



JULY 2009 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were eight shooting deaths reported in July, of which six were homicides:
 - A man died in what was described as a gang-related shooting in Broomhall (Sheffield) (three other men were injured and four men have been charged with conspiracy to murder).
 - There were two fatal shootings in Greater Manchester - a shop worker was shot dead in Winton (two men have been charged with murder) and another victim was shot and killed in a car park in Chadderton.
 - There were also two fatal shootings in south London - a football manager died when he was shot several times at a playing field in West Wickham (one man has been arrested) and a man died in hospital after being found injured in a car in New Cross.
 - A pub landlord died when he was shot after breaking up a row in Bilston (West Midlands) (seven people have been charged with murdering the victim).
- A man's body was found in Potterhanworth (Lincolnshire) after his ex-partner's daughter had been shot in the leg - the man died of gunshot wounds and a shotgun was found close the body.
- A post-mortem showed that an elderly man whose body was found in Allestree (Derby) had died as a result of a single gunshot wound - police are not treating the death as suspicious.
- A number of other victims sustained shooting injuries - in most cases the victim's condition was not thought to be life-threatening. The incidents occurred in:
 - Birmingham (4) - two men suffered injuries when they were shot in the street in Handsworth, a man was shot in the stomach at his house in Edgbaston and another victim was shot in the leg in Willenhall
 - Bristol (1) - a man was injured in the leg during a shooting outside a pub
 - Greater Manchester (2) - two men were injured in shootings in Rochdale (one man has been charged with attempted murder)
 - Lincolnshire (1) - a teenage girl was shot in the leg in an incident linked to the discovery of a man's body in Potterhanworth (see above)
 - North London (4) - two teenagers were shot on an estate in St John's Wood (a third teenager was pistol whipped), and two men were shot, one by armed police, in Leyton (a man has been arrested and a loaded firearm recovered)
 - Merseyside (4) - a man was hit by one of four shots fired in Dovecot, another victim was shot in the legs in Toxteth and two victims were shot in Croxteth in separate incidents, one was hit in the arm (a teenager has been arrested) and the other, a teenager, was shot in the leg (four teenagers and a man have been arrested and a firearm recovered)
 - Sheffield (3) - three men were shot and injured, one seriously, in the incident in which a fourth man died (see above)
 - South London (4) - one man was shot at a kebab shop in Woodside Green and three men have been shot in Clapham on two separate occasions
 - Sunderland (1) - a man was shot in the back at his home
- Sixteen other victims were shot with airguns and BB guns (see below).
- **Armed Robberies** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices** in Bristol, Rowley Regis (West Midlands) (a customer was injured in the leg), Hyde (Greater

Manchester) (a security guard foiled the raiders), Ewell (Surrey) and Thorney Wood (Nottingham) (a shotgun was fired), **Bookmakers** in Luton (Bedfordshire) and Cambridge (three premises were targeted in four days), **Shops** in Southampton (two men were arrested), Cowes (Isle of Wight) (two men have been charged), Dukinfield (Greater Manchester) and Nottingham, a **Bar** in Withington (Manchester) and **Social Clubs** in South Bank (Teesside) and Gipton (Leeds). Some of the incidents are known to have involved imitation guns (see below).

- Two security guards were robbed of cash at a petrol station in Newmains (North Lanarkshire), armed robbers stole cash from two security workers in Lenton (Nottingham), a cashbox was seized from a security guard in Bournemouth (Dorset) and another guard was robbed of cash in Maidstone (Kent).
- There were armed robberies involving guns at homes in Hackenthorpe (Sheffield) and Derby and in a garden in Streatham (south London).
- Two men armed with a gun stole a car in Sutton Coldfield (West Midlands).
- A taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint in Hartlepool - a ball-bearing gun was found at the scene and a teenager charged. A delivery driver was robbed of cash in New Ash Green (Kent).

- **Other Incidents** - A man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder after a shot was fired outside a pub in Beswick (Greater Manchester).
- In Huyton (Merseyside) two men were shot at from a passing car and in an incident later in the month a parked car was hit by a bullet when shots were fired.
- Two men have been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life after shots were fired from a handgun by occupants of a car in Preston (Lancashire).
- Two teenagers were arrested after reports that someone had discharged weapons from a vehicle in Ilketshall St Andrew (Suffolk) (the incident may be linked the theft of shotguns from a house in Rumburgh (see below)).
- A group of Norwegian crop circle enthusiasts were shot at near Devizes (Wiltshire) (a man was arrested).
- A firearm was discharged during an altercation in Basingstoke (Hampshire).
- In Lostwithiel (Cornwall) four teenagers were arrested after three cars were damaged - a shotgun was found in a hedge.
- A man was arrested and charged after being disabled by police with a Taser gun after being seen with a handgun at Gatwick Airport.
- Two men ditched a stolen car containing a loaded gun in Nine Ashes (Essex).
- A man was arrested in Worthing (Sussex) after reports he had a gun in what was described as a domestic incident.
- There were other suspected firearms incidents in Tonypany (Mid Glamorgan) (three men have been arrested) and Cropwell Bishop (Nottinghamshire (one man was arrested)).

- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - At least sixteen people were injured by being shot with airguns and BB guns in July:
 - A man found with superficial injuries in Norris Green (Liverpool) is believed to have been shot with an airgun.
 - A man was shot in the head with an airgun pellet in Sunderland - a pellet had to be removed from his skull.
 - In London there were four apparent airgun shootings - a victim was hit in the shoulder in Norbury (south London), another suffered minor injuries when he was shot in the head in Soho, a teenager received a puncture wound to his chest in Bromley and a 12-year-old girl was shot by two boys with an airgun or BB gun in Streatham.
 - A dog walker was shot with an airgun pellet in Weymouth (Dorset).
 - In Scotland a teenager had to undergo surgery after being shot in the chest with an airgun in Dundee (a 16-year-old was arrested and charged),

and a woman was shot with an airgun pellet whilst she was walking in Ardroy (Inverness-shire).

- A man was shot twice with a pellet gun attack in York - the perpetrator may have been seen later firing the gun at a hotel in the city.
- A 12-year-old boy was shot in the arm when another boy fired a BB gun at him in Beverley (East Yorkshire).
- A teenager suffered head and knee injuries after being shot with a BB gun in Barnstaple (Devon) (four men were arrested).
- Two boys were shot with a BB gun in a drive-by shooting in Kettering (Northamptonshire).
- Two people were hit with BB gun pellets in Cirencester (Gloucestershire) (two teenagers have been arrested).
- Two other children sustained air rifle injuries. A 5-year-old girl was shot in the neck with an air rifle while playing at home in Muirhouse (North Lanarkshire). A 15-year-old shot himself in the hand with an air rifle on a farm in Melksham (Wiltshire).
- A driver was forced to duck when an airgun was fired from an oncoming vehicle in Hartford (Cambridgeshire).
- Following other incidents involving air weapons and imitation guns:
 - a man has been charged with possession of an air weapon and intent to cause fear and violence after an incident in Hertford.
 - a 15-year-old was arrested in Bletchley (Buckinghamshire) where a BB gun was recovered
 - a man from Burton (Staffordshire) is to appear in court charged with possession of an imitation gun and a rice flail
 - a man was arrested and received a caution after a BB gun was fired through a window in Yarmouth (Norfolk)
 - a man appeared in court after reports that a man was threatening and harassing another man with an airgun in Ealing (west London)
 - armed police subdued a naked man with a Taser after he was reported to be running around with a fake gun in Stanmore (north west London)
 - a man sparked an armed police alert in Hillsborough (Sheffield) and was charged with possessing an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence
 - a man who was abusive to staff at a store in Andover (Hampshire) whilst brandishing a BB gun was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm
 - a man was arrested after a replica gun was fired in front of two police community support officers in Allenton (Derby)
 - a man with a BB gun sparked an armed police raid in Romford (Essex) - he was arrested but released without charge
- Police in Darlington have condemned the "indiscriminate" use of air weapons after being called out to more than 90 incidents since January.
- Among the **Armed Robberies** listed above imitation guns were used at a shop in Southampton, a jewellers in Cowes (Isle of Wight) and an attack on a taxi driver in Hartlepool.
- Damage has been caused by air weapons to property in Edenbridge (Kent), where shop signs have been shot, Caister (Norfolk) where windows of a housing estate have been targeted, Kelbrook (Lancashire) where a window was shattered (in this case it is suspected that it may have been accidental) and Doncaster where a 90-year-old's house has been targeted. An airgun may also have been used when a pellet was fired through a window in Largs (Ayrshire).
- Police recovered two air rifles after a gun was seen lying in the back seat of a car by a shopper in Diss (Norfolk).
- A stall holder at a market in Cardiff was told to remove two deactivated guns from open sale.

- A lead pellet has been found in the skull of a man shot with a BB gun in Lancaster in 2008 and he says he will sue the local NHS trust - the perpetrator had previously been given a 12 month custodial sentence.
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - More guns were found during police drugs raids in Derby (a loaded handgun was discovered, four people were arrested and a teenager has been charged), Highbridge (Somerset) (a man was arrested and charged with a firearm offence after a high-powered air rifle was recovered), Anchorsholme (Lancashire) (four people have been arrested after two stun guns were found), Sittingbourne (Kent) (two people were arrested after a stun gun was seized) and Hartlepool (an air rifle and air pistol were among a haul of weapons found - three people were arrested). A man was arrested and drugs and a weapon were found after someone was seen in a street in Skegness (Lincolnshire) with a handgun.
- A man from Nelson (Lancashire) has been charged with a number of offences including possessing a prohibited firearm after the weapon was found at his home. A man from Mawsley (Northamptonshire) has been charged with firearms offences after a pistol, silencer and ammunition were found in a car earlier in the year.
- A 13-year-old girl was questioned after a machine gun, later shown to be a replica, was found in her bedroom in Croydon (south London) - two teenagers have been arrested
- There were thefts of shotguns from houses in Didsbury (Greater Manchester), Stocksfield (Northumberland) (two rifles were also stolen), Fishtoft (Lincolnshire) and Rumburgh (Suffolk) (the theft may be linked to an incident in which two teenagers were arrested in Ilketshall St Andrew - see above). Air weapons were stolen from a caravan in East Calder (West Lothian) and a home in Stowlangtoft (Suffolk). Thieves took paintball guns from a centre in Farr (Highlands).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Many newspapers publicised the warning from the RSPCA about the likelihood of airgun attacks on animals during the summer and included accounts of recent incidents. However, warnings alone will not be enough. These continue to go unheeded and more action is essential to prevent those responsible for targeting animals from getting hold of their guns. There was further evidence of the scale of the problem with the incidents reported in July.
- Airgun attacks on cats, some of which did not survive, were reported from Bradford, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Oxfordshire (two incidents), Lancashire, Leicestershire, London, Midlothian, South Wales, West Midlands (two incidents) and West Sussex. Following a similar incident in the county last month there was another shotgun attack on a cat in Norfolk.
- A dog died after being shot with an air rifle in Berkshire, and a second dog was targeted with an air weapon in Pembrokeshire.
- There were also attacks on birds. Two swans were shot dead in Cheshire and another was attacked in the West Midlands. Three pigeons were shot dead in Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire), probably with an airgun.

- **Convictions** - Murder trials in which the victim was shot were concluded:
 - Two men were convicted of the murder of a man in Netherley, Merseyside, and given 36 year and 28 year sentences - one of the men was also convicted of the attempted murder of a man who was shot in Coventry.
 - Two men were convicted of the murder of a man in Harlesden (north west London) and both have been given minimum sentences of 20 years.

- A man who shot and killed his ex-girlfriend's father and injured her mother at their home in Porth Kea (Cornwall) has pleaded guilty to murder and will serve at least 25 years.
- A man who killed a teenager in Paisley in a drive-by shooting was found guilty of murder and also of attempting to murder a second man who was the intended victim of the attack.
- A man who fired five shots at and injured a love rival in Norwood (south London) must serve at least 15 years in jail.
- A man who supplied a gun to his father who then shot himself dead in a Northampton hospital has admitted six firearms offences.
- A number of men were sentenced for possession of firearms or ammunition:
 - A man from Dukinfield (Greater Manchester) who had a loaded key ring gun which fires .22 bullets has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm, a CS spray and drugs.
 - A man has been sent to a Young Offenders Institution after police found a shotgun, pistol and ammunition at his home in Leeds.
 - A man from Neath who sold a shotgun, which he held without a certificate, to his son's friend has been jailed for two months. The purchaser, who claimed he thought he was buying an air rifle, was given a 12-month community order and ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work.
 - A man who claimed to have a machine gun and a pistol at his home in Coton (Cambridgeshire) for work he undertook for the Ministry of Defence was given a 16-month prison sentence, half of which will be served under licence.
 - A man was sentenced to 11 years after an assault and firearms offences - police found a pistol in a car which they had followed through Leicester.
 - A man is awaiting sentence after police found a shotgun during searches on houses in Dalton and Crosland (West Yorkshire).
 - A gang of five men was jailed for between five years and seven years for having a firearm in a street in Pimlico (central London).
 - A man was fined £2000 for possessing ammunition at his home in Duston (Northampton).
- A man who carried out an attack with a stun gun, claimed to have been an electric cattle prod, in Dilton Marsh (Wiltshire) has been jailed for 21 months.
- Other men were sentenced for possession of stun guns:
 - A man caught with a stun gun and a CS gas canister at his home in Marston Green (West Midlands) was jailed for 15 months after pleading guilty - he also admitted drug charges.
 - A man found with a stun gun at his flat in Devonport (Plymouth) has been given 200 hours of unpaid community work - he too admitted drug offences.
 - A six month suspended sentence was given to a man from Middlesbrough after a stun gun and drugs were found at his previous address.
 - Two men have been told to prepare for possible prison sentences after they took a stun gun to a nightclub in Northampton.
 - A man was given a 12 month jail sentence after a stun gun he bought over the internet was found at his home in Port Glasgow (Renfrewshire).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - There were convictions of a number of people who injured others with airguns and imitation guns:
 - Two 18-year-olds were jailed (for four and a half years and for nine months) for an attack on another man in Barton (Oxford) which resulted in life changing injuries.
 - A man from Stanley (Perthshire) who shot a boy with an air weapon was jailed for nine months.
 - A man who fired an airgun recklessly and shot a young woman as she left a party in Stockton (Teesside) received a 16 month prison sentence.

- A man who left his teenage victim with a ball-bearing gun pellet in his neck after a shooting at a bus stop in Baildon (West Yorkshire) has been jailed for three years.
- A man who shot a 14-year-old, one of a group of youths playing in the street in Glascoate (Staffordshire), with his airgun has been jailed for 30 months.
- A man was given a five year jail sentence for shooting a teenager with an air pistol in Leyland (Lancashire) - the victim lost an eye.
- A woman who ruined a model's career when she shot him with an airgun in Dagenham (east London) has been given a nine month suspended sentence and ordered to pay compensation - her husband was also given a suspended jail sentence and a two year supervision order.
- There was plenty of evidence from court cases of the further use of imitation guns during robberies:
 - Following two separate incidents in Norfolk one man has been jailed for five and a half years after threatening a shop assistant in New Buckenham with an airgun during a robbery, and another admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to commit a robbery after he attempted to rob a store in Norwich whilst armed with a BB gun.
 - A 15-year-old was armed with an air rifle when he stole chips from another youth in Chester-le-Street (County Durham) - he has been ordered to wear an electronic tag for the next three months.
 - A man who stole a car at gunpoint, he had a BB gun, in Little Hadham (Hertfordshire) was jailed for three years.
 - A man has admitted aggravated burglary, possessing a bladed article and carrying an imitation firearm in Barnsley (South Yorkshire) and been jailed for six years and ten months.
 - Two men who robbed a building society branch and a store in Harrogate (North Yorkshire) using an imitation firearm were each sentenced to six years imprisonment.
 - A man who attempted to rob a cinema in Huntingdon whilst armed with an imitation gun has been given four years in prison with two years extended licence.
 - Two men who robbed a store in Waterloo (Merseyside) have pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm (a ball bearing gun) - one of the men received a two year sentence, the other who admitted a total of 13 robberies with an imitation gun was sentenced to four years imprisonment.
 - One of three men who robbed a jewellers in Reading and had pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence has lost his appeal against the length of the sentence he was given (six years imprisonment).
- Others faced charges of using airguns and imitations guns to threaten:
 - A man who terrified a friend by holding an imitation pistol to his head at a bedsit in Worcester has been jailed for 18 months.
 - A man who threatened his teenage sister with an air pistol in Irvine (Ayrshire) when she refused to give him money is awaiting jail.
 - A man from Seaham (County Durham) who threatened another man with a metal bar and an air weapon has been jailed for 10 months.
 - One of three men involved in an incident in Warwick, who pointed an air rifle out of his flat window at the other two, has been given a six-month suspended sentence and 180 hours of unpaid work.
 - Two men who fired BB gun pellets at pedestrians from a car in Norwich have been warned they could be jailed after pleading guilty to having an imitation firearm in a public place.
 - A teenager and another man have been warned they face jail after a man and a woman were threatened with an imitation gun in Penhill (Wiltshire).

- A man has admitted brandishing a fake handgun to resist arrest in Shoebury (Essex).
- A man who had an imitation revolver on a cycle track in Lancashire was given a 12-month community order and 100 hours unpaid work.
- A man was jailed for three years for blackmailing three brothers and threatening them with an imitation firearm in Middleton (Greater Manchester).
- A former soldier admitted firing an air rifle into a car in Borough Green (Kent) in which his ex-girlfriend was sitting and has been given a two-and-a-half year sentence - his current girlfriend was convicted of the same charges, possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and damaging property, and awaits sentence.
- A man admitted possessing an imitation firearm (a plastic toy gun) in a public place following an incident involving armed police in Shirley (Southampton). Another man has admitted a breach of the peace and placing people in a state of fear and alarm after brandishing a toy gun outside a bookmakers in Hamilton (Lanarkshire).
- There were two more cases in which men had been drinking at the time they committed an offence with an air weapon - a man has been jailed for three years after he shocked bystanders by walking down a street in Loughborough (Leicestershire) pointing his air rifle, and a second man was jailed for two years for firing an airgun at a car in Billingham (Teesside).
- A former firearms officer who has pleaded guilty to blackmail used a replica handgun during the attempt.
- A Banbury (Oxfordshire) man was jailed for 10 weeks after admitting possession of an air weapon and ammunition when prohibited. A man from Tideswell (Derbyshire) who admitted two offences of possessing an air rifle without a firearms certificate and other offences was given a two-year conditional discharge for the gun offences. A man from East Bowling (Bradford) who was jailed for stealing received an additional six months imprisonment for illegally possessing an air rifle at his home.
- A man who was involved in the theft of four air rifles and other items from a home in Bridlington (East Yorkshire) has been given a 12-month community order and 200-hours unpaid work - another man who pleaded guilty has failed to appear in court for sentencing. A shoplifter who stole a BB gun in Sidmouth (Devon) was fine £80 by the police.
- Charges of possession of an imitation firearm do not always relate to actual guns. This month two men admitted charges for having:
 - a can of deodorant covered with a sock during a robbery at a building society in Bexhill (Sussex)
 - a tow bar in a plastic bag when he challenged a clamper in London

GUN INCIDENTS – JULY 2009

ENGLAND

This is Total Essex, 31 July 2009

Two men who were spotted with a long-barrel firearm in a stolen car in **Nine Ashes**, Essex, ditched the car with the loaded gun inside.

This is Kent, 31 July 2009

Kiane Trotman, a former soldier, terrified an ex-girlfriend by firing an **air rifle** into the car she was in. He pleaded guilty to charges of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and damaging property. His current girlfriend Emily Hughes who denied the charges has since been convicted. Trotman was jailed for two-and-a-half years, Hughes awaits sentence. The shooting incident took place in **Borough Green**, Kent, in December 2007.

Romford Recorder, 31 July 2009

A police raid was sparked on a housing estate in **Romford**, Essex, when a man with a **BB gun** was seen by a member of the public. A man was arrested but later released without charge.

Kent Online, 31 July 2009

A delivery driver was robbed at gunpoint after taking a meal to a house in **New Ash Green**, Kent. The robber demanded cash. According to police it was not clear if the gun was real or an **imitation firearm**.

Evening Gazette, 31 July 2009

Gerald Schouller fired an **airgun** at a car driven by a young woman in **Billingham**, Teesside, in February 2009. He had been in an intoxicated state at the time and was caught at the scene. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage being reckless as to whether life is endangered and having an imitation firearm in a public place. He has been jailed for two years.

Bury Free Press, 31 July 2009

A woman who shot a man with an **airgun**, ruining his modelling career has been given a nine month suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £300 compensation. Donna Simpson was convicted of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Her husband, who was also convicted, was given the same suspended jail sentence and must obey a two year supervision order. The shooting happened in **Dagenham**, east London, in October 2008 after the couple claimed the victim's dog had frightened their cat.

This is Derbyshire, 30 July 2009

A man found in an alleyway in **Allestree**, Derby, had died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the chest. A firearm was recovered from the scene. Police are not treating the death as suspicious.

Tamworth Herald, 30 July 2009

Christopher Stephens has been found guilty of causing actual bodily harm to a 14-year-old boy in **Glascote**, Staffordshire. He produced an **airgun** after he'd asked a group of youths to 'move on' and fired it at close range. The victim received a wound to his head. Stephens was jailed for 30 months.

South London Press, 30 July 2009

A 12-year-old girl has been shot in the leg with an **airgun** or **BB gun**. She was playing in a park in **Streatham**, south London, at the time of the attack which involved two teenage boys.

BBC, 30 July 2009

Scott Walker has been jailed for five years for shooting a man in the eye with an **air pistol**. He was involved in a row with the 19-year-old victim in **Leyland**, Lancashire, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim subsequently lost his eye. Walker pleaded guilty to possessing an offensive weapon.

BBC, 30 July 2009

Guy Button has admitted six firearms offences. He pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm and ammunition and transferring a firearm to his father Ian. Ian Button shot himself dead on a hospital ward in **Northampton** in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Guy Button took a bag containing a Second World War handgun and other gun parts and a total of 19 rounds of ammunition to his father (*Northampton Chronicle & Echo*, 31 July 2009).

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, 29 July 2009

Two teenagers have been arrested for assaults and possession of an imitation firearm after members of the public were shot at with a **BB gun** in **Cirencester**, Gloucestershire. Two victims were left with red marks on their neck and back.

Telegraph & Argus, 29 July 2009

Daniel Booth shot a teenager with a **ball-bearing gun** at a bus stop in **Baildon**, West Yorkshire, in November 2008. The victim, who still has a pellet lodged in his neck, was hit in the leg and thigh as well as the neck, and the bus shelter glass was shattered. Booth was convicted of unlawful wounding and also found guilty of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence. He has been jailed for three years.

Telegraph, 29 July 2009

A man seen with a handgun at **Gatwick Airport** was disabled by police using a **Taser gun**. He was arrested and taken into custody. He has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (*BBC*, 30 July 2009).

Reading Evening Post, 29 July 2009

Jaroslav Trzcinski was one of three men who stole £10,000 from a jewellers in **Reading** in April 2008. The men used a gun, which was never recovered but was said by the raiders to be an imitation, to intimidate the shopkeeper. Trzcinski was sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit an indictable offence. He has lost an appeal to reduce the sentence.

Mirror, 29 July 2009

A landlord has died after being shot outside a pub in **Bilston**, West Midlands. He was dead on arrival at hospital. The victim had broken up at row. Seven people have been charged with murdering the victim (*BBC*, 1 August 2009).

London Informer, 29 July 2009

A gang of five men has been jailed for bringing a gun onto a street in **Pimlico**, central London. John Hernandez, Lema Nsimba and Silvino Domingos were all sentenced to seven years in prison. Two men who admitted the charge, Anthony Adalumo and Ousalnov Leone were sentenced to five years and three months and five years, respectively.

Liverpool Echo, 29 July 2009

Three men all deny charges of blackmail, unlawful imprisonment, assault and possession of an **imitation firearm**. The charges stem from an alleged incident at garages in **Bootle**, Liverpool, in December 2008 when a car salesman had a gun rammed into his mouth.

Dorset Echo, 29 July 2009

A man walking his dog in **Weymouth**, Dorset, was hit on the side of his head, just above his eye with an **airgun** pellet. There has been a recent spate of seagull shootings in the area.

BBC, 29 July 2009

A **shotgun** was fired during an attempted robbery at a post office in **Thorney Wood**, Nottingham. Two men threatened two members of staff with a knife and gun but fled empty handed.

Sky News, 28 July 2009

A man has died in hospital after he was found seriously injured in a car parked in a street in **New Cross**, south east London. Residents had reported hearing gunshots. The incident is being investigated by Operation Trident.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 28 July 2009

Two men turned away from a nightclub in **Northampton** in February 2009 returned later armed with a **stun gun** and a knuckleduster. Amir Uddin has admitted purchasing, transferring and possessing a prohibited weapon. Aninash Gowereesunkar pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon and having an offensive weapon in a public place. They were told to prepare for possible prison sentences.

BBC, 28 July 2009

A passer-by chased away two would-be robbers, who were armed with a gun, from a post office in **Ewell**, Surrey. The raiders fled empty handed.

BBC, 28 July 2009

Two men armed with a handgun confronted a community group of about 30 people in the **Gipton** area of Leeds. They stole "a substantial amount of cash".

The Argus, 28 July 2009

Peter Lines pretended to have a gun when he robbed a building society branch in **Bexhill**, Sussex, of £2000. The weapon was a can of deodorant covered with a sock. He admitted charges of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** and was given an indeterminate prison sentence for public protection.

Skegness Standard, 27 July 2009

A man was arrested in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire, after someone had been seen carrying a handgun in the street. During the subsequent search a large bag of controlled drugs was seized where the man was arrested. A weapon was found when police searched an address.

Northern Echo, 27 July 2009

A man robbed a social club in **South Bank**, Teesside, while brandishing what appeared to be a black handgun. He escaped with a quantity of money.

Birmingham Mail, 27 July 2009

A road in **Willenhall**, West Midlands, was closed off by police after reports that a firearm had been discharged. A man was taken to hospital after being shot in the leg. His condition was described as stable (*BBC*, 27 July 2009).

BBC, 27 July 2009

A man has been arrested following a shooting outside a pub in **Bristol** which resulted in another man being taken to hospital with a leg injury.

BBC, 27 July 2009

A 14-year-old boy was shot in the leg in **Croxteth**, Liverpool. His injuries are not life-threatening. Four teenagers, aged between 15 and 19 and an older man have been arrested and a firearm has been recovered.

This is Derbyshire, 26 July 2009

A man was arrested after a replica gun was fired in front of two police community support officers in **Allenton**, Derby. The weapon was described as a **pellet gun**. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm.

This is Hampshire, 25 July 2009

A man went into a store in **Andover**, Hampshire, brandishing a **BB gun** and was said to have been abusive to staff. He was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an imitation firearm with the intention to cause fear of violence.

The News, 25 July 2009

Andrew Bennett has appeared in court after an attack on his mother at their home in **Fareham**, Hampshire. The attack took place when he was under 'considerable strain' after he had been arrested by the police for carrying a **ball-bearing gun**, as a result of which he had been expelled from college.

BBC, 25 July 2009

A man from **Mawsley**, Northamptonshire, has been charged with firearms offences following the finding of a pistol, silencer and ammunition in a car earlier this year.

BBC, 25 July 2009

Staff at a bar in **Withington**, Manchester, were threatened with **shotguns** during a robbery. Three men armed with two shotguns and a knife stole money and personal items.

This is Local London, 24 July 2009

A teenager suffered a puncture wound to his chest caused by an **air rifle** after being shot in **Bromley**, south London. He was taken by air ambulance to hospital where his injuries were described as non-life threatening.

Northern Echo, 24 July 2009

Police discovered a haul of weapons, including an **air rifle** and an **air pistol**, and drugs at a property in **Hartlepool**. A man, a woman and a 15-year-old boy were arrested on suspicion of possessing class B drugs.

Liverpool Echo, 24 July 2009

Shots were fired in **Huyton**, Merseyside, in an incident involving a car and one or two motorbikes. A parked car was hit by one of the bullets.

East Anglian Daily Times, 24 July 2009

Six **shotguns** and ammunition were stolen during a burglary on a house in **Rumburgh**, Suffolk. A gun cabinet was pulled from the wall and stolen. Two antique figurines were also stolen. Police are investigating whether there are links to two teenagers who were arrested after reports someone had discharged weapons from a vehicle in **Ilketshall St Andrew**. A **shotgun** and shotgun cartridges were discovered when firearms officers stopped the vehicle.

Evening Standard, 24 July 2009

Andrew Baugh from **Whitechapel**, east London, admitted possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence has been warned he faces prison. He aimed a "gun-shaped" bag, which actually contained a tow bar, at a clammer and said he didn't want to shoot him.

Bury Free Press, 24 July 2009

An **air pistol** was stolen from the home of an elderly couple following a distraction burglary in **Stowlangtoft**, Suffolk.

BBC, 24 July 2009

Police seized drugs, cash and two **stun guns** from two properties in **Anchorsholme**, Lancashire. Two men and two women were arrested. A teenage woman and a man were charged with possession of a section 5 firearm.

BBC, 24 July 2009

Another man has been shot and seriously injured in a shooting in **Clapham**, south London. His condition is reported to be serious but not life threatening.

BBC, 24 July 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after an operation lasting three hours in **Cropwell Bishop**, Nottinghamshire.

West Sussex Gazette, 23 July 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of assault and making threats to kill after sparking a police alert in **Worthing**, Sussex. There were reports that a man had a gun in what police described as a "domestic incident".

Tameside Advertiser, 23 July 2009

A security guard at a bank in **Hyde**, Greater Manchester, foiled three men armed with guns by locking himself inside. The gang made off empty-handed.

The Star, 23 July 2009

The home of a 90-year-old man in **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire, has been targeted by someone with a high velocity **air rifle**. A window was broken. Windows in neighbouring properties have also been broken recently.

Middleton Guardian, 23 July 2009

Junior Obeng has been jailed for three years for blackmailing three brothers and threatening them with a gun. The threats were made following a brawl in a bar in **Middleton**, Greater Manchester. He pleaded guilty to one count of blackmail and one count of possession of an **imitation firearm**.

Hartlepool Mail, 23 July 2009

An 18-year-old man has been charged after a taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint in **Hartlepool**. Detectives recovered a **ball-bearing gun** at the scene.

BBC, 23 July 2009

Thames Valley Police has pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety rules after a weapons instructor, accidentally shot a civilian worker during firearms awareness training in **Kidlington**, Oxfordshire, in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was badly injured by the shot from a Magnum revolver. The instructor has denied breaking safety rules.

BBC, 23 July 2009

A man was shot in the arm in **Croxteth**, Merseyside. Two men on a scrambler bike were seen riding away from the scene. An 18-year-old has been arrested.

BBC, 23 July 2009

A **12-bore Sarasqueta side by side shotgun** was stolen during a burglary at a property in **Fishtoft**, Lincolnshire.

This is Derbyshire, 22 July 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery after a handgun was allegedly used in an incident in **Derby**. Two men broke into a house and threatened a resident.

The Star, 22 July 2009

A man has appeared in court after he allegedly sparked an armed police alert with a fake gun in **Hillsborough**, Sheffield. He was charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

Press Association, 22 July 2009

A man suffered minor injuries when he was shot in the head with an **airgun** pellet in **Soho**, central London. He was treated at the scene.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 22 July 2009

Matthew Campbell is awaiting sentence after admitting a firearms offence. Police found a **sawn-off shotgun** during raids on two houses in **Dalton** and **Crosland Moor** in West Yorkshire in March 2009 (see [April 2009 Incidents](#)).

Harrow Observer, 22 July 2009

Armed police were called to a street in **Stanmore**, north west London, where a man allegedly ran around naked with a **fake gun**. He was detained after being subdued with a **Taser** on suspicion of affray, exposure and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Guardian, 22 July 2009

A 13-year-old girl was questioned by police after a suspected machine gun was found in her bedroom in **Croydon**, south London. A 19-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm. According to the police the weapon was a **replica**. A 17-year-old has also been arrested (*Croydon Guardian*, 23 July 2009).

BBC, 22 July 2009

A customer was injured in the leg during a raid on a bank in **Rowley Regis**, West Midlands. Three men, one carrying a handgun, walked in and demanded money. A dye pack inside a cash box they were given exploded as they left.

BBC, 22 July 2009

Police in **Darlington** have condemned the "indiscriminate" use of **air weapons** after being called out to more than 90 incidents since January. The number of incidents was significantly higher than usual.

BBC, 22 July 2009

A firearm was discharged during an altercation in **Basingstoke**, Hampshire. Officers believe that an 18-year-old man was threatened by two other men who fired a shot as they fled.

Telegraph & Argus, 21 July 2009

John West, who has been jailed for stealing copper wire, has received a further six months for illegally possessing an **air rifle** at his home in **East Bowling**, Bradford. The weapon when was used to shoot vermin and rabbits, was found when police searched the property.

BBC, 21 July 2009

Two men were shot in **Clapham**, south London. One man was taken away from the scene in an ambulance and a second man later arrived at hospital with gunshot wounds. Neither of the men is in a life-threatening condition.

This is Wiltshire, 20 July 2009

A man who carried out an attack with a **stun gun**, claimed to be an electric cattle prod, on a friend's former boyfriend has been jailed for 21 months. Robin Gage attacked his victim in the street in **Dilton Marsh**, Wiltshire, in April 2009. He pleaded guilty to one count of actual bodily harm.

Sunderland Echo, 20 July 2009

A man was shot in the head as he made his way home in **Sunderland**. The victim was taken to hospital where an **airgun** pellet was removed from his skull.

Hertfordshire Mercury, 20 July 2009

Lee Hornett stole a car at gunpoint in **Little Hadham**, Hertfordshire, after accusing the driver of cutting him up. He initially stole the victim's keys but returned carrying what looked like a gun and drove off in the car. Police found a discarded **BB gun** belonging to one of Hornett's two companions and the stolen car and traced the three men. Hornett admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He was jailed for three years.

Ealing Gazette, 20 July 2009

A man appeared in court accused of possessing a firearm and making threats to kill following an incident in **Ealing**, west London. His arrest followed reports that a man was threatening and harassing another man with an **airgun**. The incident was alleged to be a landlord-tenant dispute.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 20 July 2009

Stephen Bramwell has admitted two offences of possessing an **air rifle** without a firearms certificate, three charges of possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate and two counts of possessing missiles without the authority of the Secretary of State. In 2004 police had found 11 prohibited firearms and some ammunition at his home in **Tideswell**, Derbyshire, and he had been given a six-month suspended jail sentence. Bramwell claimed that the air rifles had been handed back to him by the police after the 2004 search. After the case the police said that one of the air rifles did not exceed the legal power limit when tested in 2004 but did when it was tested again in 2008 and this suggested that someone had tampered with the gun in the intervening four years. Bramwell was given a two-year conditional discharge for the gun offences and an 18-month community order, with supervision from the probation service, for the ammunition.

BBC, 20 July 2009

A man was in a serious condition in hospital after being shot in the back at his home in **Sunderland**. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 20 July 2009

A bar worker at a pub in **Toxteth**, Liverpool was shot in both legs in what police believe was a targeted attack. The victim was taken to hospital where his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

BBC, 20 July 2009

Cash, drugs and a taser **stun gun** were seized by police during a raid in **Sittingbourne**, Kent. Two men were arrested.

BBC, 19 July 2009

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

BBC, 19 July 2009

Four teenagers have been arrested and a gun seized after shots were fired in **Lostwithiel**, Cornwall. A **12-bore shotgun** was found hidden in a hedge and an ammunition belt and spent cartridges were also found. Three cars were damaged in the incident.

Leicester Mercury, 18 July 2009

Vincent Murby marched down a street in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire, and pointed his **air rifle** at shocked bystanders in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He had been drinking heavily. He has admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and been jailed for three years.

BBC, 18 July 2009

Two people have been shot and wounded in an incident involving armed police in **Leyton**, east London. Police were called after shots were fired and one man was wounded. The second man was shot by police after a vehicle thought to be connected was stopped. Neither man's injuries are life threatening. One man has been arrested and a loaded firearm has been recovered.

The Visitor, 17 July 2009

Dean Marshall has pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm in a public place. He was brandishing an **imitation Colt 45 revolver** on the **Lancaster** and **Morecambe** cycle track in Lancashire in June 2009. He was arrested after a witness took a picture of him on his mobile phone. He was ordered to complete a 12-month community order with 100 hours unpaid work. The forfeiture and destruction of the firearm was ordered.

Lancashire Evening Post, 17 July 2009

Two men have been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life following a shooting incident in **Preston**, Lancashire, in which two shots were fired from a handgun by the occupants of a car. Nobody was injured.

Evening Gazette, 17 July 2009

Anthony Kerr has been given a six month suspended prison sentence after being found in possession of a **stun gun** and a quantity of drugs which were found at his previous address in **Middlesbrough** in November 2008. He pleaded guilty to possession of both the weapon and the drugs.

BBC, 17 July 2009

A man was shot in the stomach on the doorstep of his house in **Edgbaston**, Birmingham. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening and he is said to be in a serious but stable condition (*Birmingham Mail*, 18 July 2009).

BBC, 17 July 2009

A man was shot dead as he arrived to hold football training on a playing field in **West Wickham**, south London. The victim was shot at least six times by a man who escaped on a bike. A man has been arrested (*BBC*, 31 July 2009).

Teletext, 16 July 2009

A man was arrested and received a police caution after a sniper with a **BB gun** fired a shot through a council building in **Yarmouth**, Norfolk.

The News, 16 July 2009

A man arrested in April 2009 at his home in **Clanfield**, Hampshire, on suspicion of possessing an **air weapon** to cause fear and violence has been rebailed.

Mail, 16 July 2009

A man in full camouflage gear fired shots at a group of Norwegians who had come to view a crop circle near **Devizes**, Wiltshire. A member of the group called the police who arrested the man. Others claimed that he had simply been shooting at pigeons.

inLoughborough, 16 July 2009

Sean Waldron has been sentenced to 11 years imprisonment after an assault and firearm offences. The firearm was found by police officers during a routine vehicle stop after they had followed a car through **Leicester** in October 2008. A 9mm self loading pistol was found hidden under the passenger seat. Waldron also received sentences for drug offences and for possession of ammunition.

Crosby Herald, 16 July 2009

Two men, Adam Bedford and Ian O'Neill, have pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm. They made off with the takings at a store in **Waterloo**, Merseyside, in February 2009 after threatening the store assistant with a **ball bearing gun**. Bedford received a two year sentence and O'Neill, who with three other people whose identities are still unknown to the authorities, terrified staff members with a string of robberies using an imitation gun, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and given an extra two years for the protection of the public to run concurrently (*Crosby Herald*, July 30 2009).

Cambridge News, 16 July 2009

Daniel Crow, a serial thief, threatened staff at a cinema in **Huntingdon**, Cambridgeshire, with an **imitation gun** in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He has pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and has been given four years in prison with two years extended licence.

BBC, 16 July 2009

A man was shot in the head, face and chest in an attack at a kebab shop in **Woodside Green**, south London. The victim is in hospital.

Burton Mail, 15 July 2009

A man from **Burton**, Staffordshire, is to appear in court charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** and a rice flail.

Warrington Guardian, 14 July 2009

A former police officer from **Orford**, Warrington, who admitted affray and possession of a CS gas canister, had two other counts of possession of an **airgun** with intent to cause fear of violence and theft dropped.

This is Wiltshire, 14 July 2009

A 15-year-old shot himself in the hand with an **air rifle** while he was out rat-catching on a farm near **Melksham**, Wiltshire. He was treated in hospital where the pellet was removed from his hand.

Evening Telegraph, 14 July 2009

Two boys were shot with a **BB gun** in a drive by shooting in **Kettering**, Northamptonshire. One of the boys received slight bruising to the arm.

Norwich Evening News, 14 July 2009

Mark Lester has admitted possession of an imitation firearm, a **BB gun** with intent to commit a robbery. In March 2008 he attempted to rob a store in **Hellesdon**, Norwich. The judge said that all sentencing options would be open to the court.

Wood & Vale, 13 July 2009

Two teenagers were shot on an estate in **St John's Wood**, north west London. A third teenager was pistol whipped in the attack. None of the victims' injuries are believed to be life threatening.

South London Press, 13 July 2009

A woman was robbed at gunpoint in a garden in **Streatham**, south London. She was confronted by three men who escaped through the garden.

Herald (East Herts), 13 July 2009

Three women who were taken hostage in an armed siege in **Stanstead Abbots**, Hertfordshire, (see [May 2008 Incidents](#)) are to receive a police commendation for their bravery. They were taken hostage by Nigel Harper who in October 2008 was jailed for false imprisonment, possession of an **imitation firearm** and two charges of possessing knives.

Cambridge News, 13 July 2009

Three betting shops have been targeted in **Cambridge** in four days by an armed robber. The man held staff at gunpoint.

Cambridge News, 13 July 2009

Matthew Mortlock has been jailed for possessing a Spectre machine gun and a loaded Sig Sauer pistol he claimed to have used in developing a "bomb-proof blanket" for the Ministry of Defence. Police found the weapons in a wardrobe at his home in **Coton**, Cambridgeshire. He was given a 16-month sentence, half of which will be served in jail and half under licence. He had pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing prohibited weapons and one of possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate.

BBC, 13 July 2009

Femi Forde and Richard Osborne have been convicted of the murder of a man who was shot in the head and shoulder at a barber's shop in **Harlesden**, north west London, in April 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Two teenagers were acquitted of murder and another man was cleared of assisting offenders. Forde was jailed for a minimum of 30 years. Osborne was also given a minimum sentence of 30 years (BBC, 15 July 2009).

Witney Gazette, 12 July 2009

David Harrison from **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, was jailed for 10 weeks after admitting possession of an **air weapon** when prohibited for five years and possessing ammunition for an air weapon.

BBC, 12 July 2009

A bingo hall worker was shot after confronting two youths on a motorbike in **Dovecot**, Liverpool. He was struck by one of four shots fired by the passenger.

BBC, 12 July 2009

A man attempted to rob a building society in **Bristol** but fled when staff activated an alarm. He had told them he had a gun.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 11 July 2009

LuTel Williams has been sent to a Young Offender Institution for five years after police found a **sawn-off shotgun**, a pistol and ammunition at his home in **Richmond Hill**, Leeds. The weapons and ammunition were hidden in the airing cupboard. He was dealing drugs to try to pay a drug debt and was threatened and told to keep the guns. He admitted three drugs charges and two counts of possessing a firearm and one of possessing ammunition.

Manchester Evening News, 11 July 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder after a gun was fired outside a pub in **Beswick**, Manchester. No one was injured in the incident and no gun has been found.

The Argus, 11 July 2009

A man is on trial accused of being involved in a £60,000 armed robbery in **Hove**, Sussex, in September 2008. He denies robbery and possessing a firearm or **imitation firearm** with intent to commit robbery.

Swindon Advertiser, 10 July 2009

Two men have been warned that they face jail after they pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. James Deegan, 18, provided the weapon for Dean Casey who confronted a man and a woman and held the weapon to the man's neck and the woman's head. The incident took place in Penhill, **Swindon**, in March 2009. The men have been released on conditional bail.

Knaresborough Post, 10 July 2009

Carl Hullah and Sean Morrison have pleaded guilty to robbing a store and a building society branch in **Harrogate**, north Yorkshire, using an **imitation handgun**. The robberies took place in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) and February 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). They were each sentenced to six years imprisonment.

Diss Express, 10 July 2009

A shopper was shocked to see a rifle lying across the back seat of a car parked at a supermarket in **Diss**, Norfolk. Police seized two **air rifles** and are waiting for the Crown Prosecution to decide whether the case will go to court.

BBC, 10 July 2009

Kirk Richards fired five shots with a converted Baikal pistol at a man in a barber's shop in **Norwood**, south London, in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was a love rival and was shot in the chest, arm and back. Richards was given an indeterminate sentence and must serve 15 years.

BBC, 10 July 2009

Police went to a street in **Rochdale**, Greater Manchester, after reports a man had been shot and found a victim with gunshot wounds to his leg. A second man with gunshot wounds to his hand was later discovered at a hospital in Lancashire. A man has been charged with attempted murder (*BBC*, 15 July 2009).

BBC, 10 July 2009

Two robbers threatened a security guard with a firearm before taking thousands of pounds in cash in a robbery at a supermarket in **Maidstone**, Kent.

BBC, 10 July 2009

A gang who produced firearms stole an amount of money from an off licence in **Nottingham**. They threatened staff with a gun.

BBC, 10 July 2009

A man was shot and killed with an automatic weapon at close range as he lay on the ground. The murder took place in a car park in **Chadderton**, Greater Manchester. The victim died from multiple gunshot wounds.

BBC, 10 July 2009

Two men have been convicted of the murder of a man in **Netherley**, Merseyside in November 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Eusop Milne, who used two guns to murder his victim has been sentenced to a minimum of 36 years in jail. His accomplice Paul Simons was jailed for 28 years. The victim was shot three times. Milne was also convicted of the attempted murder of another man in **Coventry** six weeks before the murder in October 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

Sidmouth Herald, 9 July 2009

A shoplifter who stole a **BB gun** from a shop in **Sidmouth**, Devon, was fined £80 by police.

MK News, 9 July 2009

A 15-year-old has been arrested following a firearms incident outside a school in **Bletchley**, Buckinghamshire. A **BB gun** was recovered.

Lancaster Guardian, 9 July 2009

A man shot with a **BB gun** in **Lancaster** in 2008 says he will sue the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust after a lead pellet was found in his skull a year later. In December 2008 Matthew Hunt was sentenced to 12 months in a Young Offenders Institution after being charged with possession of an imitation firearm and assault.

Kenilworth Weekly News, 9 July 2009

Three men have been given six-month suspended sentences and 180 hours of unpaid work after an incident in **Warwick** in December 2008. Christopher Edwards was in his flat when he asked the other two men, who were in the street, to be quiet but then pointed his **air rifle** out of the window and threw a vase at them. This led to the other men breaking into his flat. Edwards pleaded guilty to possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence, the other two men to affray.

Bridlington Free Press, 9 July 2009

A man who stole four **air rifles** and other items from a home in **Bridlington**, East Yorkshire, in February and pleaded guilty to burglary in April has since failed to appear in court. Robin Burdall and another man Stuart McCaw were caught carrying an air rifle each after the burglary. McCaw was given a 12-month community order and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

BBC, 9 July 2009

Two **shotguns** and two rifles were stolen from a locked cabinet at a farm in **Stocksfield**, Northumberland.

BBC, 9 July 2009

A man armed with what appeared to be a gun covered by a carrier bag demanded cash at a bookmakers in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. He left the scene with an unknown quantity of cash.

BBC, 9 July 2009

Michael Smith from **Dukinfield**, Greater Manchester, has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm, possessing drugs with intent to supply and possessing a noxious substance. Police found the loaded gun, a key ring device, with a claw hammer and a CS spray can in his rucksack in October 2009. The gun fires two .22 bullets.

Sunderland Echo, 8 July 2009

A couple from **Seaham**, County Durham, have admitted threatening a man who had earlier been assaulted by their son. David Stamp jnr had been jailed for 10 months for an incident in which the victim was threatened with a metal bar and an **air weapon**.

The Press, 8 July 2009

A man was shot twice in a **pellet gun** attack as he walked along a street in **York** with his wife and young child. He was hit in the ribs and then shot again on the arm as he reported the attack on his mobile phone. The perpetrator may have been firing the gun again later in the day, as a man was spotted firing pellets at a hotel in the same area.

Pendle Today, 8 July 2009

Councillors in **Kelbrook**, Lancashire are concerned at a recent increase **airgun** shootings in fields close to the heart of the village. A window was shattered by a pellet recently. It is suspected that it could have been done accidentally by someone taking a pot-shot at a rabbit.

BBC, 8 July 2009

Two men, one armed with a gun, stole a car in **Sutton Coldfield**, West Midlands, hitting the driver over the head with a metal bar and ordering the victim and his girlfriend out of the car. Two men have been arrested.

Tameside Advertiser, 7 July 2009

A shop assistant was threatened at gunpoint by a man who entered a shop in **Dukinfield**, Greater Manchester. The robber fled with some cash.

The Star, 7 July 2009

Marin Wilmott has admitted aggravated burglary, possessing a bladed article and carrying an **imitation firearm**, a black handgun. In January 2009 he broke into a home in **Barnsley**, South Yorkshire, and stole a number of items but was detained and disarmed by a member of the public who was given a £400 award by the judge. He has been jailed for six years and ten months.

Rugby Advertiser, 7 July 2009

Two members of the public have received Chief Constable's commendations for taking on a young offender who attempted to rob a shop in **Rugby**, Warwickshire, in September 2008. The offender had pointed a **BB gun** at a shop worker.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 7 July 2009

A man forced to flee a house in **Moldgreen**, Huddersfield, because of constant hassle, has described how he and another group were threatened at gunpoint and his friend was shot in the leg with an **air rifle**.

Daily Echo, 7 July 2009

A security guard was threatened by a robber armed with a gun who seized a cashbox in **Bournemouth**, Dorset.

This is Local London, 6 July 2009

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

Teletext, 6 July 2009

Four men forced their way into a house in **Didsbury**, Greater Manchester, and attacked a 19-year-old before stealing a **shotgun** and other items.

Southend Standard, 6 July 2009

Mark Norton has admitted brandishing a **fake handgun** which caused a three hour armed siege in **Shoebury**, Essex, in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to using an imitation firearm to resist arrest.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 6 July 2009

When Leon Gill's home in **Duston**, Northampton, was searched a police officer found an unfired World War Two pistol round and a hollow-pointed dum-dum bullet as well as an **air rifle**, shotgun cartridges, a knuckleduster and a flick knife. He pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing ammunition and was fined £2000 with £250 costs. The ammunition will be destroyed.

Devon 24, 6 July 2009

A teenager suffered head and knee injuries after being shot with a **BB gun** in **Roundswell**, Barnstaple in Devon. Four men, two of them teenagers, were later arrested.

BBC, 6 July 2009

A shop worker has been shot dead in **Winton**, Greater Manchester. A man entered the shop and fired several times at the victim. Ten people, eight men and two women have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder. One man has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 12 July 2009). A second man has also been charged with murder (*BBC*, 27 July 2009).

BBC, 6 July 2009

Two security workers were threatened at gunpoint as they filled a cash point in **Lenton**, Nottingham. Three robbers stole a significant amount of cash.

This is Croydon Today, 5 July 2009

A man was shot in the shoulder in **Norbury**, south London. Early reports suggest the weapon was a pellet or **airgun**.

Oxford Times, 5 July 2009

Two 18-year-olds have been jailed for an attack on another man at a crematorium in **Barton**, Oxford, in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim received an eye injury after being shot with an **airgun**, and his injuries are both permanent and life-changing. Kam Matthews was sentenced to four and a half years after admitting causing grievous bodily harm with intent to endanger life. Cory Harry received a nine-month prison sentence after admitting committing actual bodily harm.

BBC, 5 July 2009

A man was arrested after police responded to reports of a man with a firearm in **Hertford**. A firearm was handed over. A man has been charged with possession of an **air weapon** and intent to cause fear and violence (*BBC*, 6 July 2009).

BBC, 5 July 2009

Two men on scrambler bikes were shot at from a passing car in **Huyton**, Merseyside. No one was injured. Bullet casings were found at the scene.

BBC, 5 July 2009

A gang of at least three men raided a jewellery shop in **Cowes**, Isle of Wight. A worker was threatened with a gun, which police say may have been a **replica**. Fifteen watches were stolen. Two men have been sent for trial, one accused of wielding an imitation handgun (*Isle of Wight County Press*, 16 July 2009).

Burnham-on-Sea.com, 5 July 2009

A man has been arrested in **Highbridge**, Somerset, after police seized a haul of drugs, a crossbow, fireworks and a high-powered **air rifle**. He has been charged with a firearm offence.

Norwich Evening News, 4 July 2009

Two men who took two **BB guns** into **Norwich** and fired pellets at pedestrians have been warned they could be jailed. Jem Van Turmaine and Casey Westgate shot the pellets out of the window of a car during the incident in June 2009. They pleaded guilty to having an imitation firearm in a public place.

Herald (Plymouth), 4 July 2009

Stuart Mitchell was found to have a **stun gun** at his flat in **Devonport**, Plymouth. He had bought the gun in Florida and was assured it was legal in the UK. He claimed to keep it for self defence. He was sentenced to 200 hours of unpaid community work after also admitted cultivating cannabis plants.

Hull Daily Mail, 4 July 2009

A 12-year-old boy was shot in the arm in **Beverley**, East Yorkshire, when he and two friends were approached by another boy who fired what has been described as a **BB gun**. A boy has been issued a reprimand and police are preparing to visit primary schools warning pupils about the dangers of BB guns.

Great Yarmouth Mercury, 4 July 2009

Windows of a housing estate in **Caister**, Norfolk, have been shot at with what police believe was an **airgun**. The company behind the estate are offering a reward for information leading to a conviction.

Evening Gazette, 4 July 2009

Darren Every has received a 16 month prison sentence after a young woman was shot with a semi-automatic **airgun** as she left a party in **Stockton**, Teesside, in January 2009. She received bruising to the waist. The incident followed an argument between Every's brother and the woman's friend. At the time of the incident he was banned from having any firearms for five years because of a conviction. He pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm when prohibited and with intent to cause fear of violence. It was accepted that the weapon was fired recklessly, not deliberately, and that Every did not realise it was loaded.

Cambridge News, 4 July 2009

A driver was forced to duck as he saw a man in an oncoming vehicle pull out a pistol, aim and fire it at him. The incident took place on the A141 in **Hartford**, Cambridgeshire. The weapon turned out to be an **airgun**.

BBC, 4 July 2009

Two men suffered injuries when they were shot in a street in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. The injuries are not thought to be life-threatening but one of the victims is said to have been lucky to survive (*Birmingham Mail*, 5 July 2009).

BBC, 4 July 2009

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

This is Kent, 3 July 2009

Shop signs have been shot with **air rifles** during a spate of vandalism in **Edenbridge**, Kent.

Sunderland Echo, 3 July 2009

A 15-year-old armed himself with an **air rifle** and stole some chips from another youth at a takeaway in **Chester-le-Street**, County Durham, in September 2008. The weapon was discharged but no one was hurt. The teenager admitted robbery. He has been ordered to wear an electronic tag and must remain indoors from 8pm to 6am for the next three months (*Northern Echo*, 30 July 2009).

Southern Daily Echo, 3 July 2009

Zachary Lowe has admitted possessing an imitation firearm in a public place following an incident in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) in **Shirley**, Southampton, when armed police arrived after reports that a man was brandishing a handgun. A **plastic toy gun** was found, and Lowe claimed it had been a joke. He was bailed for sentence.

Birmingham Mail, 3 July 2009

Wayne Harper was caught with a **stun gun** and a CS gas canister at his home in **Marston Green**, West Midlands. He pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing prohibited weapons as well as admitting drug offences. He has been jailed for 15 months.

Berrow's Worcester Journal, 3 July 2009

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

BBC, 3 July 2009

Soloman Tomkinson has been jailed for five and a half years after admitting a robbery at a store in **New Buckenham**, Norfolk, in October 2008. He threatened a shop assistant with an **airgun** and grabbed £425 from the till. He asked for 12 other offences to be taken into consideration. The court heard Tomkinson had a record of 78 previous offences, three committed with a handgun.

Teletext, 2 July 2009

Two men, one apparently armed with a sawn-off double barrelled shotgun, attempted to rob a shop in **Southampton**. Two men were later arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** (*BBC*, 3 July 2009).

BBC, 2 July 2009

A man has died and three others have been injured in what police have described as a gang-related shooting in **Broomhall**, Sheffield. The shooting involved two groups of people. One of the injured men was said to be in a serious but stable condition, the other two were treated for minor injuries. Four men have appeared in court in charged with conspiracy to murder another man (*BBC*, 9 July 2009).

BBC, 2 July 2009

A man was found with superficial injuries to his upper body, believed to be caused by an **airgun**, after a shooting in **Norris Green**, Liverpool. Detectives are investigating whether he was the victim of a targeted attack.

BBC, 2 July 2009

A loaded handgun, ammunition and drugs were recovered during an operation targeting gun and gang crime in **Derby**. Four people, three teenagers and a woman, were arrested. The handgun had a live bullet in it (*Derby Evening Telegraph*, 3 July 2009). A 17-year-old has been charged (*BBC*, 27 July 2009).

The Star, 1 July 2009

A family were left terrified after two masked raiders armed with a **shotgun** burst into their home in **Hackenthorpe**, Sheffield. The men also had a knife. The men stole jewellery, mobile phones, a games console and a laptop before fleeing.

Pendle Today, 1 July 2009

A man from **Nelson**, Lancashire, has been charged with possessing a prohibited .22 calibre double-barrelled firearm, possessing cartridges and bullets designed to expand on impact, threatening to kill a detective sergeant and assault by beating. Police allegedly found a firearm in a suit in a wardrobe at the man's home.

SCOTLAND

Greenock Telegraph, 30 July 2009

Robert McColl bought a **stun gun** over the internet. The weapon was found by police when they raided his home in **Port Glasgow**, Renfrewshire. He has been jailed for 12 months.

Largs & Millport Weekly News, 29 July 2009

A steel pellet was fired through the window of a cafe in **Largs**, Ayrshire. It is believed that a catapult or **airgun** may have been used.

BBC, 24 July 2009

A woman has been shot with an **airgun** pellet as she was walking at **Ardcroy**, Inverness-shire. She was not seriously injured. Police officers wish to speak to a group of youths seen nearby at the time.

Hamilton Advertiser, 23 July 2009

Andrew Gallacher was armed with an **imitation pistol**, which appeared to be a black handgun, when he asked a customer at a bookmakers in **Hamilton**, Lanarkshire, if there was anyone inside. An armed response unit was called out during the incident in September 2008. Gallacher has admitted a breach of the peace and placing people in a state of fear and alarm. Sentencing was deferred.

BBC, 23 July 2009

One of three men accused of killing a teenager and attempting to kill another man in a drive-by shooting in **Paisley** in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) has been cleared of murder and attempted murder. John Burke has pleaded guilty to possessing two firearms and ammunition without a licence at a flat in **Glasgow**. Anthony Collins has now been found guilty of taking part in the murder and attempting to murder the other man who was the intended target of the shooting. His co-accused alongside Collins was cleared of all charges. Sentencing has been deferred (*BBC*, 31 July 2009).

BBC, 17 July 2009

Two men with a gun escaped with thousands of pounds in cash after an armed raid on security guards at a petrol station in **Newmains**, North Lanarkshire.

Irvine Times, 15 July 2009

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

BBC, 10 July 2009

Thieves stole a number of paintball guns from a centre in **Farr**, Highlands. A large quantity of sweets and soft drinks were also taken.

BBC, 8 July 2009

William Ellis from **Bo'ness**, Stirlingshire, planned to torture a woman, including using a **stun gun** on her. He has been jailed for four years and placed on a lifelong restriction order.

Evening News, 7 July 2009

An **air rifle** was stolen by thieves who raided a caravan parked in a garden in **East Calder**, West Lothian.

Evening Telegraph and Post, 6 July 2009

A 14-year-old is undergoing surgery to have a pellet removed from his chest cavity after being shot with an **airgun** in **Dundee**. A 16-year-old has been arrested and charged in connection with the incident.

Evening News, 4 July 2009

Two weeks after buying an **imitation gun** over the internet a man is alleged to have pointed a gun at a man and demanded that his girlfriend remove and hand over her pants. The incident took place at **Calton Hill**, Edinburgh, in May 2008. The man denies assault, robbery, breach of the peace and firearms offences.

Daily Record, 2 July 2009

A 5-year-old girl is being treated in hospital after being shot in the neck with an **air rifle** whilst playing with her brother and an uncle at her home in **Muirhouse** in Motherwell, Lanarkshire. Two air rifles were later removed. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident.

BBC, 1 July 2009

A man who shot a 12-year-old boy in the stomach with an **air weapon** in **Stanley**, Perthshire, in January 2009 has been jailed for nine months. Steven Urquhart, who admitted shooting and injuring the child, was high on valium when he confronted the boy about the noise of his mini-motorbike. He claimed he used the gun for shooting rabbits.

WALES

BBC, 31 July 2009

A stall holder has been told by police to remove two **deactivated guns** from open sale at a market in **Cardiff**. Although she had certificates the police told the stall holder to sell the weapons through "more appropriate channels".

This is South Wales, 24 July 2009

Kevin Mahoney from **Neath** pleaded guilty to having in his possession a **Belgian single-barrel shotgun** without a certificate. He also admitted selling it to 19-year-old Samuel Grant, his son's friend, who was not a registered firearms dealer and did not have a firearms licence. Grant said he was under the impression he was buying an air rifle. Grant was given a 12-month community order and ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work. Mahoney was jailed for two months.

South Wales Echo, 23 July 2009

Three men have been arrested in connection with a suspected firearms incident in **Tonypandy**, Mid Glamorgan.

BBC, 7 July 2009

Roy Clarke, a former police officer from **Newport**, has pleaded guilty to blackmail after trying to get a man to hand over thousands of pounds. During the bid he had used a **replica handgun** he claimed was given to him by another man who has denied two counts of blackmail.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Oxford Mail, 23 July 2009

A cat needed major surgery after it was shot with an **airgun**. He was discovered by his owner in his garden in **Burford**, Oxfordshire. A pellet had broken his leg in two places, shattering the bone.

Express & Star, 23 July 2009

A young swan has been shot through the head with an **air rifle** on a canal in **Dudley**, West Midlands. A pellet was lodged in its skull. It was taken to a sanctuary for emergency treatment.

Teletext, 22 July 2009

A cat has been shot in the stomach in an **airgun** attack in **Cwmbran**. It follows similar incidents in **Swansea**, **Maesteg** and **Newport** in the last month according to the RSPCA.

Kent News, 21 July 2009

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Orpington**, south London. A major operation was needed to remove a pellet from the body. The pellet had pierced the spleen and both kidneys.

This is Lancashire, 20 July 2009

A cat has survived after being shot with an **airgun** for the second time in two years. After the latest attack in **Astley Bridge**, Greater Manchester, an x-ray showed a pellet lodged in his skull at the back of his right eye. The pellet has had to be left in place.

Rhyl Journal, 17 July 2009

A veterinary examination of a cat from **Abergele**, Conwy, who died from being kicked revealed that the pet had an old wound from being shot with a **BB gun**.

Reading Chronicle, 15 July 2009

The owner of a dog found the pet lying in a puddle of blood in **Enborne**, Berkshire, after it had been shot with an **air rifle**. Vets tried to remove the pellet from its lungs but it died from its injuries.

Coventry Telegraph, 15 July 2009

Following warnings from the RSPCA about **airgun** attacks on animals the paper reported the death of a cat from **Coundon**, Coventry, who was shot through the chest in June 2009. In 2008 the RSPCA nationally dealt with 759 animals who had been affected by the improper use of airguns.

BBC, 15 July 2009

A pet cat has died two days after being shot with an **airgun** in **Ashby**, Leicestershire.

West Sussex Gazette, 13 July 2009

A cat has had to have one of its eyes removed after being shot with an **airgun** in **Ashington**, Sussex. An eye specialist vet found a pellet behind the eye.

Northwich Guardian, 13 July 2009

Three cats belonging to a woman in **Rudheath**, Cheshire, have gone missing in the past six months. One of the missing cats had been hit in the eye with an **airgun** pellet last month. Vets were unable to remove it as it became lodged into the cat's skull.

This is Gloucestershire, 10 July 2009

A pet cat has been seriously injured after being hit by an **airgun** pellet in **Cheltenham**, Gloucestershire. She was found by her owners after staggering through the cat flap. The pellet entered through the rear hind leg and travelled into the lower abdomen.

Norwich Evening News, 10 July 2009

A family cat is recovering from **shotgun** wounds. It was taken to a veterinary centre with a broken leg and more than 20 shotgun pellets lodged in his body. The pet had been missing for three days from his home in **Sculthorpe**, Norfolk, when he returned unsteady on his feet and with a wound full of maggots.

Melton Times, 9 July 2009

Three pigeons were found shot dead in the middle of a car park in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire. The wounds on the backs of two of the birds may have been caused by **air weapons**, the RSPCA believes.

Leigh Journal, 8 July 2009

A pet cat has died after being shot with an **airgun** in **Leigh**, Lancashire. The shooting happened shortly after another cat was found dead at the side of the road. It had been shot through the eye.

Western Telegraph, 6 July 2009

A dog from **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire, has undergone treatment after being shot at least five times, possibly with an **air weapon**. It currently has one pellet lodged in its skull.

Telegraph & Argus, 2 July 2009

A cat has lost an eye after an **air rifle** pellet penetrated her eyeball. Her owner from **Low Moor**, Bradford, said that air rifles should, at the very least, be licensed if not banned". She had to spend almost £500 on treatment.

Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News, 2 July 2009

Two swans have been shot dead at Spike Island in **Widnes**, Cheshire. An RSPCA spokeswoman said that **airgun** attacks on animals were 'rife'. Rewards have been offered in a bid to catch those responsible.

Oxford Times, 2 July 2009

A cat which has been shot with an **airgun** twice in five of months is recovering after vets amputated his leg. In the first incident the cat, from **Littlemore**, Oxford, was shot in the face, in the latest incident he was shot in the foreleg.

Stourbridge News, 1 July 2009

A cat is lucky to be alive after an **airgun** pellet lodged in his spine leaving him so badly wounded that PDSA vets had recommended he should be put to sleep. The cat was missing for three days before being found tangled in vines in a neighbour's garden in **Wollaston**, West Midlands.



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