of the air rifles. He said he had been left the guns by his grandfather. He pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, and one charge of possessing an air rifle without holding a firearm certificate.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 8 January 2010

Four men armed with a handgun, an axe, a crowbar and a **stun gun** threatened staff at a cash and carry store in **Northampton**. The manager was asked to open the safe and the men stole large quantities of cash and cigarettes.

**Kilburn Times**, 8 January 2010

A man was shot in a street in **Paddington**, west London. He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable.

**Evening Gazette**, 8 January 2010

A man has been remanded in custody following an alleged firearm incident in **Stockton**, Teesside. He is accused of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence and also faces driving charges.

**Bracknell Forest Standard**, 8 January 2010

A teenager was held at gunpoint by an armed man at a shop in **Sandhurst**, Berkshire. The man demanded that the safe was opened but as there was no safe he asked for money from the till. The teenager said that the gun did not look real but "you don't want to take the risk".

**Bolton News**, 8 January 2010

A boy who burst into a classroom at a school in **Bolton**, Greater Manchester, in October 2008 and brandished a pistol, which turned out to be a school prop, was found guilty last year of possession of an **imitation firearm** with an intent to cause fear or violence. He was given a 12-month supervision order. His appeal against conviction has now been rejected. It is believed his action was to shock the class teacher who is still off work.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 7 January 2010

A man threatened a shop worker with what appeared to be a handgun during an attempted robbery at an off licence in **Bamber Bridge**, Lancashire. The owner did not hand over any cash and the man ran away empty-handed.

**Harrow Observer**, 7 January 2010

A man armed with an **airgun** and a sword shot a member of staff in the head at a bank in **Kingsbury**, north west London. The man stole cash. The injured man was taken to hospital with pellet wounds to the head and received treatment. The weapons were recovered from the scene.

**Express & Echo**, 7 January 2010

A 13-year-old boy from **Wonford**, Exeter, has admitted shooting a 15-year-old girl in the face with an **air rifle**. He pleaded guilty to assaulting the girl and inflicting actual bodily harm. His friend, who is 15, has pleaded guilty to shooting the girl in the chest, arm and leg.

**Evening Gazette**, 7 January 2010

A gunshot is alleged to have been fired in **Norton**, Teesside. The incident took place after an argument started at a house, and a car parked outside was dented and the driver's window smashed. A man has been charged with intent to cause alarm and distress with a firearm as well as traffic offences.

**Birmingham Mail**, 7 January 2010

William Blake terrified staff at a betting shop in **Stirchley**, Birmingham, in May 2009, but the staff refused to hand over cash. He fled empty handed. He has admitted robbery, possessing an **imitation firearm** and possessing cocaine with intent to supply and has been jailed for nine years.

**The Star**, 6 January 2010

Two men who sent two others to threaten an ex-convict with a gun and told him to hand over £25,000 have been jailed for nine years each. The incident took place in **Ilkeston**, Derbyshire (*This is Derbyshire*, 5 January 2010). Wayne Reece and Michael McKenna were convicted of blackmailing their victim. McKenna admitted a second charge of possessing a **stun gun** disguised as a torch which was found at his home in **Woodseats**, Sheffield, and was given another six months' jail for this offence, to run concurrently.

**Newham Recorder**, 6 January 2010

A murder inquiry has been launched after a man was found with **shotgun** wounds in **Forest Gate**, east London. The victim was taken to hospital but died of his injuries. Five men were arrested, four of whom have been released without charge (*BBC*, 8 January 2010). An 18-year-old has been bailed pending further inquiries (*Newham Recorder*, 16 January 2010). Seven people in total have been arrested as part of the police investigation (*Press Association*, 16 January 2010).

**Harrow Observer**, 6 January 2010

A man was in a serious condition after being shot in the head in **Wembley**, north west London. It is believed the incident happened after the victim had been to a New Years Eve party. A man has been accused of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life (*Harrow Times*, 8 January 2010).

**Express & Star**, 6 January 2010

Altaf Ahmad Khan bought a 0.22 calibre silver Belgian revolver and ammunition at a car boot sale in **Cannock**, Staffordshire, thinking it was a replica. The gun was found by police when his home in **Walsall**, West Midlands, was raided in November 2009. The gun was found to be capable of firing bullets. Khan admitted possession of a firearm and ammunition for a firearm without a certificate. He also admitted drugs charges. He will be sentenced later.

**Ealing Gazette**, 6 January 2010

Cannabis plants and a **stun gun** were seized in a raid at an address in **Southall**, west London. A man and a woman were arrested.

**The News**, 5 January 2010

Shane Fudge, 19, from **Landport**, Portsmouth, has admitted a racist assault in which he used an **air rifle** to scare his victim in December 2008. He also admitted possessing a firearm to cause fear of violence. He will be sentenced later.

**Clacton Gazette**, 5 January 2010

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

**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.

**South London Press**, 4 January 2010

The police have arrested an 11-year-old girl who was allegedly part of a gang of six young people, all between 11 and 14 years old, who are suspected of robbing a woman with a **replica handgun** in **Stockwell**, south London, last month. Others have been arrested, the girls have been released and the boys have been bailed.

**The Shuttle (Kidderminster)**, 4 January 2010

Adam Phillips and Alexander Goodier have pleaded guilty to a burglary in **Bewdley**, Worcestershire, when they stole cash and a number of items including an **air rifle**. Goodier also admitted possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of drugs. Two other people pleaded guilty to converting criminal property. They will be sentenced in February.

**Malvern Gazette**, 4 January 2010

Police firearms officers and dog-handlers were called out after a report that a man was seen with a gun in his hand. He was seen to point a Luger-type pistol at a car driving along a road between **Castlemorton**, Worcestershire, and **Eastnor**, Herefordshire. The man was not located.

**Westmorland Gazette**, 3 January 2010

The wooden stock and trigger mechanism of a **shotgun** were found wrapped up in a litter bin in **Windermere**, Cumbria. Police are trying to identify the owner.

**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.

**Get Reading**, 2 January 2010

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

**BBC**, 2 January 2010

A teenager was shot in the back in **Allerton**, Merseyside. He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as critical but stable. It is believed that two people, both armed with handguns, forced their way into a house where the shooting took place. Four people, three men and a woman, were being questioned by detectives on suspicion of possession of firearms and possession of drugs with intent to supply after a handgun and a white powder were discovered at a house in Allerton (*Liverpool Daily Post*, 3 January 2010). The four have been released on bail (*BBC*, 4 January 2010).

**BBC**, 1 January 2010

A man has died and another has sustained critical injuries in a double shooting in **Thornton Heath**, south east London. The dead man, a publican's son, was apparently shot in the head by a gunman in revenge for ejecting him from a party at the pub. The other victim is his younger brother (*Croydon Guardian*, 6 January 2010). A man has been charged with murder, attempted murder and firearms offences (*BBC*, 9 January 2010).

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## SCOTLAND

**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.

**Evening News**, 29 January 2010

A raid on a house in **Edinburgh** where a man had been beaten up in March 2009 uncovered an arsenal of weapons including an **air rifle**. A man who was one of a number of people who ran from the house with a variety of weapons has pleaded guilty to assault to danger of life.

**BBC**, 28 January 2010

A man, who threatened a male assistant with what appeared to be a gun, has escaped with hundreds of pounds from a petrol station in **Condorrat**, North Lanarkshire.

**Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser**, 27 January 2010

A cache of firearms was discovered at the back of the library in **Coatbridge**, North Lanarkshire. Police refused to say whether the find was linked to the fatal shooting of a man in **Robroyston** (see below).

**icRenfrewshire**, 23 January 2010

Two staff members were threatened by men after with a knife and a suspected gun during a robbery at a bookmaker's in **Ballieston**, Glasgow. A three-figure sum of cash was stolen.

**stv**, 19 January 2010

A gunman fired a shot through the window of a house in **Airdrie**, North Lanarkshire. Four people were inside the house at the time of the incident. The occupants had heard what sounded like a gunshot outside the house the previous day.

**Evening Express**, 19 January 2010

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

**stv**, 16 January 2010

A bookmakers in **Shotts**, North Lanarkshire, was robbed at gunpoint. No one was injured but two members of staff were left badly shaken. A man threatened them with a gun and made off with cash.

**BBC**, 14 January 2010

Barry McCullagh has admitted possessing a **sawn-off shotgun** and not having a shotgun certificate. He found the weapon while walking a dog and stashed it at a house near **Castlemilk**, Glasgow. The house was raided by police in August 2009 and were later told of McCullagh's involvement by his mother. He has been jailed for five-and-a-half years.

**BBC**, 14 January 2010

Ross Scott shot at three cars parked in a car park at the police station in **Bo'ness**, West Lothian, in March 2009. He was armed with an **air rifle** and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. He was ordered to complete 80 hours of community service.

**Sky News**, 13 January 2010

A man was shot dead in the car park of a supermarket in **Robroyston**, Glasgow. Police believe the victim was deliberately targeted. Police have revealed that two shots were fired from a handgun (*Sunday Mail*, 17 January 2010). It is reported that he was the victim of a shooting in **Auchinairn** in November 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) (*Evening Times*, 14 January 2010). Tests have confirmed that guns found in **Coatbridge** (see above) were used in the murder (*BBC*, 28 January 2010).

**Daily Record**, 13 January 2010

Imran Sakur, Jamie Robertson, Frank McGlone and Craig Wallace have been found guilty of conspiracy to murder and attempted murder. Robertson, who was hired by Sakur, shot a man outside a casino in **Edinburgh** in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). McGlone acted as the getaway driver and Walker was a go-between. It is believed that the weapon used was a **starting pistol** converted to fire a home-made bullet. The bullet is still lodged in the victim's cheek.

**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.

**The Sun**, 11 January 2010

Three masked men rushed into a store in **Carluke**, South Lanarkshire, and pointed a gun at staff. A man who was drinking in the pub opposite ran over and jammed the door. Despite being pistol-whipped the man and his friend pulled the gunman to the ground and held him until the police arrived. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident.

**Daily Record**, 11 January 2010

Cameron Kennedy has admitted failing to keep a **shotgun**, rifle and cartridges in a secure place. When police went to his home in **Crieff**, Perthshire, in July 2009 in relation to an outstanding matter they found the front door insecure and saw a shotgun and a rifle lying against the wall. He had only held a gun licence for a fortnight. The acting chief constable told the court Kennedy was "unfit to be entrusted with a firearm". Kennedy also admitted failing to sign firearms certificates and failing to tell Tayside Police he had moved house. He was fined £2000 and had his shotgun and firearms certificates revoked (*Perthshire Advertiser*, 19 January 2010).

## WALES

**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.

**BBC**, 24 January 2010

Bullets were stolen along with bank cards and powerful medicine in a house burglary at the home of an RSPCA worker in **Llangernyw**, Conwy.

**Liverpool Daily Post**, 19 January 2010

A husband and wife have been found dead at their home in **Sealand**, Flintshire. It is understood a gun may have been fired at some point prior to the deaths, but police could not confirm the circumstances of how the couple died. The husband was killed by a **shotgun** wound to his head but a post mortem examination was unable to establish how his wife died (*BBC*, 20 January 2010).

**BBC**, 15 January 2010

A man and a 15-year-old boy have been arrested after an armed robbery at a shop in **Bontnewydd**, Gwynedd. A large amount of cash was taken by two people who entered the shop brandishing weapons, believed to be a firearm and a hammer.

**BBC**, 14 January 2010

Darren Tinklin from **Blackwood**, Gwent, has admitted using his home to make explosives and possessing a firearm (see [November 2009 Incidents](#)). He has been remanded in custody.

**South Wales Echo**, 8 January 2010

Michael Ashford picked up illegal rifle ammunition, a 72-shell case, on a hillside and took it to his home in **Trebanog**, Mid Glamorgan, where it was discovered by police during an unrelated drugs search. The ammunition is designed to cause "horrific" injuries. Ashford pleaded guilty to possessing explosive ammunition and will be sentenced later.

**BBC**, 3 January 2010

A man was injured by an **air rifle** at **Llanelli** railway station. The victim was released after treatment in hospital. Three males and two females were arrested by police.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**BBC**, 29 January 2010

A cat was shot eight times with an **airgun** in **Astley**, Greater Manchester. He was found with collapsed at an industrial site and had been shot in the head, neck, abdomen and paw. He has lost an eye and has had to undergo two operations. Vets were unable to remove three of the pellets.

**Watford Observer**, 21 January 2010

A cat was shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Watford**, Hertfordshire. She returned home with her gum and a tooth hanging down and really distressed. Vets have since repaired the gum and removed her tooth and the airgun pellet.

**Herald (Plymouth)**, 21 January 2010

A cat has been shot dead in **Ivybridge**, Devon. He was found to be struggling to breathe and within minutes blood was pouring from his mouth. An X-ray revealed he had been shot by an **air rifle** pellet which had gone through his chest and lung and became lodged on the other side of his body.

**Uxbridge Gazette**, 20 January 2010

A cat was lucky to be alive after being shot with a **.177 calibre air rifle**. The attack took place next to the Grand Union Canal in **Uxbridge**, west London. A pellet was removed from his back. The crime is being treated as a firearms incident.

**Cambs24**, 19 January 2010

A swan was found with fishing-related injuries and an **air rifle** pellet in his jaw in **Milton**, Cambridge. The pellet was lodged under his beak but the wound had healed and was not likely to cause any problems.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 13 January 2010

A gunman has shot a young urban fox in the head and left it to die in a back garden. The animal had been adopted by local families in **Paisley**. It is thought it was killed by a shot from a .22 rifle.

**Kent Online**, 6 January 2010

A cat has needed major surgery after being shot in **Minster**, Kent. An X-ray revealed an **airgun** pellet which had entered through his lower abdomen, hit his intestines in four different places, penetrated his liver and caused a rupture in his diaphragm before becoming lodged in his thorax. His treatment will cost about £1500.

**Independent**, 5 January 2010

A rescue pony has died and another seriously injured after they were shot. The attack took place at the Exmoor Pony Centre in **Dulverton**, Somerset.



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